

BEACON



 Amicalola Electric
Membership Corporation

"Owned By Those We Serve"

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Comments from the CEO

The power of Operation Round Up

It started as a simple idea 27 years ago at one co-op in South Carolina. Just round up a co-op member's electric bill to the next dollar, and then use it to do good work in the community. Today, hundreds of electric co-ops throughout the country, including Amicalola EMC, use this idea to help members and organizations close to home. All co-ops adhere to the seven cooperative principles, including Concern for Community. The Operation Round Up program is the perfect embodiment of this core principle.

It's only pocket change. The average co-op member donates \$6 a year; the maximum possible contribution is 99 cents per month. This may not seem like a large amount, but when combined with thousands

of Operation Round Up participants, it adds up to a significant impact. To the tune of \$2 million. That's the amount Amicalola EMC members have donated to charity since we began participating in Operation Round Up in January 1999.

The Operation Round Up program is governed by a nine-member board of volunteers made up of community leaders. This board is independent of the board of directors for the electric co-op.

The program is always voluntary, and at any time, members can change their minds about participating. Once folks see the good work the program does in their community, they almost always keep contributing.

Over the years, millions of dol-

lars have been collected and distributed for food, shelter, clothing, education and health needs.

This can include helping a family in need after a house fire, assisting the local food pantry or dozens of other humanitarian efforts that bring electric co-ops even closer to the communities we serve.

While each co-op must respond to the needs of its members, one of the great attributes of co-ops across the country—and the world—is their willingness to share information about the programs that have been successful. Operation Round Up is a perfect example of that cooperative spirit.



Todd Payne
President/CEO
Amicalola EMC



Don't give your heat a winter vacation

Headling out of town for a winter vacation? Don't give your heat one or you may return home to frozen pipes. It's tempting to shut your heat off for a week or two if your house will be empty. But if you do, you might return home to a cold, soggy mess.

The water that flows through your home's plumbing pipes can freeze if your home gets too cold. Water expands when it freezes and could burst your pipes and flood your house.

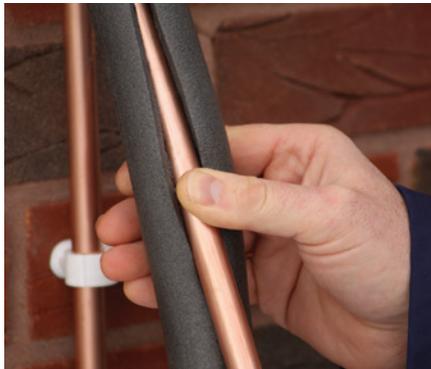
So, turn the heat down if you want, but not off. Heat set at a minimum of 55 degrees should be warm enough to keep your pipes

from freezing. The same goes for your vacation home:

Don't turn the heat completely off, even if the home sits empty most of the winter.

Not traveling this winter? Take these precautions even if staying home:

- Put away your outdoor hoses for the season, and close inside valves that supply water to those hoses. After everything is shut off, turn the outdoor spigots on, and leave them on so any stray drops of water that remain in the pipe can expand without bursting the pipe.
- Inspect your home for water supply lines that are located in an unheated basement, crawl space, attic or garage, or in kitchen or bathroom cabinets under the sinks. Insulate those pipes to keep them from freezing.



Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



Save energy and money by lowering your water heater thermostat to 120 degrees Fahrenheit. This will also slow mineral buildup and corrosion in your water heater and pipes.

—Source: energy.gov



Radio system upgrades improve internal communications, increase reliability



Amicalola EMC recently purchased a new radio system, complete with handheld radios, which operate on the Georgia FleetTalk NEXEDGE network, owned and operated by Radio One Inc. of Norcross.

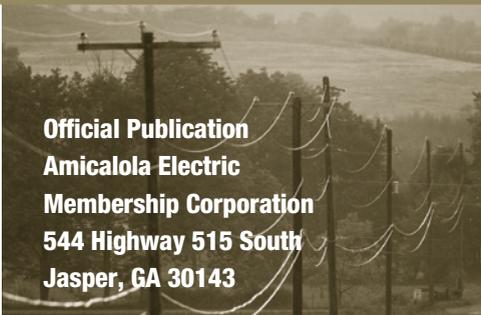
The goal of the purchase was to improve internal communications coverage in our service area. Improved communications means improved reliability for our members. We are pleased that has been accomplished.

Some of the most notable improvements are:

- Radio coverage now in areas not covered by cellphone carriers.
- Clear instant communications with GPS tracking capabilities.
- Group talk channels, with private talk capabilities.

- Use in larger trucks where cellphone use is not allowed by DOT regulations.
- Lapel mics in some trucks, allowing communication to continue while out of the vehicle.
- Enhances our ability to serve our members, with increased safety for our employees.

The partnership with Georgia FleetTalk gives Amicalola EMC access to many more repeater sites than could be installed and maintained in-house. This allows for greater redundancy in the system to keep radio communications going even during major weather events or other emergencies. We believe this system will work for us well into the future.



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How to clean refrigerator coils

... and why it matters!

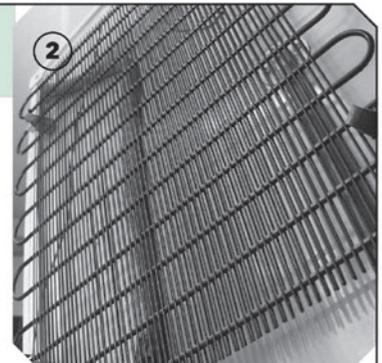
Your refrigerator is one of the largest, most-used appliances in your home. It requires only minimal maintenance – just simple cleaning of the condenser coils, which disperse heat. If the coils are covered with dust, gunk or pet hair, they cannot diffuse the heat properly and will not run efficiently. A bigger problem can result if the compressor burns out from having to run constantly because of the grimy coating. This can be an expensive problem. The bottom line? A minor investment in time once a year can save you cold cash down the line.



MATERIALS YOU WILL NEED

- Vacuum cleaner with hose
- Damp cloth

- 1.** Locate the refrigerator's coil, a grid-like structure, or fan that will likely have a covering or grate protecting it. The coil is usually concealed behind the front toe kick or in the back. Some newer models have internal coils, so if you don't find them in the front or back, this may be the case with your fridge.
- 2.** If the coil is in the back, slide the refrigerator away from the wall, removing the plug from the electrical outlet when possible. You may also need to disconnect the line to the water dispenser or icemaker to allow enough room to work.
- 3.** Gently vacuum and clean the coil. Using the brush or crevice attachment, carefully vacuum the dust and dirt wherever you see it. If you have pulled the fridge out, vacuum and wipe down the sides and back of the fridge and the floor.
- 4.** Once the floor is dry, plug in the refrigerator and rearrange the power cord and supply lines so they don't get a kink or stuck under the weight of the refrigerator. Slide the refrigerator back into place. Be sure to replace the toe kick panel if this was removed.



Are we holding your money?

Six months left to claim capital credit refunds

Sept. 1, 2016, marks the deadline to claim capital credit refunds from the year 1989. If you had electric service with Amicalola EMC during 1989, we may have a refund waiting for you. The list of names can be found at www.amicalolaemc.com or in person at any local Amicalola EMC office.

After Sept. 1, 2016, unclaimed funds will be distributed for charitable purposes in accordance with O.C.G.A. § 44-12-236 of the Disposition of Unclaimed Property Act.

