

BEACON



Amicalola Electric
Membership Corporation

"Owned By Those We Serve"

Vol 63 | Issue 5 | NOVEMBER 2013

Youth Tour and scholarship deadlines



Mark your calendar! Jan. 31, 2014, is the deadline to apply for the Washington Youth Tour for high school juniors OR the Amicalola EMC Scholarship Program for high school seniors. Applications are available at your school counselor's office or at www.amicalolaemc.com.



Stand with us as we fight to keep electric bills affordable at www.Action.coop.

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Comments from the CEO

Electric co-op membership offers value far beyond affordable, reliable electricity



Charles Gibson
President/CEO
Amicalola EMC

Here at Amicalola EMC, we work hard to deliver safe, affordable and reliable electricity to our members every day. But we don't stop there. Because we're a cooperative, we strive to do much more, to find ways of providing real value to you and the communities we serve.

So what exactly does real value mean? Well, in some ways it's basic, like connecting with a real, local person when you call our office. Or it's getting the lights back on more quickly when outages occur in our areas, thanks to mutual-aid agreements that bring in line crews from other co-ops to help us restore power.

Real value means keeping our rates as low as possible. The recent Summer Rate Survey released by the Georgia Public Service Commission shows Amicalola EMC to be less expensive than the local investor-owned utility in three out of four categories.

Real value could be finding a copy of *GEORGIA Magazine* in your mailbox,

which keeps you informed about co-op business and goings-on in Georgia. It means featuring local businesses in our company newsletter, inviting locals and visitors alike to come see what North Georgia has to offer.

In this issue, we focus on Lumpkin County. Only one hour north of Atlanta, Dahlonega is the historic site of the first major U.S. Gold Rush, but there's more than gold in them 'thar hills! Lumpkin County is an award-winning Appalachian mountain destination known as "The Heart of the North Georgia Mountains." If you're looking for relaxation and adventure, you've come to the right place.

Offering our members real value—and working to improve the quality of life in the communities we serve—is just one way we set ourselves apart.

As the end of 2013 draws near, the staff and board of directors of Amicalola EMC wish you and yours a happy holiday season.



Holiday Office Closings

Our offices will be closed Nov. 28 and 29 for Thanksgiving.
Our offices will be closed Dec. 24 and 25 for Christmas and Jan. 1 for New Year's Day.

Wishing you a safe and happy holiday season!

Shining a light on local communities

For more than 70 years, Amicalola EMC has provided safe, reliable and affordable power to our service area. We have also provided much more than electricity; working in a number of ways, with a deep-rooted sense of responsibility, to enhance the quality of life in our communities.

That's the cooperative business model—owned by those we serve—existing strictly to serve our members. As a nonprofit, our members enjoy capital credit refunds, and \$1,663,390 was refunded in September to members who had service during 1992.

In recent years, Amicalola EMC gained the ability to use unclaimed property for local development. For our communities, this means substantial financial support for educa-

tion, economic development and certain 501(c)(3) charities. This year alone, more than \$270,000 was distributed in local communities, including \$111,000 in college scholarships, \$51,186 in the Bright Ideas teacher grant program, and \$42,000 to volunteer fire departments within our service area.

By providing matching funds in a grant program offered by CoBank, a national cooperative bank serving industries across rural America, Amicalola EMC was able to secure a \$10,000 grant for the Good Shepherd Clinic of Dawson County.

These financial contributions prove our desire to keep shining a light on our local communities in more ways than one, and we will keep working for the good of our members and our communities.



Top photo: from left, Director Leon Davis, Lumpkin County Fire Chief David Whimpy and Director Reggie Stowers.

Middle photo: from left, Penelope Marshall, Senior VP, Amicalola EMC; Director Leon Davis; Dawson County Fire Chief Lanier Swafford; Director Reggie Stowers and Todd Payne, Director of Corporate Administration.

Bottom photo: from left, Bob Howard of Grandview VFD; Knox Glass and Gary Rhodus of Big Canoe POA; James Bryan, Director, Amicalola EMC; Charles Gibson, President/CEO, Amicalola EMC and Elmer Barrett of Yellow Creek VFD.



Local volunteer fire departments received \$42,000 in donations from Amicalola EMC. From left, Director David Pierce, Gilmer Fire Chief Tony Pritchett, Sec.-Tres. Randall Ponder and Charles Gibson, President/CEO, Amicalola EMC.

s in more ways than one

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Amicalola Electric
Membership Corporation
544 Highway 515 South
Jasper, GA 30143

Charles L. Gibson, *President*

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- Wm. Leon DavisPost #9
- David J. PiercePost #2
- Reggie StowersPost #8

**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

Beacon Editor:
Stacey Godfrey Fields, CCC

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This year alone,
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—



A \$24,000 donation was made to Reinhardt University. From left, John H. Bennett, Jr., Vice Chairman, Amicalola EMC Board of Directors; Dr. Usherwood, Reinhardt College President and Penelope Marshall Senior VP, Amicalola EMC.



Good Shepherd Clinic of Dawson County received a \$10,000 grant.



Amicalola EMC board of directors gave Amicalola EMC members of 1992 over \$1.6 million in capital credit refunds.

Fifth in a series of articles highlighting local businesses, this issue spotlights

Lumpkin County and a beautiful mountain destination

Imagine yourself in a place where life is slowed down to a less stressful pace and kids use social skills rather than social media to make friends the old-fashioned way.

