

# BEACON



Amicalola Electric  
Membership Corporation

"Owned By Those We Serve"

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## Comments from the CEO

### Stay in the know

**A**t Amicalola EMC, we are constantly striving to improve our operational efficiency so we can provide the most reliable electric service possible for our consumer-members (that's you!).

We rely on data for nearly every aspect of our operations, which is why we need your help. By making sure we have your most accurate and complete contact information, we can continue to provide the high level of service that you expect and deserve. Accurate information enables us to improve customer service and enhance communications for reporting and repairing outages. It also allows co-op members to receive information about other important programs, events and activities.

Up-to-date contact information



can potentially speed up the power restoration process during an outage. For example, the phone number you provide is linked to your service

address in our outage management system. This means when you call to report an outage, our system recognizes your phone number and matches it with your account location. Accurate information helps our outage management system predict the location and possible cause of an outage, making it easier for our crews to correct the problem.

Keeping the co-op updated with your information also helps us when there's a question about energy use or billing. Accurate account information allows us to notify members of changes in co-op event details. In addition, discrepancies on your account can be taken care of promptly,

if Amicalola EMC has accurate account information.

Many of you have been members of the co-op for years, and it's likely that your account information hasn't been updated for some time. We recognize that many members now use a cellphone as their primary phone service, and we might not have that number in our system.

I want to emphasize that in providing your contact information to the co-op, we will never share this information with any third parties. It is only used by us to send important information to you. Please take a moment to confirm or update your contact information by calling 706-253-5200 or your local Amicalola EMC office. By doing so, you will be helping us improve service and efficiency so we can better serve you.



Todd Payne  
President/CEO  
Amicalola EMC



80 years of lighting the  
way for rural north Georgia



In June 1952, Amicalola EMC moved from a rented office space in downtown Jasper to the first facility owned by the cooperative, located on Burnt Mountain Highway. This facility would be home to Amicalola EMC for the next 32 years.

# Are you rounding up?

**A**micalola EMC's Operation Round Up only costs an average of \$6 a year and can never be more than 99 cents a month. Just pennies a day, it's one of the lowest-cost charitable options there is, yet it has a far-reaching, positive effect. Where does the money go? It stays right here in our local communities—every penny. There are literally hundreds of local nonprofits that receive Operation Round Up funds, and volunteer-run community clinics are just one of the many groups that benefit from your generosity.

## Good Samaritan Health and Wellness Center – Jasper, Ga.

Operation Round Up donations: **\$46,830** – The Good Samaritan Health and Wellness Center is a not-for-profit community health center. It was started in 2002 to provide health services to Pickens County and surrounding area residents, regardless of ability to pay or insurance status. Their mission is to provide the medically underserved in the community with compassionate and individualized health care and related services, in an atmosphere of respect and dignity. The center has treated over 10,000 patients and has 100 volunteers. For more information, visit <http://www.goodsamhwc.org>.

**Tammi Sorrells,**  
Executive  
Director of  
Good Samaritan  
Health and  
Wellness Center  
in Jasper.



## Good Shepherd Clinic of Dawson County – Dawsonville, Ga.

Operation Round Up donations: **\$8,500** – The Good Shepherd Clinic of Dawson County strives to make Dawson County a better place by providing health care for those who have none. The Good Shepherd Clinic was the vision of the late Dr. Mark Weaver. In September 2009, the clinic opened its doors in the basement of Grace Presbyterian Church in Dawsonville. In 2010, the clinic lost its visionary, but his vision lives on. An expanded board of directors, drawing on talented volunteers from within the community, has helped lead the clinic to its current status as a vitally important part of the commu-

nity. The clinic is now located at 200 Dawson Commons Circle, Suite 200, Dawsonville, and offers general medical care, basic dental care and much more. For more information, visit <http://www.goodshepherdawsonco.org>.



## Community Helping Place – Dahlonega, Ga.

Operation Round Up donations: **\$8,750** – Community Helping Place (CHP) is the largest outreach program in Lumpkin County. Programs and services include a free medical and dental clinic, emergency financial assistance and referral support services. The services are made possible by the donations of individuals, businesses, churches and civic groups. CHP has approximately 180 volunteers who donate their time to help meet the needs of others in the community. For more information, visit <https://communityhelpingplace.org>.

Amicalola EMC members are fortunate to have several volunteer-run community clinics who provide low- or no-cost medical service to residents in our service area. Won't you join our efforts? Call 706-253-5200 or your local Amicalola EMC office to join.

