

# BEACON



Amicalola Electric  
Membership Corporation

"Owned By Those We Serve"

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## Comments from the CEO

### Patriotism in Action—Vote!

According to Merriam-Webster's dictionary, patriotism is "the love for or devotion to one's country." Perhaps no other day of the year evokes such a sense of patriotism than Independence Day. With flags rippling in the wind, red, white and blue bunting adorning porches and store fronts and local parades and marching bands on display, it's easy to feel a swell of pride for our country.

Arguably, perhaps a deeper form of patriotism is active engagement in public and civic life. Involvement in your town promotes a richer community life and ensures that institutions thrive and communities remain vibrant and inviting places to live, work and play. Besides being enjoyable, your participation in community events and activities, together with your friends, neighbors and co-workers makes a difference. Simple things like supporting a bake sale or attending a local high school event signals to the young people in your community that you care and support them—and that the community itself is worth sustaining.

In fact, there are civic engagement opportunities through

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**One form of patriotism is active engagement in public and civic life. This promotes a rich environment and keeps our local community thriving.**

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A PROGRAM OF AMERICA'S  
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES

[WWW.VOTE.COOP](http://WWW.VOTE.COOP)

Amicalola EMC. You may recall that one of our most important cooperative principles is that of democratic participation. If you pay your bill, you are a member of the co-op with

an opportunity to provide input through voting during our annual meeting.

Amicalola EMC, like other types of co-ops,

was created to serve a need that was not being met by traditional for-profit electric companies. While providing reliable electricity is our top priority, we also provide related services



Todd Payne  
President/CEO  
Amicalola EMC

like water heater maintenance and security lights. We make decisions based on long-term thinking: What decisions will benefit the larger community in which we operate? One of the best ways you can engage with your co-op is by casting your vote when it's time to elect board members. These are folks just like you, from our community, who provide guidance to co-op leadership on a myriad of issues and decisions, both short term and long term.

Everyone has valuable experience that adds to their decision-making process. Diverse perspectives benefit the whole community. You may have a different view than your neighbor, but together, those perspectives provide a more balanced view of the community.

I would argue that voting, whether in the co-op or in local and national elections is a form of patriotism, as it reflects a devotion to one's community and commitment to ensure that it thrives.

Democracy is not a spectator sport; it takes active civic engagement by citizens to thrive. This Independence Day, I hope you will embrace the local celebrations and actively participate in your community—and vote at every opportunity!

# Trimming trees keeps the lights on

The removal or trimming of trees in the right of way is performed to increase reliability, help control the cost of service and to protect people and property.

A major cause of power interruptions or outages are trees and tree limbs that make contact with a power line. Tree limbs that brush electric lines can cause blinking lights, loss of information on computerized devices, etc. During storms, trees can fall across power lines, tearing the lines down and creating extended outages. Removing trees off power lines is also time-consuming, which may increase outage duration.

Clearing the right-of-way is one of Amicalola EMC's biggest expenses. To help control the cost of service, some trees are permanently removed, and this reduces the ongoing cost of clearing. Trimming tree limbs along power lines



also decreases the time it takes to find and repair line issues.

If a tree limb touches a power line, a spark can cause a fire, especially if the area is overly dry. Tree limbs in contact with a power line can also conduct electricity, which could be fatal to someone touching

the limb.

Never go near a downed power line; stay clear to stay safe. Clearing and maintaining the right of way is just one of the many things we do to ensure that your lights come on when you flip the switch. Trimming trees really does keep the lights on.

## Summer 2018 right of way clearing schedule

**Southeast Woodlands**, a vegetation management contractor, recently began spraying rights of way on all circuits of the Talmadge substation in Cherokee/Gordon counties. Following completion, they will move to the First Mountain City substation circuits in Pickens County, then the Keithburg substation circuits in Cherokee County. All contractor vehicles are marked with signage that reads "Contractor for Amicalola EMC." This will continue through approximately the first week of September.

**Treeline Services**, a tree trimming contractor, is currently working on Highway 19 North in Lumpkin County trimming circuits out of the



Cane Creek substation. All contractor vehicles are marked with signage that reads "Contractor for Amicalola EMC." Following completion, they will begin on circuits out of the Juno substation in Dawson County. This will continue until late summer.