Nestled at the foot of the Appalachian Mountains and bordered on three sides by the enchanting Chattahoochee National Forest, nowhere in North Georgia is the beauty and serenity more pronounced than on the grounds of R-Ranch.

R-Ranch, affectionately known as “Our Ranch” is a privately owned resort in which the owners hold an undivided interest in a unique vacation spot. Located on 800-plus acres of prime North Georgia mountain property, most of R-Ranch remains an untouched natural wilderness.

Ownership in R-Ranch is very affordable; probably less than your last family vacation. As a property owner, you can enjoy an equestrian center with indoor and outdoor facilities, 26 horse trails and trail rider pro-



grams, fishing and canoeing in two well-stocked lakes, RV camping sites and rustic mountain cabins—all championed by a spectacular lodge with an Olympic-sized swimming pool.

R-Ranch is available for special events too. Enjoy your next corporate retreat or catered event on the beautiful grounds of R Ranch.

Are you looking for the perfect location for your wedding?

You and your guests will be inspired by the beauty of a setting overlooking pristine pastures and beautiful majestic mountains. Featured in the 2012 Fall/Winter issue

of “*the knot.com/ Georgia*,” R-Ranch was chosen as one of Georgia’s No. 1 wedding venues. At R-Ranch, you are free to design your wedding using your choice of providers. Choose between the lodge (a 13,000-square-foot facility that can accommodate up to 180 guests), a hillside outside ceremony or a more intimate ceremony in the Chapel, which can accommodate about 75 guests.

Be sure to find them on Facebook at R-Ranch in the Mountains, or visit www.rranchga.com for more information. Call them today to schedule a tour and make your next special event one to remember.



R-Ranch in the Mountains
(706) 864-6444
www.rranchga.com



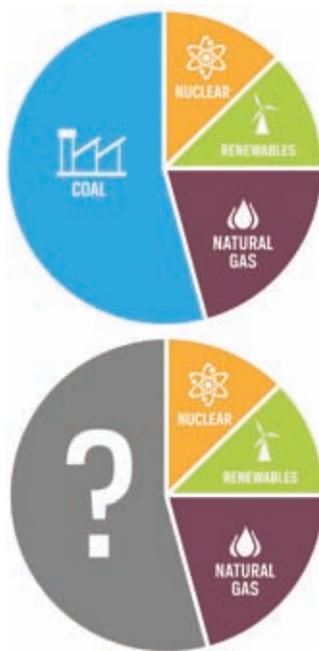
America needs an 'All-of-the-above' energy strategy

Georgia's electric cooperatives, directors, members, employees, friends and allies have joined co-ops nationwide in a broad, grassroots response to the EPA's proposed regulations on new coal-fired power plants, which were released Sept. 20. Paul Wood, CEO of Georgia Electric Membership Corp., released the following statement Sept. 18 in response to the testimony of EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy, before the House Energy & Commerce Committee that morning in advance of the administration's proposed regulations governing carbon dioxide emissions from new power plants:

"Georgia EMC and the 41 member co-ops in the state are disappointed to learn that the administration has abandoned its 'all-of-the-above' energy strategy and embraced an 'all-but-one' approach that restricts the future use of coal to generate affordable electricity. In doing so, the administration is gambling with the economic well-being of future generations and our nation's economy. As not-for-profit, consumer-owned utilities, electric co-ops are deeply concerned about maintaining affordable, reliable electricity. It's worth noting that residents of rural communities already spend more per capita on energy than anywhere else.

Georgia EMC, together with electric co-ops across the country and the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, urges the administration to reconsider this proposal and focus on working with co-ops as we continue to reduce power plant emissions, increase efficiency and develop affordable new technologies. Together, we can improve both the environment and the quality of life for future generations."

These proposed new regulations, as anticipated, will require any new coal-burning power plant to



capture and store carbon dioxide, a very expensive technology that has not been proven commercially viable. With these regulations, the EPA is essentially preventing new coal-based power plants from being built in the future. The EPA will propose carbon dioxide emissions standards for existing power plants in June 2014, with a final rule due in June 2015, and wide speculation suggests that severe restrictions on existing coal generation will follow in the wake of this proposed rule for new plants.

While the Obama administration has claimed support for an "all-of-the-above" philosophy on energy production, electric cooperatives across the country have rightly labeled this EPA rule as an "all-but-one" approach. The result of these new regulations will be an increase in energy costs for cooperative members nationwide, without any assurance of a corresponding environmental benefit.

(See "Georgia's energy outlook," September 2013, page 16, or go to bit.ly/en913, for more on electric cooperatives' environmental responsibility and tangible results of emission reductions of hazardous pollutants,

and the "Special energy report," March 2010, page 16, or go to bit.ly/en310, to learn about the relative decline in U.S. greenhouse gas emissions as compared to China and other vital factors from a global perspective.)

In response, co-ops are urging employees, directors, members, community leaders and friends to join in this grassroots campaign to send a clear message, asking the EPA to withdraw this rule and work with electric co-ops on common-sense solutions. To send your message to the EPA, go to Action.coop, and share this link with your friends and neighbors!

Georgia EMC is the statewide trade association representing the state's 41 electric co-ops, Oglethorpe Power Corp. (OPC), Georgia Transmission Corp. (GTC) and Georgia System Operations Corp. Georgia's 41 not-for-profit EMCs provide electric service to more than 4.4 million Georgians across 73 percent of the state's land area. OPC and GTC are the wholesale generation and transmission cooperatives, respectively, for 38 EMCs, while three EMCs provide electric service as part of the Tennessee Valley Authority.