

# BEACON



Amicalola Electric  
Membership Corporation

"Owned By Those We Serve"

Vol 69 | Issue 4 | JULY 2019



## Office Closing

Our offices will be closed on Thursday, July 4, in observance of Independence Day.

## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



When it's warm out, avoid using the oven. Try cooking on the stove, using the microwave or grilling outside instead.

—Source: *energy.gov*

## Comments from the CEO

### Rural broadband legislation passes in Georgia



Todd Payne  
President/CEO  
Amicalola EMC

Senate Bill 2 was signed into law on April 26. This law empowers electric membership corporations (EMCs) in Georgia to evaluate how we might contribute to the expansion of broadband services in our service area. Amicalola EMC is grateful for the leadership of Gov. Kemp, state Sen. Steve Gooch (R-Dahlonega), state Rep. Jay Powell (R-Camilla), and their colleagues in the General Assembly, as this legislation is one more important step toward bridging the digital divide in many parts of rural Georgia.

Limited access to broadband services has put parts of rural Georgia at a tremendous disadvantage; having access will give these disadvantaged areas greater access to educational systems, new employment opportunities and an improved quality of life.

It is important to note, this new law prevents any EMC from subsidizing broadband services through the sale of electricity. This underscores the fact that any decision to move forward with broadband services or partnerships must be supported by a strong business plan

and be able to stand on its own.

The next step for Amicalola EMC is to evaluate the options and multitude of challenges in deciding how we can best support greater

access to broadband in our communities. EMCs are known for careful planning to provide reliable, safe and affordable electricity for rural service areas. The same due diligence will be required in determining our role in helping our communities gain greater access to broadband services. We ask for your patience as we begin this process.



# 2019 NRECA Legislative Conference

Co-op leaders from across the nation gathered in Washington, D.C., during the 2019 National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) Legislative Conference held April 29-May 1. Representing

Amicalola EMC were Todd Payne, CEO, and board members David Pierce (Post #2, Fannin/Gilmer counties) and John Bennett Jr., Vice-Chairman (Post #6, Cherokee/Bartow counties). While in D.C., they met with U.S. Rep.

Doug Collins (R-GA), of Georgia's 9th District, Ranking Member of the U.S. House Judiciary Committee.

During the legislative conference, key topics of discussion included NRECA's push for an infrastructure bill to go beyond roads and bridges to include expanded broadband service in rural areas and improvements in the electric grid to make it more reliable and resilient.

Congressional leaders of both parties urged electric cooperatives to continue to be a strong, bipartisan voice on these issues.



**Amicalola EMC board Vice Chairman John H. Bennett Jr. (far left), with U.S. Rep. Doug Collins (R-GA) (center), Amicalola EMC Board Member David Pierce (to the left of Collins) and Todd Payne, CEO of Amicalola EMC (far right), are shown here with other members of the Georgia delegation.**

## Save energy and money this summer

**W**ant to save energy and money? Here are a few tips to help you save on energy bills this summer:

- Set your thermostat as high as comfortably possible. The smaller the difference between the indoor and outdoor temperatures, the lower your cooling costs will be. The Department of Energy recommends setting your thermostat to 78 F when you're home and a



higher setting for when you're away.

- Use ceiling fans wisely; living room and kitchen during the day; bedrooms at night.
- Close window coverings, like curtains and blinds, during the day to block sunlight.
- Use caulk and weather stripping to seal air leaks around doors and windows.



Visit [www.amicalolaemc.com](http://www.amicalolaemc.com) and click on the Home Energy Suite for more energy-saving information. Using interactive tools, you can perform energy-saving scenarios to pinpoint savings opportunities.

If you have questions about your energy use or would like to schedule a home energy audit, at no cost to you, give us a call or stop by our office.

# Bright Ideas is back!

Georgia certified teachers at elementary, middle, high schools and private schools in the Amicalola EMC service area are eligible to apply. All funding is provided with unclaimed property in accordance with O.C.G.A. §44-12-236. For more information on Bright Ideas, scan the QR code (below at right) with your smartphone.



## Bright Ideas 2019 Timeline

- Aug. 1** ..... Begin accepting applications—online only
- Aug. 30** ..... Early bird deadline (for a chance to win a gift card)
- Sept. 6** ..... Final deadline to apply

All grants awarded in October



Andrea Ingham, of Clayton Elementary, gets a big surprise as Director Travis Cline (Post 5, Cherokee County) presents her with \$800 for a classroom project.

For more information on Bright Ideas, scan this QR code with your smartphone.



# Operation Round Up awards \$20,367 in April

## April 2019 donations

- Angels on Horseback
- Cherokee Outdoor YMCA
- City of Ellijay Fire Department
- Gilmer Learning Center
- Good Samaritan Health & Wellness Center
- MUST Ministries Inc.
- North Georgia Community Action Center—Gilmer and Pickens Senior centers
- Sleep in Heavenly Peace
- St. Vincent de Paul—Good Samaritan Conference
- Tiny Stitches Inc.
- Individuals received donations for mortgage payment assistance, rent, propane, food, clothing and medical needs.



North Georgia Community Action received Operation Round Up funds for the Gilmer Senior Center (Stephanie Fink, Site Manager, left) and the Pickens Senior Center (Kimberly Bolt, Site Manager, right).

## August 31, 2019, last day to claim refunds issued in 2013



**A**micalola EMC is attempting to locate former members whose capital credit refunds were issued in 2013 (for electric service received in 1992), but have remained unclaimed. A list of unclaimed capital credit refunds is now available for review. You may access it at [www.amicalolaemc.com](http://www.amicalolaemc.com), by clicking on the Capital Credits tab on the homepage, or by stopping by any local Amicalola EMC office.

After a mandatory waiting period, any unclaimed capital credit refunds are distributed in accordance with Georgia's unclaimed property laws O.C.G.A. §44-12-236. The last day to claim these funds is Aug. 31, 2019.

**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

## Avoid the big green box

**P**lease stay away from pad-mounted transformers (the big green box). While safe, they are not meant for touching, climbing or playing. Pad-mounted transformers carry high voltages of electricity that serve many homes in our communities.

**Never touch, climb or play on pad-mounted transformers. Never put fingers, sticks or other objects through cracks in the transformer.**

**Keep areas surrounding the pad-mounted transformer clear so that workers can safely maintain transformers as needed. Keep shrubs and structures at least 10 feet away from the transformer doors and 4 feet away from the sides.**

**Never dig near a pad-mounted transformer. They are surrounded by underground cables. Hitting the cable could result in electrical shock or disruption of service. Always dial 8-1-1 before you dig.**

**Report problems. If you notice anything amiss, like an unlocked transformer or one that has been damaged, please contact Amicalola EMC immediately.**

AMERICA'S ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES

### 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](http://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

