

BEACON



Amicalola Electric
Membership Corporation

"Owned By Those We Serve"

Vol 62 | Issue 4 | December 2012

Merry Christmas! Holiday closings:

The offices of Amicalola EMC will be closed Dec. 24 and 25, in observance of Christmas, and Jan. 1, 2013, in observance of New Year's Day.



IN THIS ISSUE:

- CEO's message20A
- Community spotlight20B
- Annual meeting wrap-up20C
- Washington Youth Tour20D

Comments from the CEO

Supporting our youngest members



Charles Gibson
President/CEO
Amicalola EMC

At Amicalola EMC, we provide more than just safe, reliable and affordable electricity. As this year comes to an end, it's important to look back and identify the value-added services we provide to you, our members, such as home energy audits, water heater maintenance and convenient billing options. Our website now features an interactive outage map with real-time outage information. We also provide value-added benefits for a much younger audience: students.

It's essential that we support our youngest members, not only to enrich their lives, but also to instill in them the importance of cooperative membership. After all, these young members may one day become the co-op leaders in our community.

The cover of this issue of *GEORGIA Magazine* features our 2012 Washington Youth Tour delegates. Each year, high school juniors in our service area have the opportunity to enter the annual Washington Youth Tour competition. High school seniors who plan to go to college may apply for scholarships. Details on both of these opportunities for 2013 may be found on page 20D of this issue.

Our BRIGHT IDEAS education

grant program for teachers gives hundreds of students a creative and innovative learning experience. Teachers may apply for classroom grants to help bring the classroom experience "out of the book."

Our website features an interactive Kids Korner, containing everything from energy-themed games to teacher lesson plans. Kids Korner creates a child-friendly environment to facilitate energy education.

We know that our young members are the leaders of tomorrow. We will continue to reach out to our youth and make a positive impact in the communities we serve.

Looking ahead to our 2013 "Beacon" newsletters, we will be featuring some of our local businesses that bring unique or special services to our communities. Watch for the upcoming "Beacon" issues to find out more. On behalf of the staff and board of directors, I would like to wish each of you a Merry Christmas and a joyous holiday season. We are looking ahead to 2013 with the hope of renewed prosperity for our members, our communities and our nation.



Community Spotlight

Amicalola EMC provides financial support to local communities

When House Bill 431 passed the Georgia General Assembly in 2005, it was clear that the communities served by Amicalola EMC would see financial benefits down the road. It was not clear just how substantial those benefits would become.

Prior to the legislative change, unclaimed property was turned over to the state. The legislative change allows Amicalola EMC to use unclaimed property locally. In accordance with O.C.G.A. 44-12-236, the unclaimed property may be used for three approved purposes: education, economic development and certain 501(c)(3) charities.

In 2012 alone, Amicalola EMC donated

Continued on page 20C



Amicalola EMC Operation Round Up® Board – \$40,000



The Clayton Elementary School PTA – \$45,000



Dawson County and Lumpkin County recipients



Ann Long, Tate Elementary School teacher – \$808



Gilmer County Commissioners – \$45,000

Community support, *Continued from page 20B*

\$474,790.37 locally. The 2012 list of recipients includes 80 area high school juniors and seniors, who received scholarships; 70 Georgia certified teachers through the BRIGHT IDEAS teacher grant program; and 42 area volunteer fire departments. Large donations were made to area food pantries, Clayton Elementary School, Reinhardt College and Friends of Amicalola Falls State Park. Much-needed funds were also presented to the

Operation Round Up® program, the philanthropic arm of Amicalola EMC, which provides funds to needy individuals and charitable organizations for food, shelter, clothing, health needs, education and specialty needs.

Amicalola EMC does far more than provide safe, affordable and reliable electricity. The Amicalola EMC board of directors is using this unique opportunity to put thousands of dollars back into our local communities.

Annual meeting wrap-up

The 71st annual meeting of the membership was held Saturday, Oct. 6, with approximately 375 members and guests in attendance. The crowd enjoyed entertainment by The Principles and were treated to ice cream, popcorn, soft drinks and locally grown Ellijay apples.

