

BEACON

Comments from the CEO

25 years of rounding up

We reached an important milestone earlier this year. January 2024 marked the 25th anniversary of Amicalola EMC's participation in Operation Round Up, a program that changes lives using your small change.

Created in 1989 by Palmetto Electric Cooperative in South Carolina's Lowcountry, the program rounds up a participating member's electric bill to the next whole dollar amount. The amount rounded up goes to Operation Round Up. Word spread of the pro-

gram's success, and before long, electric cooperatives all across the nation were starting their own Operation Round Up programs.

The contribution from the member cannot exceed 99 cents a month, and the average is about \$6 a year. But \$6 a year can add up when several members participate; in fact, it has added up to the tune of \$2.5 million donated by Amicalola EMC members in the past 25 years. Every penny



Todd Payne
President/CEO
Amicalola EMC

goes back out into the community because Amicalola EMC absorbs 100% of the administrative costs to run the program.

What is the money used for? The funds must be used for food, shelter, clothing, health needs, education or specialty needs, but cannot be used to pay electric bills. Grants are awarded quarterly to local nonprofits and qualifying individuals by a nine-member volunteer board made up of co-op members.

Hundreds of nonprofits and qualifying individuals have received assistance from Amicalola EMC's Operation Round Up throughout the years. It's a great success story and something we hope you will consider joining. There's no easier way to help so much by giving so little. #RealHeroesRoundUp.



Operation Round Up celebrates 25 years! Front row, from left: Lanier Swafford, Tim Ingram, Doug Caldwell and Edgar Land. Standing: Britt Massey, Tommy Allison, CEO Todd Payne, Lee Lowman, JoAnn Vick and Zack Cagle.



High winds and heavy rain cause widespread power outages

On the afternoon of Monday, Jan. 8, our service area experienced sustained high winds, at times reaching gusts of 40-50 mph. This lasted for about 18 hours, after which we experienced winds gusting up to 30-40 mph for several hours. Three to four inches of heavy rain also fell during this time.

As a result, over 11,000 members experienced power outages at 236 separate locations across our service area. Some of the outages only lasted a couple of minutes, after which our automated distribution equipment was able to restore power. Some of the outages lasted 10-20 minutes until they could be manually restored. Restoration on the remaining outages began immediately and the final member was restored by late Wednesday afternoon.

Nineteen broken poles were replaced during the restoration effort. In addition to Amicalola EMC crew members, we had PIKE Electric contract crews as well as EMC crews



A line crew from GreyStone Power was one of several from other electric co-ops that worked to restore power.

from North Georgia EMC, Blue Ridge Mountain EMC, Greystone Power and Carroll EMC.

There was an incredible outpouring of support for our employees

on social media. Our crews work in extremely challenging circumstances during these weather events, and it is heartwarming to see the support our members show them.

Creekview and Pickens High take top honors at EMC/FFA Area I North Region event

Congratulations to Creekview High School student Aaron Dickson (1st place) and Pickens High School student Wyatt Richards (2nd place) on their performances during the recent EMC/FFA Career Development Event held on Jan. 24 at the Amicalola EMC headquarters in Jasper.

The electrification contest, which is a program of the Georgia Department of Education's Agricultural Education division, was sponsored by Amicalola EMC. Both students will represent the North Region at the State Career Development Event, to be held at the FFA Camp in Covington in March.



Aaron Dickson, left, and Wyatt Richards take top honors at a recent EMC/FFA wiring event.

Operation Round Up

As a member of Amicalola EMC you, too, can be a real hero! How? When you join Operation Round Up, your electric bill will be rounded to the next dollar each month. From there, those cents are used to do good work in the community. It's that simple. The average co-op member donates approximately \$6 a year, but when more members participate, the money will begin to accrue and the opportunity to make a huge difference will increase. We are proud to offer the Operation Round Up program

because it adheres to one of the seven cooperative principles: "Concern for Community," and the power of community is what being an electric cooperative is all about.

To join Operation Round Up, call 706-253-5200 or visit our website at www.amicalolaemc.com/my-community/operation-round-up to access the sign-up form.

To apply for help through Operation Round Up, you may visit www.amicalolaemc.com/my-community/operation-round-up and complete the application that applies to you.



Process for electing directors

Members of Amicalola Electric Membership Corp. are reminded that nominations for the AEMC Board of Directors will be posted July 7, 2024. The Nominating Committee's recommendations for the board will be posted on the bulletin board at the main office in Jasper, Ga., 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 7, 2024) 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. 6, 2024) 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."

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



Lengthen the life of your clothes dryer with regular cleanings. Clean the lint filter after every load, which improves air circulation and safety. Check the lint trap opening to ensure it's clean. Use a vacuum to remove any lint that's fallen inside the opening.

If you use dryer sheets, check the lint filter for residue buildup. Remove any residue with hot water and a nylon brush or toothbrush. Over time, dryer sheets can leave a film on the filter, which can affect the performance of the motor.



UNCLAIMED CAPITAL CREDITS



Amicalola EMC is a not-for-profit electric cooperative; any excess revenues are returned to member-owners in the form of capital credits refunds. We are seeking to find members who have unclaimed capital credits on file. We would like to find a current address and refund these capital credits if possible. To determine if your name is on the list, please call 706-253-5200 during regular business hours or visit any Amicalola EMC office. **You will be required to provide proof of identity to claim ownership.**

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.

Don't Risk It!

Nearly two in five U.S. homeowners will put themselves and their communities at risk this year by digging without calling 811 beforehand.*

**CGA 2021 Omnibus Study*

Always contact 811 before digging to avoid service disruptions caused by damaging buried utilities

TIME TO SPRING FORWARD. ARE YOU READY?

SUNDAY, MARCH 10