

BEACON



Amicalola Electric
Membership Corporation

"Owned By Those We Serve"

Vol 66 | Issue 3 | MAY 2016

Comments from the CEO

The power behind your power

Every day, Amicalola EMC is hard at work to make sure all of our members have the electric power they need at the best possible price. And behind the scenes, we are working with a network of cooperatives to make that happen.

Amicalola EMC is a part of Oglethorpe Power Corp. (OPC), one of the nation's largest power supply cooperatives with more than \$9.5 billion in assets serving 38 electric membership corporations which, collectively, provide electricity to more than 4.2 million Georgia residents. OPC balances reliable and affordable energy with environmental responsibility. We helped to create this second tier co-op so that we have more control over power supply and pricing.

It also takes a lot of money to run an electric co-op, so when we

need to borrow capital, we turn to either the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corp. (CFC) or COBANK. Both of these organizations are also cooperatives. CFC is owned by electric co-ops throughout the country, and COBANK is owned by electric and agricultural co-ops nationwide.

As you know, every month we generate an electric bill that we send to you either electronically or through regular mail. We use Southeastern Data Cooperative to ensure we can apply the latest technology, help lower your energy costs and send you timely, accurate bills.

No business can operate without several different types of insurance, such as general liability, auto and worker's compensation. So once again, along with other electric cooperatives across the country, we are

members of Federated Rural Electric Insurance Exchange. This allows us to maintain reliable coverage at an affordable price.

It also takes a whole lot of material to operate an electric co-op, such as poles, wires, transformers and many other items that you may not see. This is why we partnered with other co-ops to create GRESKO Utility Supply. The power of this co-op allows us to have quick access to all the materials we need at the best price.

So, while you are a member of one electric co-op, you are actually connected to many other co-ops. And being connected to this cooperative network ensures your needs are met in the most cost efficient way possible.



Todd Payne
President/CEO
Amicalola EMC

Unclaimed capital credits

Membership of an electric co-op has many benefits. We are good stewards of your money and strive to give you good value for your dollar. When you pay your monthly electric bill, you can rest assured that every dollar you pay is being spent wisely to provide you with safe, reliable and affordable electricity.

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.

A list of unclaimed capital credit refunds is available for review. You may access it on our website, amicalolaemc.com, or in person at any local Amicalola EMC office. The last day to claim these funds is Sept. 1, 2016. At that time, unclaimed funds will be distributed for charitable purposes in accordance with Georgia unclaimed property laws.



2016 Amicalola EMC Youth Awards Banquet

One hundred twenty-eight of the best and brightest students across our service area were honored in March at the annual Amicalola EMC Youth Awards Banquet.

President/CEO Todd Payne and the board of directors presented 128 students with \$125,000 in college scholarships. In addition, the 2016 Washington Youth Tour delegates were announced. Sydney Bates (Lumpkin), Drake Crump (Gilmer), Katelyn Pope (Gilmer) and Hannah Weatherby (Cherokee) will travel to our nation's capital in June, with more than 100 other Georgia high school students.

Attending the banquet were the honored students and their parents, school administrators, the board of directors and several staff members. Funding for all scholarships comes from unclaimed capital credits in accordance with Georgia's unclaimed property laws.



2016 Washington Youth Tour delegates announced, from left: Stacey Fields, Director of Public Relations; Sydney Bates (Lumpkin); Hannah Weatherby (Cherokee); Katelyn Pope (Gilmer); and Drake Crump (Gilmer), with Todd Payne, President/CEO.

All 2016 Washington Youth Tour finalists were given a copy of "Liberty Notes on the Bill of Rights," a publication about the first 10 amendments to the Constitution. Written by Jim Jess, Assistant Editor at *GEORGIA Magazine*, it is an impressive collection of articles and is being used by the Georgia Department of Education in its list of "Resources for Constitution Day." Download your free copy at georgiamagazine.org.



\$1,000 scholarships were awarded to 120 high school seniors from across the Amicalola EMC service area.

Process for electing directors

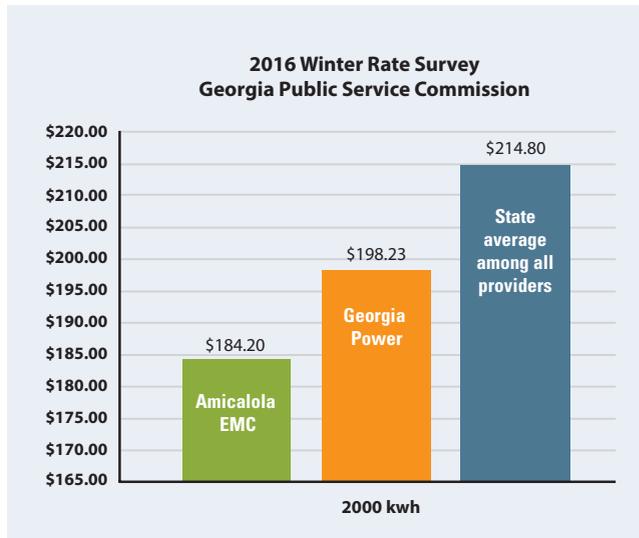
Members of Amicalola Electric Membership Corp. are reminded that nominations for the AEMC Board of Directors will be posted July 3, 2016. The Nominating Committee's recommendations for the board will be posted on the bulletin board at the main office in Jasper and on the AEMC website.

