

December 18, 2018

Co-op Mutual Aid

VMD Co-ops Respond to Diego's Near-Record Snowfall

Less than a month after **Winter Storm Avery** caused widespread outages across the state, **Winter Storm Diego** swept up from the south the weekend of **Dec. 8-9**, dumping heavy, wet snow across wide swaths of the state, downing trees and power lines.

But **VMD co-ops** were poised to respond to what became Central Virginia's second-biggest December snow event on record. **Phil Jarvis, Association manager of safety services**, had begun coordinating mutual aid earlier that week, and by Sunday, crews from across VMD service territory traveled to aid hard-hit **Mecklenburg and Southside electric cooperatives**.

MEC President & CEO John Lee explained, "Getting around has been really challenging because of the tremendous amount of snow and ice. But thanks to the great job being done by our MEC line crews, and the help we've received from our sister co-ops, we're overcoming all obstacles and getting the lights back on for our members."

Rising temperatures and clearing skies also helped the co-op restoration efforts. By Tuesday morning, **fewer than 600 outages remained** from more than 20,000 sustained by VMD member systems during the height of the storm.

"Our member co-ops have already had a lot of practice battling Old Man Winter so far this season, but with luck we'll get a break during the holidays," said **Alan Scruggs, Association vice president of safety & training services**.

-Report by Mary Howell, VMD Association Communications & PR Coordinator.

Commitment to Community

Mecklenburg Member Recognized with the Association's Good Samaritan Award

C. Franklin Dover, Jr., a retired educational administrator and member of **Mecklenburg Electric Cooperative (MEC)**, received the VMD Association's **2019 Good Samaritan Award** in a surprise ceremony at the Clarksville Lake Country Chamber of Commerce's Christmas Social on Dec. 6 in Clarksville, Va. This award is given to individuals whose body of work has been "**so selfless and life-changing to others**" that it is held up as a "**gold standard**" of community service.



SEC's Mark Thomas took this photo of linemen Brad Ashwell (atop the pole) and Steve Carson (groundman) working near Smith Mountain Lake.



Claude Franklin Dover, Jr., received the 2019 Good Samaritan Award in a surprise presentation held Dec. 6 in Clarksville, Va. From left: VMD Association CEO Richard Johnstone, VMD Association Board Chairman Herbert Patrick, Carol (Mrs. Franklin) Dover, Franklin Dover, MEC Director and VMD Association Board Vice Chairman Bob Jones, MEC Board Secretary-Treasurer and VMD Awards Committee Member Stan Duffer, and MEC President and CEO and VMD Board Member John C. Lee, Jr.

“Since moving to Clarksville and starting a second career in real estate, Mr. Dover has worked diligently as a Clarksville Ruritan Club director to deliver **\$180,000 this past year alone**, including \$75,000 in scholarships and \$30,000 to families in need, to a community that has endured significant job loss,” explained **David Lipscomb, MEC vice president of member and energy services.**

As founder of the **United Country Virginia Realty BBQ crew**, Mr. Dover gained renown for **providing meals year-round to help raise funds**, from donating hot dogs to those attending Clarksville’s **Fourth of July Parade** to providing dinner for hot air balloonists during **Clarksville’s Lakefest celebration**, **Thanksgiving dinners** to the community and a **holiday luncheon** at which gifts are collected to give to **needy children for Christmas**.

“The BBQ crew has also provided meals for **hard-working Cooperative line crews helping to restore power** following a major outage event,” David Lipscomb added.

For more than a decade, Mr. Dover has organized the **Ruritans’ Friday night dance** that raises approximately **\$10,000 a year** and is a weekly highlight for many residents. Noting that Mr. Dover serves on the club’s **Special Needs Committee** that helps families who have incurred tragedies throughout the year, Ruritan President Janice Edwards wrote, **“If we only had 100 more people like Franklin Dover, we could change the world!”**

MEC President and CEO John C. Lee, Jr., added, “Frank’s selflessness and enduring commitment to his community make us very proud to count him amongst MEC’s members. We know him to be caring, unselfish, humble, pleasant, kind, energetic, respectful and generous. If you aspire to help others, there can be no greater hero, or mentor, than Franklin Dover...it is simply impossible for anyone to give any more to their fellow man.”

