

# a message from REC's Board Chairman



## REC NEWS

February 2021

### Engaged Board Aims to Serve All Member-Owners

By Chris Shipe, REC Board chairman



On March 1, the official call for nominations to serve as an REC Board member will open, and REC members-owners like you and me will be encouraged to consider serving on the Board. As we near that time, I want to share some of my experiences over the past decade as an REC Board member.

In short, it is a lot of work but is always very fulfilling. Our Board is very engaged, we care and we really

work to serve and represent our diverse member-owners' interests.

The REC board is strategic focused. Our role is to listen to you, be informed about the industry, understand emerging risks and opportunities, and provide oversight and accountability for the Cooperative.

We work hard to understand REC's current and potential position on topics such as electric rates and power supply; grid security and reliability; broadband and solar power; and, of course, policies and procedures.

We study and approve the Cooperative's budget to ensure your Cooperative stays focused on keeping the cost of power affordable. We ensure compliance with REC bylaws, as well as state and federal regulations. We work directly with

outside agencies and auditors to ensure we always meet the highest standards of accountability.

We operate transparently as a heavily regulated utility. On REC's newly designed website, [myrec.coop](http://myrec.coop), you can find the Governance and Document Center, which includes an abundance of voluntary information on REC's finances and other important governing documents, including documents about serving on the REC Board.

It is the responsibility of REC's Board of Directors to focus on what is wise for all members. A large part of that responsibility is to ensure we find the right balance for all members with reliability, affordability and sustainability.

REC is a billion-dollar corporation, and the Board takes its role very seriously. This is not a ceremonial board. We are a working board that puts in a lot of time preparing for meetings so we can ask appropriate questions, explore the issues, and make the best decisions for you.

I would encourage you to consider participating in REC's upcoming 2021 director elections, which can range from being a candidate, to casting a vote for your voice to be heard. If you would like more information please visit our website at [myrec.coop](http://myrec.coop).

I'm very thankful and grateful for the privilege of serving on the REC Board. Your directors understand their purpose, and that is to serve all members. We look forward to continued collaboration in 2021.



### 2021 Director Elections open March 1

Look for additional details in the March-April issue of *Cooperative Living* or online at [myrec.coop](http://myrec.coop).

**Member-owners will elect directors for the following three regions:**

**Region II** - the counties of Clarke, Fauquier, Stafford and portions of Warren and Rappahannock.  
*Currently represented by Christopher G. Shipe.*

**Region III** - the counties of Albemarle, Madison, Greene, Rockingham and a portion of Page County.  
*Currently represented by Darlene H. Carpenter.*

**Region VIII** - the counties of Hanover and Goochland.  
*Currently represented by William C. Frazier.*

# Groundbreaking Battery Storage Project Launches



Sue Berthaut's Volvo 18-wheeler rumbled up to a remote substation near the Spotsylvania County courthouse area at 8:15 one recent morning.

"I have no idea what kind of container this is other than it has a lot of doors on it," she said. To be precise, that's 13 doors on each side. Another rig arrived a few hours later with an identical container. Each smelled of fresh paint.

By mid-afternoon, a massive crane slowly lifted each container into the air and swung it around toward its resting place. On the ground, an assembled team of engineers, designers and skilled contractors manually guided each one into place. Sam Wilson, REC's director of substation and transmission engineering, then crawled into each container. He laid flat on his stomach, carefully pulling up pre-set cables through pre-drilled holes.

The installation of those containers represented a historic step for REC and its ability to provide reliable electricity to its member-owners.

That's because, additional trucks arrived with specially made batteries, which were then installed inside the containers.

The special project is the first grid-scale energy storage project by an electric cooperative in Virginia.

"This is a huge step for REC, as your Cooperative continues to serve as an industry leader and takes advantage of the latest technology," said REC's Peter Muhoro, vice president of strategy and technology. "The energy stored in those batteries is enough to power about 1,000 homes for 8 hours."

For instance, in the event of a supply outage in that region, REC could keep member-owners' lights on while crews worked to make repairs to the traditional electric system.

Besides improving reliability, the battery storage system helps REC manage power costs by dispatching stored energy during peak times when electricity is more expensive for the Cooperative to purchase. It also delays the need to upgrade transformers and other expensive equipment in that substation.

John Arp, vice president of engineering, operations and power supply, agreed. "With the addition of this battery storage system to our other existing demand response programs, REC has increased and improved our ability to control costs for all members."

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