

March 28, 2018

## Co-op Honors

### A&N Members Receive the VMD Association's Good Samaritan Award

Representatives from the **Association** and **A&N Electric Cooperative (ANEC)** gathered in Chincoteague on Monday, March 26 to honor Manna Café founders **Fran and Bill Lytle** with the **2018 Good Samaritan Award**.

*Cooperative Living* readers were invited to submit nominations for this annual award, presented 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. Since January 2017, the Lytles have proven wrong the saying “there’s no such thing as a free lunch,” leading efforts to **host a no-cost community meal each Monday** from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Christ **United Methodist Church’s social hall**.

“What began as a service for barely a dozen people has grown to providing as many as **300 people each week** with good company as well as a hot meal,” explained **Carol Meyers**, the ANEC member and Manna Café volunteer who **nominated the Lytles for this award**.

The Rev. **Joe Carson**, pastor of Christ United Methodist Church, said that **Manna Café attracts people of all ages and walks of life**, including watermen, hotel employees, contractors and senior citizens.

“The growth and popularity of this program has stimulated interest from **many Accomack County businesses to donate products** used to prepare each meal, with many of our church members now volunteering as servers,” he said.

In their letter of support for Meyers’ nomination, **Mark and Jackie Mentzer** noted, “Bill and Fran enlist local offerings from the community, such as fresh greens and tomatoes from residents’ gardens, meats and staples from local grocers, and delicious desserts made by volunteers or donated by community businesses. Their time and effort to be good stewards of both food and monetary donations is evident in everything they plan.”

**ANEC President & CEO Butch Williamson** applauded the Lytles’ dedicated service. “Fran and Bill’s vision to provide food and fellowship in a welcoming setting embodies the seventh cooperative principle, Concern for Community,” he noted. “We’re proud to have members such as them.” **ANEC Board Chair Add Nottingham and Vice Chair Chris Bott**, who attends Christ UMC, were also at the presentation to support the Lytles.

Both **VMDAEC Board Chair James Huffman** of Craig-Botetourt Electric Cooperative and **Vice Chair Herbert Patrick** of Prince George Electric Cooperative, chair of the Association’s Awards Committee, were on hand to present the Award.

James said, “Bill and Fran are living examples of the Good Samaritan, working tirelessly to follow the Biblical principle, ‘do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit; however, consider all others more important than yourself.’ We are proud to recognize their dedication that has made such a difference for Eastern Shore residents.”

**Laura Emery’s video** that captures the surprise presentation to the Lytles and the wide range of Chincoteague-area residents who benefit from the Manna Café can be viewed on *Cooperative Living’s* [Facebook page](#) or [YouTube](#).

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



*From left: ANEC CEO Butch Williamson, ANEC Board Vice Chair Christopher Bott, VMDAEC Awards Committee Chair Herbert Patrick, Fran and Bill Lytle, VMDAEC Board Chair James Huffman and ANEC Board Chair Addison Nottingham, Jr. during the 2018 Good Samaritan Award presentation in Chincoteague. (Photo by Jay Diem, A&N Electric Cooperative.)*

## Co-op News

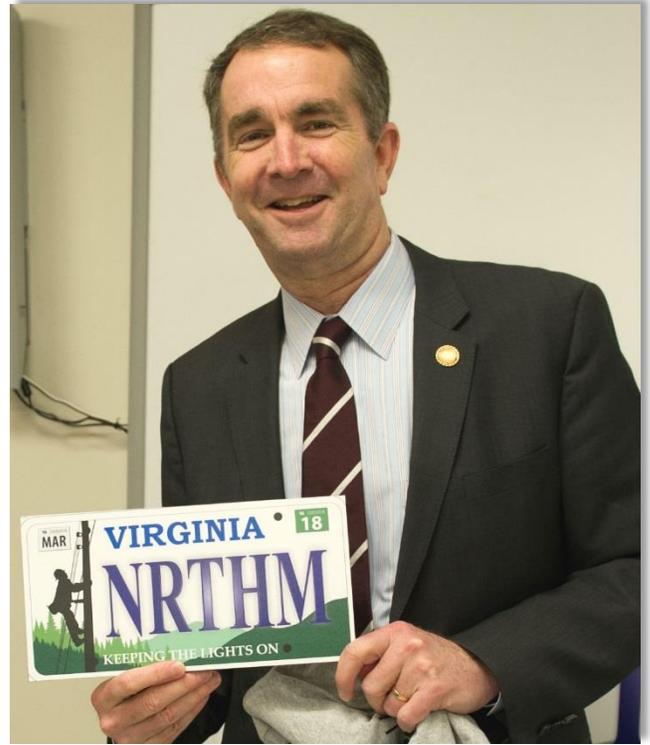
### 'Honoring Power Line Workers' License Plate Bill Signed into Law

Earlier this month, **Governor Ralph Northam** approved legislation authorizing a specialized license plate that honors power line workers. The brainchild of **Craig-Botetourt Electric Cooperative CEO Shawn Hildebrand**, this initiative received support from many across the Virginia electric cooperative family to reach the required 450 pre-paid applications in order for legislation to be introduced.

The development process will be complete by early fall. After sale of the first 1,000 plates, **\$15 from the sale of each \$25 plate** will benefit the Association's **Educational Scholarship Foundation**.

"Only a handful of states have specialized plates honoring their line workers, and **Virginia is first in the nation to allocate revenue from the sale of plates** back to a co-op scholarship foundation," said Shawn. He added, "Delegate **Terry Austin**, who patroned this legislation, was a tremendous partner. I want to especially thank the Association's Governmental Affairs Department – and all VMDAEC members – for making this happen. It's a great way to show our appreciation for the folks who keep our lights on!"

-Report by the VMD Association's Governmental Affairs Dept.



*During Governor Ralph Northam's March 14 visit to SVCC's Power Line Worker Training School Program, Association lobbyist Andrew Vehorn presented him with this ceremonial license plate.*

## Co-op People

### SEC's Ron White Completes Management Internship Program

**Ron White**, vice president of member and public relations for **Southside Electric Cooperative**, recently completed an intensive program in electric utility management.

The **Robert I. Kabat Management Internship Program** is a series of workshops offered by NRECA in conjunction with the University of Wisconsin. The program guides participants through all facets of the electric utility industry through **three 10-day sessions** designed to challenge and educate them in new and innovative management techniques. By also covering the **unique principles that govern the operations of electric cooperatives**, the program helps co-ops analyze other business ventures they may want to enter as well as **enhancing the core organization**. Participants leave with a better understanding of what members want and how to ensure they get it.

Only electric cooperative CEOs and top-level management participate in this exclusive educational program, with Ron among the handful of electric utility employees nationwide to graduate this year.

-Report by Lauren Irby, Southside Electric Cooperative.



*SEC's Ron White (at left) with Gary Pfann, NRECA Director of Executive & Staff Education.*

News About Members of the VMD Cooperative Family



Charles R. Hastings

We are sad to report the passing of **Charles R. Hastings** on March 24, in Jetmore, Kansas. Charles is the father of Shenandoah Valley Electric Cooperative CEO **Michael Hastings**. Expressions of sympathy may be sent to Michael and his wife Shauna at 202 Oakwood Dr., Bridgewater, VA 22812

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

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