

BEACON



Amicalola Electric
Membership Corporation

"Owned By Those We Serve"

Vol 65 | Issue 5 | DECEMBER 2015

Capital credit refunds – one benefit of electric cooperative membership

As a not-for-profit electric co-op, Amicalola EMC does not make a profit. Any revenue over and above the cost of doing business is returned to you, our members, in the form of capital credit refunds.

In September, the board of directors authorized a \$2 million return of capital credits to members who had service in 1995 and 1996. Members who still have service saw this as a credit on their power bill, while others received a check. This brings the total return of capital credits to \$20 million, just in the past 10 years. Capital credits are just one of the benefits of being a member of an electric cooperative.



Unclaimed capital credits provide funding for local communities

The communities in the Amicalola EMC service area benefit greatly from the cooperative's ability to donate unclaimed capital credit refunds to education, economic development and 501(c)(3) charities, in accordance with Georgia's unclaimed property laws.

This year, Amicalola EMC provided \$300,946 in funding, including \$43,000 to local volunteer fire

departments; \$125,000 to high school juniors and seniors for college scholarships; more than \$47,000 to the Bright Ideas teacher grant winners; \$20,000 to Reinhardt University; and \$5,000 to the Bethesda Community Clinic in Cherokee County, with a matching \$5,000 from CoBank (a national cooperative bank serving industries across rural America).

Other donations include grants to the Funk Heritage Center in Waleska, the Gilmer/Ellijay/East Ellijay Joint Development Authority, Dawson County Chamber of Commerce, Harrison Park (Ellijay) and the Pickens County Chamber of Commerce.

The Amicalola EMC board of directors is proud to be able to offer this financial support to our service area.

CEO Charles Gibson retires

Charles Gibson, Chief Executive Officer, officially retired from Amicalola EMC on Oct. 31, 2015. Todd Payne became Amicalola EMC's 15th CEO and took over this role on Nov. 1.

Gibson started his career with Amicalola EMC in 1977. During the past eight years, Gibson served as president/CEO as the nation faced a sharp economic downturn.

Working with the board of directors, he navigated Amicalola EMC through some tough challenges and stagnant national economic conditions. Gibson was able to maintain a strong and stable financial position for the cooperative, leaving Amicalola EMC in the strongest financial shape since its creation in 1940.

Gibson used technology

to make strides during his tenure, introducing an automated outage management system, laptop computers for outside crews complete with digital system maps, an online member service portal and a mobile app for members with smartphones. Working with the board of directors, his commitment to education and local community development led to substantial growth of the Amicalola EMC scholarship program, the introduction of the Bright Ideas teacher grant program and increased funding for many local nonprofits, including volunteer fire departments, food pantries, free health clinics and other economic development efforts. *All funding was made possible by a change in Georgia's unclaimed property laws, allowing unclaimed capital credit refunds to be spent locally for education, economic development and 501(c)(3) charities, beginning in 2011.*

As we say farewell, we extend best wishes to Charles and his wife, Marlene, for many happy and healthy years in retirement.



Outgoing President/CEO Charles Gibson, left, with incoming President/CEO Todd Payne.

Todd Payne assumes new leadership role at Amicalola EMC

Todd Payne has been appointed to the position of president/CEO. Payne has been with Amicalola EMC for almost a decade, serving as vice president of Corporate Administration and most recently as chief operating officer. He is very optimistic about the future and is looking forward to continued

growth for Amicalola EMC, while providing stable rates and safe and reliable electric service to its members.

Payne is a graduate of Kennesaw State University. He is a native of Pickens County, and is married to Sherry Smith Payne. They make their home in Jasper, with their two children, Bailey and Ty.

In addition to his leadership role at Amicalola EMC, Payne serves on the board of directors of the Pickens County Chamber of Commerce and the Pickens Community Advisory Council for Chattahoochee Tech. He is a member of the Jasper Rotary Club and attends Sharp Top Baptist Church.

