

BEACON

Resolve to save energy!



January is a great time to reevaluate your energy use. As we kick off 2019, make a home energy resolution to save energy and reap the benefits all year long. January is National Slow Cooking Month and Jan. 10 is National Cut Your Energy Costs Day.

Comments from the CEO

The cooperative advantage

We know the cooperative business model is different from those of investor-owned utilities, but how?

Community focused: Owned by those we serve, electric co-ops like Amicalola EMC are community-focused organizations that deliver safe, reliable and affordable energy to our member-owners. Our focus is you.

Member led: Electric co-ops belong to the communities we serve. That gives us a unique understanding of the needs of our local communities. Our leaders and employees live right here and are members just like you.

Accountable: Because we answer to our local members, rather than distant shareholders, we're more responsive to the changing needs

of our communities and are able to respond quickly. We even share any excess revenue with

our members because we're not-for-profit.

Cooperative: Even though we're locally owned and operated, we unite with other electric cooperatives across the country to develop new technologies, invest in equipment and infrastructure that benefits multiple co-ops in a region, and assist with major outages. This type of teamwork allows us to address complex challenges while remaining true to our local roots.

Community focused, member led, accountable and cooperative. Built by the community, owned by the community and led by the community—that's the cooperative advantage!



Todd Payne
President/CEO
Amicalola EMC



Are we holding your money?

Local electric cooperatives operate at cost; any excess revenues are returned to member-owners in the form of capital credit refunds.

To find out if you have an unclaimed refund, visit

www.amicalolaemc.com. Choose the **Capital Credits** tab on the homepage, and then click on the **Unclaimed Recipients** link. You may also call 706-253-5200 or visit any Amicalola EMC office.



After a mandatory five-year waiting period, any unclaimed capital credit refunds are distributed in accordance with Georgia's unclaimed property laws O.C.G.A. §44-12-236.



Why should you apply to go on the 2019 Washington Youth Tour?

2019 tentative itinerary

- **June 13:** Kickoff banquet, Atlanta
- **June 14:** Team-building activities; flight to Washington, D.C.

Dates TBD for the following activities

- Tour and lunch at Mount Vernon; dinner at Union Station; evening guided tour of memorials, including World War II, Martin Luther King Jr., Franklin D. Roosevelt and Thomas Jefferson; photo op at White House
 - Guided tour of Lincoln, Korean War and Vietnam Veterans memorials; guided tour of Arlington National Cemetery; lunch at the Kennedy Center; dinner performance of "Grease" at Toby's Dinner Theatre in Columbia, Md.
 - All-States assembly; tour Smithsonian Institution museums; U.S. Archives; dinner in Old Town Alexandria, Va.; cruise on Potomac River
 - Tour Supreme Court, Newseum and Washington National Cathedral; Sunset Parade at U.S. Marine Corps War Memorial (Iwo Jima statue)
 - Meet with Georgia's congressional delegation; tour U.S. Capitol and visit House and Senate galleries; All-States farewell event
 - **June 20:** Return flight to Atlanta
- Note: Itinerary subject to change*

Contact Amicalola EMC for information about the Washington Youth Tour!



Front row, second from left, Amicalola EMC (AEMC) delegates Isabella Brown and Lexi Tucker, and other delegates from Georgia's 9th Congressional District, meet U.S. Rep. Doug Collins. Back row, third from right, Cody Byess, AEMC delegate.

DANIEL PECK STUDIO

Washington Youth Tour delegates wear Georgia Grown pride on their sleeves

The term "Georgia Grown" usually brings to mind something edible, perhaps peanuts, peaches or pecans. But it also refers to apparel, including Georgia Grown T-shirts, which were highly visible in the nation's capital last June during the annual Washington Youth Tour (WYT).

"We thought it would be special for our students to not just wear a shirt with our Georgia logo on it but to actually have that shirt be a product made of Georgia cotton—'grown and sewn' in Georgia and printed in Georgia too," says Georgia EMC's Gale Cutler, Senior WYT Director. Delegates on the 2019 Washington Youth Tour will wear the shirts as well, Cutler adds.

The state's more than 100 delegates wear the Georgia Grown shirts on the day of the All-States gathering, when students representing electric cooperatives from across the country have an opportunity to exchange views and pins and learn about one another. Other states' delegates also wear their state shirts that day.

Under the Georgia Grown logo on the sleeve is the phrase "Our dirt grew this shirt." The cotton for the shirts is grown in South Georgia and ginned at Osceola Cotton Co. in Irwin County. The finished product is produced at Platinum Sportswear's plant in Wilkes County.

