



Leading the Way: Jones-Onslow EMC Appoints New CEO

Jones-Onslow EMC is honored to introduce the new Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Mr. Gary Ray, who officially assumes his role on October 30. Mr. Ray joins our co-op family with an impressive background, through years of dedicated service within the electric cooperative network.



A steadfast commitment to service has marked Mr. Ray's career. After re-

ceiving his Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering from N.C. State University (he later earned an MBA from N.C. State as well), he joined Jones-Onslow Electric Membership Corporation in July 1987 as an Electrical Engineer. Through innovative thinking and his dedication to JOEMC, he was later promoted to Vice President of Engineering.

In 2008, Mr. Ray started a new chapter in his electric co-op career when he joined Albemarle EMC as Manager of Engineering. He served in the position for a couple of years and in May 2011, Mr. Ray was promoted to Executive Vice President and General Manager. Under his leadership, he led the cooperative through numerous challenges and changes in the ever-evolving electric utility industry. Mr. Ray's knowledge and dedication to grid reliability led to the construction of several critical substations in the Albemarle service area.

In addition, he championed a culture of safety, resulting in improved safety inspections and an impressive record of no lost-time accidents for 10 years.

Behind every great leader is a strong support system. Gary is married to Gloria Futrell Ray, a native of Richlands, NC, and they have two adult sons, Shea and Taylor. Their family values and sense of community align perfectly with the cooperative principles we hold dear.

"With great pride, we announce Gary Ray's appointment as our new Chief Executive Officer," said John Pierce, JOEMC's Board of Directors Chairman. "The board, after careful consideration, unanimously chose Gary to lead our cooperative into the future. We are confident his experience, vision, and commitment to our members will drive us toward continued success."



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TECHNOLOGY

Enhancing Cybersecurity at Jones-Onslow EMC: The Vital Role of Two-Factor Authentication

Technology

Two-Factor Authentication (2FA)

Purpose

Two-factor authentication (2FA) is a cybersecurity gem that deserves attention. It fortifies account security by adding an extra layer of protection. It combines "Something You Know" (your password) with "Something You Have" (a temporary code from an app or sent to your phone). This dynamic duo hinders even password breaches, making unauthorized access nearly impossible.

Benefits

- STRENGTHENING COOPERATIVE SECURITY:** Jones-Onslow EMC holds sensitive data that must be safeguarded. 2FA enhances the security of internal systems, reducing the risk of data breaches and unauthorized access to critical infrastructure.
- MEMBER INFORMATION PROTECTION:** Members entrust JOEMC with their personal information. Implementing 2FA helps ensure that this data remains confidential, fostering trust and confidence among members.



- MITIGATING CYBER THREATS:** In an era of rising cyber threats, the cooperative can't afford to be complacent. 2FA is a proactive measure that reduces the likelihood of cyberattacks, protecting both JOEMC and its members.
- SETTING AN EXAMPLE:** By prioritizing cybersecurity, JOEMC sets an example for members, encouraging them to adopt best practices in their online interactions and personal accounts.

Solution

Before Two-Factor Authentication (2FA), JOEMC and its members relied solely on passwords for web security. This approach left online accounts vulnerable to cyber threats, as a compromised password could lead to significant risks for the cooperative and its members. In today's digital world, with increasing cyberattacks, 2FA plays a pivotal role in enhancing web security, ensuring that sensitive data and member information remain protected. It adds a crucial extra layer of defense that is indispensable in safeguarding JOEMC and its members' digital assets.

Cybersecurity: Everyone's Responsibility

Cybersecurity breaches, like data theft from Target and Experian, have become common, demanding increased vigilance and constant data monitoring. It's no longer just IT employees' responsibility; everyone must contribute to data security.

To safeguard personal and organizational data, follow these steps:



Keep Software Updated: Ensure all software, including web browsers, is regularly updated to thwart security threats.



Use Strong Passwords: Create and protect robust passwords with at least



Exercise Caution with Public Wi-Fi: Treat public Wi-Fi as a security risk, encrypt sensitive data, and avoid accessing financial accounts on such networks.

Avoid Phishing:

• Be cautious of emails, calls, and messages

seeking sensitive information. If it seems too good to be true, it probably is:

- Never click on links or attachments from unknown senders. Verify links before clicking, as senders may be hacked or impersonated.

Whether at home, at work, or on the go, remember you are the first line of defense against cyber threats!

Electric Co-ops Grow for the Communities They Serve

OCTOBER IS NATIONAL CO-OP MONTH

October is National Co-op Month, and Jones-Onslow EMC is joining cooperatives across the U.S. to celebrate. Co-ops come in all shapes and sizes, but they each have a common goal: to provide goods or services for the members of the co-op.

Electric co-ops, including JOEMC, exist to serve their members. Our priority is to provide affordable, reliable energy to our local communities. Because we are led by you, the members we serve, we can evolve to meet your needs. Members are becoming interested in alternate sources of power, and we are here to help answer questions to help them make informed decisions. One member stated on a Customer Satisfaction Survey, "I recently got solar power and a generator for my home. Your solar expert, TJ, provided wonderful advice and is very knowledgeable and supportive in helping me establish my solar system. JOEMC employees are doing their

members a great service and should be commended."

This October, as we celebrate Co-op Month, we're focusing on the ways "Co-ops Grow" for their members.