The Amicalola EMC Bylaws state "that the committee on nominations shall make at least one nomination for each post for director to be voted on at the annual meeting. The committee shall prepare and post at the principal office of the cooperative at least ninety (90) days (July 3, 2016) before the meeting, a list of

nominations for directors, but any fifteen (15) or more members may make other nominations in writing over their signatures no less than sixty (60) days (Aug. 2, 2016) prior to the meeting, and the secretary shall post the same at the same place where the list of nominations made by the committee is posted."

Amicalola EMC rates lower than the state average

Amicalola EMC members continue to pay less for electricity than the average Georgia resident. The 2016 Winter Rate Survey, recently released by the Georgia Public Service Commission, confirms that Amicalola EMC is lower than the local investor-owned utility and lower than the state average in most categories.



Amicalola EMC announces staff promotions

President/CEO Todd Payne is pleased to announce two recent promotions.

Ray Carpenter, of Dahlonega, has been named the district manager of the Eastern District Office in Dahlonega. Ray has been with Amicalola EMC since 1987 and was most recently an overhead line crew leader. He lives in Dahlonega with his wife Nancy. They have two grown children and two grandchildren.

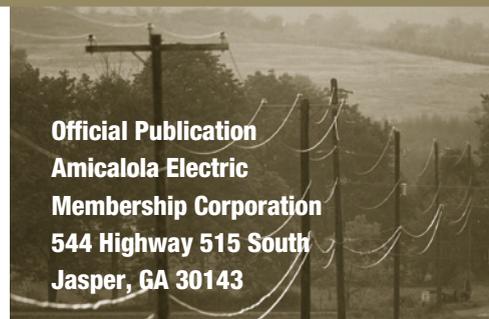
Penelope Marshall, of Ellijay, is now the Chief Financial Officer. Penelope came to Amicalola EMC in 1986 and has held key positions in the Accounting Department since that time. Prior to being named CFO, she was the senior vice president of Finance and Administration. She and her husband, John, live in Ellijay. They have two grown children and are awaiting the birth of their first



CFO Penelope Marshall (seated) with Ray Carpenter, District Manager, Eastern District Office

grandchild in June.

The board of directors and all staff members congratulate Ray and Penelope and wish them well in their new positions.



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

Todd Payne, *President/CEO*

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. Cline.....Post #5
- Wm. Leon Davis.....Post #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

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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



National Electric Safety Month addresses common hazards in the home

May is National Electrical Safety Month, and the Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI) is raising awareness of potential electrical hazards in the home and the importance of electrical safety. This year's campaign features the launch of the third edition of its National Electrical Safety Month publication, "Electrical Safety Illustrated." The issue is titled "At Home and at Work: Make Electrical Safety Everyone's Priority" and informs readers about common electrical hazards.

"Extension cord misuse and overburdened electrical systems are two of the main causes of home electrical fires," says ESFI President Brett Brenner. "It is important to be aware of these common and preventable hazards as well as other safety measures you can take to ensure that your home is electrically safe."

The National Fire Protection Association estimates that 47,700 home structure fires reported to U.S. fire departments each year involve some type of electrical failure or malfunction as a contributing factor. Awareness and education are critical to reduce the incidence of electrical fires.

Featured content in "Electrical Safety Illustrated" includes infographics titled "Don't Overload Your Home," which illustrates the warning signs that your home electrical system could be overloaded, and "Reaching to Safety," about the hazards of misusing extension cords.

The ESFI encourages the sharing of its campaign resources and developed the "2016 National Electrical Safety Month Electrical Safety Advocate Guide" to help those who want to raise awareness of electrically safe

DON'T OVERLOAD YOUR HOME!

i According to the National Fire Protection Association, **47,700 home fires** in the U.S. are caused by electrical failure or malfunction each year. These fires result in **418 deaths, 1,570 injuries, and \$1.4 billion in property damage**. Overloaded electrical circuits is a major cause of residential fires. Help lower your risk of electrical fires by not overloading your electrical system.

OVERLOADED CIRCUIT WARNING SIGNS

- Flickering, blinking, or dimming lights
- Frequently tripped circuit breakers or blown fuses
- Warm or discolored wall plates
- Cracking, sizzling, or buzzing from receptacles
- Burning odor coming from receptacles or wall switches
- Mild shock or tingle from appliances, receptacles, or switches

HOW TO PREVENT ELECTRICAL OVERLOADS

- Never use extension cords or multi-outlet converters for appliances.
- All major appliances should be plugged directly into a wall receptacle outlet. Only plug one heat-producing appliance into a receptacle outlet at a time.
- A heavy reliance on extension cords is an indication that you have too few outlets to address your needs. Have a qualified electrician inspect your home and add new outlets.
- Power strips only add additional outlets; they do not change the amount of power being received from the outlet.

50% The CPSC estimates more than 50% of electrical fires that occur every year can be prevented by Arc Fault Circuit Interrupters (AFCIs). To learn more about AFCIs, visit ESFI.org.

Only use the appropriate watt bulb for any lighting fixture. Using a larger watt light bulb may cause a fire.

ELECTRICAL SAFETY FOUNDATION INTERNATIONAL

MAY IS NATIONAL ELECTRICAL SAFETY MONTH

www.facebook.com/ESFI.org www.twitter.com/ESFIdotorg www.youtube.com/ESFIdotorg

practices. This guide provides step-by-step instructions on how to be an advocate for electrical safety and champion the ESFI's cause of minimizing electricity-related deaths and injuries.

Electrical safety awareness and education among consumers, families, employees and communities will prevent electrical fires, injuries and fatalities.

For more information about the ESFI and electrical safety, visit esfi.org.