## Office closing



Our offices will be closed on Wednesday, July 4, 2018, in observance of Independence Day.

# Amicalola EMC increases future solar supply

Since 2001, Amicalola EMC has included renewable energy into our overall power mix. Members will gain access to even more renewable energy by the fall of 2021.

Green Power EMC and Silicon Ranch, one of the nation's largest independent solar power producers, have finalized plans to bring an additional 200 megawatts of solar energy (MWAC) online.

This project, spread across four locations in southern Georgia, will provide enough low-cost, renewable power to help serve more than 35,000 EMC households annually. Green Power EMC will purchase all the energy and environmental attributes generated by the facilities on behalf of its member EMCs.

The 200 MWAC project joins two other Green Power EMC/Silicon Ranch solar projects: a 20 MWAC solar plant and a 52 MWAC plant, both in Jeff Davis County near Hazlehurst.

Todd Payne, CEO of Amicalola EMC, says, "We already have some renewable energy in our overall power mix, and we plan to purchase more from the new facility. By including solar and other renewable energy into our overall



power mix, we are providing our members with the benefits of renewable energy the most economical way it can be done. They incur no added expense on their part."

Silicon Ranch believes Green Power EMC has developed a procurement strategy that allows its member co-ops to capture tremendous value. By banding together, they are able to leverage economies of scale, resulting in an extremely low cost of energy for their members. They believe Green Power EMC and its member co-ops have established the model that has made Georgia the fastest-growing solar state in America, and it's a model that other states will no doubt follow in the years to come.

## Green Power EMC



Green Power EMC is the state-wide cooperative devoted to providing power to EMC members using renewable resources. Formed in 2001, Green Power EMC was the first utility in Georgia to offer its consumers a choice in how some of their electricity is produced. This cooperative uses green resources such as biomass, solar, wind and water to generate electricity. Currently 38 of Georgia's EMCs, including Amicalola, are members of Green Power EMC.



## August 31, 2018, last day to claim refunds issued in 2012

Amicalola EMC is attempting to locate former members whose capital credit refunds were issued in 2012 (for electric service received in 1991), but have remained unclaimed. A list of unclaimed capital credit refunds is

now available for review. You may access it at [www.amicalolaemc.com](http://www.amicalolaemc.com), by clicking on the Capital Credits tab on the home page, or at any local Amicalola EMC office.

After a mandatory waiting period, any unclaimed capital credit

refunds are distributed in accordance with Georgia's unclaimed property laws O.C.G.A. §44-12-236. The last day to claim these funds is Aug. 31, 2018.



# Bright Ideas returns!

**G**eorgia certified teachers at elementary, middle, high schools and private schools in the Amicalola EMC service area are eligible to apply. All funding is provided with unclaimed property in accordance with O.C.G.A. §44-12-236.



## Bright Ideas 2018 Timeline

- Aug. 1** ..... Begin accepting applications—online only
- Aug. 31** ..... Early bird deadline (for a chance to win a gift card)
- Sept. 7** ..... Final deadline to apply

**All grants awarded in October.**



Winning teacher Elise White, of Creekland Middle School, and Amicalola EMC Board Member Travis Cline (Post 5, Cherokee County)

For more information on Bright Ideas, scan this QR code with your smartphone.



Lumpkin Middle School Principal Matt Remillard, Amicalola EMC Director of Public Relations Stacey Fields, winning teacher Julie Isaacs and Amicalola EMC Board Member Leon Davis (Post 9, Lumpkin County).

Amicalola EMC Board Secretary-Treasurer Randall Ponder (Post 1, Gilmer and Murray counties), Board Member David Pierce (Post 2, Fannin and Gilmer counties), Gilmer High winning teacher Ashley Stover, Principal Carla Foley and Amicalola EMC Chief Financial Officer Penelope Marshall.



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Todd Payne, *President/CEO*

### Board of Directors

- Charles R. Fendley, *Chairman* ..... Post #3
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- Randall Ponder, *Sec.-Treas.* ..... Post #1
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- Travis D. Cline ..... Post #5
- Wm. Leon Davis ..... Post #9
- David J. Pierce ..... Post #2
- Reggie Stowers ..... Post #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

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