CO-OPS GROW COMMUNITIES:

Co-ops help communities grow by promoting economic empowerment, fostering community engagement, and supporting the unique needs of co-op members. "Concern for Community" is one of our core principles—and being community-focused is essential to everything we do.

CO-OPS GROW TOGETHER: Co-ops are all about cooperation, not competition. That's why electric co-ops work together to share lessons learned, successful strategies, and better ways to serve our members. We're better when we grow together!

CO-OPS GROW TOMORROW'S

LEADERS: Electric co-ops serve as fertile ground for growing tomorrow's leaders through various youth engagement programs. Whether through school demonstrations, community events, or the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour program, we're committed to providing opportunities for local youth to learn and thrive in our community and beyond.

CO-OPS GROW FOR YOU: At JOEMC, your satisfaction is our number one goal. It's why we were formed many years ago to fulfill a uniquely local purpose. We've come a long way since then, and your needs continue to evolve. That's why we'll never stop growing for you!



CHEESE-SALSA DIP

This Mexican dip recipe calls for fresh, chunky salsa—a universal favorite among fans. Fresh salsas are usually found on the refrigerated shelves of produce sections in grocery stores.

Source: carolinacountry.com

Serves: 6-8

INGREDIENTS

- Nonstick cooking spray
- 1 tablespoon vegetable oil
- 1 pound ground beef
- 1 package taco seasoning mix
- 8 oz. cream cheese, room temperature
- ½ cup sour cream
- 1 cup chunky fresh salsa, plus additional for topping
- 1 cup grated mozzarella
- ½ cup blended Mexican cheese
- Sliced jalapeño (optional)
- Sliced black olives (optional)
- Green onions (optional)
- Tortilla chips

DIRECTIONS

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees.
2. Spray 8"x8" glass pan or large soufflé dish with nonstick cooking spray.
3. In large sauté pan, heat oil over medium-high heat and add ground beef, breaking up with flat wooden spatula, until fully cooked. Sprinkle taco seasoning throughout beef and combine.
4. Place warm beef mixture in large bowl and add cream cheese, sour cream, one cup salsa and mozzarella. Mix well until combined and pour into prepared pan. Top with blended cheese and sliced jalapeño, black olives and green onions, if desired.
5. Bake until fully warmed and cheese is melted, 30-35 minutes.
6. Top with small spoonfuls of salsa. Serve with tortilla chips.



Embracing a New Chapter: Reflecting on My Journey as CEO of Jones-Onslow EMC

I am writing to let you know that I am retiring from my role as CEO of Jones-Onslow EMC and am moving on to the next chapter of my life.

Many people go through their entire lives without ever discovering their higher purpose. I was lucky enough to discover mine back in 1974 when I started working at an electric cooperative in Florida. I didn't realize it at the time, but later came to see what I was doing was more than just a job, it was a calling for me and that is why it doesn't seem like I have worked for 50 years. During this journey, I learned a lot about myself. I learned how to treat everyone with respect, to treat people fairly, to always do the right thing, to be humble and grateful, to really listen and hear what people are saying, to see the best in people—until they prove otherwise, to be a little kinder than is necessary, to learn from your mistakes, to never stop learning, to focus on the solution—

not the problem, to not compare myself to other people—just be better today than I was yesterday, and to give back to my community. How fortunate I have been to live and work in such a fulfilling way.

As I reflect on our company's history and its impact on our communities and our members, I am inspired, exceptionally proud, and a little overwhelmed. The success of Jones-Onslow has created tremendous value for our members as well as our employees and our local communities. Working together, we have helped thousands of people over the last 80-plus years to have better lives because of what we do. I am also very proud of the role we have played in advancing the way distribution cooperatives in North Carolina interact with our power supplier—NCEMC and how we are an integral part of bringing a Brighter Energy Future to North Carolina. Our mission to deliver safe, affordable,



Jeffery T. Clark, CEO

and reliable energy to our members makes us so much more than just an electric company—we are a part of the fabric of the communities we serve.

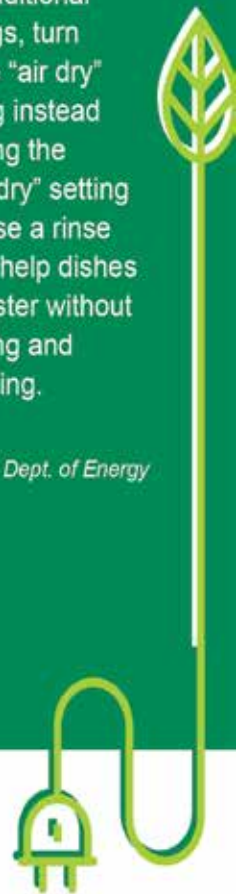
Words cannot begin to express how deeply grateful I am to all the employees of this company, the incredible Board of Directors who have given me wise counsel and support to lead this organization in a new path over the last several years, and to you—our members. I will be forever grateful for the opportunity to be a CEO of this great company and it is my sincere hope that I have left it a little better by having been here.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Did you know using your dishwasher is more energy efficient than washing a load of dishes by hand? To maximize efficiency, wash full loads in the dishwasher and don't block the arms or other parts that move while the appliance is in use.

For additional savings, turn on the "air dry" setting instead of using the "heat dry" setting and use a rinse aid to help dishes dry faster without spotting and streaking.

Source: Dept. of Energy



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