

# BEACON

 Amicalola Electric  
Membership Corporation

*"Owned By Those We Serve"*

Vol 74 | Issue 1 | JANUARY 2024

## Comments from the CEO

### The Washington Youth Tour was a huge success

**G**eorgia's 104 Washington Youth Tour (WYT) delegates were among nearly 2,000 students from across the country who visited Washington, D.C., last year for the annual Washington Youth Tour.

With 34 electric membership cooperatives (EMCs) in Georgia participating, the 2023 event held June 15-22 was the Youth Tour's 58th year in Georgia.

Once a year, high school students are selected by Georgia's EMCs to represent Georgia as delegates on the Youth Tour. This top-notch leadership experience and tour of Washington, D.C., includes meetings with state and national leaders, leadership training and visits to many major sites.

"It's the trip of a lifetime" says President/CEO Todd Payne of Amicalola EMC. "Students connect to form lifelong friendships, while touring our nation's



Todd Payne  
President/CEO  
Amicalola EMC

*Georgia's 2023 WYT delegates meet with U.S. Sen. Raphael Warnock (D-Ga.) on the Capitol steps.*

DOBY PHOTOGRAPHY

capital on an all-expenses paid trip."

During the 2023 trip, delegates visited many national memorials, including the National Mall, Lincoln Memorial, Smithsonian Institution and United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, and they participated in a wreath-laying ceremony at Arling-

ton National Cemetery's Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

"We are currently on the search for four special students to represent Amicalola EMC on the 2024 tour," adds Payne. Interested students may apply at [www.amicalolaemc.com](http://www.amicalolaemc.com), My Community, Youth Tour.



### 2024 Amicalola EMC Scholarship & Youth Tour Program

The deadline to apply for the 2024 Amicalola EMC Scholarship Program (for high school seniors) and the 2024 Washington Youth Tour (for juniors) is Jan. 31, 2024.

Students must live in an Amicalola EMC household to be eligible. To apply, go to [www.amicalolaemc.com](http://www.amicalolaemc.com) > My Community and choose either Scholarships or Youth Tour. For more information, please call Stacey Fields at 706-253-5287.

The 2024 Washington Youth Tour is scheduled for June 14-21. This all-expenses-paid, eight-day event will feature visits to and tours of some of the United States' most iconic and historic venues, such as George Washington's Mount Vernon, Arlington National Cemetery and the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.

# We belong to the communities we serve

**Y**ou may not be aware, but we are a cooperative and have a different business model than other companies. You see, Amicalola EMC and all of Georgia's electric membership cooperatives (EMCs) are member-owned, not-for-profit utilities. Furthermore, Georgia's EMCs serve approximately 4.4 million of Georgia's 10 million

residents and 73% of the state's land area. These EMCs employ more than 6,000 workers and operate the largest distribution network in the state, with 195,256 miles of electric power lines.

It's easy to forget the role you play in the cooperative, but we don't mind reminding you. At Amicalola EMC, our members are the driving force in

making our community a better place to live. From keeping the lights on to energy efficiency, and community outreach projects such as Operation Round Up, Bright Ideas teacher grants, scholarship programs and career development events, we depend on your support to make it all possible.

## Do we have your number?



**N**o one likes a power outage, but when they do occur, reporting it through our automated outage reporting system is the fastest way to get your information to us. Having your primary telephone number in our system means reporting it will go faster and smoother. By calling from the primary number listed on your Amicalola EMC account, the outage system will automatically identify your account.

Update your account information today, using one of the following:

- Use our member portal at [www.amicalolaemc.com](http://www.amicalolaemc.com), Account Log In (upper right), then sign in (or create an account).
- Call your local office at 706-253-5200, 706-276-5200 or 706-864-7979, and speak to a member service representative.
- Stop by any of our office locations.
- Email your information to [memberservice@amicalolaemc.com](mailto:memberservice@amicalolaemc.com). Be sure to include your account number for verification.

## Gilmer High School receives 2022-2023 GHSA Cooperative Spirit Sportsmanship Award

**A**micalola EMC congratulates Gilmer High School on being selected for the 7-AAA Georgia High School Association (GHSA) Cooperative Spirit Sportsmanship Award. This awards program, sponsored by Georgia's electric membership cooperatives, honors schools that exhibit exemplary sportsmanship during competitive events.

Introduced in 2006, the Cooperative Spirit Sportsmanship Award program reinforces GHSA's philosophy which states: "Student athletes, coaches, spectators and all others associated with high school activity programs should adhere to the fundamental values of respect, fairness, honesty and responsibility."

Congratulations to Gilmer High on earning this prestigious award!



From left, Gilmer High Principal Derek Bowen accepts GHSA Cooperative Spirit Award from Amicalola EMC Director of Public Relations Stacey Fields.

# Amicalola EMC Service Awards for 2023

## 5 YEARS

Kelly Buckner  
 Janie Carlan  
 Matthew Dixon  
 Devin Dunson  
 JD Paige  
 Brad Panter  
 Dalton Presley  
 Barry Satterfield  
 Keith Seabolt  
 Joshua Stover  
 Chad Thompson  
 Evan Watkins

## 10 YEARS

Ethan Chastain  
 Cody Robinson  
 Maxine Wade

## 20 YEARS

Burt Dotson  
 Clay Elrod  
 Eric Gray  
 Alan Holt  
 Joan Milton  
 Ronda Saine

## 25 YEARS

Kim Martin  
 Kathy Rochester

## 30 YEARS

Roger Fendley

## 35 YEARS

Dub Allen  
 Allen Hamrick  
 Lamar Logan  
 Kenneth Payne

## 40 YEARS

Todd Satterfield  
 James Watkins, Jr.

## 50 YEARS

Andy Holden

## Directors

### 20 YEARS

Travis Cline

### 30 YEARS

Reggie Stowers



Roger Fendley, 30 years



Kenneth Payne, 35 years



Todd Satterfield, 40 years



James Watkins, Jr., 40 years



Andy Holden, 50 years



**Directors earning service awards**  
 Travis Cline, 20 years



**Directors earning service awards**  
 Reggie Stowers, 30 years

## Are we holding your money?

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

To find out if you have an unclaimed refund, call 706-253-5200 or visit any Amicalola EMC office.



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

## Nondiscrimination statement

In accordance with federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, Amicalola Electric Membership Cooperative is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability and reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.)

Program information may be made available in languages other than English. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language) should contact the responsible state or local agency that administers the program or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339.

To file a program discrimination complaint, a complainant should complete a Form, AD-3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, which can be obtained online,

at [www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/usda-program-discrimination-complaint-form.pdf](http://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/usda-program-discrimination-complaint-form.pdf), from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant's name, address, telephone number and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of an alleged civil rights violation. The Completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted to USDA by:

**(1) mail:**

U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Office of the Assistant Secretary  
for Civil Rights  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;

**(2) fax:** (833) 256-1665 or  
(202) 690-7442;

**(3) email:** [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).

*Amicalola Electric Membership Corporation is an equal opportunity provider.*

## Portable generator safety

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 backfeeding 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 backfeed 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, 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](http://www.esfi.org).