Annual Meeting

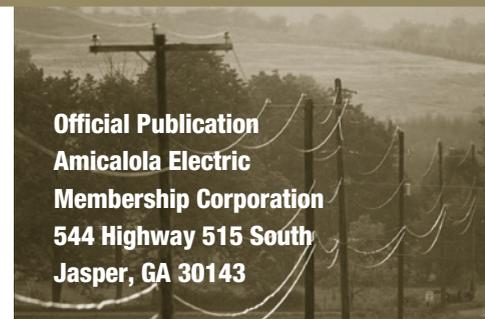
The 74th annual meeting of the membership of Amicalola EMC was held on Saturday, Oct. 3, 2015. Entertainment was provided by The Primitive Quartet, followed by the business session attended by approximately 450 members. Board directors Travis D. Cline (Post 5 – Cherokee County), David J. Pierce (Post 2 – Gilmer/Fannin counties) and Reggie Stowers (Post 8 – Dawson/Lumpkin counties) were re-elected to serve three-year terms.

Attendees were treated to local apples from nearby Ellijay and other refreshments. Registered members received giveaway items, and more



Grand prize winner Tommy Allison with Charles Gibson.

than 60 lucky members won door prizes. The \$500 cash grand prize was won by Mr. Tommy Allison, of Cherokee County.



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

Todd Payne, *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

Bright Ideas

Sixty-seven local teachers got a nice surprise from Amicalola EMC in October, when the Bright Ideas prize team made the rounds. A total of \$47,024 was awarded to teachers at 31 public and private schools throughout the Amicalola EMC service area.

Bright Ideas is a grant competition that rewards winning teachers who research, plan and implement creative classroom projects. Projects that

received funding included a weather station; robotics; Civil War costumes; solar car kits; outdoor classroom materials; lab equipment; math, science, music and reading materials; and technology, just to name a few.

In its sixth year, the Bright Ideas program has awarded almost \$250,000 to fund 366 classroom projects in 34 public and private schools across the Amicalola EMC service area.



Amicalola EMC Gilmer County prize team surprises winning teacher Christy Hensley and Principal Larry Walker, both of Gilmer Middle School.

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:

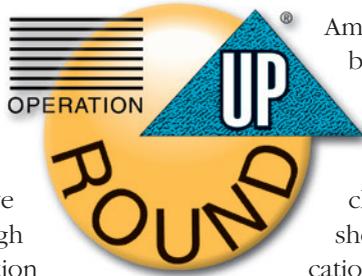
Stacey Godfrey Fields, CCC



Give to those less fortunate this holiday season

As you cross names off your holiday shopping list, don't forget those less fortunate. One of the most inexpensive, yet effective ways to donate is through Amicalola EMC's Operation Round Up program.

At an average cost of only \$6 per year, you can "round up" your electric bill for charity each month. You won't miss the pocket change, but it will make a huge difference in the lives of many. Since 1999,



Amicalola EMC members have donated **\$1.9 million** to qualifying individuals and local charities for food, shelter, clothing, education, health needs and specialty needs.

Call 706-253-5200, email memberservice@amicalolaemc.com or return the form with this month's electric statement to join. Merry Christmas and happy New Year to you and yours!

Name _____

Account No. _____

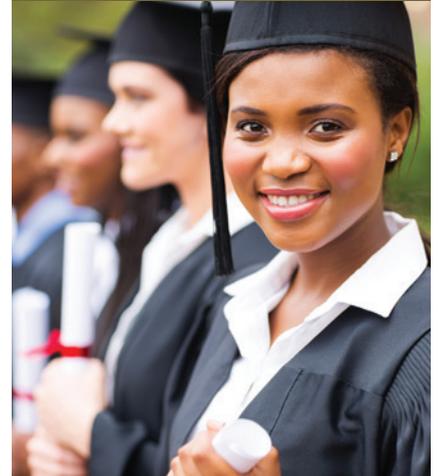
Address _____

City _____

State _____ ZIP _____

Join before Dec. 31, 2015, and you will be entered to win a \$50 power bill credit. The winner will be notified in January 2016.

2016 Youth Tour and scholarship deadlines



Mark your calendar! Jan. 29, 2016, is the deadline to apply for the Washington Youth Tour for high school juniors OR the Amicalola EMC Scholarship Program for high school seniors. Applications are available at your school counselor's office or at www.amicalolaemc.com.



Holiday office closings

Our offices will be closed Dec. 24 and 25 in observance of Christmas, and Jan. 1, 2016, for New Year's Day. We wish you all a Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy 2016.

