

SMECO Board appoints director

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Susie Hance-Wells

HUGHESVILLE, Md. - Southern Maryland Electric Cooperative's (SMECO) Board of Directors has appointed Susie Hance-Wells of Prince Frederick to fill the unexpired portion of Samuel "Jack" Hammett's three-year term, which ends in 2021. Hammett, who stepped down as of March 31, 2020, represented Calvert and Anne Arundel counties and served on SMECO's Board since 1990.

Four SMECO customer-members applied for the position. The application and interview process began in April and Hance-Wells took the oath of office at the July 21 meeting of the SMECO Board of Directors. According to Scott White, chairman of SMECO's Board, "Susie Hance-Wells has had years of experience with matters that are important to the residents of Calvert County. She has embraced the growth of the county while maintaining its storied heritage. And her knowledge and experience with budgets, governance, and long-term planning will help to strengthen our cooperative and its Board."

Hance-Wells is a lifelong resident of Calvert County. She graduated from the University of Delaware with a bachelor's degree in agriculture, and since then she has managed her family's 320-acre farm, taking it from a tobacco and cattle farm to a farm-to-table operation. She has served on the Agricultural Land Preservation Advisory Board, the Planning Commission, the Colonial Farm Credit Board, and the Farm Bureau in Calvert County. Hance-Wells served on the corporate board of the Southern States Cooperative for six years, and she is currently the chair of the Calvert County Board of Appeals.

SMECO – The Cooperative Difference

SMECO was incorporated in 1937 and is one of the 15 largest electric cooperatives in the United States with more than 166,000 member accounts in Charles County, St. Mary's County, southern Prince George's County, and most of Calvert County.

Electric cooperatives are shaped by the communities they serve, because co-ops are owned by their customers. Co-op members elect the men and women who serve on the Board of Directors. Members share the responsibility of ownership by financing the cooperative's operations, but they also share its rewards.

At the end of each year, SMECO's margins (profits) are allocated to members' capital credit accounts. SMECO uses its profits to invest in new construction, system improvements, and facility upgrades. The Board of Directors regularly evaluates the financial condition of the co-op and determines when members will receive a refund. Since 1937, SMECO has refunded \$93.6 million.

As a cooperative, SMECO will always put its members first and be responsive, reliable, and resourceful—the power you can count on.

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