

cooperative REVIEW

for members of Southern Maryland Electric Cooperative

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International Year of the Cooperative

The year 2012 marks the 75th anniversary of Southern Maryland Electric Cooperative. It is also recognized as the International Year of Cooperatives by the United Nations. This designation reflects the acknowledgement by the international community that cooperatives “drive the economy, respond to social change, are resilient to the global economic crisis and are serious, successful

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Winter in the early months of 1994 put Southern Maryland into a deep freeze. It was so cold the fuel oil used to generate electricity in some instances turned into a jelly-like substance.

The Ice Storms of 1994 then dealt back-to-back blows to the region in February, causing 35,000 outages at the peak that would take over 10 days to restore.



Cooperative

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businesses creating jobs in all sectors,” according to 2012.coop, the

official website of the ICA for the United Nations International Year of Cooperatives.

“Cooperatives are a reminder to the international community that it is possible to pursue both economic viability and social responsibility,” said Ban Ki-moon, UN Secretary General.

The United Nations General Assembly passed the resolution declaring 2012 the UN International Year of Cooperatives on December 18, 2009. The purpose of this declaration was to acknowledge the success of the cooperative business model, to raise public awareness of the contributions of cooperative enterprises and the cooperatives’ part in promoting socio-economic development, and to promote the cooperative business model as an alternative means of doing business.

Cooperatives aid in poverty reduction and employment generation. Successful cooperatives allow people to work together to create sustainable enterprises.

Cooperatives range in size from small organizations to large enterprises. The business model differs from others in a few key ways. Co-ops are owned and democratically controlled by the members who use the cooperative’s services and not by outside investors. Cooperatives return surplus revenues to members equally and not in proportion to their ownership share, and they are not motivated by profit. Cooperatives are motivated by service to their members’ needs and exist solely to serve their members.

There are nearly 30,000 cooperatives in the United States alone and there are over one billion people around the world who are members of cooperatives. Cooperatives account for more than 100 million jobs around the world.

Visit 2012.coop for planned events and more information.

The history of cooperatives

The earliest record of a cooperative comes from Fenwick, Scotland, where, in March 14, 1761, in a barely furnished cottage, local weavers manhandled a sack of oatmeal into John Walker's whitewashed front room and began selling the contents at a discount, forming the Fenwick Weavers' Society. There are a plethora of records of cooperatives which started out as small grassroots organizations in Western Europe, North America and Japan in the middle of the last century; however, it is the Rochdale Pioneers that are generally regarded as the prototype of the modern cooperative society and the founders of the Cooperative Movement.



In 1844 a group of 28 artisans working in the cotton mills in the town of Rochdale, in the north of England, established the first modern cooperative business, the Rochdale Equitable Pioneers Society. The weavers faced miserable working conditions and low wages, and they could not afford the high prices of food and household goods. They decided that by pooling their scarce resources and working together they could access basic goods at a lower price. Initially, there were only four items for sale: flour, oatmeal, sugar and butter.

The Pioneers decided it was time shoppers were treated with honesty, openness, and respect, that they should be able to share in the profits that they contributed to and that they should have a democratic right to have a say in the business. Every customer of the shop became a member and so had a true stake in the business. At first the co-op was open for only two nights a week, but within three months, business had grown so much that it was open five days a week.

—*Excerpt from 2012.coop on the history of the cooperative.*

SMECO takes a new group to Youth Tour in Washington, D.C.

Each year, SMECO takes four local high school students and joins other cooperatives from around the nation at the Youth Tour in Washington, D.C. From June 17 to June 21, SMECO chaperones Bernadette Lewis and Charlie Herbert took Demetrius Clyburn from Great Mills High School, Mariah Lawson from McDonough High School, Malaysia Johnson from Calvert High School, and Christina Morgal from Gwynn Park High School to the 2012 Youth Tour.

The goal of the Youth Tour is to help students learn more about our government in action during their week-long study tour of the nation's capital, where they meet senators and members of congress.

Cooperatives began sending students to Washington in 1957. As many states began sending students, the NRECA decided to coordinate the program and send all of the students from the various cooperatives at the same time. The first year of the coordinated tour was 1964, and approximately 400 young people from 12 states attended. Since that time, the Youth Tour has continued to grow, and in 2012, there were over 1,800 young people and chaperones in attendance from 44 states.



From left: Malaysia Johnson, Christina Morgal, Mariah Lawson, and Demetrius Clyburn.



Be safe around power lines

Southern Maryland has been plagued by many severe weather events in the last year alone. Whether it is a tornado, a hurricane, or the rare derecho like the one that hit SMECO territory on June 29, one thing we will experience is that wind will knock down trees and take out power lines.

We can't stop Mother Nature, but we can be safe as we make repairs following a storm, or any time, even in beautiful weather.