-Report by Mary Howell, VMD Association Communications & P.R. Coordinator.

The Spirit of Giving

REC Program Benefits Area Nonprofits, Charities



Rappahannock Electric Cooperative’s The Power of Change recently provided \$29,050 in funding to organizations making a positive difference throughout the REC service area.

As part of this program, **over 21,000 REC consumer-owners** either round up their bill to the next whole dollar, make a one-time donation or give a set monthly amount. Their donations are then awarded to nonprofits and charitable groups throughout the communities REC serves.

THE POWER OF CHANGE

Recent recipients of **The Power of Change** funding include:

- **People Helping People of Fauquier County** received \$6,000 to provide emergency financial assistance to county residents in need due to loss of a job, medical issues or a death in the family, among other issues.
- **Montpelier Center for Arts & Education** received \$10,000 so children in Hanover County can participate in a children’s theater program next year.
- **Piedmont Regional Dental Clinic** received \$5,000 to provide free dental care to low-income Virginia veterans in the Culpeper and Orange county areas.
- **The Barns of Rose Hill in Berryville** received \$2,050 to support an ArtMobile/moving exhibit to bring collections of the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts to students and senior citizens in the Blue Ridge region.
- **Honor Flight/Top of Virginia** was awarded \$5,000 to transport World War II, Korean War and Vietnam War Veterans to Washington, D.C., to visit and reflect at those memorials.

- **Front Royal Oratorio Society** received \$1,000 to purchase music scores to allow the group to provide four free public performances.

“These small monthly contributions by REC members mean so much to these organizations,” said **Matt Falconer**, manager of external affairs. More information about this program is available at thepowerofchange.org.

-Report by Casey Hollins, REC Director of Communications and Public Relations.

Commitment to Education

BARC and Bath County Schools Continue Partnership

BARC Electric Cooperative recently announced that it has donated \$5,000 to the **Bath County Public School system** (BCPS). The funds will be used for educational programs needing additional resources to advance programs for students.

During the December 4 School Board meeting, **BARC COO Jamie Lowry** presented the funds to Bath County School Superintendent **Sue Hirsh** and the **Bath County School Board**. BARC and BCPS have a long-standing partnership that has focused on educational programs to develop a **strong workforce pipeline** for the region. In 2017, BARC and BCPS partnered on the **largest solar array installation** in Virginia public schools. The solar installation provided **renewable energy for the school system** and included special monitoring equipment that enables students at all three schools to watch **real-time energy production** to see how their systems are performing and to compare their results with those of the other schools.

“BARC believes in the future of all Bath County students and in our community as a whole. Partnerships with the Bath County Public School system help to grow key programs and enrich the overall education of students, increasing their knowledge in the energy field while building a foundation for their future success,” said **Mike Keyser**, **BARC’s CEO**.

-Report by Tish Blackwell, BARC Communications Specialist.

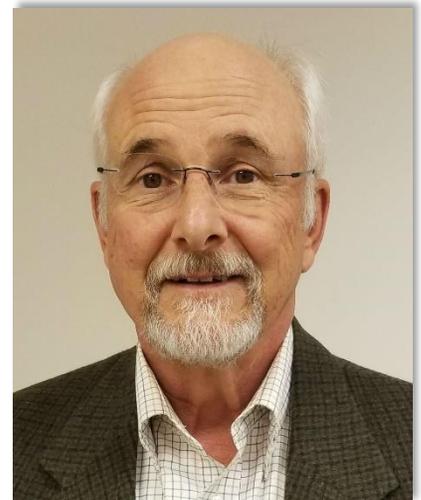
Co-op People

Brian Coey Joins Prince George Board of Directors

Brian E. Coey has been appointed as a **director of Prince George Electric Cooperative (PGEC)** to complete the term of **H. F. Scott, Jr.**, who passed away in August of 2018. Brian is a graduate of **Virginia Commonwealth University** and **MCV School of Pharmacy**. After graduating, he established the **Prince George Pharmacy** and operated this business for **32 years**.

