

cooperative REVIEW

for members of Southern Maryland Electric Cooperative

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Faye Oliver accepts member cards at an annual meeting in the mid-1960s. The '60s were a time of substantial growth for the Cooperative.

Progress and open houses this spring

The Southern Maryland Reliability Project calls for upgrading SMECO's transmission line to 230 kilovolt (kV) beginning in 2012.

This project is designed to meet the increased demand for electricity and ensure continued reliability. The upgraded line will create a continuous 230 kV loop, allowing for greater flexibility to move power around in the event of an outage, and

Progress

continued page 2



enabling SMECO to ably meet the increased demand for electricity supply in Southern Maryland.

Two open houses are planned in April for customer-members interested in learning more about the project. Scale models will be on site to provide a visual scope of the new poles, and SMECO representatives will be available for questions. Please join us at one of the upcoming open houses:

- April 23: 5 to 8 p.m. at the Hilton Garden Inn in Solomons
- April 24: 5 to 8 p.m. at the Spring Hill Suites in Prince Frederick

Work has begun on the future Sollers Wharf Switching Station. In early March, contractors cleared trees and brush from approximately 10 acres within the 40-acre site and began grading the area. Grading and site preparation should be complete by September 2012. Soft wood cleared from the site was delivered to West Virginia to be turned into pulp for paper and hard woods were turned into firewood.

In May, crews will begin preparing access roads to the locations where the new poles will be placed. Erection of new poles will begin in fall 2012.

Visit www.smeco.coop for more information.



SMECO sponsors 23rd High School Computer Bowl

More than 100 young computer experts participated in a contest of knowledge and skill during the 23rd Annual Southern Maryland Regional Computer Bowl, held on March 3, 2012, at North Point High School in Waldorf. Sponsors for the Computer Bowl were SMECO, the College of Southern Maryland, Booz Allen Hamilton, and the public school systems of Calvert, Charles, and St. Mary's counties.

Winners received plaques and trophies. SMECO awarded gift cards to the top four teams. The third-place team also received gift cards from the Charles County Technology Council. Booz Allen Hamilton awarded smart pens to the top two teams. The College of Southern Maryland also awarded the four first-place winners with \$500 scholarships.



The first-place winners, from Great Mills High School, are (from left) Andrew Herbig, Jonathan DuBose, coach Nora Wichrowski, Jordan Timmons, and William Harris.



The second-place winners, from La Plata High School, are (from left) Andrew McCormick, Alex Smith, Doug Dennison, Alex Bendebba, and coach Richard Williams.



The third-place winners, from Huntingtown High School, are (from left) Vince Kubala, Connor Smith, coach Tom Currier, Brian Stroh, and Joey Watts.

SMECO wins 2012 ENERGY STAR® partner of the year

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recognized SMECO as a 2012 ENERGY STAR Partner of the Year. The EPA recognizes the Cooperative's outstanding contributions to reducing greenhouse gas emissions by delivering information and services to our customers to increase energy efficiency. This accomplishment was celebrated at an awards ceremony in Washington, D.C. on March 15, 2012.

Over the past 20 years, American families and businesses have saved nearly \$230 billion on utility bills and prevented greenhouse gas emissions equal to those from more than 350 million vehicles with help from ENERGY STAR.

“SMECO is committed to working in partnership with ENERGY STAR to help our customers learn more about energy efficiency,” said Austin J. Slater, Jr., SMECO president and CEO. “By using energy-efficient ENERGY STAR products, our customers can save energy and money.”

Family fun, local history, and prizes

Are you ready for some springtime fun? Take part in the SMECO 75th anniversary scavenger hunt and learn about local history and explore what Southern Maryland has to offer. The scavenger hunt takes you to local parks, historic sites, and other gems found in Southern Maryland. With May in full bloom, it is a great time to explore and learn local history with your family.

How do you participate? May 1 through May 31, visit six of 18 participating locations to find the correct answers to our challenging trivia questions. Each location will have the answer to one question. Once you have located the answers to at least six questions, send in your completed form for a prize.

Visit www.smeco.coop/75years/scavengerhunt.aspx for more information, or to download the map of locations and your participation form.

Nominating Committee to meet in June

The 2012 Nominating Committee—appointed at the March meeting of SMECO’s Board of Directors—will meet on Saturday, May 19, 2012, at 9 a.m. to select candidates for SMECO’s Board. The meeting will be held in the Board Room of SMECO’s Executive Building in Hughesville, Maryland.

Customer-members interested in being nominated by the committee should submit their application by Friday, May 11, 2012, to SMECO, Attention:

Joe Densford, Board Attorney; 15045 Burnt Store Road, P.O. Box 1937, Hughesville, MD 20637.

Alternatively, a member may submit a petition, signed by any group of 15 or more SMECO members, no later than Friday, June 22, 2012. All candidates, including those running by petition, must complete a Board of Directors Candidate Application. To obtain an application, contact Lisa Oliver at 301-274-4489 or lisa.oliver@smeco.coop.

The following Board seats will be open: one in Calvert, two in Charles, and two in St. Mary’s. Board members will be elected at SMECO’s Annual Meeting on Thursday, August 23, 2012.

