



POWER FACTS

An informational publication for members of Mecklenburg Electric Cooperative concerning electricity and related subjects.

JULY 2013

75 Years of Community Service Celebrated at MEC



The sound of bagpipes was carried by a light breeze across a large and appreciative crowd of attendees at Mecklenburg Electric Cooperative's 75th annual meet-

ing. The meeting had a decidedly festive air, celebrating the cooperative's long record of service to its south-central Virginia communities, and the pride its member-consumers and employees take in the cooperative, which started in 1938 serving 436 members.

The meeting began with a variety of displays celebrating and honoring the cooperative's roots, from tools and appliances used by rural residents before electric service was available; to tools and equipment used to provide electric service; to an original pole from 1938; and finally to a listing of MEC's original members. Attendees also enjoyed a tasty dinner of fried chicken and barbecue with all the trimmings, and an American classic since 1917 for dessert: a Moon Pie.

MEC Board Chairman David Jones presided over the business meeting, during which he recounted key milestones dur-



ing the cooperative's first three-quarters of a century of service. Jones noted that MEC has grown from two original substations to 28 today; from about 136 miles of line to over 4,400 miles of line now, enough he noted "to cross the U.S. from Maine all the way to California, and then be able to come a third of the way back across the country." He also noted that MEC has returned over \$32 million in capital credits since it first began doing so in 1960.

A decidedly patriotic theme prevailed during the meeting, highlighted by U.S. Army Special Forces Sgt. Robert White's stirring rendition on the bagpipes of "Amazing Grace" to accompany the screening of a touching video honoring men and women in uniform who made the ultimate sacrifice serving our nation and its citizens. Another highlight was the guest speaker, retired U.S. Army Lt. Gen. Joseph Inge, a native of the Chase City area. Lt. Gen. Inge kept the crowd of close to 900 attendees spellbound as he focused on the primitive living conditions of rural Americans from the nation's beginning until electric cooperatives helped light up the countryside in the 1930s and '40s. He praised President and CEO John Lee and MEC's 112 employees for providing reliable, affordable service to the cooperative's more than 31,000 meters. He noted that, when MEC celebrates its 100th anniversary in a quarter-century, the reports given at that time "will be written by the actions that we take, and you take, today."

President and CEO John Lee's report

addressed the strong operations of MEC during 2012, and in particular focused on four areas: safety, service, reliability, and accountability. He shared with the crowd the fact that MEC's member-consumers recently gave the cooperative its highest score ever in the American Customer Satisfaction Index (ACSI) survey, with an overall rating of 86, well above the electric utility industry average of 76. Lee thanked the audience for their support and appreciation as MEC has sought to "do more with less," utilizing automation and technology that help the cooperative "be as efficient as possible."



Our Offices will be closed on Thursday, July 4th, in observance of Independence Day!



Sharing Memories



“As a small child, I can vaguely remember about six to eight men from Mecklenburg Electric Cooperative coming to my house and setting the utility pole outside. We lived off of Antlers Road in the Phyllis community. They hand dug the hole with post hole diggers and used a rope to pull the pole up and set it. After that, they cut a hole through the house and ran a wire up the wall, across the ceiling and from that hung a light bulb. Back then wires were not tucked away inside the walls; they ran across the walls and ceilings of the house. That was a lot nicer than carrying that lantern around though! The best I can recall, we had three light bulbs and one receptacle so that Daddy could plug in his radio that he bought when we got electricity.”

– Robert Dunn, Palmer Springs, VA.



We thank Mr. Robert Dunn for sharing his memories of the days before electricity. If you have some that you would like to share, please send them to:

Mecklenburg Electric Cooperative
C/O : Sharing Memories
P O Box 2451
Chase City, VA 23924

EASY PAYMENT OPTIONS FOR OUR MEMBERS

Mecklenburg Electric Cooperative offers its members several ways to pay their monthly electric bills.

eBill

Go to www.meckelec.org and select “Member Services, Payment Option, then ebill” options to securely view and pay your electric bill any time of day or night. This web site also allows you to view up to 12 months of previous bills.

Credit Card

If you would like to pay your electric bill by credit card, it's easy! All you need is your Mecklenburg Electric Cooperative account number, credit card number, 3-digit security code (on the back of your card), expiration date, and zip code of where your credit card statement is mailed. This service is available 24/7. Just call toll free 1-877-541-5737 and select Option 1.

Automatic Bank Withdrawal

This option allows you to have your monthly electric bill automatically deducted from your checking or savings account. Each month you receive your statement indicating the amount due and the date the automatic deduction will occur. Request an enrollment form by calling our office (434) 372-6200.

Automatic Credit Card Payment

Each month you can automatically have your electric bill charged to any Visa, Discover, or MasterCard. Your statement will still be delivered to you indicating the amount that will be charged to your credit card. To enroll in this program, call our office (434) 372-6200.

Postal Service

Each month's bill has a return envelope included that you can use to mail your check or money order along with your bill stub. Please do not send cash.

District Offices

We have three district offices open Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. The friendly staff located in our Chase City, Gretna, and Emporia offices is available to take your payment in person and answer any questions that you may have.