Brian has been involved in many local civic organizations to include the **Petersburg Breakfast Rotary** and **Prince George Ruritans**. He also served on the Board of the **Prince George Emergency Crew** and continues to serve on the Board of **Hopewell-Prince George Crime Solvers**.

PGEC Board Chairman **Paul Brown** said, “We’re pleased to have Brian on the PGEC leadership team. He has been an active business owner for many years, engaged in civic organizations and supporting our local schools and youth activities. I am excited to have someone with his credentials to join our Board.”



Brian E. Coey

Welcome to the VMD Cooperative family Brian!

Mitchell Simmons Named Manager of Information Technology for CEC

Community Electric Cooperative (CEC) has named **Mitchell Simmons** to serve as manager of information technology. Mitchell, who previously worked at Randstad Technologies, will be responsible for leading CEC's information technology strategy and development. He'll work closely with the company's product, data, and analytics teams.



Mitchell Simmons

"We are excited to welcome Mitchell to our senior leadership team as we continue to invest heavily in data security and enhance our information technology infrastructure," said **CEC President & CEO Steve Harmon**. "Mitch has great technical and cloud computing skills, strong performance within the industry, and is a creative problem solver. He is a great addition to our future success as we advance our technology capabilities."

During his time at Randstad, Mitchell provided complex technical and service support to a multifaceted regional health system client at Riverside Regional Medical Center, including migration and deployment of a new operating system. He holds bachelor's degrees in electrical & electronics engineering from California State University-East Bay, and is certified in Microsoft A+, Linux Support, and Microsoft Office Suite. He and his family currently reside in Newport News, with plans to relocate to Windsor.

Welcome to the VMD Cooperative family Mitchell!

Brian Mosier to Serve as Chief Operating Officer for VMDAEC

The VMD Association has named **Brian S. Mosier** as its **chief operating officer**, effective Jan. 1. Brian brings more than two decades of senior-level cooperative experience to his new role. He joined the Association in 2013 as vice president of governmental affairs after serving nine years as vice president for business development at **Mecklenburg Electric Cooperative**, where he headed up MEC's highly effective grassroots and legislative outreach efforts, in addition to handling key business accounts, and member and public relations.

"Brian brings a hugely valuable operational perspective to our management team and is a proven advocate for our member cooperative businesses," said **VMD Association President & CEO Richard Johnstone**. "Over the five years he's led our governmental affairs department, the Association has successfully protected members' interests on an array of issues, including renewables, pole attachments and broadband deployment to rural areas, as well as codifying the electric cooperative exemption from paying a recordation tax on loans."

While heading up the **Gaff-n-Go Rodeo Working Group**, Brian helped increase co-op participation while adding new attractions to this popular annual event. Over the past year, he's overseen the Association's transition to self-managed human resources and information technology services, while working to provide more value for Association members through training and strategic planning initiatives.

Brian earned a bachelor's degree in business administration from the University of North Carolina-Charlotte. Before joining the VMD co-op family in 2004, he was general manager of a subsidiary of **Union Power Cooperative** in **Monroe, NC**, developing programs to enhance energy sales and customer service, while helping North Carolina's cooperatives successfully lobby to be able to engage in subsidiary activities.

Congratulations on this richly deserved promotion Brian!



Brian S. Mosier

The VMDAEC Education Scholarship Foundation wishes everyone a **Happy New Year!**



As you consider your **year-end giving**, we would be **grateful** for your support and consideration. Your **tax-deductible donation** goes to help **Cooperative youth** fulfill their dreams of higher education and to educate the **linemen of tomorrow**. **Together**, we have funded well over **half a million dollars** in scholarships for college students and budding line workers!

Please contact us for monthly giving, leadership giving, and bequest opportunities.

Contact us at scholarship@vmdaec.com or (804) 968-7164.

Thank you!

Help Us Keep You Informed!



If you have story ideas, news or information of interest and benefit to other members of the electric cooperative community in our three-state area, please contact **Phyllis Long** at plong@vmdaec.com (804) 968-4077.



This is our last issue of 2018.

We wish you Happy Holidays and a

Happy New Year!