## Process for electing directors

**M**embers of Amicalola Electric Membership Corporation (AEMC) are reminded that nominations for the AEMC Board of Directors will be posted July 5, 2020. The Nominating Committee's recommendations for the board will be posted on the bulletin board at the main office in Jasper, Georgia, 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 5, 2020) 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. 4, 2020) 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."

# Electric Co-op Members Can Take Steps to Fight Fraud

BY DERRILL HOLLY

**O**ur increasingly connected world is giving scammers more opportunities to connect with unsuspecting consumers, and local authorities, utilities and other businesses are working overtime to keep people informed. They suggest that the adage “If you see (or hear) something, say something” can help prevent you, your family or your business from being victimized.

“The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) has been hearing about scammers impersonating utility companies in an effort to get your money,” says Lisa Lake, a federal consumer education specialist for the FTC. “Your reports help us fight these scams.”

Electric cooperatives are among the businesses and consumer organizations supporting Utilities United Against Scams (UUAS). The international consortium of electricity, natural gas, water and sewer providers and their industry associations is sharing information about payment scams, identity theft, and sales and service schemes.

Impostor scams are the most common type of fraud reported to the Federal Trade Commission, according to UUAS officials. Impersonators call homes and small businesses to demand payment for supposedly delinquent bills and threaten to terminate service.

The frequency of the calls picks up during peak heating and cooling seasons, in part because consumers are most concerned when temperature extremes increase the urgency of maintaining utility service.

Variations on the scam are becoming more common. Some scammers now claim an overpayment is the reason for their telephone call to a consumer. They make contact in an attempt to get banking information so they can “process a refund.”



*Variations on the impostor scam are becoming more common. Some scammers now claim an overpayment is the reason for their telephone call to a consumer.*

“Never give banking information over the phone unless you place the call to a number you know is legitimate,” Lake says.

There has also been an uptick in door-to-door scams by people claiming to represent utility providers, such as Amicalola EMC.

Representatives knock or ring the doorbell and offer to replace or repair a meter or other device, or they solicit personal information to sign up consumers for programs that supposedly could reduce their energy bills.

They may try to charge you for the phony service, sell you unnecessary products, collect personal information for use in identity theft or simply gain entry to steal valuables, officials say.

High-pressure demands are a common tactic in many schemes. Urging immediate decisions or actions—such as immediate payment, particularly by a gift card, wire transfer, cellphone or third-party computer app—should raise serious concerns.

Utility-connected scams are common because utility services are essential. Lighting, heating,

water and sewage services are all part of modern living, so any threat of service disconnections can cause a lot of anxiety.

Your first defense is personal awareness of your account status, including knowing whether balances are up-to-date. This is becoming more important as scammers increasingly use automatic dialers or robocalls to seek potential marks.

“Even if the caller insists you have a past-due bill, that’s a big red flag,” Lake says. “Contact the utility company directly using the number on your paper bill or on the company’s website. Don’t call any number the caller gave you.”

*Derrill Holly writes about consumer and cooperative affairs for the Arlington, Va.-based National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the national trade association representing more than 900 local electric cooperatives.*

# Are we holding your money?

## Six months left to claim capital credit refunds

**A**ug. 31, 2020, marks the deadline to claim capital credit refunds from the years 1993 and 1994. If you had electric service with Amicalola EMC during 1993 and/or 1994, we may have a refund waiting for you. The list of names can be found at [www.amicalolaemc.com](http://www.amicalolaemc.com) or in person at any local Amicalola EMC office.

After Aug. 31, 2020, unclaimed funds will be distributed for charitable purposes in accordance with O.C.G.A. § 44-12-236 of the Disposition of Unclaimed Property Act.



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**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](http://www.amicalolaemc.com)

#### Eastern District Office

150 Hwy. 52 W.  
 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



# Why contact Georgia 811?



## Contact 811 before you dig.

- **For Safety's Sake!** Hitting an underground utility line while digging can cause damage to the environment and/or serious personal injuries.
- **Convenience:** Failure to contact Georgia 811 can result in disrupted service to an entire neighborhood and potentially incur fines and repair costs.
- **It's free.** Georgia 811 exists to prevent utility and safety emergencies, and it's a free service!
- **It's the law.** Please visit the Georgia Public Service Commission's website at [psc.state.ga.us/](http://psc.state.ga.us/) for more information on Georgia's "Dig Law," the Georgia Facilities Protection Act.

