

A LETTER TO THE MEMBERS OF SNAPPING SHOALS EMC



Shaun Mock
President/CEO



Gene Morris
*Chairman,
Board of Directors*

Did you know that all cooperatives are founded and operated on seven core principles? These high standards include: Open and Voluntary Membership – Democratic Member Control – Members’ Economic Participation – Autonomy and Independence – Education, Training, and Information – Cooperation Among Cooperatives – Concern for Community. These principles provide a cornerstone to guide our Cooperative in how we serve our members every day. Concern for Community and Cooperation Among Cooperatives were never more essential to fulfilling our mission than during the trials faced throughout the extraordinary events of 2020 and 2021. A global pandemic coupled with devastating hurricanes in the South and ice storms in the North tested the resolve of our cooperative network and our communities unlike few others in recent memory. Thankfully, electric cooperatives are built for just these types of challenges.

This year I would like to focus on the sixth Cooperative principle, Cooperation among Cooperatives, because when challenges arise... We Spring into Action. We believe that in order to serve our SSEM members most effectively we must support and strengthen the electric cooperative network. Behind the scenes, when mother nature is at her worst, there exists a nationwide mutual-aid support network for the nation’s electric cooperatives. This network enables electric cooperatives to scale up rapidly and restore service much quicker than would be possible if we operated independently. When 2017’s Hurricane Irma left more than 50,000 SSEM members in the dark, the cooperative network responded in a big way. The SSEM workforce doubled almost overnight in order to restore electricity to our members as quickly as possible. In just four days we restored power to the entire system with the help of outside crews from other parts of Georgia, North Carolina, and even as far away as Texas and Illinois.

“WHEN MOTHER
NATURE IS AT HER
WORST, THERE
EXISTS A
NATIONWIDE
MUTUAL-AID
SUPPORT NETWORK
FOR THE
NATION’S ELECTRIC
COOPERATIVES.”



Thankfully, SSEMC communities were spared from any major storm events over the past year. However, in true cooperative fashion the dedicated group of SSEMC linemen did not sit idle as other communities struggled to restore electricity. Collectively, our crews spent weeks helping to support the communities of our greater cooperative network. From tornado damage in other parts of Georgia to rebuilding entire electric systems in the swamps of Louisiana and even extreme ice storms in the hills of Kentucky and Virginia, our linemen were there when needed the most. You can be proud that SSEMC employs some of the most talented and dedicated linemen in the business. Our team is always storm-ready and able to respond to outages at home and when called upon across our region too. Neighbors helping neighbors, it's what we do every day.

You can also be proud that SSEMC members continue to pay some of the lowest electricity rates in Georgia. In addition to building up our communities, we remain laser focused on creating everyday member-value. For instance, the most recent Georgia Public Service Commission winter rate survey of all 94 electric providers in Georgia, SSEMC ranked the 2nd lowest at 2,000 kWh, 2nd lowest at 1,500 kWh, and 5th lowest at 1,000 kWh. In practical terms, the average SSEMC member saves between \$25-50 per month as compared to the average Georgia resident. Another way that SSEMC creates member value and demonstrates our cooperative purpose is through the regular retirement of patronage capital. This year your electric cooperative returned \$4.2 million to our membership in June 2021. That's real member value!

Finally, I must take the opportunity to commend all SSEMC employees for their exemplary determination and ingenuity they have displayed during the unprecedented events of the last year. Snapping Shoals EMC is powered by a group of people - your neighbors - that are among the most competent, hard-working, and well-respected teams in our industry. I am proud to be a custodian of SSEMC's long history of exemplary service and look forward to a bright future for our electric cooperative. On behalf of the Board of Directors and all the employees at Snapping Shoals EMC, thank you for the trust that you have placed in us to serve your families, your businesses, your community every day. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you need assistance or suggestions for how we can serve you better. We look forward to seeing you at our drive-thru Annual Meeting on Thursday, July 22, 2021.

