



Left: Mike Sandridge with Virginia, Maryland & Delaware Association of Electric Cooperatives President and CEO Brian Mosier at the Association's 2023 annual meeting in July. **Below:** From left, BARC Chief Operations Officer Chris Botulinski, the late Virginia Del. Ronnie Campbell and Sandridge during the 2022 electric cooperative legislative conference.

Called to Serve



Director's Perspective

C. Michael Sandridge
Vice President, Board of Directors
BARC Electric Cooperative

For the past 32 years, I have had the honor and privilege to represent my fellow members by serving on the board of directors for BARC Electric Cooperative. Fortunately, a great example was set for me by the late Jim Tenant and my grandfather, C.W. (Charlie) Sandridge, who served on the board for 48 years until

he passed in 1986. With much encouragement to take his place on the board, I decided to run and was elected in 1991.

Today, my late grandfather and I have proudly served the members of BARC for a combined 80 years. Additionally, Jim requested I step in and fill his seat on the board of directors for the Virginia, Maryland & Delaware Association of Electric Cooperatives following a decline in his health.

I've had big shoes to fill, but I work diligently to represent my friends and neighbors in the best possible manner.

This summer, I was sworn in to the role of board chair with VMDAEC at the Association's annual meeting in Leesburg, Va. This is an exciting time to lead the collaborative efforts of our 16 member cooperatives in three states.

"Mr. Sandridge has been an integral part of the VMD Association for many years with leadership roles on multiple committees, and now, as chairman, we look forward to working with him to continue our growth and providing the value services our members have come to expect." says VMDAEC President and CEO Brian Mosier.



I am looking forward to attending other electric cooperative meetings and visiting with members and directors about their services and approaches to problem-solving. We may be 16 individual co-ops, but we are one family. I'm sure you've heard it before, but Cooperation Among Cooperatives is one of our guiding principles.

Serving on the VMDAEC Education Scholarship Foundation has been fulfilling, to say the least. In its first year, 22 years ago, the Foundation awarded five \$500 scholarships. Next June, we're on track to have awarded more than \$1 million in scholarships to worthy high school and home-schooled students.

Electric co-ops are committed to their communities and providing our youth with tools and resources for a brighter future. Two more guiding principles are Education, Training and Information and Concern for Community.

Rest assured, your team at BARC, including the board of directors made up of your neighbors, is committed to providing the best service possible to continue to improve the quality of life in our region. Thank you for the opportunity to serve you.

BARC ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

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Chief Executive Officer
Bill Buchanan

Local Pages Editor
Amanda Cunningham

BARC Electric Cooperative is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

BARC Members Receive Savings on Bills

BARC Electric Cooperative members are seeing lower electric bills that began in August following a decrease in the charges the Cooperative pays for wholesale power. For BARC members using 1,000 kilowatt-hours a month, the decrease will mean a savings of about \$4 a month. Exactly how much will depend on members' use.

According to Old Dominion Electric Cooperative, energy prices tend to follow natural gas prices in the mid-Atlantic as our region relies heavily on natural gas for electricity generation. As power and gas prices have decreased from significant highs we saw in 2022, ODEC is able to lower electric rates for its 11 cooperative members this summer, including BARC Electric Cooperative.

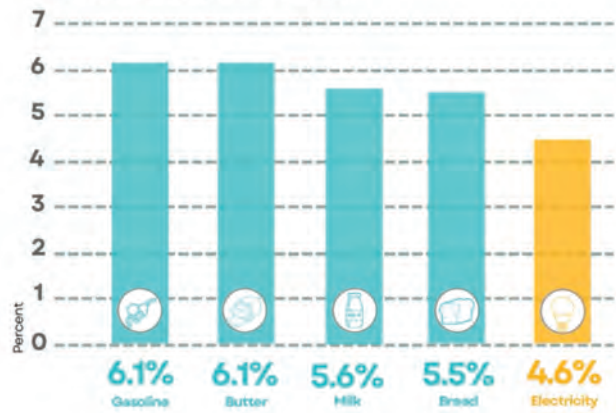
"BARC is pleased that we can share this decreased rate and savings with our membership. We are proud of our executive team and the ODEC team for working to provide the same reliable electricity at the lowest possible cost." Keith Swisher, chair of the BARC board of directors and an ODEC board member.

