



DRIVEN BY RESPONSIBILITY

Dramatic Changes to Annual Meeting Prompted by COVID-19 Pandemic

Observe stay-at-home protocols

MEC Members,

We have a major dilemma. As I communicate with you in the early days of May, restrictions on public gatherings that have been placed by the Virginia governor because of the coronavirus pandemic are still in effect. At this time, those of us responsible for planning for the cooperative's Annual Meeting of the Membership have no way of predicting what the conditions will be by June 17, the date for this year's meeting. However, the meeting must be held in some form and, regrettably, we'll be implementing some major changes to this year's event and modifying our standard meeting protocol to accommodate state COVID-19 guidelines, MEC's bylaws, state laws, and, most importantly, the health and welfare of our members and employees.

This year, we'll be holding a very abbreviated event, one that

will simply meet the most basic requirements for an official annual meeting and allow us to conduct the election of directors whose terms will be expiring in June. In fact, the entire meeting will last about 15-20 minutes. The other important information you traditionally receive at the annual meeting, we can deliver to you through the magazine (annual report including annual financial reports) versus in person at the meeting. We'll also video record the short business session and provide access to the recording through our website and Facebook pages, and the CEO's report will be published in its entirety in *Cooperative Living* magazine. Additionally, there will be no food, no

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giveaways or door prizes provided at this year's meeting; and there will be detailed and specific guidelines for attendance, such as wearing face masks and maintaining a 6-foot distance from others that will be strictly enforced. We must follow all COVID-19 laws and guidelines, and details on those unconditional attendance requirements are outlined on page 19.

Some may ask, "Why don't you postpone the meeting and have it later?" And trust me, we have considered every possible alternative. However, when it comes to our annual meeting, when it is held, and what has to happen for it to be legitimate and legal, we are bound by not only MEC's bylaws, but also by the commonwealth's Electric Cooperative Act and Non-Stock Corporation Act. Both of these acts have very detailed



John C. Lee, Jr.
President and CEO

guidelines (laws) for our annual membership meetings, and MEC's bylaws clearly state that the meeting is to be held on the third Wednesday of June. We will certainly be considering bylaw changes in the future that would provide some flexibility during difficult circumstances such as these.

Extraordinary times require extraordinary measures, and we are actually encouraging our members to NOT attend this year's meeting. That's right. We are strongly recommending that you stay home and stay away from the annual meeting. Doing so will help avoid possible exposure to the virus and help keep you and our employees safe and healthy. Registering for the meeting alone will be a long and time-consuming process, given pandemic spacing requirements. The meeting will, at best, be challenging if you decide to attend — especially in large numbers, which would also increase the possibility of exposure. Additionally, there may be crowd-limitation guidelines still in place, and we would have to cut off meeting attendees at that number. Please think it through thoroughly before loading up and taking the drive to our annual meeting facility in Chase City with the intentions of attending the event.

As previously mentioned it is, however, a requirement that we conduct the director elections which we can accomplish through the use of your proxies. And since we are expecting

MECKLENBURG ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

P.O. Box 2451
Chase City, VA 23924-2451

Chase City District
(434) 372-6200

Emporia District
(434) 634-6168

Gretna District
(434) 656-1288

Power Failure & Emergencies
(877) 632-5688

Office Hours: M-F, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

Website: meckelec.org

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