

# BEACON



Amicalola Electric  
Membership Corporation

"Owned By Those We Serve"

Vol 68 | Issue 3 | MAY 2018

## Comments from the CEO

### Safety above all else

"Safety" is a universal word that is mentioned often. Companies across all industries are generally committed to safety, although there are times it would be easy to ignore safety in the interest of convenience or expediency. However, safety is a serious issue, especially when it comes to electrical safety.

At Amicalola EMC, safety is our No. 1 priority. Over time, we've created a culture of safety by putting our employees' safety and that of the community above all else. Each day, we strive to deliver affordable and reliable electricity to our members, but equally important, we want our employees to return home safely to their loved ones. To do this requires ongoing focus, dedication and vigilance.

#### Following leading national safety standards

Working with electricity is an inherently dangerous job, especially for lineworkers. Georgia EMC (GEMC), our statewide trade association, has a safety team whose primary focus is keeping our employees and the community safe around electricity. Working with GEMC, our safety team establishes and follows safety protocols based on leading national safety practices for the utility industry. We require our lineworkers to wear specialized equipment when



working next to or with power lines. There are specific protocols that our lineworkers follow when dealing with electricity. Our safety team has regular meetings where they discuss upcoming projects from a safety perspective. They monitor and track issues in order to understand them, share "lessons learned" and to improve in the future. Data is examined to discern patterns, and safety metrics are used to improve in those areas where we have fallen short.

Just as important, we encourage all of our crews to speak up and hold each other accountable for safety. By cultivating a culture of openness and transparency, we promote problem-solving in regard to safety. In addition, we brief contractors on our safety protocols and set expectations for their engagement.

#### Keeping the community safe

We live and work in the community we serve, and we care about our neighbors. Periodically, we conduct

electrical safety demonstrations in schools and for community events.



Todd Payne  
President/CEO  
Amicalola EMC

May is National Electrical Safety Month. According to the Electrical Safety Foundation (ESFI), each year thousands of people in the United States are critically injured as a result of electrical fires, accidents and electrocution in their own homes. Many of these accidents are preventable.

Don't attempt electrical do-it-yourself projects or overload your outlets. Report downed power lines, unlocked substations or pad-mount transformers that look amiss. You can find more helpful information at [www.esfi.org](http://www.esfi.org).

Be mindful and pause when it comes to electricity; take the extra time to plug into safety.



# Youth Awards Banquet honors area students

Our annual Youth Awards Banquet was held on March 15 at Chattahoochee Technical College in Jasper. Approximately 400 people attended including students, parents, school administrators, Amicalola EMC key staff members and members of the board of directors.

Area juniors and seniors were awarded \$130,000 in college scholarships. In addition,



the 2018 Washington Youth Tour (WYT) delegates were announced:

Cody Byess and Isabella Brown, of Dawson High, and Lexi Tucker and Eli Weatherby, of Cherokee High.

The year 2018 marks the 40th anniversary of Amicalola EMC's participation in the Youth

Tour. This year, the tour will take place June 7-14, 2018, and will offer an exceptional opportunity



for delegates to network, gain leadership experience and learn about our nation's capital.



Scholarships worth \$130,000 were awarded at the 2018 Youth Awards Banquet. Winning seniors are shown here with the Amicalola EMC Board of Directors.

