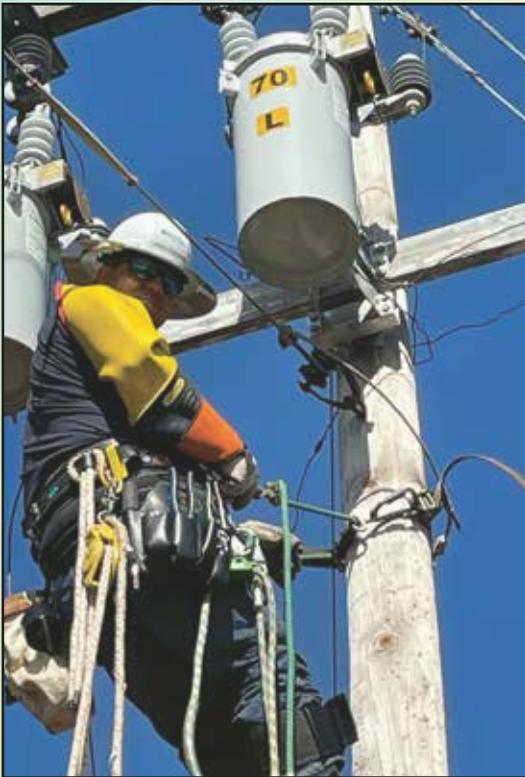


# Carolina country

## 2024 Annual Meeting Official Notice

Members of South River Electric Membership Corporation will gather online or via phone Thursday, April 25, at 6 p.m. for the Annual Meeting of Members.



### Purpose:

- The reports of officers, directors and committees.
- All other business, which may come before the meeting or any adjournment thereof.

The Board is made up of nine (9) member directors. In accordance with the bylaws, the directors are elected annually from geographic districts to serve a three-consecutive-year term. There are two ways in which directors may be elected by a committee on nominations or by petition.

Earlier in 2024, the following directors were nominated by the nominating committee.

- District 3: James “J.W.” Simmons
- District 5: Rhonda Autry and Dr. Ron Faircloth
- District 7: Wayne Collier Jr.

### By Petition:

Any 100 members of the Cooperative acting together may make nominations in writing, listing the nominees separately with respect to the particular term and the particular directorate district from which they are nominated, not less than 40 business days prior to the meeting. No petitions were received.

**Please see the ballot inserted in this magazine for instructions regarding how to cast your vote for the South River EMC Board of Directors.**

# Annual Meeting & New Registration Details

Registration for the annual meeting will take place **PRIOR** to the meeting.

Registration begins on Monday, April 22, at 8 a.m. and ends April 25, at 5 p.m.

You can register by completing the form at [sremc.com/annual-meeting-sign-up](https://sremc.com/annual-meeting-sign-up) or by calling 910.892.8071.

Those who register will receive a call from South River EMC at 6 p.m. the day of the meeting AND will receive call-in/login details via email prior to the meeting.

Your participation in the annual meeting means that you will receive a \$10 credit on your next electric bill. *You must pre-register to receive the bill credit.*

Only those who attend the meeting or vote will be entered into a prize drawing the following week.

Anyone registering on behalf of a company or church must be listed as an authorized person on the account.

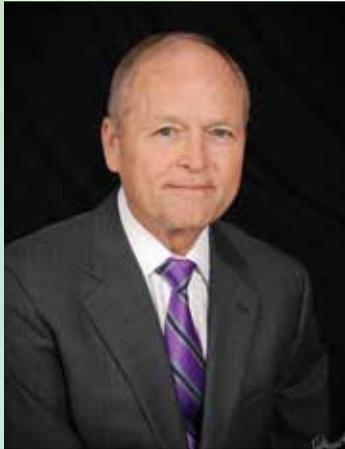
- The member's name, as it appears on the account, is located on the cover and on your electric bill.
- Be sure the information you provide matches account information. *Members must register prior to the meeting to receive a bill credit.*
- If you are unsure of any of the required information, check your bill, review your account online or call our member service department at 910.892.8071.
- Login and phone-in information will be provided after registration.
- Members must attend meeting or vote to be eligible for prizes.
- Prizes will consist of \$11,500 in bill credits, featuring a grand prize of a \$3,000 credit.



Meeting live streamed by:

  
BROADNET<sup>®</sup>

# Director Candidates



*James "J.W." Simmons  
District 3*

J.W. Simmons is a lifelong resident of Sampson County. He attended NC State University where he received a Master's in Adult Education with a minor in Public Affairs.

He retired from Sampson Community College after over 30 years as Director of Adult Education with specific oversight for Community Services, Small Business Center, Emergency Services, Lifelong Learning, etc. Additionally, he is producer and host of the weekly talk show "WE SHOULD KNOW" on Star Communication TV Channel 16 and simulcast on WCLN.

