

# BEACON



Amicalola Electric  
Membership Corporation

"Owned By Those We Serve"

Vol 63 | Issue 2 | MAY 2013

## Never pay late fees again!

**B**ank drafts are available through Amicalola Electric Membership Corp. You have the convenience of paying electric bills automatically each month by either bank or credit card debit.

### Bank draft

Just notify your bank that we will be drafting your checking account each month for your electric bill; then complete the form (available at [www.amicalolaemc.com](http://www.amicalolaemc.com)), print and return it with your next bill payment. All future bills will be drafted until you request to be removed from the draft service.

### Credit card draft

We accept Visa, MasterCard and Discover credit cards. To sign up for the credit card draft program, simply complete the form (available at [www.amicalolaemc.com](http://www.amicalolaemc.com)), print and return it with your next bill payment. All future bills will be drafted until you request to be removed from the automatic service.

You may also pay your bill in person, by mail, or over the phone using our automated bill-paying system.

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## Comments from the CEO

### Commitment to safety May is Electrical Safety Month



Charles Gibson  
President/CEO  
Amicalola EMC

**A**micalola EMC provides electricity for your modern lifestyle in a safe, reliable and affordable way. Electricity cooks your food, washes your clothes, and heats and cools your home to keep you comfortable. But electricity must be respected. If safety isn't made a priority, what changes a life for the better could change it for the worse in an instant.

Safety has been a part of the fundamental culture at Amicalola EMC since the beginning. Being an electric lineworker is ranked by the U.S. Department of Labor as one of the top 10 most dangerous jobs, on the same list as military servicemen. We demand that all employees make safety a top priority.

As part of our commitment to safety, we recognize May as Electrical Safety Month. Please spend a few minutes with some helpful resources at [SafeElectricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org) and [Electrical-Safety.org](http://Electrical-Safety.org) to learn how you can stay safe around electricity at home.

Good news! Tax credits have been extended, so take advantage of energy credits covering projects undertaken in 2013. This marks the third extension of the incentive initiated by the federal Energy Policy Act of 2005. The new legislation covers 2012 upgrades along

with 2013 projects. The credits offset the cost of certain upgrades, with a lifetime cap of \$500. Read the full details on qualifying upgrades and individual caps at [www.energystar.gov/taxcredits](http://www.energystar.gov/taxcredits).

In this issue we continue with Part 2 in a series of articles spotlighting local entrepreneurs. Pickens County merchants thrive on old-fashioned values centered around customer service and community support. Learn how custom cabinetmakers David Dicristina and Loreto Tari have combined superior customer service and workmanship to achieve excellence at Timberland Cabinets on page 22D.

We continue to look for ways to make bill paying easier. Never pay late fees again when you use one of our simple, automated bill-paying options shown on this page.

Education equals opportunities for students in our service area. In March, our board of directors awarded more than \$100,000 in scholarships at our annual youth awards banquet. See highlights on page 22B.

We continue to be optimistic about renewed economic growth for our local economy in 2013. As always, we look forward to serving your electric needs.



## Community Spotlight

# Empowering our youth to be the leaders of tomorrow

## 121 area students receive scholarships

**A**micalola EMC continues to empower the youth of our service area to be the leaders of tomorrow. The annual youth awards banquet, held on March 21, pleased students and parents alike as \$113,750 in scholarships were awarded to 121 area students by CEO Charles Gibson and the board of directors. All scholarships are being funded in accordance with unclaimed property laws, O.C.G.A. 44-12-236.

Attending the banquet were high school juniors and seniors, their parents, school administrators, the Amicalola EMC Board of Directors and staff members.

Highlights of the banquet included a showing of the Electric Cooperative Purpose video produced by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), as well as remarks by Board Member Reggie Stowers and CEO Charles Gibson. The 2013 Washington Youth Tour



2013 Washington Youth Tour winners and finalists



delegates named were Abbigale Brown, of Dawsonville; Gayla Cagle, of Ellijay; and Ben Weatherby, of Canton. In June, they will join more than 1,500 other students from across the nation in Washington, D.C. for the annual

NRECA Washington Youth Tour, a weeklong leadership experience.

Amicalola EMC continues to be a leader in youth and community support. We congratulate the 2013 winners and wish them much success as they continue their education.



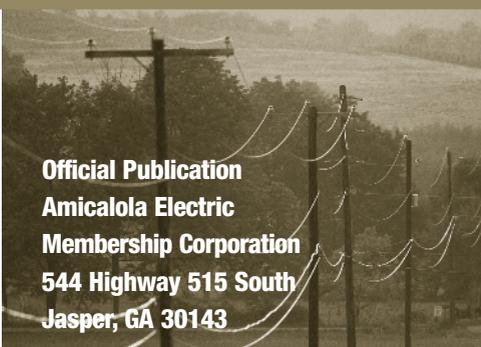
2013 scholarship winners shown with the Amicalola EMC Board of Directors

# Unclaimed capital credits

**M**embership of an electric co-op has many benefits. We are good stewards of your money and strive to give you good value for your dollar. When you pay your monthly electric bill, you can rest assured that every dollar you pay is being spent wisely to provide you with safe, reliable and affordable electricity.