Agriculture Commissioner Gary Black sees the shirts as an avenue to get out the message about Georgia agriculture. "It's far more than a one-shot promotion," he says. "I firmly believe it's a business opportunity."

Versions of the shirts are available for sale at the Georgia Grown store on georgiagrown.com. Georgia Grown, a marketing and economic development program of the Georgia Department of Agriculture, partnered with local screen printers, including the Georgia Industries for the Blind, to complete the design process.



From left, Eli Weatheryby, AEMC delegate, meets with U.S. Rep. Barry Loudermilk and other delegates from Georgia's 11th Congressional District.

DANIEL PECK STUDIO

Portable generator safety

Winter usually finds us preparing for severe weather. Portable electric generators provide a good source of power, but if not installed or operated properly, can become deadly. Here are some precautions for safe generator use:

- Contact the power company to disconnect power for a safe installation. **Never** cut the meter seal yourself.
- Contact a licensed electrician to install your generator and make sure an approved transfer switch is installed. Approved transfer switches will allow your home to operate without any chance of electricity back-feeding onto the power lines where lineworkers could be seriously injured or killed. Remember it is illegal to have a generator connected to your home without an approved transfer switch. **Do not connect generators directly to household wiring. Power from generators can back-feed along power lines**

and electrocute anyone coming in contact with them, including lineworkers making repairs.

- Make sure your generator is properly grounded.
- Keep the generator dry.
- Make sure extension cords used with generators are rated for the load and are free of cuts and worn insulation and have three-pronged plugs.
- Do not overload the generator. A portable generator should be used only when necessary, and only to power essential equipment or appliances.
- Never operate the generator in enclosed or partially enclosed spaces. Generators can produce high levels of carbon monoxide very quickly, which can be deadly.
- Use a ground-fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) to help prevent electrocutions and electrical shock injuries.
- Make sure fuel for the generator is stored safely, away from living



areas, in properly labeled containers, and away from fuel-burning appliances. Before refueling, always turn the generator off and let it cool down.

- Turn off all appliances powered by the generator before shutting down the generator.
- Keep children away from portable generators at all times.

A generator can help you weather some unexpected power outages, but use it carefully and do *your* part to keep *others* safe. For much more on electrical safety visit the Electrical Safety Foundation International website at www.esfi.org.

Now accepting scholarship and Washington Youth Tour applications!



Deadline to apply is Jan. 31, 2019

High school seniors may now apply for the 2019 Amicalola EMC Scholarship. Applications will be accepted online at amicalolaemc.com/my-community/amicalola-emc-scholarships. Winners will be determined based upon weighted GPA, SAT (verbal + math) or ACT (composite) scores and financial need.



High school juniors may apply for the 2019 Washington Youth Tour, to be held June 13-20, 2019. Applications will be accepted online at amicalolaemc.com/my-community/washington-youth-tour. Winners will be chosen, in part, based upon letters of recommendation and personal interviews.

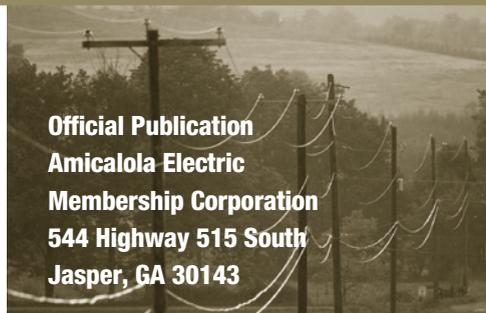
The deadline to enter both programs is Jan. 31, 2019. For more information, contact Stacey Fields, Director of Public Relations, 706-253-5287 or staceyf@amicalolaemc.com.

Twenty years of rounding up— \$2.3 million in donations

January 2019 marks the 20th anniversary of Amicalola EMC's participation in the Operation Round Up program. Through the generosity of its members, Amicalola EMC has donated more than \$2.3 million to qualifying individuals and 501(c)(3) charities in our service area.

The donations provide basic necessities such as food, shelter, clothing, health needs and education to individuals both directly, and indirectly, through area nonprofits.

We are proud of the success of the Operation Round Up program and proud of what we've been able to do for our local communities.



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

Todd Payne, *President/CEO*

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- (1) mail:**
 U.S. Department of Agriculture
 Office of the Assistant Secretary
 for Civil Rights
 1400 Independence Avenue, SW
 Washington, DC 20250-9410;
- (2) fax:** (202) 690-7442; or
- (3) email:** program.intake@usda.gov.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

TELEPHONE NUMBERS TO CALL IN CASE OF POWER INTERRUPTIONS:

Outage Hotlines

- 706-253-0359
- 706-276-0359
- 706-864-0359

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