

# THE CIRCUIT!

October 2019

A publication for our Members  
in Atoka•Bryan•Choctaw  
Coal•Johnston Counties



## October is National Co-op Month

When you think of October, pumpkins, Halloween and beautiful fall foliage naturally come to mind. But October is notable for another reason – it's National Co-op Month! This is the time of year when cooperatives across the country, including Southeastern Electric Cooperative, celebrate who we are and more importantly, the members we serve.

Cooperatives are different than other types of businesses. When the market declines to offer a product or service, or does so at a very high price, co-ops intervene to fill the need.

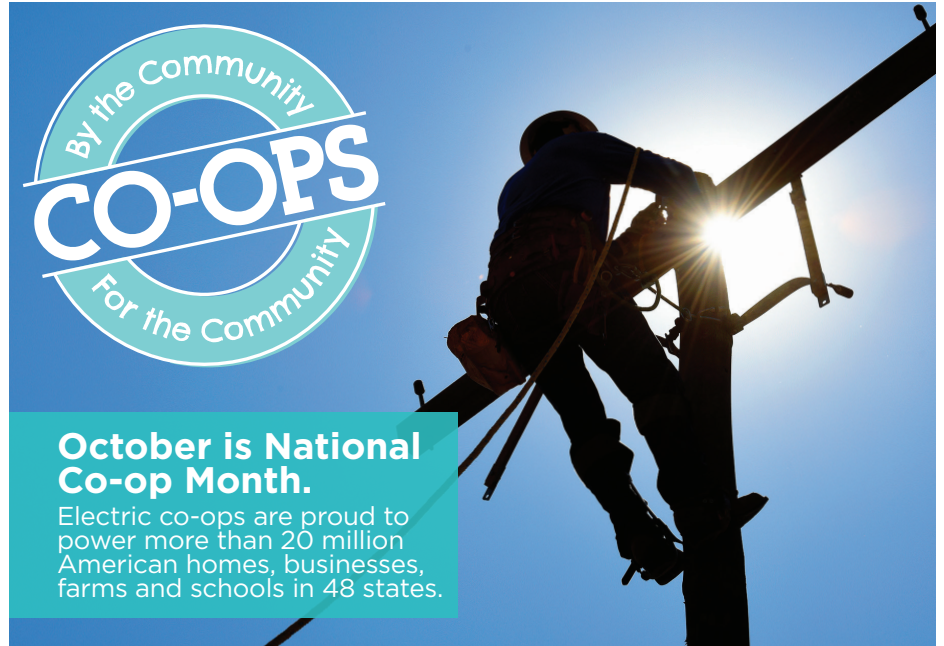
Similar to how SEC was built by members who came together to bring electricity to our community, cooperatives are conveners for the common good. Your electric co-op exists to provide safe, reliable and affordable energy to you, the members of the co-op. Equally important is our mission to enrich the lives of the members we serve.

As a co-op, we are well-suited to meet the needs of the community because we are locally governed. SEC's leadership team and employees live right here in the community. Our board of directors, who helps set long-term priorities for the co-op, live locally on co-op lines. These board members know their decisions impact friends, family, and neighbors - like you!

We know our members have a valuable perspective. That's why we are always seeking your input. Whether through our social media channels or the annual meeting, we want to hear from you.

\*This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.\*

**See Co-op (pg.3)**



## Fall into October Safety

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The cooler weather is on the way. Your Cooperative wants to make sure that Members stay safe this season during the change in temperatures! Below are easy tips to keep in mind:

•**Use space heaters carefully** – Space heaters are an easy way to heat up a room without having to use your heating system. It's a good way to save money on your energy bills, especially if you don't need to heat the whole house. However, space heaters can be quite a safety hazard if you don't use them safely. Always make sure that there's nothing flammable within three feet of your space heater and never plug your space heater into an extension cord.

•**Inspect all of your extension cords** – Once the holidays come around, you'll most likely need to use your extension cords in order to plug in all of your holiday lights and decorations. Check your extension cords for damage and make sure that any extension cords you use outdoors are weather-rated. If you are planning on plugging in a lot of holiday lights, make sure that you use surge protectors to help provide internal load protection.

•**Check cold weather tools** – Any electrical tools that are going to get some use once the weather turns cold, such as leaf blowers, should be checked for any unusual wear and tear. Be sure to check their power cords especially and to replace or repair any electric tools that show damage.