"One of the unique things about ODEC and BARC is the cooperative business aspect. Being a member of one of ODEC's 11 member cooperatives, we work directly with ODEC leadership," says BARC CEO Bill Buchanan, who also serves on the ODEC board. "Sometimes there are hard decisions that impact our members, as was seen over the past year when energy costs climbed due to high fuel costs. Other

times we get to make the easy decisions for our members, by passing through savings that ODEC realizes. Like now, when fuel costs are declining and giving relief to our energy costs, and ultimately lower costs to the members we serve. I'm pleased BARC is a member of ODEC and that we can pass this decrease through to our membership. Cooperation Among Cooperatives."

ELECTRICITY REMAINS A GOOD VALUE

Average Annual Price Increase 2017-2022



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics Consumer Price Index

New Project to Provide Pathway for Renewable Energy

BARC Electric has broken ground on a construction project that will replace approximately 4 miles of 46-kilovolt transmission and 12.5-kV distribution lines to provide a pathway for a 5-megawatt solar project to inject sustainable, renewable energy into the BARC electric system.

By using internal construction resources, BARC Electric will be saving the members more than \$1 million in construction costs while providing our Operations team personnel valuable experience installing a new transmission with an underbuild distribution line. BARC Electric designed the line using ductile iron poles that will last for 70-plus years and be more resilient than wood poles, cannot rot, are designed to resist rust, and provide significant structural integrity to that portion of the transmission system.

BARC Electric does not and will not own the solar project, but will use 100% of the energy produced at the project to power BARC Electric members at no additional cost to the membership.



BARC Communities

BARC Electric Hosts 85th Annual Meeting

Board President Keith Swisher reported on the challenges and highlights for the Cooperative in 2022 at the BARC Annual Meeting on July 19. Swisher reported the Cooperative submitted its first general rate case application in over 20 years. The rate change will be implemented over two years, having begun on Jan. 1, 2023. Two solar projects, a 5-megawatt array near Millboro and a 2.5-MW array in Rockbridge Baths, were completed. The renovation of BARC's Lexington office, the old Highland Belle Middle School, was completed.

Swisher also reported BARC's subsidiary, BARC Connects, continues to expand its fiber optic broadband infrastructure. 1,279 sheath miles of fiber optic cable have been installed serving 4,500 customers and passing almost 11,000 locations.

Secretary/Treasurer John Quantz reported, "Despite the challenges of 2022, I am happy to report that we did end the year with positive margins. Membership patronage capital increased by just over \$1 million. These margins help ensure that the Cooperative can cover unplanned expenses such as those related to major storms, while also maintaining the capital necessary for system upgrades to meet member demand."

CEO Bill Buchanan addressed the board, staff and membership on BARC's commitment to safety. "One of the most important things that stays constant at BARC is its culture of safety as our top priority. The culture and commitment to safety starts at the top, and I assure you that your board and management continually strive to provide the best when it comes to a safe working environment for our employees. I am



Above: BARC Director Keith Swisher provides an update at the co-op's annual meeting. Right: CEO Bill Buchanan addresses members, employees and others in attendance.



Membership patronage capital increased by just over \$1 million.

pleased to report that at the end of June, we have 1,464 days without a lost-time accident. Congratulations to Team BARC!"

Special guests in attendance were Old Dominion Electric Cooperative CFO Bryan Rogers, Virginia, Maryland & Delaware Association of Electric Cooperatives Board Chair Wade House and President and CEO Brian Mosier. Former BARC General Manager Hugh Landes was also in attendance.

