

# BEACON



Amicalola Electric  
Membership Corporation

*"Owned By Those We Serve"*

Vol 70 | Issue 2 | JULY 2020

## Operation Round Up awards \$14,359 in April 2020



- The Academy at Double H Ranch
- ACES Youth Home
- Mountain Wisdom Inc.
- MUST Ministries Inc.
- North Georgia Community Action Agency
- The Unseen Hand Ministries

Individuals received donations for home repairs, water supply repairs, food, clothing, propane and medical bills.



## Office Closing

Our offices will be closed on Friday, July 3, in observance of Independence Day.

## Amicalola EMC lobby to reopen July 1

Beginning July 1, 2020, Amicalola EMC will reopen the lobby to the public at all three locations and normal business operations will resume.

## *Comments from the CEO*

## Congratulations to the Class of 2020



Todd Payne  
President/CEO  
Amicalola EMC

The novel coronavirus (COVID-19) took America by surprise, creeping in slowly at first, then bombarding certain areas of the country until they were almost overwhelmed. While Georgia's positive cases numbered into the thousands and kept climbing through April, thankfully the numbers then started a downward trend.

When the pandemic was declared, Amicalola EMC quickly put a business contingency plan in place. We were able to continue necessary business operations, while maintaining a healthy workforce. There were a few disappointments caused by the pandemic, however, and the cancellation of our annual youth awards banquet was among those.

Each year we host a large, very well-attended banquet where we honor approximately 140 high school students and their parents. While the banquet had to be cancelled, we would like to recognize this group of amazing, hardworking young men and women

(complete list on the next two pages). The Class of 2020 will likely never forget the events of the last few months. I'd like to encourage them to remember the lessons learned during the pandemic but not to be discouraged and never give up their pursuit for a bright and successful future.



Amicalola EMC would like to thank our members for their patience and understanding during the past few months. The necessity of closing our lobby was a first for the cooperative. I don't ever remember a time in our past when we had to restrict entry to our facility and limit interaction between our employees and the members we serve.

As we look ahead, I am hopeful that every business and household that was affected by the virus, financially and otherwise, will be able to move forward with confidence and reestablish a solid foothold. May our community heal quickly from the economic shortcomings and come back stronger than ever.

# Amicalola EMC awards \$137,000 in scholarships

We'd like to express our sincere congratulations to our 2020 scholarship winners. These students each earned a \$1,000 scholarship, which will be sent to the college of their choice this fall.



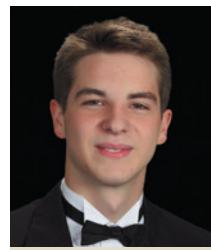
Savannah Anderson



Kaylie Beacham



Olivia Beck



Cole Black



Seth Bouldin



Brooklyn Bowen



Amber Bryant



Naomi Call



James Carlan



Elizabeth Chesser



Madison Cline



Malorie Cramer



Emily Dale



Claudia Espana



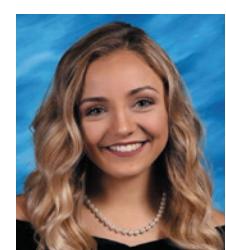
Heather Frady



Natalie Giddens



Nathan Hamilton



Rianna Henderson



Ariana Hofstetter



Colby James



Ashley Jimenez



Logan Joiner



Tate Keener



Millie Kerr



Shali King



Jenna Lecours



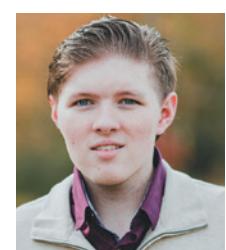
JaLynn Ledford



Carter Logan



Tatianna Lovell



Riley McCormick



Connor Mohon



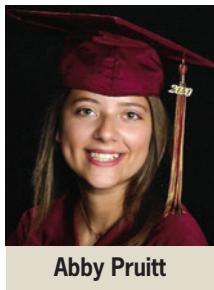
Emily O'Shields



Todd Allen Parks, Jr.



