

February 26, 2018

Co-op Leadership

Marcus Harris Named ODEC President & CEO

On Feb. 23, the Board of Directors of **Old Dominion Electric Cooperative (ODEC)** announced the selection of **Marcus Harris** to serve as the organization's next President and CEO. Mr. Harris will officially assume the reins at ODEC on April 2.

ODEC Board Chairman Bill Andrew, President and CEO of Delaware Electric Cooperative, said, "In order to continue to successfully fulfill its mission to provide reliable, affordable and environmentally responsible power to its 11 Members, ODEC needed a strong servant leader with a proven background in operations, organizational leadership, resource development, and above all, a passion for the Cooperative business model and its principles. We are very confident that we have hired a person in Mr. Harris who possesses all those qualities and will competently move ODEC forward."



**Marcus Harris, new President & CEO of
Old Dominion Electric Cooperative**

Prior to joining ODEC, Harris served as Executive Vice President and CEO of **Kansas Electric Power Cooperative** in Topeka, KS, a position he held since 2014. Before his tenure as CEO, he served in a number of positions during 23 years at **South Carolina Electric and Gas Company** including General Manager of Renewable Energy, Director of Wholesale Power Marketing, Manager of Operations Planning and Manager of Electric Operations.

Mr. Harris' educational and executive accomplishments include a Bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering and Master's degree in Engineering with business emphasis, both earned from the **University of South Carolina**. He is a registered Professional Engineer in the State of South Carolina and completed the Reactor Technology Course for Utility Executives at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Mr. Harris joins ODEC as the organization's **eighth President and CEO** and succeeds **Jack Reasor**, who served in this role for 19 years. Mr. Harris, a South Carolina native, has a wife and two sons, is active in his church and community, and volunteers his time on behalf of the United Way and the American Heart Association, among others.

As Mr. Harris and his family transition to the Richmond, Virginia area, he notes that he and his wife Allison, are "very excited to make Virginia our new home." In preparing to lead ODEC, he stated, "I am honored that the ODEC Board chose me to **lead their outstanding generation and transmission cooperative into its next chapter**. Allison and I look forward to getting to know the ODEC family and to taking on the challenges that will face ODEC in the coming years as the utility industry continues to evolve."

Mr. Harris' hiring culminates a comprehensive search effort that began in August 2017 when ODEC's Board of Directors selected a search committee, chaired by **Mecklenburg Electric Cooperative President and CEO John Lee**. The committee worked closely with leading **executive search firm CarterBaldwin** to identify the ideal executive for this role and secure candidates that fit that profile.

"The ODEC CEO job is a premier position, at a premier generation and transmission cooperative, and accordingly, attracted highly qualified candidates from throughout the country," John Lee stated, adding "Mr. Harris rose to the top of a very impressive list of candidates, in a very disciplined, detailed, and thorough search process, and we strongly believe that his skills, experience and leadership will bring great value to ODEC, and allow it to continue to effectively meet the needs of its Membership."

- Report by Shena Crittendon, ODEC Director of Communications and Public Relations.

Online Registration Underway for Gaff-n-Go Lineman's Rodeo

Now in its 16th year, the **Gaff-n-Go Lineman's Rodeo** is set for **May 11-12** at **Meadow Event Park** in Doswell, Va. This annual celebration of utility line worker skills kicks off Friday, May 11 with the **Equipment Operators' Rodeo** and **Gaff-n-Grill** competition, followed by the **Lineman's Rodeo** on Saturday, May 12, which is again being sponsored by **Terex** in partnership with **Ring Power Utility Equipment**.



Nate Humphrey, a military veteran and graduate of SVCC's Power Line Worker Training School who now works as an SEC lineman, received a standing ovation for his safety address at last year's awards banquet.

Something new this year will be inviting all the participants and their families to a free barbeque dinner on Friday night.

"**Lee Electrical** is sponsoring this year's complimentary dinner that will feature a variety of different barbeque creations as well as recognize the 2018 champion of our Gaff-n-Grill event," said **Brian Mosier**, Association VP of member and government relations and co-coordinator of the Gaff-n-Go event.

The regional event is open to equipment operators and line workers from electric cooperatives, municipal systems and investor-owned utilities, with **more than 150 competitors** expected to put their professional talents on display.

Equipment Operator's Rodeo competitions get underway Friday at 11:30 a.m., while **apprentice and journeymen competitions** start bright and early at 8 a.m. on Saturday. Both days' events are open to the public, with **free parking and admission**. A Vendor Expo will again showcase the latest in tools and equipment, with several food vendors on site all weekend. On Saturday, children of all ages can enjoy a **petting zoo and balloon artist activities** from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m.

Rodeo Committee Chairman John Lee, president & CEO of Mecklenburg Electric Cooperative, explained, "This event is touted as a competition, but is about far more than winning, losing or posting the best times. It's about **safety, fellowship, education, family, team building, the exchange of ideas and techniques** and, perhaps most importantly, **the pride these individuals take in their work.**"

The Saturday evening awards banquet will be at the **Hilton Hotel & Spa** in Short Pump, a short drive down I-95 & I-295 from Meadow Event Park. Over 400 linemen and their families are expected to attend, as event winners are recognized. **Go to the new website at www.gaff-n-go.com**, to take advantage of the **user friendly online registration for the Gaff-n-Go Rodeo, Gaff-n-Grill competition, barbeque dinner and awards banquet**. Sign up by March 2 to receive the early registration discount and check out the pictures and incredible sponsors who help make this rodeo a reality.

Both before and during the event, Rodeo fans are encouraged to join the Gaff-n-Go event page and follow the Gaff-n-Go Rodeo on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/GaffnGo/>.

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

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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

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