

cooperative **REVIEW**

for members of Southern Maryland Electric Cooperative



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SMECO hosts 76th annual members' meeting

SMECO held its 76th Annual Meeting on September 10, 2014, at the Blue Crabs Regency Furniture Stadium in Waldorf. The event allows customer-members the opportunity to vote for SMECO members to serve on the Co-op's Board of Directors.

Registration ran from 4 to 7:30 p.m. The Cooperative had 1,338 members register to vote, with 477 of them voting by absentee mail-in ballot. The following SMECO members were elected to serve on SMECO's Board for three years: Nancy W. Zinn of Calvert County; Victor B. Allen of Charles County; Daniel W. Dyer of Prince George's County; and J. Douglas Frederick and Joseph V. Stone, Jr. of St. Mary's County.

Also on the ballot were several bylaw amendments for customer-members to vote on. Because SMECO serves a neighborhood in northern Calvert County that will include a couple of home sites in Anne Arundel County, one of the bylaws has a provision for Anne Arundel customers to be included among



SMECO held the 76th Annual Members' Meeting on Sept. 10, 2014.

SMECO's members who may run for the Board of Directors as representatives of Calvert and Anne Arundel counties. Another amendment assures that customers voting absentee count toward the registered number of customers for matters that require a quorum. Other changes to the bylaws establish requirements for matters related to a consolidation or merger. Mark MacDougall, SMECO's Senior Vice President of External Affairs and General Counsel, explained that the Cooperative has no intention or plans to consolidate or merge with any entity, nor has SMECO been approached by any entity to do so. He said that SMECO's bylaws were amended to outline procedures that would be followed in the event a consolidation or merger must be considered. The new bylaws state that SMECO may only consolidate with another cooperative and that two-thirds of the total membership must approve any consolidation or merger.

Joe Lehan, voice of the Southern Maryland Blue Crabs, served as the emcee for the entertainment prior to the meeting during which the Southern Mix Chorus performed a 45-minute set and customers won prizes for bingo games. Pastor Marianne Christofferson of Brookfield-Immanuel United Methodist Church in Brandywine gave the invocation, the Leonard Hall Junior Naval Academy presented the colors, and the Southern Mix Chorus

performed the national anthem at the beginning of the meeting.

Members who registered to vote were eligible to win one of 50 electric bill credits of \$35 each. In addition, winners of 14 cash prizes of \$75 each and a well-traveled SMECO vehicle were randomly selected from the registered members in attendance. Norman Bowie of Nanjemoy (photo below) won the SMECO vehicle, a 2002 Chevy Cavalier, with AM/FM radio, air conditioning, rear window defroster, and 92,000 miles.



Office in Calvert set to close in November

SMECO will be closing its Prince Frederick office on November 21, 2014.

The cooperative is making this transition because it makes sound business sense. Consistent with our closing of the White Plains district office in Charles County in 2013, this move allows us to consolidate and centralize our workforce and streamline our operations. A persistent slow-down in construction and a declining percentage of walk-in traffic in Calvert County underscored the need to reassign the small amount of resources in Prince Frederick to our Hughesville location.

This transition will enable us to maximize the use of our Engineering and Operations Center in Hughesville, which was completed last year. With specially-designed truck bays, equipment storage, and security, this state-of-the-art facility provides our linemen with a safe, modern work environment that is unsurpassed. We are maintaining our Leonardtown office because it serves as our back-up operations center and contact center in case of emergency. We will also be maintaining property in Calvert County where we can store poles, transformers, and other equipment.

All full-time employees will be reassigned to the Hughesville and Leonardtown offices.

SMECO's service reliability standards are second to none and our commitment to service reliability in Calvert County will not change. We will continue to station linemen throughout our service area and our first responders for Calvert County will continue to take their service trucks home with them allowing for prompt dispatch.

After the office closes, those who are accustomed to paying their bills on site will



SMECO's second Calvert office—the two-room house behind the courthouse, was used between 1947 and 1951.



Pictured above is the current Calvert office on Dares Beach Road after it was completed in 1980. This location served as the fourth and final home of the Calvert District Office, which started out in one room in a building on Main Street. The office relocated to a two-room house behind the courthouse in 1947 and relocated to its third location during the first week of January 1951, when the Prince Frederick cooperative employees moved in to the newly built office across from the new Calvert County High School (later Calvert Middle School) on Route 2.

need to transition to an alternate payment option, and there are many convenient alternatives.

Customer-members may not leave payments at this location after 4 p.m. on Nov. 21, 2014.

Other ways to pay your bill

We recognize that some customer-members still prefer to pay their bill in person. While we are closing the Calvert customer service location and night deposit box, there are still options for our members who pay with cash or pay in person.

You can also pay your bill at any Walmart or at a local Global Express retail location for a small fee. Be sure to take a copy of your bill with you.

SMECO will still have two customer service centers; one is located in Hughesville at 15065 Burnt Store Road and one is located in Leonardtown at 23365 Hollywood Road. Offices are open from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday, except on holidays. These two locations also have night deposit boxes for non-cash payments made after hours.

SMECO also has many other ways to pay, including payment online, through the mobile app SMECO 24/7, by phone, by mail, or automatically from your checking account or credit card. Learn more at smeco.coop/yourAccount/payingElectricBills.aspx.

November 1

St. Peter's Holiday Craft Fair

Sponsor: Catholic Daughters of the Americas, Court St. Peter's

8 a.m. to 2 p.m. St. Peter's School, 3320 St. Peter's Drive, Waldorf. The fair will feature more than 60 unique artisans with handmade crafts. The kitchen will serve breakfast and lunch. Gently used jewelry, flea market, and fair trade items for sale. 301-843-8917

Good Samaritan's Holiday Bazaar

Sponsor: Good Samaritan Presbyterian Church

9 a.m. to 2 p.m. 13025 Good Samaritan Drive, Waldorf. Handmade crafts, a cookie walk, bake sale table, white elephant sale, and a secret Santa shop for the little ones. Enjoy crab soup, barbecue, and hot dogs for lunch.

