

SEMCO NEWS

Official Member Newsletter

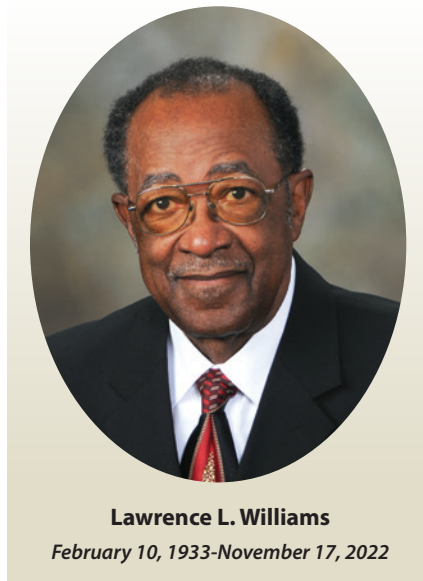
Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 
The power of human connections®

February 2023

Sumter EMC mourns the loss of director and friend, Lawrence L. Williams

With profound sadness, Sumter EMC mourns the loss of Lawrence Lamar Williams, who represented the membership at large and was appointed to the Sumter EMC Board of Directors on April 1, 1993. After being reelected, he served with honor and distinction until his death on November 17, 2022.

Mr. Williams was a native of Stewart County and lived there most of his life, except for brief periods when he was away attending Fort Valley State University and the Atlanta School of Mortuary Science. He was a U.S. Army veteran, licensed funeral director, and owner of T.V. Williams Funeral Home in Richland. Mr. Williams was also a schoolteacher for many years and an emergency



medical technician.

Mr. Williams was passionate about learning. For 22 years, he

served as an educator in the Stewart County School System, where he taught electromechanics. He was also very involved in the H&I Learning Center in Richland, and he was always eager to attend training sessions and conferences to further his knowledge of how best to serve the Members of Sumter EMC. Mr. Williams' service and commitment to his local communities were immeasurable!

Mr. Williams' faith in God and his love of family were of the utmost importance. He was a member of Bethel A.M.E. Church. His greatest joy was being a husband for 47 years to his beloved wife, Alice, father to his daughters, grandfather to two grandchildren, and great-grandfather to one great-grandchild.

2023 Nominating Committee information available on website March 31

The Board of Directors will formally appoint the members of the 2023 Nominating Committee at its March Board Meeting. The names and addresses of the members appointed to serve on the 2023 Nominating Committee will be posted on Sumter

EMC's website, www.sumteremc.com, no later than March 31.

The committee will meet at the Sumter EMC office in Americus at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, April 18, to propose a slate of directors for election at the 2023 Annual Meeting of Members.

Directors whose terms expire in August 2023 are Michael D. Webb, District 5, Chattahoochee County; Christi E. Dockery, District 6, Lee County; Eddie R. Watson, District 8, Schley County; and one Director At-Large seat.

Bylaws Summary: Election of Directors

ARTICLE I: Membership

Section 1.01. Eligibility. Any natural person, firm, association, corporation, business trust, partnership, limited liability company, state, state agency, or state political subdivision, foreign government, the United States of America, or any federal agency or federal political subdivision, or body politic (collectively "Person") as required or allowed by law, using, receiving, or purchasing any service, product, commodity, equipment, or facility from or through Sumter Electric Membership Corporation ("Cooperative") reasonably related to the Cooperative furnishing, or the Person receiving: (1) electric power or (2) any other utility service, (collectively, "Cooperative Services"), is eligible to become a Member. No Person may hold more than one Cooperative membership.

Section 1.04. Joint Membership. A husband and wife may be accepted into joint membership. The presence at a meeting of either or both constitutes one joint vote.

ARTICLE III: Meetings of Members

Section 3.01. Annual Meeting. An Annual Meeting of Members shall be held for the purposes of electing directors (or reporting on the election of directors), hearing reports covering the previous fiscal year, and transacting such other business as may properly come before the meeting.

Section 3.04. Quorum. Business may be transacted if there are present in person 150 Members at the organization of the meeting. If less than a quorum is present, a majority of those present may adjourn the meeting to another time and date not less than 40 days later.