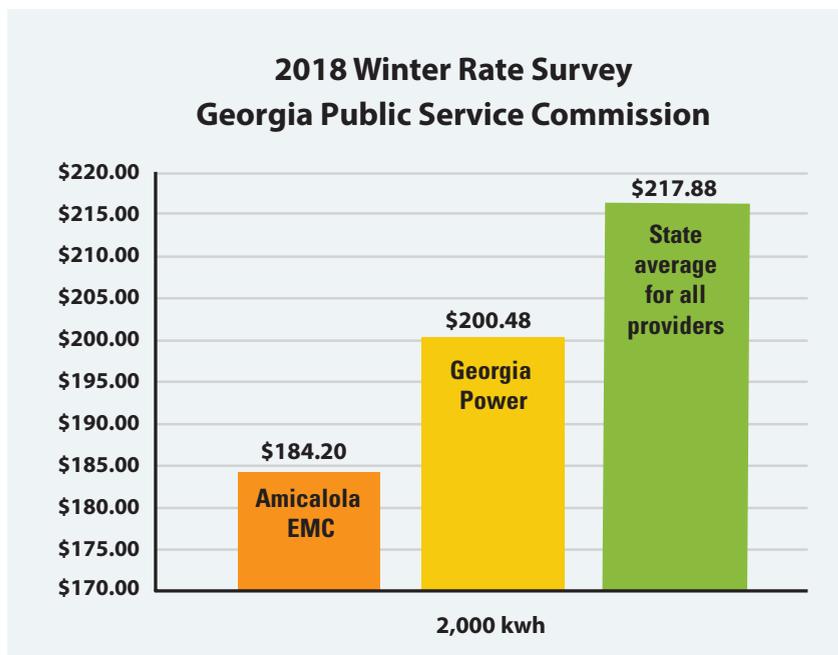


From left: Amicalola EMC Director of Public Relations Stacey Fields with 2018 WYT delegates Cody Byess and Isabella Brown, of Dawson High, and Lexi Tucker and Eli Weatherby, of Cherokee High.



Amicalola EMC is pleased to announce Marley Hamby, of Dawson County High School, as a 2018 statewide Walter Harrison Scholarship winner. The scholarship was named after the late Walter Harrison, a pioneer in rural electrification. As a recipient, Marley will receive \$1,000 in addition to the scholarship she was awarded by Amicalola EMC.

# Amicalola EMC rates lower than the state average



**A**micalola EMC members continue to pay less for electricity than the average Georgia resident. The 2018 Winter Rate Survey, recently

released by the Georgia Public Service Commission, confirms that Amicalola EMC is lower than the state average in all categories.

## Process for electing directors

**M**embers of Amicalola Electric Membership Corporation are reminded that nominations for the Amicalola EMC (AEMC) Board of Directors will be posted July 8, 2018. The Nominating Committee's recommendations for the board will be posted on the bulletin board at the main office in Jasper, Ga., 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 8, 2018) 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 (August 7, 2018) 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."

## Unclaimed capital credits



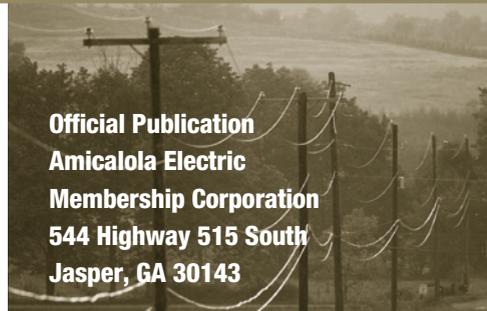
**M**embership of an electric co-op has many benefits. We are good stewards of your money and strive to give you good value for your dollar. When you pay your monthly electric bill, you can rest assured that every dollar you pay is being spent wisely to provide you with safe, reliable and affordable 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](http://amicalolaemc.com) or in person at any local Amicalola EMC office. The last day to claim these funds is Aug. 31, 2018. At that time, unclaimed funds will be distributed for charitable purposes in accordance with Georgia unclaimed property laws.

# National recognition for employees

**D**uring April 2018, we celebrated Lineman Appreciation Month, and on April 26, we recognized Administrative Professionals Day. This is a note of appreciation to all Amicalola EMC employees for performing their jobs with professionalism and dedication.



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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. Bryan . . . . .Post #4
- Kathy Burt . . . . .Post #7
- Travis D. Cline . . . . .Post #5
- Wm. Leon Davis . . . . .Post #9
- David J. Pierce . . . . .Post #2
- Reggie Stowers . . . . .Post #8

**TELEPHONE NUMBERS TO CALL IN CASE OF POWER INTERRUPTIONS:**

**Outage Hotlines**  
 706-253-0359  
 706-276-0359  
 706-864-0359

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**Office Hours:** Monday through Friday  
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*Closed on Saturday, Sunday, and holidays*

**Beacon Editor:**  
 Stacey Godfrey Fields, CCC



## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



Make sure your refrigerator door seals are airtight for maximum energy efficiency. Test the seal by closing the door over a piece of paper (so that it's half in and half out). If you can easily pull the piece of paper out, your seal may need to be replaced or the latch may need to be adjusted.

—Source: *energy.gov*



## Memorial Day Closing



**Our offices will be closed on**  
**Monday, May 28,**  
**in observance of Memorial Day.**