

BEACON



Amicalola Electric
Membership Corporation

“Owned By Those We Serve”

Vol 64 | Issue 4 | JULY 2014

Comments from the CEO

Liberty and a better life for all

Every July, we take time to reflect on our country’s history and remember how the actions of a few individuals helped shape the way we live today. I think back on the rich history of the electric cooperative movement and how a small group of determined individuals were able to improve their quality of life and the quality of life for all those who would follow.

Each day, employees of Amicalola EMC work hard to keep the lights on. For we know that without electricity, everyone’s quality of life is compromised. Because we are a part of an electric cooperative, we have the power to impact our present and help shape the future, just like those who came before us.

We work together, partnering with other co-ops, local businesses and community organizers to achieve economic development goals by creating better opportunities and increasing the quality of



life for our families and communities—just as our founding co-op members did.

We understand that the decisions we make today could greatly affect how future generations live, so we invest in programs like energy efficiency that protect them, while still providing high-quality, affordable electric power.

Amicalola EMC is helping to build the next generation of leaders through our scholarship program and the Youth Tour Program, which sends high school students to Washington, D.C., to meet with law makers and get an up-close view of how our government functions. It inspires them to make a difference in their communities.

Through grassroots advocacy efforts, we can help influence policy decisions that will affect our communities now and for years to come.



Charles Gibson
President/CEO
Amicalola EMC

We are the catalyst for change in our communities and we leverage our collective power to get things done. One example of this is the Cooperative Action Network, www.action.coop, an effort that has encouraged more than half a million supporters of electric cooperatives to send email requests to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), asking them to stop implementing costly new regulations. During the past several months, our supporters have done a tremendous job of making sure their voices are heard.

But the EPA is at it again. America doesn’t need more harmful regulations. If you sent a comment to EPA on its new plants rule, we need you to take action again. Go to www.action.coop and tell the EPA you are still concerned.

All of these things and many more, are what make up the cooperative difference. This Fourth of July, we will continue to think about the future of electric cooperatives and how we will help shape our country and our society. We will remember what it took to bring power to our communities and let the determination of those who came before us be our guide.

IN THIS ISSUE:

CEO message	26A
Legislative updates	26B
Metal theft	26C
Orlaco	26D

Legislative updates

Leaders and key staff members of Amicalola EMC visited Washington, D.C., May 5-7, for the annual National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) Legislative Conference. During the event, a contingent of 2,500 directors, managers and representatives of electric cooperatives from across the nation, including more than 150 from Georgia, spent time on Capitol Hill discussing legislative issues affecting electric cooperatives and their member-owners.

“We take this opportunity to discuss our major legislative priorities and stress to elected officials the importance of supporting policies that promote affordable and reliable electricity,” says Amicalola EMC President/CEO Charles Gibson.

EMC leaders from Georgia met with members of Congress to voice concerns on issues that could negatively impact co-op members, namely the proposed Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulation of greenhouse gas emissions for new and existing power plants.

“These new greenhouse gas regulations could threaten system reliability and affordability for EMC members,” Gibson says. “Costs resulting from existing and future EPA regulations will be borne by EMC mem-



Charles Gibson, President/CEO, left, with Georgia House Speaker David Ralston, center, and Amicalola EMC Board Chairman Charles Fendley at the 2014 Task Force banquet in Ellijay.

bers, many of whom are not in a position to absorb higher energy costs.”

Closer to home, the annual Amicalola EMC Task Force banquet was held on April 29 in Ellijay at the North Georgia Community Center. Georgia House Speaker David Ralston (R-Blue Ridge, District 7) was the keynote speaker. Ralston praised the board of directors and leadership of Amicalola EMC for their contribution to the area and its residents. State Rep.

Rick Jasperse (R-Jasper, District 12) was also in attendance.

Serving as advocates for Amicalola EMC, Task Force members were called upon by President/CEO Charles Gibson and Board Chairman Charles Fendley to take an active role by contacting the Environmental Protection Agency at www.action.coop and asking them to stop the implementation of costly new regulations.

Are we holding your money?

Amicalola EMC is attempting to locate former members whose capital credit refunds were issued in 2008 (for electric service received in 1987), but have remained unclaimed.

A list of unclaimed capital credit refunds is now available for review. You may access it at www.amicalolaemc.com, by clicking on the Capital Credits tab on the home page, or at any local Amicalola EMC office.

The last day to claim these funds is Sept. 1, 2014. After a mandatory waiting period, any unclaimed capital credit refunds are distributed in accordance with Georgia's unclaimed property laws O.C.G.A. §44-12-236.



Reward offered for information on metal theft

Metal theft continues to plague electric utilities all across America. It endangers lives and can result in thousands of dollars in damages, ultimately paid for by you, our members.

