

AMICALOLA

# BEACON

"Owned By Those We Serve"

December 2004

## 'It can change your life!'

### The awesome Washington Youth Tour kids



Every school year, Georgia's electric membership corporations (EMCs) continue a leadership tradition that takes place in area high schools—they get the ball rolling for the Washington Youth Tour.

It costs the students nothing; the EMCs foot the bill, investing in the future leaders of our community and state. Washington Youth Tour delegates return from the trip yearly stating that it is not just a week of sightseeing. It is even more than a chance to meet other students from across the nation and shake hands with congressmen. They gain a new sense of pride in their country and respect for those who fight to defend the freedoms it offers.

Amicalola EMC chose Ukiah Jacob Busch and Colt McDaniel as the 2004 students to represent the co-op on the Washington Youth Tour. Kiah is from Gilmer County and is the son of David and Cara Busch of Cherry Log. Colt is from Pickens County and is the son of Roger and Diana McDaniel of Talking Rock. Kiah and Colt also received a \$600 scholarship each from Amicalola EMC.



Colt McDaniel and Kiah Busch.



Kiah enjoys dinner at the Hard Rock Cafe with other Georgia delegates.

After the Washington Youth Tour, one of Amicalola's representatives summarized how the tour affected him. The following is a summary of Kiah Busch's remarks: "There were some lasting bonds that came out of the trip. Great friendships were started and hundreds of cherished memories were created. We were bound together not only by circumstance and camaraderie but by a swelling pride



Colt and Kiah met Rep. Nathan Deal on the tour.

in our home state. It was one of the most meaningful and fruitful experiences of my life.

"Some of my favorite parts of the trip were the Holocaust Museum, the Lincoln Memorial, and the House and Senate Chambers. Though I am not Jewish, the Holocaust Museum inspired compas-

*Continued on page 26*

### Quick Info

Amicalola EMC Scholarship applications and Washington Youth Tour applications are now being accepted. Deadline for both is February 4, 2005. For more information contact Stacey Fields at (706) 253-5200 or visit us on the Web at [www.amicalolaemc.com](http://www.amicalolaemc.com).

# Amicalola EMC Annual Meeting Review

**W**eather couldn't have been better for the 63rd Annual Meeting held Saturday, October 2, 2004. Approximately 300 members and guests who attended enjoyed gospel singing by The Good Shepherd Quartet.

Directors James H. Bryan, Kathy Burt and Leon Davis were re-elected by acclamation for three-year terms that will expire October 2007. In recognition of 30 years of service, Marcie Young received a watch. Director John H. Bennett Jr. was also recognized for 20 years of service on the Board of Directors. Other employees, including Ted Almond, T. D. Childers and Ray Payne, who have reached the 35-year milestone, will be recognized at the Employee Dinner scheduled this month.



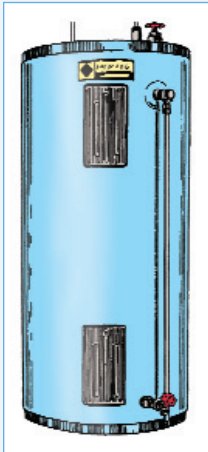
**These two children enjoyed the aprons that were given to customers.**

Sixty members whose lucky numbers were drawn received door prizes provided by vendors and Amicalola EMC. Members enjoyed the day and shared comments such as the following: "Please pass along my thanks to the people that worked so hard getting last weekend's meeting together and an extra thank you for having the Good Shepherd Quartet back! My family and friends really enjoy them."



**CEO Robert Payne recognized Marcie Young with a watch for 30 years of service to AEMC**

## Water Heater Maintenance Program Available to Consumers



**A**micalola EMC offers a water heater maintenance program to qualified customers. The water heater has to be in working condition before it can be accepted on the maintenance program. All homes have a 30-day waiting period before repairs will be made on your water heater. If the water heater is in working condition, it will be added to the maintenance program for \$1.49 per month. Under the maintenance program, Amicalola EMC provides replacement 30-, 40- and 50-gallon standard and low-boy electric water heaters with a five-year manufacturer's warranty. Singlewide mobile homes are not eligible for the program. If a person owning an under-the-cabinet water heater will agree to a replacement of a low-boy electric water heater, they can be accepted on the program. If a water heater is in non-working condition, the customer has three options:

- Option 1:** Customer has repairs done, and is then added to the maintenance program for \$1.49 per month.
- Option 2:** If the water heater needs to be replaced, Amicalola EMC can sell the customer a water heater and then be added to the maintenance program for \$1.49 per month.\*
- Option 3:** Customer buys a water heater elsewhere and is then added to the maintenance program for \$1.49 per month.\*

*\*(Customer is responsible for installation of water heater.)*

If you would like to sign up for the water heater program or have any questions concerning the program, please contact our Customer Service Department at (706) 253-5200.