Simmons is actively involved with the community serving in many capacities including: elder and past board chair at Carr Memorial Christian Church; NC Community College Adult Educators Association; State Employees Credit Union advisory board member; chairperson local emergency planning committee; past president of Clinton Sampson County Rotary Club; Sampson County Substance Abuse Coalition member, Eastern North Carolina Gang Conference planning committee; and chair of the local emergency planning committee.

Simmons joined the South River EMC Board of Directors in 2018. He has been a member of South River EMC for 45 years and he has a keen interest in seeing the Cooperative prosper and grow in the interest of all members.

Simmons has achieved his Credentialed Cooperative Director certificate, Board Leadership certificate and Director Gold certificate.

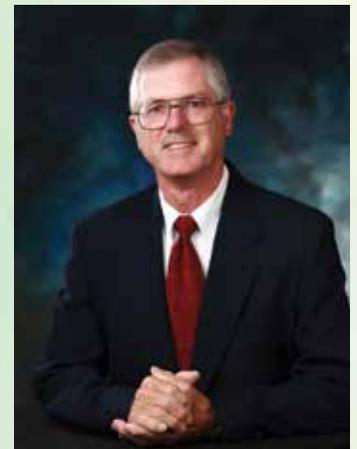
He lives in the Clinton area with his wife, Betty.

Wayne Collier Jr. joined the South River EMC Board of Directors in 2017. Rural living has been a mainstay in Collier's life. He grew up on a family farm and received a Bachelor's in Animal Science from NC State University; he worked for his family farm raising hogs as well as tending row crops and Bermuda hay all while working full-time for the U.S. Postal Service.

Collier is a lifelong member of the Cooperative. He also served on the nominating committee for several years before assuming the unexpired term of director from District 7 in June 2017. Collier has deep roots in his community serving in many capacities over the years with the following organizations; as a deacon and elder of Sardis Presbyterian church; the Westarea Fire Department; Cumberland County Farm Bureau Board of Directors; Cumberland County Soil and Water Supervisor; N.C. Soil and Water Commission; Cumberland County Board of Elections (as judge and chief judge); Linden Christian Men's Fellowship; Cumberland County Livestock Association; Cumberland County 4-H; Cub Scouts; Boy Scouts; and the U.S. Pony Club.

Collier has achieved his Credentialed Cooperative Director certificate, Board Leadership Certificate and Director Gold Certificate.

He lives in Linden with his wife Carolyn.



*Wayne Collier Jr.  
District 7*



South River Electric  
Membership Corporation

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

# Director Candidates For District 5

Rhonda Autry is a lifelong resident of Sampson County. She graduated from Lakewood High School and attended Wake Technical Community College where she received a certificate in computer operations. She has also attended Basic Law Enforcement Training and worked as a reserve officer for the Sampson County Sheriff's office.

Autry has been a member of Mount Carmel Church of God of Prophecy for 43 years. She is involved in the band booster program at Midway High school.

Her work experience has been being raised as a farmer's daughter. She says she can drive anything and everything that moves. Her family were independent farmers who raised hogs and grew tobacco, corn, soybeans, and wheat. According to Autry, "this has been a lifelong job up until the last 8 years. Now I just maintain our farm with a lot of mowing in any capacity."

She added, "My interests in South River EMC came from growing up with a father who was a director. He was so proud to be a director and as I got older I understood why. Our linemen have the most dangerous job there is. They deserve the respect of every person who lives under South River EMC. Those employees deserve directors that are for their safety and make sure they have the equipment they need to look after the members. When I hear people talking about different co-ops I always say we have the very best. Being a director for South River EMC would be an honor. I'm proud of our men and women that work in any weather condition to provide all of us with electricity."

Autry is a proud mother of three children: twin sons and a daughter.



*Rhonda Autry*

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Dr. Ron Faircloth has lived in Autryville his entire life. After graduating from Clinton High School, he earned his bachelor's degree from N.C. State University followed by his Doctor of Optometry degree from the Southern College of Optometry in Memphis, Tennessee. He has been an Optometrist in Sampson and Cumberland counties for over 25 years and is a partner at Carolina Eye Associates.

He has served in several leadership roles over the past 25 years, including serving nine years on the Sampson County Board of Health and as a member of Clinton Rotary. He has also served for over seven years on the North Carolina Optometric Society (NCOS) Executive Council and currently serves as immediate past president after serving one year as president and as the PAC treasurer. Dr. Faircloth also serves as church treasurer and pianist at Long Branch Baptist Church.

He says, "I have always felt that having great leaders in our communities is essential to supporting the citizens of the communities we live in. I have always been a good listener but also willing to voice my opinion and stand up for what I feel strongly about. I was raised with great moral character and integrity and am a great communicator. With this, and my history of past and current leadership positions, I feel I would be a great asset as a board member of South River EMC." Faircloth has been a member of South River EMC for over 26 years.

Faircloth and his wife of 25 years, Heather, have two sons, Cullen and Miles.



*Dr. Ron Faircloth*