



## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Electric Cooperative Services Group Names Johnstone as CEO** *Board Selects Veteran Executive to Lead Three-State Association*

**Glen Allen, Va.** — Richard G. Johnstone, Jr. is the new president and CEO of the Virginia, Maryland & Delaware Association of Electric Cooperatives (VMDAEC).

The VMDAEC board of directors selected Johnstone to lead the three-state trade association at its July annual meeting in Cambridge, Md.

Johnstone succeeds Jackson E. “Jack” Reasor, who remains president and CEO of cooperative power supplier Old Dominion Electric Cooperative (ODEC). Until Johnstone’s appointment, Reasor also served as president and CEO of VMDAEC.

“The shared CEO business model has worked well for more than a quarter-century,” Reasor said at the July board meeting where Johnstone was selected. “In recent years, a lot has changed in the electric utility industry, in how we communicate with consumers, how we train utility professionals, and how we generate and deliver power.”

Reasor added, “The board and I felt that the time was right for the association to have a full-time president and CEO, because of the large and expanding array of industry issues facing the association as the cooperative services supplier. I am delighted the board selected Richard to head up the organization that provides critically important services to 15 electric cooperatives in the mid-Atlantic region.”

Larry Howdysshell, a member of Shenandoah Valley Electric Cooperative’s board of directors who also serves as board chair of VMDAEC, said, “Richard and Jack are both outstanding veteran business leaders and we feel fortunate to have each of them leading one of the key businesses that supports our local cooperative businesses every day.”

**(More)**

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Of his new position, Johnstone said, “I am deeply humbled and honored to be given this privilege, to head up an organization serving electric utilities that are owned by their customers, and whose focus is always on the best interests of those customer-owners and the communities in which they live.”

Johnstone, 60, has worked at VMDAEC for more than 31 years, most recently as executive vice president since 1999. A Phi Beta Kappa graduate of the University of Richmond, Johnstone joined VMDAEC in 1985 as manager of its communications and public relations department and editor of *Rural Living* magazine. Before coming to VMDAEC, he worked seven years at the Virginia State Bar, principally as editor of the bar’s monthly magazine.

Johnstone has been active for years in the business community in Virginia and the cooperative community nationally. He currently serves as a board member and is past president of the Virginia Cooperative Council and is a former board member and president of the Virginia Society of Association Executives. He also serves on the executive committee and the board of the Better Business Bureau of Central Virginia. In addition, he is a member and past president of both the Rural Electric Statewide Managers Association and the Rural Electric Statewide Editors Association.

Johnstone and his wife, Blair, live in Midlothian and have two grown children, Katy Johnstone Hurtz and Ethan Johnstone.

**About VMDAEC:** Founded in 1944, VMDAEC is the trade association for 15 customer-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 and director education, safety training, government relations, and communications services, including publishing *Cooperative Living* magazine, whose circulation in excess of 500,000 makes it the largest in the state. For more information, visit [www.vmdaec.com](http://www.vmdaec.com) or [www.co-opliving.com](http://www.co-opliving.com).

**Caption:** Richard G. Johnstone, Jr. was named president and CEO of the Virginia, Maryland & Delaware Association of Electric Cooperatives (VMDAEC) effective Aug. 1, 2016.

