

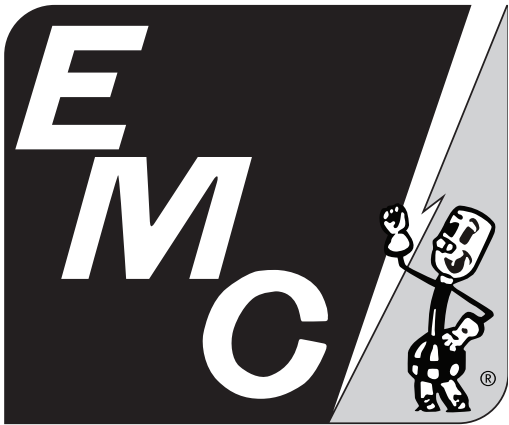


Line Items

The Official
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THE HISTORY AND IMPACT OF ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES



Electric cooperatives have played a vital role in transforming rural America, bringing power to areas that were once left in the dark. Their origins date back to the 1930s when much of the United States was experiencing rapid urban development, yet rural communities lagged behind without access to electricity. Private utility companies considered these areas too costly to serve, leaving farms and small towns without the benefits of modern power.

In response to this growing disparity, the Rural Electrification Act (REA) was signed into law by President Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1936. This landmark legislation provided federal funding to establish nonprofit electric cooperatives. These cooperatives were owned by the communities they served, allowing rural residents to organize, invest in infrastructure, and manage the delivery of electricity themselves.

Excelsior EMC was established in 1938 as part of this movement, committed to bringing power to rural Southeast Georgia. With dedicated efforts from local leaders and the community, Excelsior EMC grew steadily, expanding its network to provide reliable electricity to homes, farms, and businesses in the region. Over the years, Excelsior EMC has remained true to its cooperative values while embracing technological advancements to better serve its members.

The impact was transformative. Electricity revolutionized farming practices by powering equipment, improving irrigation systems, and allowing for better food storage. Rural homes gained access to modern appliances, improving daily life and increasing comfort. Schools, hospitals, and businesses also flourished with access to reliable power, fostering economic growth in once-isolated areas.

Today, electric cooperatives continue to serve millions of Americans across 56% of the nation's landmass. While their roots are in rural America, these co-ops have evolved with the times, investing in renewable energy, grid modernization, and innovative technologies to ensure reliable and affordable power for their members.

The cooperative model's foundation—focused on community ownership and service rather than profit—remains its greatest strength. By putting people before profits, electric cooperatives have helped rural America thrive, ensuring that no community is left behind in the march of progress.

Line Items

Joseph Jones
Editor

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**When Your Power is Off – Call
(912) 685-2115 or (912) 764-2123**

When your power goes off, don't stay in the dark longer than you have to. To restore your power as quickly as possible, we need your correct phone number. Your phone number is the quickest way for us to locate your home or business when you call to report an outage.

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Between the Lines

by
Greg Proctor
President/CEO

Lineworkers are Wired for Service

In the quiet hours before dawn breaks, lineworkers begin their day, often clad in flame-resistant clothing, safety glasses, rubber gloves and thick, heavy boots.

They are the individuals who epitomize dedication to service. As we celebrate Lineworker Appreciation Day on April 14, we pause to reflect on the essential role they play in our daily lives.

Amid towering utility poles and power lines, lineworkers exhibit a strength that goes far beyond the physical. Whether battling inclement weather, troubleshooting technical problems or navigating the heights of their work environment, lineworkers demonstrate resilience and a quiet determination to keep our lights on, our homes comfortable, and our communities connected.

Excelsior EMC crews work across our eight-county service territory, building, maintaining and repairing parts of our local system. Their skills and dedication ensure our homes remain connected to the grid, businesses stay operational, and emergency services remain accessible—a lifeline that connects us all.

In moments of crisis, when the lights go out and we find ourselves in the dark, lineworkers emerge as beacons of hope. This has never been more visible than our experience after Hurricane Helene. Their swift response restored normalcy and provided reassurance in a time of uncertainty. Whether repairing storm-ravaged power lines or ensuring continuity during emergencies, their commitment illuminates life when we need it most.

