



## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Boswell Receives Distinguished Service Award**

*Statewide Association Recognizes Longtime Southside Electric Cooperative Attorney*

**Crewe, Va.** – John M. “Jack” Boswell has been honored by the Virginia, Maryland & Delaware Association of Electric Cooperatives (VMDAEC) for his 39 years of service to Southside Electric Cooperative (SEC), and his many contributions to the development of rural electrification.

Boswell, who served as legal counsel for SEC from 1976 through 2015, received the **2016 Electric Cooperative Distinguished Service Award** at VMDAEC’s annual meeting on July 25 in Cambridge, Md. Created in 1993, the award was established to recognize individuals who have served an electric cooperative in an outstanding manner for an extended length of time.

“Working for member-owned cooperatives is one of the greatest things you can do as an attorney,” Boswell said in his acceptance speech. “It’s been a real joy to watch the cooperative improve and grow. We went from nominating committees to petitions, and from having 10 districts to three, each with three directors. These changes mean that any co-op member who wants to run for SEC’s board has an opportunity to do so every year.”

Boswell was especially proud of his role in helping SEC achieve a greater degree of transparency in everything it does. He presided over board elections at SEC’s Annual Meeting and, along with the four co-op CEOs under whom he served, always gave members an opportunity to ask questions or make comments.

“Our goal was to answer our members’ questions before they asked them, and last year, we succeeded because no one had any!”

SEC President & CEO Jeff Edwards concluded: “Jack has served the members, board and management of SEC with the highest level of professionalism and dignity for 39 years. His sound legal counsel helped SEC navigate troubled waters many times in our history, and his negotiation skills resulted in the success SEC enjoyed when encountering difficult situations.”

A Nottoway County native, Boswell graduated from Hampden-Sydney College and earned his law degree from the University of Richmond. After completing law school, Boswell returned to Crewe and partnered with

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## **Boswell Receives Distinguished Service Award, continued**

Lynwood H. Wilson in 1969. After Wilson's retirement, he partnered with J. Larry Williamson to form Boswell & Williamson in 1976. Although retired from SEC, Boswell continues to practice law in Crewe and work on the family farm, Sunny Slope Orchards, on the Nottoway/Prince Edward county line.

**About Southside Electric Cooperative (SEC):** SEC is a not-for-profit member-owned electric utility that serves more than 55,000 homes, farms and businesses in 18 counties throughout southern and central Virginia. Headquartered in Crewe, SEC has district offices in Altavista, Crewe, Dinwiddie and Powhatan. For more information, go to [www.sec.coop](http://www.sec.coop).

**About VMDAEC:** Founded in 1944, VMDAEC is the trade association for 15 consumer-owned not-for-profit electric distribution cooperatives that serve Delaware, Maryland and Virginia. The Glen Allen, Va.-based Association provides its member cooperatives with employee, director, and safety education and training, government relations and legislative support, and communications services, including the publishing of *Cooperative Living* magazine. For more information, visit [www.vmdaec.com](http://www.vmdaec.com) or [www.co-opliving.com](http://www.co-opliving.com).



**Caption:** Jeff Edwards, President & CEO of Southside Electric Cooperative, congratulates Jack Boswell on receiving the Electric Cooperatives' Distinguished Service Award for his nearly four decades of contributions as cooperative attorney.

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