Where Member votes in contested director elections are permitted to be cast by mail, telephone, internet, or in person, receipt in the time and manner prescribed by the Credentials and Elections Committee of at least 150 authorized ballots in each contest shall be considered sufficient to constitute a quorum for that contest (but for no other purpose). If a quorum for a contested election is not achieved on the date and time prescribed for the receipt of ballots, all ballots received shall be destroyed, and another vote shall be conducted as soon thereafter as reasonably feasible at the time, and in the method and manner determined by the Credentials and Election Committee.

Section 3.05. Voting. Each Member is entitled to only one vote upon each matter submitted to a vote. (A) Voting by Members other than natural persons shall be allowed upon presentation to the Cooperative of a signed affidavit entitling the person presenting the same to vote. (B) In contested director elections, Members shall vote by secret ballot and the Credentials and Election Committee shall specify whether voting is in person, by mail, telephone, or internet. (C) All questions shall be decided by a majority of the Members voting, except that Bylaw amendments to be approved by the Members require a two-thirds majority of the Members voting. (D) Members may not accumulate their votes or vote by proxy. (E) Members may not vote by secret ballot other than for the election of directors.

Section 3.07. Credentials and Election Committee. The Board of Directors shall, at least 60 days before any meeting of the Members, appoint a Credentials and Election Committee consisting of eight Members who are not existing Cooperative officers, directors or known candidates for director, and who are not close relatives or Members of the same household of Cooperative officers, existing directors or known candidates for director.

ARTICLE IV: Directors

Section 4.01. Number and General Powers. The business and affairs of the Cooperative shall be managed by a Board of Directors consisting of 11 Members, two from Sumter County; one from Terrell/Dougherty Counties; one from Webster/Randolph counties; one from Stewart/Quitman counties; one from Chattahoochee County; one from Lee County; one from Marion County, one from Schley County; and two from the membership at large.

Section 4.02. Qualifications. Directors of the Cooperative (a) Must be a Member and receive electric service at his/her principal residence from the Cooperative; (b) Must be at least 18 years of age; (c) Must not be employed by or hold financial interest in a competing enterprise or a business selling electric energy or supplies to the Cooperative; (d) Must wait five years following employment termination with the Cooperative; (e) Must be authorized by two-thirds of the Board if he/she is a convicted felon or has pleaded nolo contendere to a felony charge; (f) Must be a Member in good standing and must not be a close relative of an employee or director of the Cooperative; (g) Must not be an adverse party to the Cooperative or its officers, directors or employees in a lawsuit related to Cooperative business matters at the time of, following, or during the five years immediately preceding his election to the Board.

Section 4.04. Manner of Voting. Each Member shall be entitled to cast one vote in each director election but may not vote cumulatively. Directors shall be elected by the affirmative vote of a majority of the valid votes cast.

Should no candidate receive the requisite majority vote, the winner shall be chosen by additional secret ballots between the two candidates receiving the highest number of votes in the prior balloting.

The Credentials and Election Committee shall establish the time, method, and manner of elections for both the initial voting and for any runoff voting.

Section 4.06. Tenure. Directors shall be so nominated and elected that one-third of their number shall be elected for three-year terms at each Annual Meeting.

Section 4.07. Directorate Districts. The Cooperative's directors shall be so nominated and elected that at least one but not more than two directors shall reside in each of the eight directorate districts. Directors from the following districts are to be elected in 2023:

One Director, District 5: Chattahoochee County

One Director, District 6: Lee County

One Director, District 8: Schley County

One Director: At-Large

Section 4.08. Nominations. The Board of Directors shall appoint a Committee on Nominations consisting of 11 persons who are Members of the Cooperative. The committee shall prepare and post at the principal office of the Cooperative at least 100 days prior to the Annual Meeting a list of nominations for directors to be elected. Any 50 or more Members of the Cooperative, acting together, may make additional nominations in writing over their signatures, in the format required by the Bylaws, presenting them to the Secretary not less than 80 days prior to the meeting. The secretary shall post such nominations at the same place where the list of nominations made by the Committee is posted. Only nominations made in accord with Section 4.08 of the Bylaws will be accepted.

Updated: January 1, 2023

Notice of Last Day to Claim Refund Checks



In compliance with O.C.G.A. § 44-12-190 of the Disposition of Unclaimed Property Act, Sumter EMC is attempting to locate former Members whose refund checks were issued between July 1, 2017, and June 30, 2018, for membership fees and deposits that were returned by the U.S. Post Office as “undeliverable,” or have otherwise been unclaimed.