Excelsior EMC lineworkers answer the call beyond the boundaries of home. Our crews travel to assist fellow co-ops, near or far, when widespread outages occur and additional support is needed. Cooperation among cooperatives is one of our seven guiding principles, and no one embodies this core commitment better than lineworkers. They gain tremendous satisfaction from their jobs, and seeing the lights come on after a storm drives them to go further and work harder for those they serve.

This month, as we celebrate the remarkable men and women who ensure reliable power, let's recognize their dedication to the local communities they serve.

The next time you flip a switch, please take a moment to remember those who make it possible—lineworkers, who are wired for service and dedicated to illuminating life.



Every Member Counts

ANNUAL MEETING INFORMATION

The Cooperative is required by the bylaws to hold an annual meeting of the members. Each year we hold this meeting in May where many of our members gather to enjoy fellowship and conduct the business of their Cooperative. This year's annual meeting will be conducted using the hybrid drive-through / in-person approach that we have used in recent years. This will allow our members the option to leave the meeting after they have registered and received a registration gift or park and attend the in-person meeting after driving through and completing the registration process.

In keeping with the standard provisions of the bylaws, a quorum will be established by the participation of 100 members. Key functions of the annual meeting are the reporting of the Cooperative's financial condition, the election of directors, and conducting any other business that must be acted on by the members. Our goal is to ensure that the members of Excelsior EMC are informed and retain their voice in the governance of their Cooperative. A full report of the financial condition of the Cooperative for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2024, will be included in the May edition of the Cooperative's newsletter, *Line Items*. We will convey additional information to you through our website (www.excelsioremc.com), Facebook page or direct mailings. A summary of the bylaw provisions that address the election of directors is as follows:

ARTICLE FOUR - DIRECTORS

SECTION 1. - The business affairs of the Cooperative shall be managed by a board of directors, exercising all powers of the Cooperative except such as by law, the articles of incorporation or bylaws are conferred upon or reserved to the members.

SECTION 2. - The areas served by the Cooperative shall be divided into geographical districts. One director shall be elected from each of said districts and one director-at-large representing the entire area served by the Cooperative.

SECTION 3. - Qualifications to become or remain a nominee or a director of the Cooperative: Must be eighteen (18) years old or older on the date of election; Must be a member and bona fide resident of the district represented and receive service from the Cooperative at his or her primary residence; May not, within five (5) years prior to the election, have been an employee of the Cooperative; May not be a close relative of any person who is an employee or director of the Cooperative; May not be employed by or hold a financial interest in a competing enterprise or a business selling electric energy or supplies to the Cooperative; May not be the incumbent of or candidate for a salaried elective public office.

SECTION 4. - Establishes election procedures and three-year, staggered terms of office for Directors.

SECTION 5. - The Board of Directors must appoint a nominating committee whose duty is to nominate candidates for each director district term expiring this year. The nominating committee must post its list of nominations on or before April 26, 2025. Qualified candidates can also be nominated by a written petition signed by 100 or more members. Nominating petitions must be received at the Cooperative's Metter office no later than 5:00 pm on Wednesday, April 16, 2025. The nominating petition shall list on each page the following: the member's signature, the member's printed name, the member's mailing address, and the member's phone number.

The members of the Nominating Committee for 2025 are:

District 1 Ryne Brannen

District 2 Speer Brannen

District 3 Ricky Nevil

District 4 Clark Dixon

District 5 Jay McCranie

District 6 Stephen Taylor

District 7 Matt Wood

District 8 Preston Brinson

At-Large Gary Mosley



ENERGY EFFICIENCY

TIP OF THE MONTH

Turn your suds into savings. Lower your energy use in the laundry room by washing clothes with cold water whenever possible, as heating water accounts for most of the energy used in a laundry cycle. Wash full loads to make the most of energy savings, and use high-efficiency detergent designed for cold washes. For drying cycles, clean the lint filter before each load to improve airflow and use dryer balls to reduce drying times.



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