# Power Restoration Questions & Answers

**W**hen severe weather causes power outages, Amicalola EMC's employees immediately begin working to restore power to as many people as possible in the shortest amount of time. Amicalola EMC understands that our customers have questions about how power is restored to your home, and we hope that this "Q & A" section will address your concerns.

**Q: When my power goes off, should I call AEMC or just assume that my neighbors have called and that AEMC knows about it?**

**A:** Please report any outage that you may have. Individual homes and businesses are served by what we call Individual Services. These lines run from the transformer to your meter. If there is damage to this line, your neighbors will have power but you will not. Therefore, it is important that you report any power outage that you have at your location.

**Q: Why do I see the AEMC trucks riding up and down the road looking at the power line when there are power outages?**

**A:** Restoration of power begins with a visual examination of the affected area by AEMC employees. In the early stage of a widespread outage, information is the EMC's most valuable asset. This assessment will allow AEMC to determine which component of the electrical system is affected. (The components are to the right.)

**Q: Why am I always the last one to get my power back on during an outage?**

**A:** When a major outage occurs, AEMC first checks substations. Then the main distribution lines, the tap lines and then your individual service lines are checked. If we fix any problems at your location first, you would get no electric service until damage on the main line is repaired. Therefore, AEMC must repair the main power source before your individual service.

**Q: Could you please explain these power restoration steps in more detail?**

**A:** The components of an electrical distribution system and how they relate to the power restoration efforts are as follows:

## **SUBSTATIONS**

Amicalola EMC has 12 local distribution substations in its 1,177-square mile service area. Within the service area there are 4,584 miles of distribution line serving 37,288 customers. When a major outage occurs, these distribution substations are checked first to make sure that the transmission system is supplying power to the substations. If there is a problem at the substation, it could cause all of the homes and businesses served by the substation to be without electricity. Repairs at this point could restore power to hundreds or thousands of people.

## **MAIN DISTRIBUTION LINES**

These are the 7,200- to 14,400-volt lines that you see along roadways that carry power from the substations to the customers. When power is restored at this stage, all customers served by this supply line could see the lights come on, unless there is a problem further down the line.

## **TAP LINES**

Tap lines are electric feeder lines with limited capacity that carries power from a main distribution line to utility poles or underground transformers and serve a small group of customers.

## **INDIVIDUAL SERVICES**

These are the lines that serve individual homes or businesses that run from the transformer to the customer's meter. This can explain why your neighbor has power and you have none. That's why Amicalola EMC needs to know when you have an outage at your location.

**For the safety of its customers, Amicalola EMC employees will visually inspect every component of the electrical distribution system. As in any situation of extreme stress, some things can get overlooked. This is where your cooperation is most important. Please report any outage that you might have. Stay away from all downed wires, and report downed wires to your local EMC office.**

## Amicalola EMC Teams up with Relay for Life

**A**micalola EMC's Relay for Life team raised \$3,555 for the American Cancer Society, according to team captain Jackie Grant. One of the fundraisers included raffling a wishing well built by a local cancer survivor, Charles Grant.



Jackie Grant, team captain, stands with Julia Sherman, winner of the wishing well.

## The awesome Washington Youth Tour kids

*Continued from page 23*

sion in me for my common man. I was totally blown away by the room full of actual shoes taken from Jews during the Holocaust before they entered the gas chambers. It was chilling to see the pictures of families and loved ones who had died. The Lincoln Memorial was chilling as well, but different in that it was more of a reverence and feeling of awe. Such a great man he must have been to have accomplished all he did and deserve such an impressive memorial. In the House and Senate Chambers I got to see firsthand how our government works. The experience personalized the process to the point that I will even stop for a minute on the TV channel where all they do is show the two chambers.

"I have to say that the trip was a once-in-a-lifetime experience for me and one that I would recommend to anyone. You will be changed for the better after taking part in this awesome experience. I have to send my greatest thanks to the EMCs who make it happen, in particular Amicalola EMC, who sent me on this life-changing trip. I wish that I could relive the trip a hundred times over."

Amicalola EMC is currently taking applications for the 2005 Washington Youth Tour, set for June 16-23, 2005. The deadline for accepting applications is February 4, 2005. For more information, an application and requirements to enter, please contact Stacey Fields at (706) 253-5200 or visit us on the Web at [www.amicalolaemc.com](http://www.amicalolaemc.com) and click on Youth Tour.

## Holiday Closings

*The offices of Amicalola EMC  
will be closed on the following  
days in recognition of Christmas  
and New Year's Day:*



*Christmas, December 24 & 27  
New Year's, December 31*



## Give the Gift of

# Power



**Gift certificates are available from Amicalola EMC. A gift certificate may be purchased in any amount and credited to the recipient's account. The recipient is mailed a card from Amicalola EMC acknowledging receipt of the gift of power, including the giver's name or as an anonymous gift. Call (706) 253-5200 or stop by for additional information.**