

Woodruff Electric Board Member Jack Caperton Retires

After 31 years of devoted service, Jack Caperton, III has retired from the Woodruff Electric Cooperative Board of Directors.

Caperton joined the Board of Directors in 1991 and has served as chairman, vice-chairman and secretary-treasurer during his tenure. He has played a vital role in representing the members of the District 4 service territory, which includes parts of Monroe, Prairie and Woodruff counties.

Caperton has been a dedicated advocate for cooperative members and the electric cooperative movement. He has made every effort to improve the quality of life for members by working to provide safe and reliable power at a reasonable cost. He has completed all levels of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) director education program, including the Credentialed Cooperative Director Certificate, Board Leadership Certificate and Director Gold Credential.



On behalf of the members, Board Jack and Carolyn Caperton

of Directors and employees, Woodruff Electric Cooperative Corporation would like to thank Caperton for his loyal years of service to the cooperative and his commitment to the members and communities we serve. His devotion has been evident in the success and growth throughout the cooperative's service territory. We extend our sincerest and best wishes as he continues to live a blessed life with his wife, Carolyn, family and friends.



(From left) WECC CEO Michael Swan and Board Chairman Chris Burrow present Jack Caperton with a special resolution recognizing his years of service to members of Woodruff Electric.

Woodruff Electric Announces 2022 Scholarship Recipients

Woodruff Electric CEO Michael Swan announced the 2022 recipients of the Glynn and Mildred Carpenter Scholarships. The winners of the five \$1,000 scholarships are Allen Coleman, a graduate of Forrest City High School; Samuel Hall, a graduate of Marvell Academy; Olivia Kelley, a graduate of Wynne High School; Mollie McClain, a graduate of Lee Academy; and Paige Padilla, a graduate of Palestine-Wheatley High School.

Coleman plans to attend Tennessee State University in the fall to major in English. Hall plans to attend Arkansas State University in the fall to major in agricultural business. Kelley plans to attend to attend Arkansas State University in the fall to major in marketing. McClain plans to attend Arkansas State University in the fall to major in chemistry with emphasis in pharmacy. Padilla plans to attend the University of Arkansas in the fall to major in nursing.

This is the eighth year that Woodruff Electric has awarded scholarships in honor of Glynn Carpenter and his wife, Mildred. Both Glynn and Mildred were strong advocates of higher education. Carpenter spent 53 years serving the electric cooperatives with the last 33 of those years as CEO of Woodruff Electric.



(From left): Recipients of the 2022 Glynn and Mildred Carpenter Scholarships were Allen Coleman, a graduate of Forrest City High School; Olivia Kelley, a graduate of Wynne High School; Mollie McClain, a graduate of Lee Academy; Paige Padilla, a graduate of Palestine-Wheatley High School; and Samuel Hall, a graduate of Marvell Academy.



From the Manager's Desk

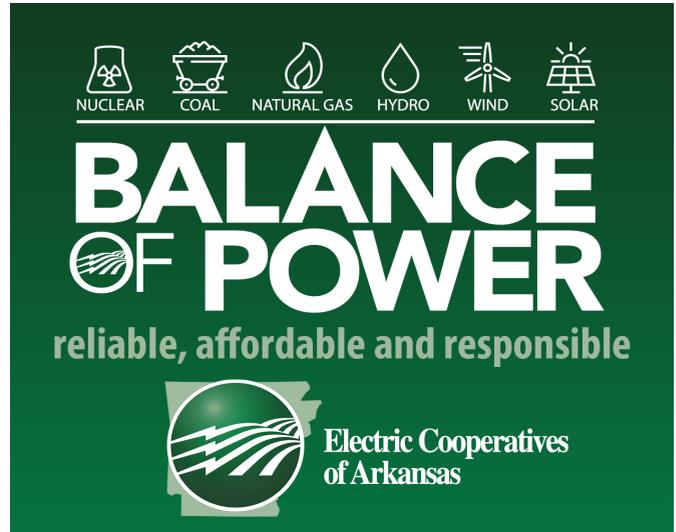
MICHAEL SWAN, PRESIDENT/CEO

The Balance of Power

Arkansas Electric Cooperative Corporation (AECC), the wholesale cooperative that serves the electric needs of Woodruff Electric Cooperative, is focused on meeting the needs of the future by providing and maintaining a reliable and diverse portfolio of energy resources that provides a reliable, balanced generation mix. These diverse energy resources include coal, natural gas and hydropower that provide baseload energy 24 hours a day. The remainder of AECC's energy resources currently include intermittent wind and solar resources that currently receive federal subsidies, which enable these supplementary resources to provide low-cost energy.

