



STAFF PHOTO BY DOUG RUTER

Chowing Down On Congo Chicken

West Brunswick High School cafeteria worker Wilminia Frink serves Congo Chicken with peanut sauce to seniors last Wednesday as part of National

School Lunch Week's West African Day. Last week's menu also included Scandinavian fish, American cheeseburgers and Middle Eastern gyros.

Brunswick EMC Directors Re-Elected

BY RAHN ADAMS

Three incumbent district directors were re-elected Friday at Brunswick Electric Membership Corporation's 48th annual membership meeting in Whiteville.

Re-elected by acclamation to three-year terms were M.C. Herring in District 4, which covers the Shallotte area, Emory Smith in District 5, and Jake C. Godwin in District 6, both in Columbus County.

All three were named for re-election by the cooperative's nominating committee. No additional names were placed into consideration during the annual meeting's business session held Friday afternoon, said BEMC General Manager David Batten.

More than 700 members were registered for the day-long meeting, which also included an auction of BEMC surplus goods, a health fair, and arts and crafts booths, he said.

Batten estimated that around 1,600 people attended the various events throughout the day.

Also during Friday's business session, Batten announced that BEMC is

awarding \$359,000 in general capital credits to the cooperative's 1973 members.

Although the credits generally are done on a 20-year rotation, BEMC is ahead of schedule, and directors passed a general board resolution to go ahead with the 1973 credits, he said.

Batten said qualifying members will be sent cards by the end of November asking whether their credits should be applied to their monthly bills or be paid by check.

The company expects to mail an estimated 18,000 checks before Christmas. The checks will be mailed to members within 10 to 12 days after the information cards are received by the cooperative, he said.

Batten said BEMC last year was the fastest-growing electric membership corporation in the state, growing by around 10 percent.

"Our growth last year exceeded 2,000 new members and 4,000 new services," Batten said.

BEMC is the second largest power co-op in North Carolina and the 26th

largest in the United States, he said.

BEMC primarily serves Brunswick and Columbus counties, but also reaches into Bladen and Robeson.

By the end of 1986, BEMC was serving 31,491 members through 42,831 meters.

The co-op last year sold almost 409 million kilowatt hours of electricity.

Total revenue last year was more than \$31.6 million.

Batten said BEMC's work plan for the next two years includes a \$15 million dollar expansion project, adding additional transformers, substations and distribution lines in growth areas.

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Conference Will Explore Area Economic Development

Economic development and infrastructure in Southeastern North Carolina will be addressed at an Oct. 29 conference sponsored by the Cape Fear Council of Governments at the Hilton Inn in Wilmington from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The agenda for "Strategies for the Future" includes a mix of panel discussions, speeches and small group discussions. Participants will hear speakers present information concerning the status and funding of infrastructure in Region O and the relationship of infrastructure to economic development.

Following registration from 8:30 a.m. to 9 a.m., R. Lee Youngblood, senior vice president of Branch Banking & Trust Co., will give an "Eastern North Carolina Situation Analysis." Ralph Godwin, vice presi-

dent of general affairs for Takeda Chemical Products will introduce the topics of infrastructure and economic development and moderate a panel discussion on financing infrastructure.

At lunch the speaker will be Billy Ray Hall, executive director of the Rural Economic Development Center.

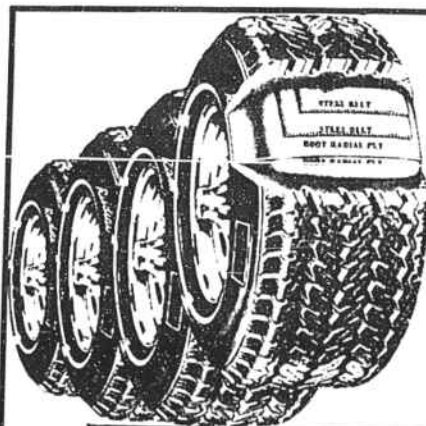
Group discussions and summaries take up the afternoon, with sessions planned on water and sewer; roads and railroads; and ports and airports. Former New Hanover County Commissioner Buck O'Shaughnessy will lead the water/sewer discussion, with Robert Nubel among the eight resource people. Nubel is chairman of the Brunswick County Utility Operations Board.

Robert J. Mack, traffic manager

for Cape Industries, will lead the roads/railroads session. Anne Marie Schettini, executive director of the South Brunswick Islands Chamber of Commerce and a member of the Brunswick County Transportation Planning Committee, is one of 11 resource persons listed.

Denis Carter, associate dean of the Cameron School of Business, UNC-Wilmington, will lead the port/airport session. Michael deSherbinin, director of the Resources Development Commission for Brunswick County, is among the eight resource persons listed.

Resource people for each subject include a mix of both government and corporate representatives from across Region O, which includes Brunswick, Columbus, New Hanover and Pender counties.



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