

BEACON

 Amicalola Electric
Membership Corporation

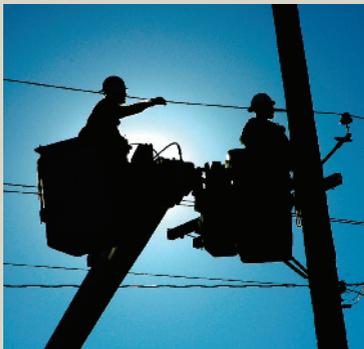
"Owned By Those We Serve"

Vol 62 | Issue 3 | June 2012

Electric co-ops cover the nation



Rural electric co-ops provide 42% of the nation's electric distribution lines. We're committed to providing safe, reliable and affordable power in the communities we serve.



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Comments from the CEO



Charles Gibson
President/CEO
Amicalola EMC

Cool off summer electric bills

Scorching temperatures and sky-high electric bills don't need to arrive hand in hand this summer. At Amicalola EMC, we provide you with safe and reliable electric service, but that's not all. We also give you the information you need to save energy, and keep electric bills affordable when the heat is on.



A powerful tool to cool off your electric bill is our HomeEnergy Suite™ available at www.amicalolaemc.com. This link from our home page offers multiple interactive applications focusing on one thing: saving you money. Our **HomeEnergyCalculator** will provide you with estimates of energy costs based on information you enter. You can pinpoint specific opportunities for savings, based upon different scenarios. It's free and will take less than 10 minutes to complete.

How much does it really cost to use the appliances in your home? Our **Appliance Calculator** is a quick way to find out what your home's appliances cost to operate.

Want to compare the purchase price and operating costs of compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) vs. traditional

incandescent bulbs? Use our **Lighting Calculator** for fast and simple answers. You might be surprised to learn how much co-op members just like you can save by making small, energy-related changes at home.

We want to help you reach your energy-saving goals. So go ahead: flip a switch, lower the blinds, raise the temperature on your thermostat and visit our website at www.amicalolaemc.com to find out how little changes can cool off your electric bill.





Community Spotlight

Amicalola EMC gives back to community in a big way

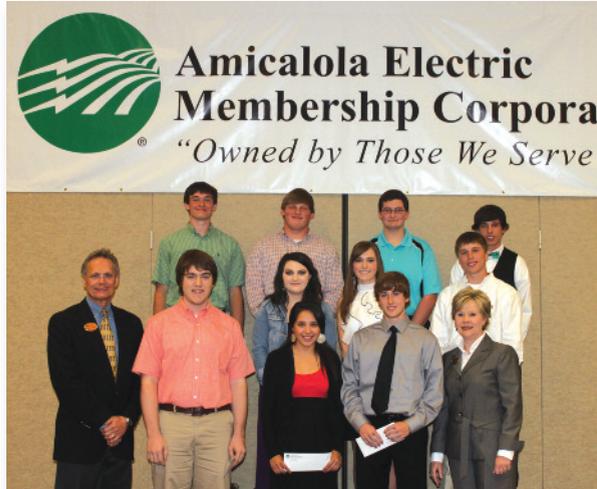
80 college scholarships totaling \$77,000 awarded

Three Washington Youth Tour delegates announced

Smiling faces were easy to find at the annual Youth Awards Banquet, held on March 29. CEO Charles Gibson and the board of directors awarded \$77,000 in scholarships to 80 students from Cherokee, Dawson, Gilmer, Gordon, Lumpkin and Pickens counties. All scholarships are being funded using unclaimed property, in accordance with O.C.G.A. 44-12-236.

High school juniors and seniors attended the banquet along with their parents, school administrators, the Amicalola EMC board of directors and staff members.

Jared D. Jones and Gabriela Pantoja, of Gilmer High School, and Austin Satterfield, of Cherokee High School, were named 2012 Washington Youth Tour delegates.



2012 Washington Youth Tour finalists (and their county of residence): Back row, from left: Camron Chester, Dawson; Harley Vaughan, Dawson; Bryson LaPrairie, Gilmer; Justin Fellenbaum, Pickens. Middle row: Kaitlyn Poole, Pickens; Emily Pankey, Gilmer; and David Chester, Dawson. (Not shown Hunter Lee Wehunt, Dawson.) Front row: President/CEO Charles Gibson, left, shown with 2012 Washington Youth Tour winners, from left, Jared D. Jones and Gabriela Pantoja, both of Gilmer High School, and Austin Satterfield, of Cherokee High School, with Director of Public Relations Stacey Fields.

In June, they will join 1,400 other students from across the nation in Washington, D.C., for the annual NRECA Washington Youth Tour, a week-long leadership experience. Amicalola EMC continues to

support our youth, our schools and our communities. We're extremely proud of the accomplishments of these high school students and wish them every success as they continue their education.