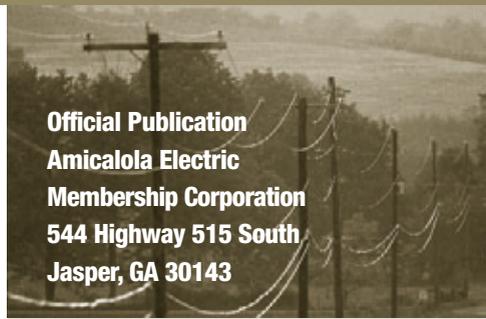
Copper wire is appealing to thieves who look to sell it for scrap. Burglars often climb power poles, scale fences and break into buildings to steal the precious metal—almost always endangering themselves and others in the process.

“To a would-be thief, stealing copper may seem like a quick way to make money,” says Charles Gibson, President/CEO of Amicalola EMC. “But it’s illegal, it’s costly and it’s not worth a life. Metal and electricity are a dangerous combination, even for trained employees using proper equipment.” Thieves may not understand that they are risking their lives, and the lives of utility workers, by taking copper from utility poles or substations.

In Georgia, a law passed in 2012 forces recyclers to follow tough rules aimed at catching crooks trying to sell stolen metal. There is also a reward for information that leads directly to the arrest and conviction of someone involved in copper theft from any electric utility’s property.

Amicalola EMC urges you to follow these guidelines to reduce electrical dangers and prevent copper theft.

- Never enter or touch equipment inside a substation; stay away from power lines and anything touching a power line.
- If you see suspicious activity around an electric substation, pole or other electric facility, such as an open substation gate, open equipment or hanging wires, contact the statewide copper theft hotline at 1-877-732-8717. If a theft is in progress, notify 911 first, and then call the hotline.



Official Publication
Amicalola Electric
Membership Corporation
544 Highway 515 South
Jasper, GA 30143

Charles L. Gibson, *President*

Board of Directors

- Charles R. Fendley, *Chairman*Post #3
John H. Bennett, Jr., *Vice Chairman* ...Post #6
Randall Ponder, *Sec.-Treas.*Post #1
James H. BryanPost #4
Kathy BurtPost #7
Travis D. ClinePost #5
Wm. Leon DavisPost #9
David J. PiercePost #2
Reggie StowersPost #8

TELEPHONE NUMBERS TO CALL IN CASE OF POWER INTERRUPTIONS:

Outage Hotlines

706-253-0359
706-276-0359
706-864-0359

Amicalola Electric Membership Corporation

544 Hwy. 515 South
Jasper, GA 30143
Telephone: 706-253-5200

www.amicalolaemc.com

Eastern District Office

1234 Dawsonville Hwy.
Dahlonega, GA 30533
706-864-7979

Northern District Office

150 Tabor Street
Ellijay, GA 30540
706-276-2362

Office Hours: Monday through Friday
8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Closed on Saturday, Sunday, and holidays

Beacon Editor:

Stacey Godfrey Fields, CCC

Teachers get ready!

2014 Bright Ideas Schedule

Aug. 1 Amicalola EMC will begin accepting applications. Apply online only at www.amicalolaemc.com/my-community/Bright-Ideas/.

Aug. 29 Early-bird deadline. Submit your application on or before this date and be entered to win one of several \$50 gift cards.

Sept. 12 Application deadline.

All grants will be awarded in October.



For more information on Bright Ideas, scan this QR code with your smartphone.



Vision is our mission

Earlier this year, Orlaco officially opened its North American headquarters in Jasper. A ribbon-cutting, held in January, was attended by Gov. Nathan Deal, local dignitaries and local community leaders, including Charles Gibson, President and CEO of Amicalola EMC.

Orlaco is a global leader in developing and manufacturing quality camera systems for heavy equipment. Jasper was chosen, in part, because of its easy access to highway, rail and the Atlanta airport, North Georgia's highly trained work force, low taxes and inclusion in the Georgia Foreign Trade Zone. Plans for the facility include marketing and sales activities in the beginning, with plans to expand and create as many as 65 jobs in the future.

According to Kurt Dekker, Chief Business Development Officer, Orlaco was founded to develop a camera system for trucks, heavy equipment and all other moving vehicles, in order to make them safer and more efficient.

Orlaco is the only fully certified heavy-duty camera manufacturer in the world. The company specializes in certified, reliable, heavy-duty cameras for moving vehicles in every environment: on the road, off the



road, above and under the ground, on rivers or the ocean. Their products offer more user efficiency, less damage and cost and safer surroundings. The products will last for many years, due to their durable, robust quality.

Orlaco presently sells its products to OEM (original equipment manufacturers) in Georgia, across the nation and around the world. For more

information on Orlaco, please visit www.orlaco.com.

Currently celebrating its 25th anniversary, Orlaco credits its success to reliability, dependability and maintaining specific standards of excellence. Amicalola EMC is proud to be the electric provider for Orlaco and welcomes them to our service area.



Holiday office closings

Our offices will be closed on Friday,
July 4, in observance of Independence Day.