



NEWS RELEASE

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Harris Receives Distinguished Service Award *Statewide Association Recognizes Co-op Communicator's Legacy*

Crewe, Va. – Franklin Delano Harris has been honored by the Virginia, Maryland & Delaware Association of Electric Cooperatives (VMDAEC) with the 2015 Electric Cooperative Distinguished Service Award.

Harris, who managed Southside Electric Cooperative's (SEC) Public & Member Relations Department for more than 30 years until his retirement in 2013, accepted his award at VMDAEC's annual meeting held July 27 in Roanoke, Va. Harris went to work at SEC in 1977 and was promoted to public and member relations manager in 1982.

In presenting the award, VMDAEC president and CEO Jack Reasor noted the significant contributions Harris made to his cooperative and the local communities it serves. "Frank planned and conducted 30 of SEC's annual meetings, producing a special publication in 1987 in honor of the cooperative's 50th anniversary. He established SEC's 'AWARE' member advocacy program and ably represented Virginia's electric cooperatives before elected officials at all levels, as well as serving on Amelia County's planning commission and school board."

SEC Board Chairman Frank Bacon added, "Frank Harris is known locally, statewide and nationally as one who gives freely and fully of his time and talents, always with a spirit of cooperation and total commitment to the cooperative principles."

The 2015 Distinguished Service Award resolution details Harris' many contributions to his community. He served as vice-chair of the Virginia Advisory Committee for Career & Technical Education, treasurer of the Piedmont Geriatric Association and is in his sixth term on the Amelia County Board of Supervisors. He is a current member of the Virginia Tobacco Commission and remains active at Mount Zion Baptist Church in Ford.

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Harris was thrilled to receive the award as part of a luncheon celebration that included surprise guests, both family members and friends from sister electric cooperatives.

SEC president and CEO Jeff Edwards concluded, “Frank radiates such a positive attitude and his pleasant demeanor is contagious. Even through tremendous adversity, his buoyant spirit has prevailed and has been an encouragement to us all. You can’t help but smile after talking to Frank, and the Cooperative remains grateful for his many years of service!”

About Southside Electric Cooperative (SEC)

Headquartered in Crewe, SEC Electric Cooperative is a not-for-profit member-owned electric utility that serves more than 55,000 homes, farms and businesses in 18 counties throughout southern and central Virginia. For more information, go to www.sec.coop.

About VMDAEC

Founded in 1944, VMDAEC is the trade association for 15 consumer-owned not-for-profit electric distribution cooperatives that serve Delaware, Maryland and Virginia. The Glen Allen, Va.-based Association provides its member cooperatives with employee, director, and safety education and training, government relations and legislative support, and communications services, including the publishing of *Cooperative Living* magazine. For more information, visit www.vmdaec.com or www.co-opliving.com.

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