

BEACON



Amicalola Electric
Membership Corporation

"Owned By Those We Serve"

Vol 68 | Issue 5 | DECEMBER 2018

Comments from the CEO

2018 in review

The economy continues to show signs of rebounding and our workload has steadily increased over the past two years.

We continue to participate in the Georgia EMC Safety and Training programs offered to us through our state-wide trade association. The first-aid training has proven very beneficial, as we recently honored three linemen for their heroic efforts in saving the life of an automobile accident survivor in April.

In October, Hurricane Michael initially gave us some cause for concern, but thankfully we did not see any ill effects and experienced only minimal weather-related outages. Our co-op neighbors to the south were not so fortunate, and we were able to send two crews to provide assistance.

Our rates continue to remain stable and low; it's been over 10 years since we've had a rate increase.

We are extremely proud of our Operation Round Up (ORU) program, which hit \$2.3 million in donations this



In September, our board of directors authorized a general refund of capital credits in the amount of \$2.5 million for members who had service during the year 2000.

year. In October, 46 volunteer fire departments within our service area were each awarded a \$1,000 donation, for a total of \$46,000.

Renovations were completed on our headquarters building and the Dahlonega office construction is underway.

System improvement work has begun on our current work plan, a \$60 million investment to tie in new



Todd Payne
President/CEO
Amicalola EMC

substations, make necessary improvements and automate our distribution system to minimize service interruptions for our members.

We have expanded our renewable energy plans and will be adding more solar to our portfolio. By 2020, our overall power mix will include about 7 percent renewable energy. Conservative business practices ensured that Amicalola EMC waited until it was more practical and more affordable before adding additional renewable energy.

On behalf of our board of directors and employees, I'd like to take this opportunity to wish each of you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



Christmas & New Year's office closings

Our offices will be closed Monday, Dec. 24, and Tuesday, Dec. 25, so our employees may celebrate Christmas with their families. We will be closed Tuesday, Jan. 1, 2019, for New Year's Day. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all!

Hurricane Michael

Hurricane Michael made landfall on Oct. 10 as a Category 4 storm. Refusing to weaken, it made history when it reached Georgia as the first Category 3 hurricane to hit our state since 1898.

The results were staggering. 210,000 EMC members across the state were left without power.

At the height of the storm, 53 high-voltage transmission lines were down as well as 99 electrical substations.

The Amicalola EMC service area was fortunate and sustained only minimal damage. Our neighbors to the south were not as lucky, with some EMCs reporting as much as 100 percent of their distribution system experiencing power outages.

In accordance with long-standing mutual aid agreements, we were able to send two line crews to assist in the highly damaged areas. Our crews first



worked in the Oconee EMC service area near Dudley and were later sent to the Grady EMC service area near the Florida line.

We are very proud of the assistance

Amicalola EMC was able to provide, and we were happy to welcome our crews back home, safe and sound, after spending two weeks helping other co-ops.

Area teachers earn \$46,000 through Bright Ideas

Seventy-six teachers throughout our service area got a big surprise recently. Amicalola EMC board members and staff surprised winning teachers with big checks as a reward for their hard work and creative ideas.

The Bright Ideas teacher grant program has now funded 594 projects, for a grand total of \$387,664.42. We recognize and value the incredible job our teachers do to educate and encourage students in our local communities.



BRIGHT IDEAS



Annual meeting recap

The 77th Annual Meeting of the Amicalola EMC membership was held on Saturday, Oct. 6. Approximately 400 were in attendance.

The entertainment was provided by Liberty, a local Southern gospel group. Attendees received gift bags and snacks. Many lucky members won

prizes, and a special drawing was held for those members in attendance who participate in Operation Round Up.

Employees who've earned service awards of 30 years of service or more were recognized. In addition, three special awards were presented to employees Robert Cox, Ken Norton and Micah Walker in recognition of their brave and courageous actions which resulted in the saving of a life on April 19, 2018.

Directors David J. Pierce (Post #2, Gilmer/Fannin counties), Travis D. Cline (Post #5, Cherokee County) and Reggie Stowers (Post #8, Dawson/Lumpkin counties) were re-elected.



Grace Collett was a lucky grand-prize winner, taking home \$500 cash.



2019 WYT and scholarship deadlines

The deadline to apply for the Amicalola EMC scholarship (for seniors) or the Washington Youth Tour (for juniors) is Jan. 31, 2019. Students must live in a household served by Amicalola EMC to be eligible. To apply, go to www.amicalolaemc.com.





Add Operation Round Up to your Christmas list



Amicalola EMC's Operation Round Up has donated \$2.3 million in the past 19-plus years. Every penny collected is donated to qualifying individuals or local charities within the Amicalola EMC service area. Never more than 99 cents a month, the average donation is only about \$6 per year. This holiday season, please consider adding Operation Round Up to your Christmas list.



Gilmer County firefighters receive \$16,000 from Operation Round Up, presented by Penelope Marshall, Chief Financial Officer.



Pickens County firefighters receive \$15,000 from Operation Round Up, presented by CEO Todd Payne.



Official Publication
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

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