301-843-1335
gspc.cc

Holiday Boutique

Sponsor: Ladies Auxiliary of the Fleet Reserve Association, Unit 93

10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Fleet Reserve Association Branch 93, 21707 Three Notch Road, Lexington Park. A wide variety of vendors will be displaying their products for sale. Vendors will include Mary Kay, Shaklee, and Tupperware.

301-481-7801

All Faith Episcopal Church Annual Fall Dinner

Sponsor: All Faith Episcopal Church

Noon to 5 p.m. Mechanicsville Volunteer Fire Dept. Social Hall. Fried Oysters, stuffed ham, fried chicken and all the fixin's.

301-884-3773
allfaithchurch@verizon.net

November 2

Stephen's Fund 15th Annual Super Holiday Basket Bingo

Sponsor: Charlotte Hall Rotary Club

Noon to 4:30 p.m. Mechanicsville Volunteer Fire Department Social Hall. Proceeds to benefit special needs children in the community. Doors open 12:30 p.m. Five early bird games at 1:30 p.m. Regular games start at 2 p.m. King Tut and Pull Tabs for baskets, door prizes, basket raffle, 50/50 raffle, and food. Regular game baskets will be filled with Longaberger products. Call or e-mail to be entered in the drawing for the 2014 Christmas Basket.

240-298-3885

November 8

Mt. Zion United Methodist Church Craft Fair

Sponsor: Sarah Circle and United Methodist Women

9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Mt Zion United Methodist Church Laurel Grove in Mechanicsville. Craft Fair with hand made items in all price ranges, bake sale, and delicious food.

301-884-4132
epsteiber@yahoo.com

November 9

Veterans' Parade

Sponsor: Town of La Plata

1 p.m. to 2 p.m. Town of La Plata. Come out to honor the men and women of the U.S. Armed Forces. The parade starts at the Courthouse on Charles Street in La Plata. Bring the kids, and come enjoy an old-fashioned, hometown parade.

301-934-8421
townoflaplata.org

November 11

Veterans Day Parade

Sponsor: St. Mary's County Commissioners and Commissioners of Leonardtown

10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Leonardtown Square. Marching bands, military

units, bagpipers, dancers, horses, scouts, antique cars, and wreath-laying ceremony.]

301-475-9791

November 15 Annual Holiday Design Show

Sponsor: The La Plata Garden Club

11 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Grace Lutheran Church, 1200 Charles Street, La Plata. Many vendors with gifts. The guest floral designer will be Theresa Godfrey of Floral Innovations. Godfrey teaches at the Washington Flower School. The design show begins at 1 p.m. \$ Admission. Light refreshments will be available to guests compliments of the La Plata Garden Club.

301-932-2911

November 16 American Legion Bluegrass—The Lost and Found

Sponsor: Sons of the American Legion

2 p.m. to 5 p.m. American Legion Post 238, Hughesville. Doors open at noon. \$ Admission. Free for children age 12 and younger. Food will be sold beginning at noon. 50/50 raffle and door prizes. Sound provided by Troy Jones.

301-737-3004
americanlegionbluegrass.com

November 22 Holiday Bazaar and Bake Sale

Sponsor: La Plata United Methodist Women

9 a.m. to 2 p.m. La Plata United Methodist Church, 3 Port Tobacco Road, La Plata. Featured will be local crafts, baked goods, and door prizes.

301-934-4903

November 23

Fall Dinner and Festival

Sponsor: St. Michael's Catholic School

Noon to 4 p.m. 16560 Three Notch Rd., Ridge. Traditional dinner of stuffed ham, fried oysters, and turkey with all the trimmings prepared by Bailey's Catering. Raffles, vendors, Christmas room, and bake sale.

301-872-5454

November 28

Christmas on the Square and Annual Christmas Tree Lighting

Sponsor: Leonardtown Volunteer Fire Department, Leonardtown Business Association, and the Commissioners of Leonardtown

5 p.m. to 9 p.m. Leonardtown Square. Holiday festivities, music, entertainment, sleigh rides, live nativity, and Santa's arrival (Rain date: November 29, to consist of the Tree Lighting only at 7 p.m.)

301-475-9791

November 28–29 Hearth and Home in Early Maryland

Sponsor: Historic St. Mary's City

Historic St. Mary's City. Explore the colonial table and discover how Maryland's first settlers celebrated the end of the harvest season. Help churn butter, shuck beans, grind corn, and learn about the many tasks required to cook the family feast over a 17th-century hearth. Discover a Southern Maryland delicacy—stuffed ham. \$ Admission. Visitors contributing a non-perishable food item for the Southern Maryland Food Bank will receive a \$1 discount off admission.

240-895-4990
stmaryscity.org/visit/calendar



SMECO payment address has changed

The address for mailing your SMECO bill payment has changed. As of September 8, 2014, SMECO bill payments are being handled through the Bank of America.

Please mail your SMECO electric bill payments to this address:

Southern Maryland
Electric Cooperative
P.O. Box 743002
Atlanta, GA 30374-3002

SMECO has elected to partner with Bank of America because of the additional benefits and enhanced services they have to offer.

Want to save a stamp?

Sign up for the SMECO 24/7 mobile app and pay your bill from your smart phone or tablet.

You can also report an outage or view our outage map with the free app.

Download the app for

free from Apple iTunes or

Google Play. Simply type in

SMECO 24/7 in the search field.

For more information about the app, visit www.smeco.coop/SMECO247