Selection of Nominating Committee members complies with SMECO’s bylaws. For more information

Call before you dig

Call Miss Utility by dialing 811 before you plant a tree or shrub, start a garden, or install a fence. SMECO will mark the location of underground power lines on your property. One call will save you a lot of time, trouble, and money.

It could also save your life!

regarding the committee, nominations, and director qualifications, refer to Article IV, Sections 4.02 and 4.03. A copy of the bylaws may be obtained online at www.smeco.coop or from any SMECO office.



LED there be light! To help customer-members save big, SMECO is now offering **\$10 discounts** taken at the register on qualifying ENERGY STAR® light-emitting diode (LED) light bulbs. These discounts are in addition to our existing ones on CFLs. Visit www.smeco.coop/save for a list of participating retailers.

around **TOWN**

May 1–31

75th Anniversary

Scavenger Hunt

Sponsor: SMECO

See our article on page 4 of this newsletter for details.

www.smeco.coop/75years/scavengerhunt.aspx

May 3

Garden Market

Sponsor: Historic

St. Mary's City

10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Corner of Rt. 5 and

Old State House Road

240-895-4990

stmaryscity.org/events.html

May 3–6

19th Annual Southern

Maryland Spring Festival

Sponsor: Holy Face Church

St. Mary's County Fair

Grounds in Leonardtown

Thurs.–Fri. 5 p.m. to 11 p.m.,

Sat. 10 a.m. to 11 p.m.,

Sun. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Carnival rides, tractor pull, parade, games, hay ride, family fun, and more.

301-994-0525

holyfacechurch.org/festival.html

May 5

Annual Maritime Festival

Sponsor: Calvert

Marine Museum

10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Calvert Marine Museum

Antique boats and motors,

master maritime carvers,

children's games and crafts,

boat rides, and more.

410-326-2042

calvertmarinemuseum.com

May 12

5th Annual Calvert

Wine & Arts Fest

Sponsor: All Saints

Episcopal Church

11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

100 Lower Marlboro Rd.,

Sunderland. Food, live



Visit www.smeco.coop/ourcommunity/aroundtown.aspx for more events.

entertainment, children's crafts, mason jar raffle, and more. Tour the 1692 church and labyrinth. Need picture ID. Free parking. \$
410-286-7586
allsaints1692.org

May 19

Guided Canoe Trip

Sponsor: American Chestnut Land Trust

1 to 4 p.m., Warrior's Rest Sanctuary, 1920 Scientists Cliffs Road, Port Republic
Reservations are required.
Rain date on Sunday.

410-414-3400
actlweb.org

Third Annual Market Day

Sponsor: The Society for the Restoration of Port Tobacco

9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Port Tobacco Court House
Antique, craft, flower, and food vendors. Rain date is May 26, 2012.

301-934-2474

May 25

Town of La Plata

Summer Concert

Sponsor: Town of La Plata

7 to 9 p.m.

La Plata Town Hall,
305 Queen Anne Street
25th Hour Band. Bring blankets and lawn chairs for sitting. Coolers are allowed, but no alcohol. Concessions are available from the Town's food trailer. There will also be a play area for children.

301-934-8421
townoflaplata.org

May 28

Memorial Day

SMECO offices closed
Our Contact Center is available 24/7.

1-888-440-3311
www.smeco.coop

**Sign up for the SMECO 75
bike ride on June 2!**
www.smeco.coop/75years

Golden ticket fun continues

Congratulations to our February golden ticket winners! Chris Wilson won the heart-shaped diamond from **Golden Renaissance Jewelers**. Charles Martin won the pair of diamond stud earrings from **Blair's Jewelry & Gifts**. John Fletcher won the Pandora bracelet and \$50 gift certificate from **Dickinson Jewelers**. James Lugaila won the pair of pearl and diamond dangle earrings from **Joson Fine Jewelry & Home Boutique**. Bonnie Ridgell won the heart locket from **Cecil's Country Store**. Michael Latham won the sterling silver earrings from **Maerten's Fine Jewelry & Gifts**. Thanks once again to the generous sponsors who kicked off our 75th anniversary celebration.

What's in store for April?

Four local sponsors have donated prizes for April that will get you in the mood for spring. Watch for your bill to see if you won!

Everything Amish has donated a nautically inspired Solar-Powered Lighthouse. Standing over four feet high, this beautiful yard feature provides both an attractive focal point, as well as strategic lighting at night. It is valued at \$249. Visit their website at www.everythingamish.net.

The Greenery Nursery has donated a \$100 gift card. The Greenery is a family owned nursery, garden center, and landscape contractor located in Hollywood who has offered quality plants and service to Southern Maryland for over 20 years. Visit them at www.thegreenerynursery.net.

Dyson Building Center, located in Great Mills, has donated a Speedway 24-inch Tool Chest/Cabinet Combo valued at \$157. This combo is the perfect place to keep all of your tools handy and organized. Visit Dyson Building Center at www.marylandbuildingsupplies.com

Tractor Supply Co., located in White Plains, donated the Red Shed™ Rustic Log Glider Bench with side tables valued at \$150. The glider gives you a comfortable place to rest after a hard day's work. Visit their website at www.tractorsupply.com

