

From the General Manager.....

As we strive to continue to be your trusted electric cooperative, we are working diligently through these unprecedented times to ensure that we continue to make sound decisions that are in the best interest of our members, employees, and communities. It is with mixed emotions that we are announcing the changes to the 2020 Rutherford EMC Annual Membership Meeting. The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted everyone in many ways. These impacts to our community's economic health and daily life will certainly be felt for a long time to come as protective measures will continue into the foreseeable future.

The planning for an event this large starts months in advance. Based upon review of the latest information available from healthcare experts regarding the continued uncertainties of COVID-19 and the statewide restrictive guidelines, your Board of Directors and management team have determined that an in-person Annual Meeting would not be a wise. Typically, Rutherford EMC's Annual Membership Meeting will host between 1,000 – 1,500 people, including members and their families. With a group this large it would be extremely difficult to practice social distancing without putting limitations on member attendance. Historically, these meetings are held in gymnasiums at local high schools throughout our service districts. With the current climate it would be impossible to get advanced approval to host such a large group meeting at any of these facilities for a specific date and time.

Although, this is not how we intended to hold our 2020 Annual Membership Meeting, these extraordinary circumstances have called for drastic measures. We feel as though this decision is best to safeguard the health, safety and well-being of everyone involved. We will miss having the opportunity to meet each one of you face to face, share stories, shake hands and discuss the continued success of our electric membership cooperative. Hopefully, things will return to normal by next year and we can carry on with "business as usual."

Make sure to mark your calendars for October 31, 2020, and join us online at 11 a.m. to ensure that the cooperative's first ever "Virtual" Annual Membership Meeting is a success.

S. Dirk Burlison

General Manager