The following board members were reelected to three-year terms: Keith L. Swisher of District 3 and Albert J. "Jay" Lewis II of District 4. More than 1,000 members voted by returning their proxy designation cards and were entered into a drawing to win \$150 bill credits. The following members were announced as winners:

- District 1 – William F. Bither
- District 2 – Uldis Birzenieks
- District 3 – James G. and Helen T. Cox
- District 4 – Ruth W. Swisher
- District 5 – Lester D. Bright
- District 6 – Bettie C. Chestnut
- District 7 – Nancy R. Hodge

BARC Crew Helps Local Fire Department

Goshen's new landing zone is now fully equipped to Life-Guard's recommendations. BARC Electric Cooperative donated the pole, equipment and time to install the wind sock.



BATH COUNTY FAIR

September 23, 2023 | Millboro, VA
10am-4pm

DOG SHOW

4-H POULTRY SHOW & SALE

\$10 A PERSON
AGES 13+
WATCH FOR A COUPON!
SENIOR DISCOUNT

LIVE MUSIC

FOOD RAFFLES GAMES

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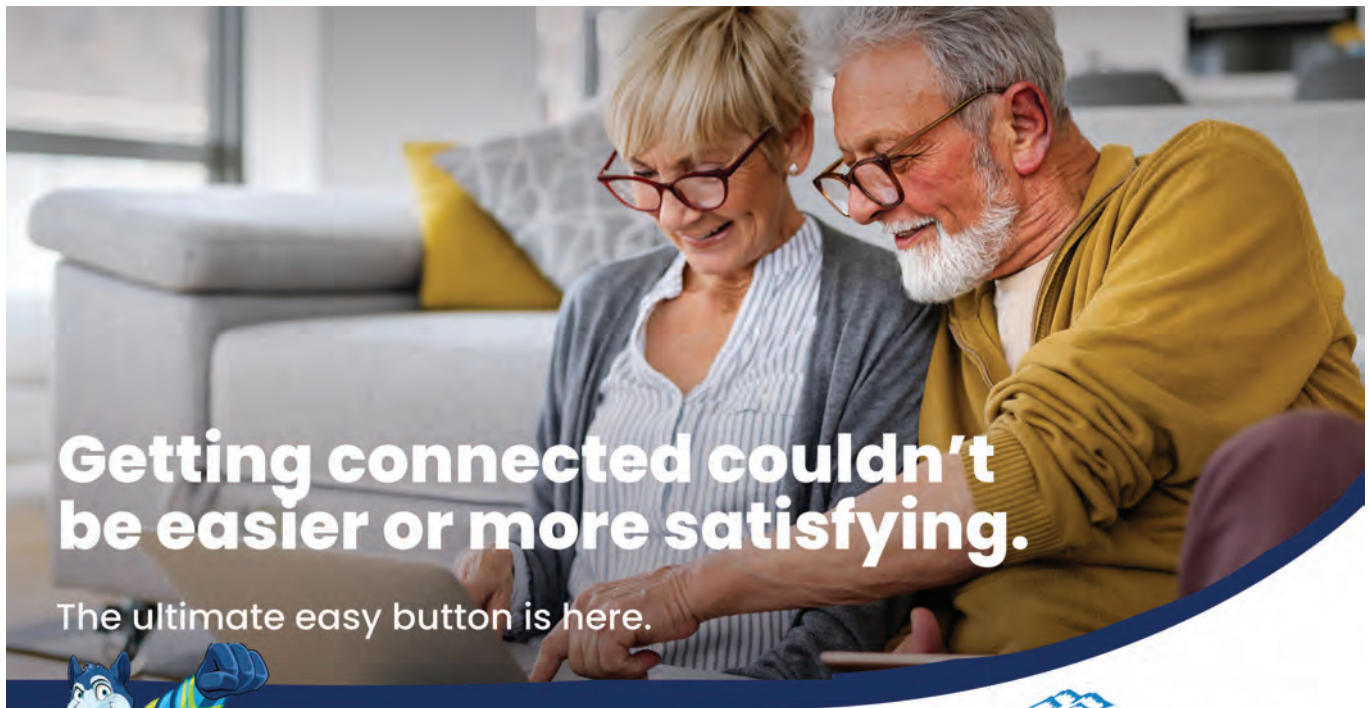
Illustrations of a dog show booth, a poultry show booth, a live music stage, a food raffle booth, and a game booth.

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