

BEACON



Amicalola Electric
Membership Corporation

"Owned By Those We Serve"

Vol 66 | Issue 5 | DECEMBER 2016

Comments from the CEO



Give back this holiday season

Cooperatives around the world adhere to the same seven cooperative principles that guide all our decisions—from how we run the co-op, to how we engage with our local communities. Concern for community is one of those principles and one that Amicalola EMC values and exercises year-round. As we celebrate Thanksgiving, Christmas and the new year, our concern for community seems *especially* important.

Electric cooperatives have a long history of giving back. As you will see in this issue, Amicalola EMC is second to none in providing financial assistance to those in

need in the communities we serve. This year alone, we have contributed almost \$300,000 to community charities and qualifying individuals. Through programs like the AEMC Scholarship program, the Washington Youth Tour program, the Bright Ideas education grant program for teachers and the Operation Round Up program, and by donating unclaimed capital credits, we are able to provide unprecedented levels of financial assistance to the communities we serve. It is important to note that all our programs, with the exception of Operation Round Up, are made possible by the use of unclaimed capital

credits; state law will not allow these funds to be used to pay power bills or offset rates. We have two choices for the disposition of these funds: We can write a check to the state, or we can spend the money locally for education, economic development and 501(c)(3) charities.

Amicalola EMC members help us give back, too. The Operation Round Up program is made possible by the generosity of our members. Through this program, members can round up their electric bills to the next dollar

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Todd Payne
President/CEO
Amicalola EMC

Amicalola EMC Board of Directors return \$1.8 million to members

Amicalola EMC members recently received \$1.8 million in capital credit refunds, authorized by the Board of Directors in September. The refund was a general refund for members who had electric service during 1997 and 1998. This brings the total amount returned to members to just over \$23 million since 2005. Now that's the cooperative difference.



Amicalola EMC Board of Directors authorized \$1.8 million refund to members. From left: Phillip Landrum III, Travis Cline, Reggie Stowers, Leon Davis, John Bennett, David Pierce, James Bryan, Kathy Burt, Randall Ponder, President/CEO Todd Payne and Board Chairman Charles Fendley.

Amicalola EMC donates \$245,000

Communities across the Amicalola EMC service area continue to reap the benefits of cooperative membership. Unclaimed capital credit refunds, which previously had to be turned in to the state, are being spent locally for education, economic development and 501(c)(3) charities, following a mandatory five-year waiting period.

This year, \$245,000 in donations were given to high school students for scholarships, volunteer fire departments, Bright Ideas teacher grants, local chamber of commerce offices, county school systems and local food pantries.

In addition, a \$5,000 grant with a matching \$5,000 from CoBank (a national cooperative bank serving industries across rural America), for a total of \$10,000, was given to the Community Helping Place Clinic in Lumpkin County. We continue to strive to improve the quality of life in the communities we serve.



Cherokee and Pickens fire departments received \$21,000.



School systems in the Amicalola EMC service area received \$2,000 in emergency funds.



Unclaimed capital credits fund the Bright Ideas teacher grant program.



Dawson and Lumpkin fire departments received \$7,000.

to local communities



Chamber of commerce offices across our service area each received a \$2,000 donation.



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544 Highway 515 South
Jasper, GA 30143

Todd Payne, *President/CEO*

Board of Directors

- Charles R. Fendley, *Chairman*.....Post #3
- John H. Bennett, Jr., *Vice Chairman* ..Post #6
- Randall Ponder, *Sec.-Treas.*Post #1
- James H. BryanPost #4
- Kathy BurtPost #7
- Travis D. Cline.....Post #5
- Wm. Leon Davis.....Post #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

Amicalola Electric Membership Corporation

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Jasper, GA 30143
Telephone: 706-253-5200

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706-864-7979

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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



Holiday office closings

**Our offices will be closed Dec. 23 and
Dec. 26, in observance of Christmas,
and Jan. 2, 2017, for New Year's Day.
We wish you all a merry Christmas
and a happy new year.**

2017 WYT and scholarship deadlines

The deadline to apply for the Amicalola EMC scholarship (for seniors) or the Washington Youth Tour contest (for juniors) is Jan. 31, 2017. Applications are available from your high school counselor or at www.amicalolaemc.com.



Give back this holiday season, *Continued from page 20A*



amount, and the extra change goes toward helping those in need, right here in our community. Amicalola EMC absorbs 100 percent of the administrative costs to run the program, allowing every penny collected to be awarded to deserving charities and qualifying individuals.

So many families in need go without on a daily basis and struggle to make ends meet. This struggle can be especially hard during the holiday season. Now is a great time for you to consider joining Operation Round Up. You can do that by



simply calling our office.

There are many ways you can give back to the community that go beyond dollar donations.

Take some time to go through your closets and find clothes that no longer fit or have lost their use. Bag those items up and take them to your local thrift store or church clothing drive. Volunteer for a local food or toy drive, deliver meals to the sick and the elderly, or simply make a meal for a neighbor in need.

Our commitment goes beyond our community, too. During the

recent devastation from Hurricane Matthew, line crew members from Amicalola EMC traveled to Palmetto Electric near Hilton Head, S.C., to help restore power to thousands of electric cooperative members.

No matter how great or small the act, every time we give back, we strengthen our community and our world. So take the time to give back this holiday season. You'll be glad you did. Merry Christmas and happy new year from the staff and Board of Directors of Amicalola EMC. We wish each of you a safe, happy and healthy holiday season and a prosperous new year.

Local teachers earn \$48,403 for their Bright Ideas!

Seventy-three teachers across our service area were recently rewarded for their hard work and creative ideas. Amicalola EMC board members and staff surprised winning teachers with big checks and gift bags.

Amicalola EMC congratulates all the winning teachers. The Bright Ideas teacher grant program, which began in 2010, has now funded 439 projects, with a grand total of almost \$300,000. We recognize and value the incredible job our teachers do to educate and encourage students in our local communities.



President/CEO Todd Payne and Director James Bryan present big check to Kristi Buchanan and Principal Jennifer Halco, of Hill City Elementary.



From left: AEMC CFO Penelope Marshall, David Mashburn and Renee Sauls, of Clear Creek Middle School, and AEMC Board Members David Pierce and Randall Ponder



Dawson County teachers win big! From left: Mallory Nonnemaker, AEMC Board Member Kathy Burt, Leigh Ann Dyer, AEMC Board Member Reggie Stowers, Principal Richard Crumley accepting for Edith Banta and Director of Public Relations Stacey Fields.