Challenges facing our cooperatives:

- Generation resources must be utilized based on reliability and cost, while owned and purchased resources must also be used in the most responsible, appropriate way.
- Evolving national, regional and statewide legislative policies, regulations and federal mandates could adversely impact our ability to deliver an effective, dependable balance of power to our members at an affordable price and in a reliable manner.
- Generation operations must exactly balance the amount of energy produced with the amount of energy consumed while keeping power voltage and frequency constant.
- Wind and solar facilities are completely dependent on environmental factors like the amount of wind and sunlight, which is why energy storage is important.
- Even the most capable lithium-ion battery energy storage levels are measured in hours, not days or weeks.
- More robust storage capabilities need to be developed to make intermittent generation a reliable resource.
- As demand for electric load increases relative to available electricity supply, higher prices will result. Increased demand with insufficient supply could potentially create rolling blackouts or load curtailment.
- A misconception in the debate about energy generation is that if a megawatt of nuclear, coal or natural gas capacity is removed from the grid and replaced with a megawatt of an intermittent resource like solar or wind, it is an equal swap.
- Utilities in our region have announced the closure of 24,000 megawatts of generation resources over the next



decade, with plans to shut down an additional 10,000 megawatts of capacity by 2030.

- Arkansas is scheduled to eliminate 3,337 megawatts of baseload power by 2030.

While AECC's wind and solar portfolios are growing, these intermittent resources cannot provide the baseload power needed when the sun goes down and the wind stops blowing.

AECC continuously evaluates wholesale energy resource options to serve the state's electric cooperative members. The cooperatives are technologically agnostic and support all forms of energy. AECC works to maintain an energy portfolio that best balances our mission of being reliable, affordable and responsible.

The development of carbon capture and storage (CCS) and advanced nuclear technology, as well as other emerging generation resources and adding more intermittent resources to the electric grid, are critical to the future of the nation. Overall, it is critical to maintain the Balance of Power — electrically, economically, militarily, socially and politically.

At Woodruff Electric, our commitment to you is finding ways to keep your power Affordable, Reliable and Responsible.

Learn more at: aecc.com/the-balance-of-power/.

Behind the lines at Woodruff Electric

Employee Spotlight: James Williford



Title: *Equipment Operator/Driver*

Department: *Operations, District II – Forrest City*

How would you explain your job to someone else? *My job is very interesting and exciting, but can be demanding at times as well.*

What does a normal day at work look like for you? *A normal day at work involves maintaining Woodruff Electric properties, including substations and tower grounds. The upkeep of 29 substation and tower properties, in the seven counties we serve throughout Woodruff Electric's service territory, is a priority. I maintain and handle the upkeep inside and outside of the substations and towers by mowing, cleaning and spraying the properties to provide a safe environment and help ensure reliable power to our members.*

How long have you been working at WECC? *I have worked at Woodruff for a total of 22 years with seven of those years as a full-time employee.*

What is the best part of your job? *The best part of my job is being able to get out of the office and see our entire service territory. I enjoy traveling and going from substation to substation.*

What is the biggest challenge you face in your job? *The biggest challenge that I face is battling the weather and working around it, but also being able to balance what task is most important and needs to be handled first. It seems like as soon as I finish one task, then another is behind, ready to get addressed.*

Is there something you would like people in other departments or people outside WECC to know about your job? *My job is just as important as anything else, because we want to have good and clean substations. Our substations are a direct reflection on the cooperative and the employees. My job is an important part of the overall maintenance of these properties and being able to keep critters out of the substations, which can affect our service to the members.*

Do you have any community involvement or activities? *I attend the Poplar Grove Church in Forrest City.*

What are some of your favorite hobbies? *My favorite hobbies include working on small engines and going fishing.*

What is your favorite food? *My favorite food would have to be white beans and cornbread. I love it!*

What will you absolutely not eat? *I will not eat yogurt or cottage cheese. I just can't acquire the taste for either of those foods.*

What is your trademark cliché or expression? *My favorite thing to say is, "It's gonna be all right!"*

What would you like to learn how to do? *I would really like to learn how to pan for gold and learn how to do woodworking.*

What are a few items that you collect? *I collect old bottles, arrowheads and coins.*

If I've learned one thing in life, it's: *You must be patient and focus on what you're doing, which will give you a clear outlook on life.*

One thing on my bucket list is: *I would like to catch fresh fish in a river or stream and cook the fish over an open fire nearby.*



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