Directors Travis Cline, Post 5, Cherokee County; David J. Pierce, Post 2, Fannin and Gilmer counties; and Reggie Stowers, Post 8, Dawson and Lumpkin counties, were re-elected by acclamation.

All members took home tote bags with insulated coffee mugs, CFL bulbs and other gifts. Eighty members won door prizes, including grand prizes of a \$250 power bill

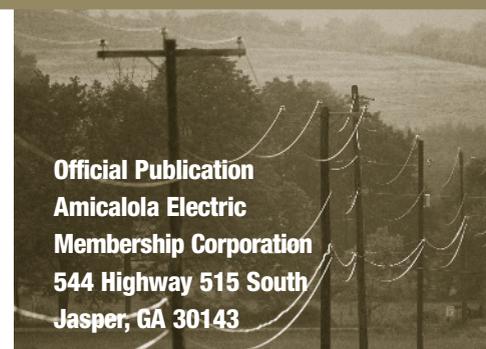


Johnny Herndon, of Hinton, left, receives the prize of \$500 from President/CEO Charles Gibson.

credit, a 42-inch TV and \$500 cash, won by Johnny Herndon, of Hinton.



Amicalola EMC employees at the annual meeting



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On tour with tomorrow's leaders

The 2012 Washington Youth Tour

The trip lasted a week, but its impact will endure a lifetime. When 105 high school students, representing 38 Georgia electric membership cooperatives (EMCs), embarked on the 2012 Washington Youth Tour (WYT) June 14-21, not only did they join 1,500 other young leaders from 44 states, but they also became part of a tradition spanning nearly 50 years.

Kicking off the week with a tour of FDR's Little White House in Warm Springs, delegates then flew to the nation's capital, where they visited sites like the new Martin Luther King Jr. National Memorial, Mount Vernon, Smithsonian museums, Supreme Court and the Newseum. Other landmarks helped them connect with struggles from our country's past, as well as leaders who shaped history. Delegates recount being moved by tours of the Holocaust Museum and Arlington National Cemetery. They enjoyed once-in-a-lifetime experiences like participating in wreath-laying at the Tomb of the Unknowns and a cruise on the Potomac River.

Delegates picked up leadership lessons along the way, and they had the opportunity to meet Sens. Saxby Chambliss and Johnny Isakson and six U.S. House members from Georgia. By all accounts, the experience expanded delegates' horizons.

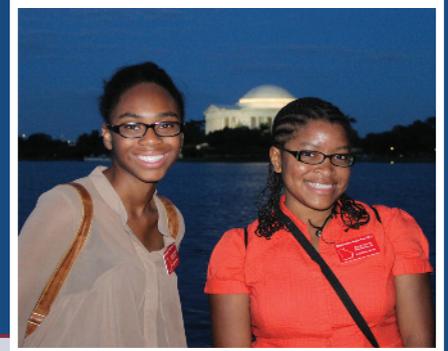
Prospective participants can learn more about the

Youth Tour program at www.youthtour.coop. Videos are posted at www.youtube.com/user/georgiaemcyouthtour.

From left: Gabby Pantoja and Jared Jones, of Ellijay, and Austin Satterfield, of Ball Ground, represented Amicalola EMC on the 2012 Washington Youth Tour.



LOUIS TONSMIERE / PHOTO ILLUSTRATION STEVE JACOBS



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DANIEL PECK STUDIOS

Top photo: From left, Jessica Hundly and Sarah Harris (both GreyStone Power delegates) pause near the Tidal Basin and the Jefferson Memorial during an evening tour.

Middle photo: Delegates stop beside a fountain in the Smithsonian National Gallery of Art Sculpture Garden.

Lower photo: U.S. Sen. Saxby Chambliss shares a laugh with delegates during their meeting on the steps of the Capitol.

Amicalola EMC is currently accepting applications for the 2013 Washington Youth Tour and 2013 AEMC/Walter Harrison Scholarship program. Deadline to enter is Jan. 31, 2013. Please contact Stacey Fields at 706-253-5287 for more information.