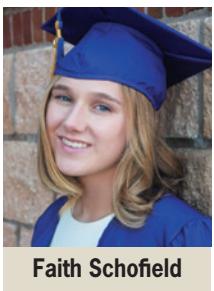
Camryn Prather



Abby Pruitt



Anna Saine



Faith Schofield



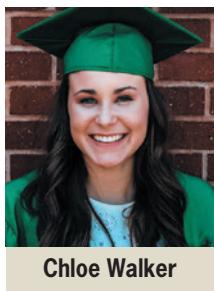
Sarah Sheahan



Mati Teague



Caleb Waddell



Chloe Walker



Jake Walker

## Scholarship winners not pictured

Matthew Corvacchioli  
 Isaac McWhirter  
 Kate Crittett  
 Lauren-Nicole Miles  
 Anna Cronan  
 Avery Mills  
 Charlotte Cunningham  
 Baylee Moore  
 Aisha Demidova  
 Luke Mrozek  
 Taylor Dobson  
 Willow Newell  
 Madeleine Noe  
 Adeline Fitts  
 Cameron Fowler  
 Braden Fowlkes  
 Josie Reece  
 Lauren Rider  
 Jorge Romero  
 Johnny Sanchez-Lopez  
 Chad Pacas  
 Peyton Schmidt  
 Kaitlyn Hamby  
 Levi Seabolt  
 Brighton Harder  
 Taylor Sellers  
 Sarah Holgate  
 Sabrina Tran  
 Abigail Franklin  
 Sierra Gerrells  
 Emilee Gonzales  
 Harris Taylor, III  
 Mollie Green  
 Seth Green  
 Madeleine Fitts  
 Kaitlyn Hamby  
 Brighton Harder  
 Sarah Holgate  
 Brytta Holloway  
 Joshua Hopkins  
 Anna Huller  
 Anna Huller  
 Sara Ingle  
 Chandler Ingram  
 Shannon Johnson  
 Nathan Jones  
 Weston Jordan  
 Zoe Kirk  
 Tucker Kirk  
 Madison Koch  
 Carter Lindsey  
 Katie Mallett  
 Benjamin McCaleb  
 Nathan McEntire  
 Faith McKee  
 Chloe McPherson  
 Mitchell McVay

Matthew Corvacchioli  
 Isaac McWhirter  
 Lauren-Nicole Miles  
 Avery Mills  
 Baylee Moore  
 Luke Mrozek  
 Willow Newell  
 Madeleine Noe  
 Adeline Fitts  
 Cameron Fowler  
 Braden Fowlkes  
 Josie Reece  
 Lauren Rider  
 Jorge Romero  
 Johnny Sanchez-Lopez  
 Peyton Schmidt  
 Levi Seabolt  
 Taylor Sellers  
 Ethan Sheriff  
 Tyler Simpson  
 BillieMarie Sullens  
 Rachel Swafford  
 Harris Taylor, III  
 Catarina Tercero Rafael  
 Joel Thornton  
 Sabrina Tran  
 Heather Trigg  
 Gabriela Valladares  
 Kayla Valle  
 Kristen Van  
 Gracie Mae Watkins  
 Matthew Webb  
 Baylee Whittemore  
 Kenneth Withrow  
 Aylah Wright  
 Tyler Wright  
 David Zhang

## 2020 Washington Youth Tour competition

Juniors receive \$5,000 in scholarships

*2020 tour cancelled due to coronavirus*

### Washington Youth Tour winners

Brent Becker  
EllijayBrooke Bell  
Talking RockJonah Wade  
DahlonegaStephen Weatherby  
Canton

The winning delegates of the 2020 tour will receive a \$750 scholarship and the opportunity to attend the tour in 2021. Runners-up in the Washington Youth Tour **Audra Farist** and **Kassy Redman**, of Ellijay, **Cora Gartrell**, of Jasper, and **Alyssa Ray**, of Ball Ground, will each receive a \$500 scholarship.

# Teachers! 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 this QR code with your smartphone.



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## Bright Ideas 2020 Timeline

- Aug. 3** ..... Begin accepting applications—online only  
**Aug. 31** ..... Early bird deadline (for a chance to win a gift card)  
**Sept. 4** ..... Final deadline to apply

All grants awarded in October



## Aug. 31, 2020, last day to claim refunds issued in 2014

Amicalola EMC is attempting to locate former members whose capital credit refunds were issued in 2014 (for electric service received in 1993 and 1994), 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 at 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, 2020.

## Amicalola EMC announces new RESP loan program

Amicalola EMC is proud to announce the Rural Energy Savings Program (RESP), a new loan program for qualified residential and commercial members. Created by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, RESP was established to help rural families and small businesses lower their energy use and thereby reduce their electric bills.

Qualified members can borrow up to \$10,000 at 2.5% interest and pay it back over seven years. The money can be used for projects such as lighting projects for small

businesses and poultry houses, to change out inefficient refrigeration equipment in small businesses such as grocery stores, or for residential heating and air-conditioning systems, just to name a few.

Certain credit criteria must be met and the borrower must be willing to sign a promissory note and a deed to secure debt. Payments on the loan are included with the monthly electric bill.

For more information on the RESP loan program, please call 706-253-5200.

## Edward E. Tucker to join Amicalola EMC Board of Directors

Amicalola EMC is pleased to announce the appointment of Edward Tucker, of Dahlonega, to the Board of Directors. He will represent Post #9, Lumpkin County.

Tucker was selected to fill the unexpired term of Leon Davis, who recently resigned due to health concerns. Davis was a distinguished member of the Board of Directors and served on the Amicalola EMC Board for 44 years. We truly appreciate his decades of dedication and service to the members of Amicalola EMC.