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A VERY PERSONAL ANNUAL MEETING

By **JACK HAMBLIN** | *Manager, Southeast Electric Cooperative*

THE 2021 Annual Meeting of Southeast Electric Cooperative (SECO) will be held June 11, and marks the 75th anniversary of the founding of co-op. From very humble beginnings, SECO began operations in 1946 to bring electricity to farms and ranches, so those rural members could enjoy permanent power like their more urban friends. Today SECO serves all the electrical needs of residential, agricultural, commercial and industrial members throughout our service territory, with annual revenues in the millions of dollars. This in itself is a very significant milestone and deserves a significant celebration. That's what we'll do.


2021 is also the 40th anniversary of our office manager, Robin Kuntz. Robin doesn't care much for fanfare or accolades and has forbidden us from making a fuss about her this year. But we're not listening. Her many years of services are also cause to celebrate. She has become the heart, soul, face and voice of SECO for many years and, like it or not, she deserves recognition and celebration. So, we'll do that also.

This will be my 22nd Southeast Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting. And as you already know, it will be my last annual meeting as your manager. My more than capable replacement, Tye Williams, has been hired and training for a year. I am confident SECO is in great hands, will be able to meet and resolve all future challenges, and move forward in great strides with Tye in charge.

This annual meeting has become more personal to me. After some arm-twisting and persuasion by fellow employees, I have agreed, with my family, to provide the musical entertainment this year.

Those of you who attended the 2000 annual meeting met me and Miss America for the first time. Several of our children were with us and we, as a family, provided music then. When I agreed again this year for my last annual meeting, I called our six children, now all grown and gone, to participate with us. As of now, it looks like all six will be here for the event and will help us entertain. And don't be surprised if many of our 22 grandchildren come up to sing also. Miss America and I are so excited to have them all here and joining in our celebration.

All of these elements combine in 2021 to make for a special and personal event, and we to plan to have a big party.

Remember, June 11 starting with registration at 4 p.m., steak supper and entertainment at 5 p.m., and the business meeting at 6 p.m. There will be great attendance gifts, great food, drawings for valuable prizes, including two \$500 cash prizes. We also have a special drawing for the kids. It's a family birthday party in the truest sense. So y'all come! 



WHAT HAPPENED IN 1981?

Important News and Events – Iran Hostage Crisis Ends, Post-It Notes launched and Robin Kuntz hired at Southeast Electric Cooperative

FORTY years ago, Manager Vernon Emery made the sound decision to hire Robin Kuntz as the billing clerk for Southeast Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Office manager is now her title, but that is a pretty narrow description for all the things she has accomplished. She does billing, mapping, capital credits and payroll, and has been known to unload freight and open gates a time or two. Robin takes the cooperative model

very seriously, encompassing the “community involvement” principle.

In her spare time, she works diligently as a supervisory committee member of the credit union an election judge, and she volunteers many weekends to help at Trail’s End Ranch. You may also see Robin in the parade as an “Unclogger.”

The Uncloggers are an award-winning group of dancers who use toilet plungers as their prop. Outside of the



Robin Kuntz in 1981



Robin Kuntz in 2021

office Robin enjoys playing basketball, traveling, kayaking and hiking.

She often states that she wouldn’t have stuck around for 40 years if she didn’t love what she did and the people she works with and for! She has no plans of retiring anytime soon, and for that we are thankful. RM

SECO SAFETY CORNER

What did that pole ever do to you? Placing a sign on a utility pole could endanger a life

WHAT do yard-sale signs, basketball hoops, deer stands, satellite dishes and birdhouses have in common? They’re often found illegally attached to utility poles. But this isn’t only a crime of inconvenience. Safety issues caused by unapproved pole attachments place the lives of linemen and the public in peril.

It may seem innocent, but a small nail partially driven into a pole can have deadly results around high-voltage electricity.

Southeast Electric Cooperative line crews climb utility poles at all hours of the day and night, in the worst of conditions. Anything attached to utility poles can create serious hazards for our line personnel. Sharp objects such as nails, tacks, staples or barbed wire can puncture rubber gloves and other safety equipment, making linemen vulnerable to electrocution.

Linemen with electric co-ops have reported poles used as community bulletin boards, satellite mounts and



even support legs for deer stands, lights and carports. Not only do these attachments put line crews at risk, anyone illegally placing these items on poles comes dangerously close to energized power lines with thousands of volts of energy pulsing overhead.

It’s always wise to keep any structure at least 10 feet away from utility poles.

Unauthorized pole attachments violate the National Electrical Safety Code, the accepted manual containing guidelines for safe electrical engineering standards. Utilities strictly follow this code, which includes a section that reads, “Signs, posters, notices and other attachments shall not be placed on supporting structures without concurrence of the owner (the utility is the owner of the pole). Supporting structures should be kept free from other climbing hazards such as tacks, nails, vines and through bolts not properly trimmed.”

Please help us keep our linemen — and our community — safe. Don’t attach any of these unauthorized and dangerous items to utility poles. Fixtures not belonging to the cooperative or another utility will be removed by line personnel; the co-op is not responsible for any losses if an item is damaged or destroyed during removal. RM



Celebrating **75 YEARS**

1946 TO 2021



TOP 10 REASONS

TO ATTEND THE 2021 SOUTHEAST ELECTRIC ANNUAL MEETING

1. We all need a night out once in a while.
2. Members get a commemorative gift.
3. The kiddos will play in the bouncy house and be tired and ready for bed when you get home!
4. You may win \$500.00 in cash!
5. Opportunity to visit with your friends and neighbors.
6. You will get to listen to the Hamblin Family play wonderful music.
7. Who doesn't love a nice grilled steak with all the fixings?
8. Give Robin a hard time about being here for 40 years (she started when she was 4?)
9. Celebrate 75 years with cake and ice cream!
10. Learn more about your cooperative!

JUNE 11, 2021
REGISTRATION @ 4:00 PM
MEAL & ENTERTAINMENT @ 5:00 PM
MEETING @ 6:00 PM