A current list of these Members is listed below and is also posted for your review on our website, www.sumteremc.com, and at the following office locations: Sumter EMC Headquarters,

1120 Felder St., Americus, GA; Southern District Office, 133 Century Road W, Leesburg, GA; and Cusseta District Office, 300 A US Highway 520, Cusseta, GA (Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.).

The last possible date to claim these funds is October 20, 2023. If these funds are not claimed by this date, they will be delivered to the Georgia Department of Revenue, as permitted by O.C.G.A. § 44-12-190. After this date, any attempts to reclaim your property

will need to be directed to the Georgia Department of Revenue. To claim a refund or submit any questions about this notice or the list, call Lisa Cannon at (800) 342-6978 or (229) 924-8041.



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| AGER CAROLYN DENICE | DANIELS DANNY S. | LEE FRANK T. | RAYBURN WILLIAM DOUGLAS |
| ANDERSON ALAN | DANIELS TIM | LEISHMAN DONALD B. | ROSADO RICHARD |
| ANDERSON NEIL WAYNE | DENHAM MICHAEL RAY | LOFTIS CHERYL MCDONALD | SAPP JANET |
| AUSTIN ALLISON HILL | DENNIS EMMA L. | MACK JAMI NECOLE | SATTERFIELD DARLENE CARROL |
| BARBER ROMELL ESTATE | FOSTER BENNIE MAE | MADDEN EBONI CHANTEL | SAWYER BRAUNDA JARRELL ESTATE |
| BARNES RUSS F. | FOSTER BRENDA J. | MAHONEY KAREN MICKI | SEAY THELMA |
| BELL JOI JESSICA | FOSTER SONYA DENISE | MALIK SOMANSH KUMAR | SELLERS JAMES W. |
| BENNETT JAMES HOWARD | FOXWORTH JAMES CRAIG | MARTINEZ MIGUEL | SHADDIX ELIZABETH |
| BERRY AMANDA MARIE | GALLOWAY BRANDI MELTON | MATHENY DAVID MATTHEW | SIZEMORE KATHY ESTATE |
| BILLS MARIA KATHLEEN | GARCIA REYALDO | MATHEWS MITCHEL ALLISON | SMITH MATTHEW POWELL |
| BLAIR REBECCA ELLEN | GERBIG KATHY BAILEY | MAYORGA RICHARD RUBEN | SOLOMON THELMA |
| BOSWELL KENNETH C. | GOLDEN STACY ANNA | McGARRAH JIMMIE LEE JR. ESTATE | STAUF GABRIELE U. |
| BRANNON CAROLYN ESTATE | GOLDEN WILLIAM MILTON ESTATE | MEYER RICHARD LEE JR. | STRICKLAND BOBBY HAYWARD |
| BRIDGES JACK RYE | HALSTEAD MARY FRANCES | MILLER WAYNE THOMAS | SURRY NISSA ZABRINA |
| BROWN MICHAEL A. | HARVEY CHARLES | MILLS TERRY ELLIOT | TERRY MELTON |
| BRYANT MARVIN CLAYTON ESTATE | HAWKINS MAE THELMA ESTATE | MINAKER LELAND RYAN | TONKIN JEREMY JOSEPH |
| CARTER MICHAEL B. | HAYES EDDIE | MONROE JOHN THOMAS | VALADE ROSAALMA PINELA |
| CHANCEY KENNETH RAY | HINTON DEMETRIA LASHA | MORGAN MRS. E. W. | VAN HORN MELISSA KELLY |
| CLEMONS CHERYL HARVEY | HOLLOWAY CLINT JR. | MULLIS MICHAEL GREGORY | VANZANT LOIS |
| CLOUD BILL MARVIN ESTATE | HOLMES ANGELA MICHELLE A. | NICHOLSON JOHN LANIER | WAGES MAGEN MIMS |
| COLEY RONALD | HOWARD WILLIAM R. JR. | NOLASCO ROYCE R. | WALTER IAN ESTATE |
| COLSON ELLEN | HUTCHINSON TERRI L. | O'NEAL AKEEMM EMMANUEL | WHITE AMY JOSETTA ROBERTS |
| CONGER DANNIELLE RITAMARIE | JERNIGAN ROBERT JUSTIN | ODOM ERNEST HARWARD | WILCOX TOCARA NICOLE |
| COOK CHERYL BRIDGE | JOHNSON TREVOR LEE | PACE JOHN GAVIN | WILLE KEVIN |
| CORDERO MAGALY MORALES | LANE WILLIAM RALPH JR. | PARKER JOHN FRANKLIN ESTATE | WILLS DONALD SCOTT CRAIN |
| COURTNEY DENNIS MAURICE | LANIER WILLIAM DAVIS ESTATE | PATTERSON JOHN STONIE ESTATE | WRIGHT BECKY ANN |
| COWAN JIMMY | LAWTON ANNIE RUTH | PATTERSON PAMELA GREER ESTATE | |
| COWART SHERRIE LYNN ESTATE | LAYFIELD CHRISTOPHER ADAM | PIERCE JEFFREY ALAN ESTATE | |
| CROWDIS JAMES DOUGLAS | LAYFIELD DIANNA MARIE | PRICE TANYA LASHELLE | |

