

BEACON

Holiday office closings



- Nov. 27 and 28 for Thanksgiving
- Dec. 24 and 25 for Christmas
- Jan. 1 for New Year's Day

Wishing you a safe and happy holiday season!



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Comments from the CEO

The ABCs of the cooperative principles

Cooperative principles give all co-ops guidance



Charles Gibson
President/CEO
Amicalola EMC

Cooperatives around the world operate according to the same core principles and values. The roots of these principles can be traced to the first modern cooperative founded in Rochdale, England, in 1844.

The original seven co-op principles set forth in 1844 contained the simple phrase, "Promotion of Education." Today, Principle No. 5 states that all co-ops should promote "Education, Training and Information." This is intended for the employees, members and the community-at-large.

It is based on the simple premise that if people know more about the cooperative business model, they will be in a much better position to understand the benefits and promote better use of the co-op and its resources.

There are almost 1 million people in the U.S. who work for cooperatives of all types (agriculture, housing, credit unions and many others in addition to electric co-ops). An investor-owned business is designed

to make a profit, while a nonprofit, like the Red Cross, is designed to serve the community. Co-ops have both an economic and social purpose. We operate on a not-for-profit basis so that we can pass along the best price for our goods or service to you, the member-owner.

There are 41 electric cooperatives in the state of Georgia and just over 900 in the nation. Electric co-ops employ more than 70,000 Americans and provide electricity to more than 42 million consumers in 47 states.

It is up to us at Amicalola EMC to use publications like this to ensure that you know about the differences and benefits of being a co-op member. I encourage you to take an interest in learning about Amicalola EMC through our website, annual meeting or a visit to one of our offices.

November is here and the holidays will soon follow. On behalf of the staff and the board of directors of Amicalola EMC, I send best wishes for a safe and enjoyable holiday season.





Community Spotlight

Amicalola EMC provides \$300,500 in funding for local education, economic development and community charities

Since 1940, Amicalola EMC has provided safe, reliable and affordable electricity to its members, but that's not all. Amicalola EMC has also provided much-needed funding for education and other community needs.

Following the cooperative business model, members of Amicalola EMC enjoy capital credit refunds; \$1,663,343 was refunded in September to members who had service during 1993 and 1994.

Due to a change in Georgia's unclaimed property laws, Amicalola EMC is now allowed to distribute unclaimed refunds in communities served by the cooperative for education, economic development and 501(c)(3) charities. ***It is important to note that state law will only allow these funds to be used for these approved purposes and will not allow the unclaimed refunds to be used to offset rates or pay power bills.***



Reinhardt University: from left, Amicalola EMC Board Vice Chairman John Bennett and President/CEO Charles Gibson with Reinhardt University President Dr. J. Thomas Isherwood and Amicalola EMC Vice President Todd Payne.

In 2014, Amicalola EMC is providing \$300,500 in funding, to include \$43,000 to local volunteer fire depart-

ments; \$121,750 to high school juniors and seniors for college scholarships; \$60,000 to Bright Ideas teacher grant winners; \$20,000 to the Boys and Girls Club of Pickens County, with a matching \$5,000 from CoBank (a national cooperative bank serving industries across rural America); \$4,000 each to the Cherokee, Dawson, Gilmer, Lumpkin and Pickens Chambers of Commerce; \$8,000 to Reinhardt University for local scholarships; \$3,000 to Gilmer Arts and Heritage Association; and \$10,000 to Hill City Elementary School.

Amicalola EMC continues to focus on member needs, while working for the sustainable development of the communities we serve.



Pickens Fire Department: from left, Todd Payne, Vice President, with R. Jordan, of Big Canoe station; Bob Kintner, of Mica Station; Sloan Elrod, of Grandview station; and Kristy Easterwood, of Bethany Salem station, shown with Penelope Marshall, Senior Vice President.

Remembering Steve C. Tate

Steve C. Tate was one of the original founders of Amicalola Electric Membership Corporation. He was a descendant of the Tate family who founded the Georgia Marble Company. Many of the monuments in Washington, D.C., are made from marble mined at nearby Tate, Ga.