2012 Amicalola EMC scholarship winners shown with Stacey Fields, Director of Public Relations, standing, far left; Amicalola EMC Board members, seated left to right: Reggie Stowers; David Pierce; Travis Cline; Randall Ponder, Secretary-Treasurer; John Bennett, Vice Chairman; Charles Fendley, Chairman; Kathy Burt; James Bryan; Attorney Phil Landrum III; and Leon Davis. Charles Gibson, President/CEO, is standing at far right.

Teachers, get ready!

BRIGHT IDEAS is back!

Amicalola EMC's BRIGHT IDEAS grant program is gearing up for another big year. The competition, designed to reward classroom teachers who provide a creative learning experience for students, will kick off in August.

Teachers at elementary, middle, high schools and private schools in the Amicalola EMC service area are eligible to enter. The early bird deadline is August 31, and the final deadline is September 14. BRIGHT IDEAS is funded using unclaimed property in accordance with O.C.G.A. 44-12-236.



Lumpkin County Elementary teacher Ronna Anderson with student, Grace King. Grace's idea for a school newspaper prompted Ms. Anderson to apply for and win a BRIGHT IDEAS grant for \$725.



Clear Creek Middle School Principal Jason Kouns and Asst. Principal Doris Sanford proudly accept BRIGHT IDEAS grants for Lea McMillan's, "Teaching Sign Language" (\$800), and Jessica Nohner's, "Project Improv" (\$700). Project Improv is an online learning tool for music.

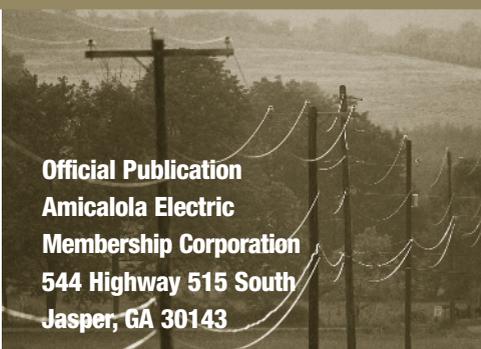
Complete program details, applications and more winning photos from last year are available at www.amicalolaemc.com.



Pickens High teacher John Tatum accepts a BRIGHT IDEAS grant for \$1,000 from President/CEO Charles Gibson. Using his project, "Bike Power Generator," students pedal a bike to generate electricity to light up different wattage light bulbs.



Amicalola EMC Director John Bennett, Vice Chairman, left, and Director Travis Cline, right, present a \$750 BRIGHT IDEAS grant to a very surprised Kathy Smart, Cherokee High School science teacher. Her project is "A Secret World Revealed." Students use a polarizing microscope to view thin slivers of rock or mineral under a transmitted light to reveal an entire new world in beautiful, distinctive color.



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**TELEPHONE NUMBERS TO CALL IN
 CASE OF POWER INTERRUPTIONS:**

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706-253-0359
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 Closed on Saturday, Sunday, and holidays

Beacon Editor:

Stacey Godfrey Fields, CCC

Give your electric bill a vacation when you're on vacation

Going on vacation? Even if you plan to be away just a few days, you can save energy in your home when you travel. Here are some tips that can give your electric bill a break while you're away.

Water heater. Turn down the temperature, so it doesn't keep the water warm while you are away. Or, call our energy advisor at 706-253-5200 to discuss turning off the water heater.

Thermostat. Turn the thermostat up on your AC, but not off. That way, you'll save energy while

ensuring that your home doesn't get too warm.

Refrigerator. Depending on food stored in your fridge, you may be able to turn the thermostat as high as 38 degrees without risking spoilage. Storing water-filled bottles in your refrigerator can prevent temperature fluctuations, which will save energy. Food in the freezer compartment will stay frozen if the temperature remains at minus 5 degrees.

Lights. Turn off all lights in your home. You may want to install timers on one or two lights for security.

Electronics. Unless you're recording something while away, unplug all of your electronic devices—computer, monitor and printer, TV and cable boxes, DVD player, microwave and digital clocks. Any electronics with digital displays, instant-on features or remote controls will consume



energy even if they're not in use.

Give your electric bill a vacation. For more tips on how to save energy—and money—visit www.energysavers.gov.



Are we holding your money? Three months left to claim capital credit refunds



Sept. 1, 2012, marks the deadline to claim capital credit refunds from the period 1981-1985. If you had electric service with Amicalola EMC during these years, we may have a check waiting for you. The list of names can be found at www.amicalolaemc.com or in person at any local Amicalola EMC office.

After Sept. 1, 2012, unclaimed funds will be distributed for charitable purposes in accordance with Georgia unclaimed property laws.