Sumter Electric Membership Corporation is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

What makes your electric utility special?

You get your electricity from a utility that follows a cooperative business model. Like a food or housing co-op, your electric cooperative follows seven principles that utilities in big cities don't.



The three with the most impact on consumers are:

1. Electric cooperatives consider their consumers to be members.

Anyone who lives in the area where a cooperative provides them power may become a member. The co-op principle Open and Voluntary Membership means you are a member, not just a customer.

2. All the people on your electric cooperative's board of directors are consumer-members just like you. The co-op principle Democratic Member Control means that you may run for a seat on the board, vote for which board candidates serve on the board, and may be asked to vote on other important utility matters. Every household and/or business gets a vote.

3. By paying your electric bill every month, you contribute to the financial success of the cooperative. If the cooperative collects more payments than it needs to operate and serve its members, you may get a refund called capital credits. Under the co-op principle Members' Economic Participation, everyone would get that credit in proportion to what the household or business paid.

The remaining four principles are Autonomy and Independence, which makes sure the utility is democratically controlled; Education, Training and Information, which means your utility helps everyone understand the benefits of a cooperative; Cooperation Among Cooperatives, which encourages your utility to help nearby electric cooperatives during storms and other emergencies; and Concern With Community, which involves your utility assisting in economic development and policies that help members and the community.



Rainbow Winter Slaw

Recipe by Chef Olivia Rader, courtesy of Georgia Grown

Slaw

- 1 medium beet, peeled
- 1 (5- to 6-inch) daikon radish (about 6 ounces)
- 1 large apple
- 2 medium carrots, peeled
- 1 teaspoon lemon juice
- 1/4 cup chopped, toasted pecans
- 2-3 thinly sliced green onions



GEORGIA GROWN

Note: For this recipe, keep all cut vegetables separate until ready to combine with dressing. Rinse surfaces between vegetables, and rinse julienned beets under running water to get rid of excess pigment. This will keep the salad's colors from bleeding into each other.

Use a very sharp knife or mandolin to julienne beet, daikon radish, apple, and carrot into very thin matchsticks, about 1/16-inch, or use the coarse side of a box grater. Keep cut apples in enough water to cover with 1 teaspoon lemon juice to keep from browning.

About 10 minutes before serving, drain beets, and apples well, then spread on opposite sides of a large, paper towel-lined baking sheet. Pat dry to remove excess water and set aside while you make the Georgia Citrus Black Pepper Vinaigrette (recipe to follow).

Toss all cut vegetables and apples with dressing, then toss with pecans and green onions to serve.

Georgia Citrus Black Pepper Vinaigrette

- 2 tablespoons satsuma juice
- 1/2 teaspoon satsuma zest
- 2 tablespoons lemon juice
- 1/2 teaspoon Dijon mustard
- 1/4 cup pecan oil
- Salt, to taste
- Freshly ground black pepper, to taste

Whisk together satsuma juice and zest, lemon juice, and Dijon mustard, then gradually add oil while whisking constantly to emulsify. Season with salt and plenty of freshly ground black pepper.

For recipes from farms and producers across our state, visit www.georgiagrown.com.