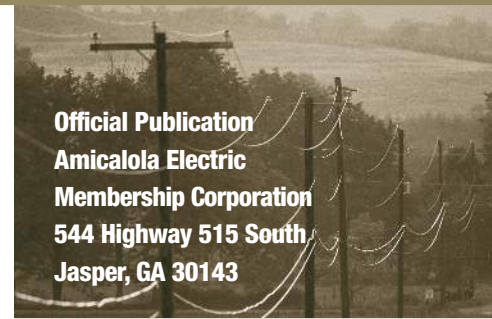
Tate helped write the original Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation for the cooperative. He was the first president of Amicalola EMC, serving from 1939 to 1946 and was the president of Georgia EMC from 1941 to 1943.

He attended several congressional meetings in Washington, D.C., in 1941, which were focused on the shortage of copper. From those meetings, the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) was created. He was one of the original 10 men to sign the Articles of Incorporation that founded NRECA and served as the first president of NRECA from 1942 to 1943.



Steve C. Tate

Steve C. Tate will always be remembered as a driving force in the effort to bring electricity to the rural areas of north Georgia.



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Membership Corporation
544 Highway 515 South
Jasper, GA 30143

Charles L. Gibson, *President*

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TELEPHONE NUMBERS TO CALL IN CASE OF POWER INTERRUPTIONS:

Outage Hotlines

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

Amicalola Electric Membership Corporation

544 Hwy. 515 South
Jasper, GA 30143
Telephone: 706-253-5200

www.amicalolaemc.com

Eastern District Office

1234 Dawsonville Hwy.
Dahlonega, GA 30533
706-864-7979

Northern District Office

150 Tabor Street
Ellijay, GA 30540
706-276-2362

Office Hours: Monday through Friday
8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Closed on Saturday, Sunday, and holidays

Beacon Editor:

Stacey Godfrey Fields, CCC

2015 Youth Tour and scholarship deadlines

Mark your calendar! Jan. 30, 2015, 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 www.amicalolaemc.com.



Employees from GTC, GSOC and OPC attend orientation at headquarters office



Attendees at the orientation at Amicalola EMC

Amicalola EMC recently hosted an orientation for a group of employees from Georgia Transmission Corp., Georgia System Operations Corp. and Oglethorpe Power Corp. Attendees were both new and tenured employees who wanted to learn more about electric coopera-

tives and specifically, Amicalola EMC. The agenda included the history of Amicalola EMC and a field visit to observe a right-of-way crew, a line crew and the Reavis Mountain substation in Nelson. The day ended with a high-voltage demonstration provided by Pike electrical contractors.

What is a co-op?

Cooperative Principle #6

Cooperation among Cooperatives—Cooperatives serve their members most effectively and strengthen the cooperative movement by working together through local, national, regional and international structures.

Cooperative Principle #7

Concern for Community—While focusing on member needs, cooperatives work for the sustainable development of their communities.

New Rotary members from Amicalola EMC

Amicalola EMC is pleased to announce that two executive staff members have recently joined the Rotary Club. Penelope Marshall, Senior Vice President is now a member of the Gilmer Rotary Club and Todd Payne, Vice Presi-

dent, recently became a member of the Pickens Rotary Club.

Rotary Club members, more than 1.2 million strong, work worldwide to provide humanitarian services, encourage high ethical standards and help build peace and goodwill in the world.

Rotary's main objective is service: to the community, the workplace and



Senior Vice President Penelope Marshall and Vice President Todd Payne

throughout the world. Their community service projects focus on topics such as children at risk, poverty and hunger. They also support programs for youth, educational opportunities for students and teachers, and vocational and career development.

Simple but powerful, the Four-Way Test practiced by Rotarians serves as a reminder to us all to slow down and question our own motives before making decisions.



The Four-Way Test of the things we think, say or do:

1. Is it the TRUTH?
2. Is it FAIR to all concerned?
3. Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?
4. Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?