

ARTICLE I

MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 1. Requirements for Membership. Any person, firm, association, corporation or body politic or subdivision thereof will become a member of Southeast Electric Cooperative, Inc. (hereinafter called the "Cooperative") upon receipt of electric service from the Cooperative, provided ~~that he or it has~~ they have first:

- (a) made a written application for membership therein,
- (b) agreed to purchase electric energy from the Cooperative ~~electric energy~~ as hereinafter specified,
- (c) agreed to comply with and be bound by the articles of incorporation and bylaws of the Cooperative and any rules and regulations adopted by the board of trustees, and
- (d) paid the membership fee hereinafter specified.

SECTION 2. Joint Membership. A husband and wife may apply for ~~a~~-joint membership and, subject to their compliance with the requirements set forth in Section 1 of this Article, may be accepted for such membership. The term "member" as used in these bylaws shall be deemed to include a husband and wife holding a joint membership. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, the effect of the hereinafter-specified actions by or in respect to the holders of a joint membership shall be as follows:

SECTION 6. Termination of Membership. Any member may withdraw from membership upon compliance with such uniform terms and conditions as the board of trustees may prescribe. The board of trustees of the Cooperative may, by the affirmative vote of not less than two-thirds of all the trustees, expel any member who fails to comply with any of the provisions of the articles of incorporation, bylaws or rules or regulations adopted by the board of trustees, but only if such member shall have been given written notice by the Secretary of the Cooperative that such failure makes him liable for expulsion and such failure shall have continued for at least ten days after such notice as given. Any expelled member may be reinstated by vote of the board of trustees or by vote of the members at any annual or special meeting. The membership of a member who for a period of six (6) months after service is available to him, has not purchased electric energy from the Cooperative, or of a member who has ceased to purchase energy from the Cooperative, shall be cancelled by resolution of the board of trustees.

- (a) Upon the withdrawal, death, cessation of existence or expulsion of a member, the membership of such member shall thereupon terminate. Termination of membership in any manner shall not release a member or his estate from any debts due to the Cooperative.
- (b) In case of withdrawal or termination of membership in any manner, the Cooperative shall repay to the member the amount of the membership fee paid by him, provided, however, that the Cooperative shall deduct from the amount of the membership fee the amount of any debts or obligations owing from the member to the Cooperative.

ARTICLE III

MEETINGS OF MEMBERS

SECTION 1. Annual Meeting. The board of trustees shall select the annual meeting date and place for the annual meeting no later than February. The meeting shall be held on a day in June of each year, but not on a Sunday or legal holiday. The place for the meeting shall be within the boundaries of Southeast Electric's service territory. annual meeting of the members shall be held on a day in June of each year, which day shall be designated by the board of trustees at a regular or special meeting held during the month of February next preceding said annual meeting, beginning with the year 1957, and at such place as the board of trustees may designate within the boundaries of the project, State of Montana, and t~~The time and place so designated shall be stated in the notice of the meeting. The annual meeting shall be held for the purpose of electing trustees, passing upon reports for the previous fiscal year, and transacting such other business as may come before the meeting. It shall be the responsibility of the board of trustees to make adequate plans and preparations for the annual meeting. The day designated for the annual meeting shall not fall on a Sunday or legal holiday. Failure to hold the annual meeting at the designated time shall not work a forfeiture or dissolution of the Cooperative.~~

ARTICLE IV TRUSTEES

SECTION 3. Qualifications. No person shall be eligible to become or remain a trustee of the Cooperative who:

- (a) is not a member of the Cooperative (or an authorized agent of a firm, association, corporation, body politic, or subdivision) and a bona fide resident of and physically residing in the area served or to be served by the Cooperative; or
- (b) is in any way employed by or financially interested in a competing enterprise or a business selling electric energy or supplies to the Cooperative, or a business primarily engaged in selling electrical or plumbing appliances, fixtures or supplies to the members of the Cooperative.
- ~~(b)(c)~~ is or has been an employee of the Cooperative within the past three years.

Upon establishment of the fact that a trustee is holding office in violation of any of the foregoing provisions, the board of trustees shall remove such trustee from office. Nothing contained in this section shall affect in any manner whatsoever the validity of any action taken at any meeting of the board of trustees.

SECTION 4. Nominations. ~~It shall be the duty of the board of trustees to appoint, not less than thirty days nor more than sixty days before the date of a meeting of the members at which trustees are to be elected, a committee on nominations consisting of not less than five nor more than eleven members who shall be selected from the districts for which trustees are to be elected. No member of the board of trustees may serve on such committee. The committee shall nominate one or more candidates for each district for which a trustee is to be elected, and it shall prepare and post at the principal office of the Cooperative, at least twenty days before the meeting, a list of its nominations for trustees which may include a greater number of candidates than are to be elected. Any fifteen or more members acting together may make other nominations by petition not less than fifteen days prior to the meeting, and the Secretary shall post such nominations at the same place where the list of nominations made by the committee is posted. Every candidate for the office of trustee shall, between January 1st and March 31st of the year in which the election will occur, present to the Secretary a nominating petition giving the candidate's name, address, and the district in which he/she resides. Each candidate must be a member and must possess the qualifications for a trustee as specified in Article IV, Section 3 of the Bylaws of the Cooperative. Such petition shall contain the names and signatures of at least ten members residing in the Candidate's district. Each signer of the nomination petition shall sign but one petition and add his/her address, phone number, and the date of signing. The dates of signing the petition must fall on or between January 1st and March 31st of the year in which the election will occur. Also, for purposes of this petition, only one signature per member will be accepted. If more than one signature per member is present, all signatures associated with said member will count as one. If more than two nominations for a single trustee position are made by petition, nominees shall appear on the ballot alphabetically according to their last name. The nominating petition shall be available at the principal office of the cooperative and available electronically upon request. The Secretary shall be responsible for mailing with the notice of the meeting or separately, but at least ten days before the date of the meeting, a statement of the number of trustees to be elected and the names and addresses of the candidates, specifying separately the nominations made by the committee on nominations and also the nominations made by petition, if any. Nominations by petition, if any, received at least five days before the meeting shall be included on the official ballot. Later nominations by petition shall be treated as nominations from the floor.~~

~~The chairman shall call for additional nominations from the floor and nominations shall not be closed until at least one minute has passed during which no additional nomination has been made. No member may nominate more than one candidate.~~

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