If you see a downed power line, always assume the line is energized. The ground around it may be dangerous as well. Be safe. Call and report the downed line and stay away from the area. Keep children and pets away from the area also. Never touch a power line with your hand or any other object, whether the line is in a tree or on the ground.

Teach children not to climb trees that are growing next to power lines and not to build a tree house, fort, or anything else in a tree that is next to power lines.

Enjoying time on the water? Keep an eye out for power lines there, too! Make sure that your sailboat has proper clearance from any power lines that may cross over waterways or launching ramps. The boat's mast must never make contact with overhead lines.

For more safety tips, visit www.smeco.coop/yourSafety.aspx



Earn an "A" for Energy Efficiency in August when you switch to ENERGY STAR® qualified appliances. You can save energy and get \$25–\$350 rebates on select models. And if you let us recycle your old, working refrigerator or freezer we'll give you a \$50 reward. See SMECO.coop/save for details.

around **TOWN**

Sept. 7

Town of La Plata Summer Concert

Sponsor: Town of La Plata
7 to 9 p.m., La Plata Town
Hall, 305 Queen Anne Street.
Concert: Eric Scott Band.
301-934-8421
townoflaplata.org

Sept. 8

Fall Follies Craft Show

Sponsor: the St. Mary's
Crafts Guild
Noon to 3 p.m., On the
Square in Leonardtown
301-885-8926
craftguildshop.com

Sept. 15

Colonial Kids: Breakfast with the Animals

Sponsor: Historic SMC
9 a.m. to Noon
Historic St. Mary's City;
Tobacco Plantation.
Ages 3–5 & adults. Storytime
and breakfast. **\$ Admission.**
240-895-4990
stmaryscity.org/events.html

Brown Bag Auction

Sponsor: Ridge Volunteer
Rescue Squad and Auxiliary
Noon to 4 p.m., Ridge Vol.
Rescue Squad. Doors open
at noon, auction at 2 p.m.
240-561-5733
ridgevr.org

5th Annual Friends of the Poor Walk

Sponsor: Saint Vincent
de Paul Society, Saint
Aloysius Church
9 a.m. to Noon, Father
Andrew White School,
Leonardtown. Rain or
shine. Music, brunch, blood
pressure checks, and more.
301-904-7990
walkforthepeer.com

Sept. 16

Taste of St. Mary's

Sponsor: St. Mary's County
Chamber of Commerce
Noon to 5 p.m.
Leonardtown Square
Free admission and parking.
Wide variety of menu items.
Free entertainment and



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

children's activities.

301-737-3001

smcchamber.com

Sept. 20–23

St. Mary's County Fair

Sponsor: St. Mary's County Fair Association Inc.

St. Mary's County Fairgrounds, Leonardtown
9/20: 4 p.m. to 9 p.m.; 9/21 & 9/22: 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.; 9/23: 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Exhibits, horse pulls, carnival rides, and more. Catalogs in county libraries in mid-August. **\$ Admission.**

301-475-2256

smcfair.somd.com

Sept. 22

DVFD 2012 CA\$H

BA\$H Fundraiser

Sponsor: Dunkirk VFD

Noon to 6 p.m.

Dunkirk VFD, 3170 West Ward Rd. Doors open at 11 a.m. Only 1,000 tickets will be sold. **\$ Admission.**

301-996-8920

supportdunkirk5.org

Sept. 28

Town of La Plata

Summer Concert

Sponsor: Town of La Plata

7 to 9 p.m., Town Hall.

Concert: John Luskey Band.

301-934-8421

townoflaplata.org

Sept. 29–30

War Comes to St. Mary's

Sponsor: Historic SMC

11 a.m., Historic St. Mary's City Visitor Center.

Conflicts through the centuries. **\$ Admission.**

240-895-4990

stmaryscity.org/events.html

Sept. 30

Scrapbooking Fundraiser

Sponsor: BSA Venture

Crew 1321

10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Grace Lutheran Church, Routes 6 and 488, La Plata.

Admission includes cropping space, goodie bag, and more. Call for reservations. **\$ Admission.**

240-346-7571



Mr. Tire sponsors August golden ticket prizes

August's golden ticket prize is something all cars need—vehicle maintenance. Proper vehicle maintenance is critical to improved gas mileage which helps conserve energy. We will be giving away 10 free oil changes and tire rotation and balancing packages from these generous Mr. Tire locations:

- Mr. Tire
28926 Three Notch Road
Mechanicsville, MD 20659
Total number of packages: 2
- Mr. Tire
1535 Solomons Island Road
Prince Frederick, MD 20678
Total number of packages: 1
- Mr. Tire
44915 Worth Avenue
California, MD 20619
Total number of packages: 1
- Mr. Tire
5623 Crain Highway
La Plata, MD 20646
Total number of packages: 4
- Mr. Tire
2225 Crain Highway
Waldorf, MD 20601
Total number of packages: 2