Sweep dry leaves – When the leaves begin falling from your trees, be sure to sweep them away from any outdoor outlets, light fixtures, and power cords. Dry leaves can easily catch fire if hit with a spark of some kind. You should also keep your outdoor air conditioning unit clean and clear of any autumn debris.

•**Be careful about using electrical devices outdoors** – There's going to be a lot more moisture and rain in the fall than in the summer, so make sure that any electrical devices used outside are weatherproof. If you have outdoor electrical outlets, then they should be GFCI outlets that are covered by bubble covers to keep rain out and to protect users against potential shocks.

## Notice to the Southeastern Electric Membership

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On August 8, 2019, Southeastern Electric Board of Trustees, at the Annual Meeting of the Membership, put forth to the membership a vote on a proposed Bylaw Amendment to Article IV, Sections 1 and 5. For the purpose of conducting Official Business at the Annual Meeting of the Membership, a Quorum requirement of 5% of the membership (Article III, Section 4) or 541 members would have to present and registered. Due to the fact that the official registered attendance of 424 of the membership was less than the Quorum requirement, the proposed Bylaw Amendment will be set aside. No other action by the Membership or the Board of Trustees is required at this time.

## Co-op

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Our close connection to the community ensures we get a first-hand perspective on local priorities, thereby enabling us to make more informed decisions on long-term investments, such as Youth Tour, involvement with Special Olympics, donations to Jr. Live-stock and supporting solar programs.

Another feature that sets our co-op apart from a traditional utility is one of our core principles, "Concern for Community." We partner with local organizations like Area 13 Special Olympics for Track & Field, Winter Music & Arts Festival and other worthy programs. We participate in the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour, where we take our community's brightest young people to Washington, D.C. for a week-long immersion to experience democracy in action.

Ultimately, the larger community benefits from these programs because of you and your neighbors. You empower the co-op through your membership and through your participation in and support of these programs.

We hope you will think of SEC as more than your energy provider, but instead as a local business that supports this community and powers economic development and prosperity for the people. We will continue to learn from our members about their priorities so that we can better serve you – *because your electric co-op was built by the community, for the community.* \*\*\*

## Follow Us On Facebook!

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Why is it so important to follow our page? Since we know that our demographics are constantly changing and that the Cooperative is getting involved in more community and youth projects, we want to make sure that we reach all age groups of our Members! We have been using Facebook as a social "news" outlet to announce items such as scheduled line maintenance, updates on severe weather outages, area school involvement, and other events happening at the Cooperative! Like and share our page to reach your family and friends!\*\*\*



The Circuit! is composed monthly by



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## Renewables Predicted to Steadily Increase

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By the end of 2020, about one-fifth of the nation's electric generation will come from renewable sources, including hydropower, according to federal energy officials.



That's up from 17% in 2017, according to this month's Short-Term Energy Outlook released by the Energy Information Administration. In addition, EIA forecasts that the share of total generation for non-hydro renewables will rise to 11% in 2019 and 13% in 2020 "with wind providing more generation than hydropower in 2019 and 2020 for the first time on record."

EIA expects the nation's wind-generating capacity to increase from almost 108 GW at the end of 2019 to almost 118 GW by the end of 2020. That's up from 94 gigawatts at the end of 2018. "Because wind capacity often comes online at the end of the calendar year, increases in generation generally occur in the following year," the report said.

Domestic solar markets are also growing. Based on the most recent data reported to EIA, almost 6 GW of utility-scale solar photovoltaic capacity will go online in 2019 and about 9 GW in 2020. Most of that capacity is planned in the South, particularly Florida, the Carolinas and Texas. EIA also expects nearly 10 GW of small-scale solar capacity to be installed during 2019 and 2020, mostly in the residential sector.

Encouraged by the continued low cost and improved technology, the electric industry is adding more natural gas plants. In 2018, the industry added more than 17 GW of natural gas combined-cycle capacity, which was the largest addition since 2004. Almost 14 GW of new combined-cycle capacity is scheduled to come online this year and in 2020.

"Many of these new natural gas power plants use advanced designs that permit greater capacity than coal-fired power plants." The EIA predicts coal consumption, which reached a 39-year low of 687 million short tons (MMst) last year, will fall to 602 MMst in 2019 and 567 MMst in 2020. "The falling consumption reflects lower demand for coal in the electric power sector," the report said. \*\*\*