As a not-for profit electric co-op, Amicalola EMC does not make a profit. Any revenue over and above the cost of doing business is returned to you, our members, in the form of capital credit refunds.

A list of unclaimed capital credit refunds is now available for review. You may access it on our website [amicalolaemc.com](http://amicalolaemc.com) or in person at any local Amicalola EMC office. The last day to claim these funds is Sept. 1, 2013. At that time, unclaimed funds will be distributed for charitable purposes in accordance with Georgia unclaimed property laws.



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**Jasper, GA 30143**

Charles L. Gibson, *President*

## Board of Directors

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

### Outage Hotlines

706-253-0359  
706-276-0359  
706-864-0359

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*Closed on Saturday, Sunday, and holidays*

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## Statement of Nondiscrimination

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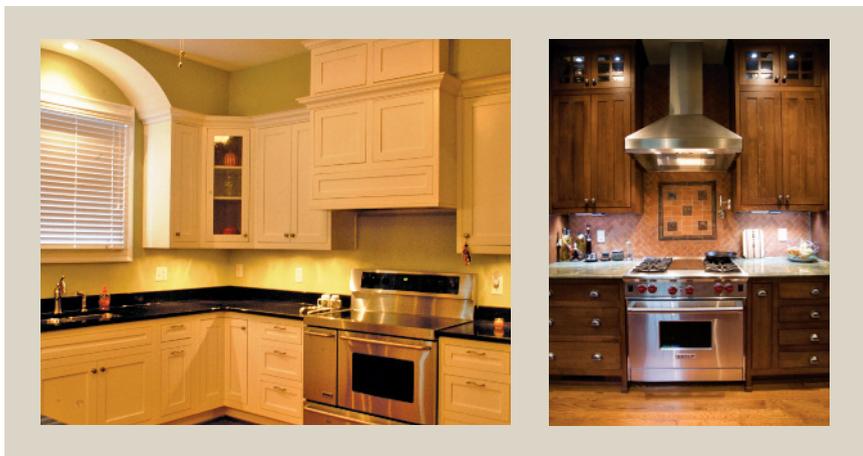
The person responsible for coordinating this organization's nondiscrimination compliance efforts is Patricia B. Evans, Executive Assistant to the President/CEO. Any individual, or specific class of individuals, who feels that this organization has subjected them to discrimination may obtain further information about the statutes and regulations listed above, and/or may file a written complaint with this organization; or the Secretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington D.C. 20250; or the Administrator, Rural Utility Service, Washington, D.C. 20250. Complaints must be filed within 180 days after the alleged discrimination. Confidentiality will be maintained to the extent possible.

# Shining a light on local entrepreneurs

*Second in a series of articles highlighting local businesses, this issue spotlights Pickens County and the story of how a newspaper ad brought a world-class cabinetmaking duo to the North Georgia mountains.*

In 2007, David Dicristina responded to a classified ad in the *Atlanta Journal Constitution* that would significantly alter the course of his career. As a senior vice president in a manufacturing company, he was ready to make a change. That change would soon involve a partner, Loreto Tari, and together they would build Timberland Cabinets into the premier custom cabinet business it is today.

The unmistakable fragrance of freshly cut wood is the first hint of the creative work taking place at Timberland Cabinets. Ten full-time employees spend their days working with their hands building solid wood custom cabinetry, and the end results are stunning. Timberland Cabinets has been featured on the cover of *Country's Best Cabins*, a design magazine about log homes. These custom cabinets can be found in homes from the mountains of Big Canoe, Ellijay and Blue Ridge to homes in Buckhead and midtown



Atlanta. Special cabinet creations from Timberland Cabinets have also found a home in Charleston, S.C., Amelia Island and Toronto, Canada. Currently, a large custom cabinet job is waiting to be shipped to Nova Scotia, a project done in conjunction with Blue Ridge area designer Cindy Trimble Kelly.

The Dicristina-Tari team works with top remodeling agencies like Weidmann Remodeling of Atlanta to place their custom cabinets in high-end homes in the city. They also work with local residential homeowners and builders who want custom cabinetry at an affordable price.

Dicristina says, "If you can draw it, we can build it," and emphasizes their motto is "always say yes." He goes on to say that there is a preconceived notion that custom cabinets are not affordable; however, he says, custom cabinets don't have to be more expensive than standard ones.

If you've been dreaming about building a new home or starting a remodeling project, consider the award-winning Timberland Cabinets for your cabinetry. Take a look at their portfolio at



[www.timberlandcabinets.net](http://www.timberlandcabinets.net) and start daydreaming about your next big project. Find them on Facebook, or call 706-253-1026 to make an appointment to visit their showroom at 104 Liberty Industrial Boulevard in Jasper.

Visit [www.pickenschamber.com](http://www.pickenschamber.com) for a listing of other businesses in the Jasper area and see why the locals call Pickens County the best-kept secret in North Georgia!

