

BEACON



Amicalola Electric
Membership Corporation

"Owned By Those We Serve"

Vol 69 | Issue 2 | MARCH 2019

New office will bring improved reliability and faster outage response time to Lumpkin and Dawson County members

Our current location on Highway 9 in Dahlonega has served our members well for 37 years; but to maintain system reliability and prepare for future growth, it has become necessary to move to another location.

It is critical to have adequate room to store equipment and materials. When the current Dahlonega office opened its doors in 1982, our entire system consisted of 2,301 miles of line that served 13,563 meters. One cashier and a four-man service crew worked out of that location.

Today, there are 5,596 miles of line that serves over 49,000 meters. The current Dahlonega office is the center of operations for a district manager, three member service representatives, one warehouse person and two construction crews.

We look forward to the completion of our office by spring and the opportunity it brings to better serve our members.

Comments from the CEO

Electric co-op policy priorities for the new Congress

Every time a new Congress convenes, electric cooperatives have the opportunity to educate new lawmakers on issues that matter most to their consumer-members and the communities they serve. The 116th Congress kicked off in January with more than 100 new members in the House and Senate.

Since then, we've been working with the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), the national service organization that represents more than 900 not-for-profit electric cooperatives, to introduce ourselves to new members on Capitol Hill. Here are several priority issues that we're bringing to lawmakers' attention.

Energy policy and infrastructure

The potential for energy and infrastructure legislation presents a significant opportunity as we work to meet the growing needs of our local communities. NRECA will work to ensure that any infrastructure package

focuses on more than roads and bridges, including opportunities to modernize the electric grid.

This is critical to ensuring that rural America is not left behind in the 21st century economy.

Environment

NRECA will promote and encourage bipartisan support for renewable energy research and development programs—including programs that focus on finding a viable use for carbon capture, utilization and storage, which comprise a suite of technologies for reducing greenhouse gas emissions from power plants. Cooperative renewables use has increased substantially in recent years, more than doubling since 2010.

Grid resilience

Protecting our nation's vast power grid is a national priority and focus for electric cooperatives. Ensuring appropriate information sharing and preserving

Continued on page 24C



Todd Payne
President/CEO
Amicalola EMC



Digger Dog visits Tate Elementary

Digger Dog, Georgia 811's mascot, and Education Administrator Maria Copeland visited Tate Elementary on Jan. 18.

During the free and interactive in-school assembly, Digger and Ms. Maria's energetic presentation teaches gas and energy properties, improves safety consciousness and increases awareness about safe digging and underground utilities.



Digger and Ms. Maria are traveling to elementary schools throughout the state to promote the message of safe digging and utility safety.



5 STEPS FOR SAFE DIGGING

Working on an outdoor project? Careless digging poses a threat to people, pipelines and underground facilities. Always call 8-1-1 first. Here are five easy steps for safe digging:



**Know what's below.
Call before you dig.**

1. NOTIFY

Call 811 or make a request online two to three days before your work begins. The operator will notify the utilities affected by your project.

2. WAIT

Wait two to three days for affected utilities to respond to your request. They will send a locator to mark any underground utility lines.



3. CONFIRM

Confirm that all affected utilities have responded to your request by comparing the marks to the list of utilities the 811 call center notified.



4. RESPECT

Respect the markers provided by the affected utilities. The markers are your guide for the duration of your project.



5. DIG CAREFULLY

If you can't avoid digging near the markers (within 18-24 inches on all sides, depending on state laws), consider moving your project location.



Source: call811.com

IN MEMORIAM

1960-2019



In memory of Ralph Mathews, who devoted 33 years of loyal service to Amicalola EMC.

Are we holding your money?

Six months left to claim capital credit refunds

Aug. 30, 2019, marks the deadline to claim capital credit refunds from the year 1992. If you had electric service with Amicalola EMC during 1992, we may have a refund waiting for you. The list of names can be found at www.amicalolaemc.com or in person at any local Amicalola EMC office.



After Aug. 30, 2019, unclaimed funds will be distributed for charitable purposes in accordance with O.C.G.A. § 44-12-236 of the Disposition of Unclaimed Property Act.

Seal air leaks with caulk

The average American family spends \$2,000 annually on energy bills, but, unfortunately, much of that money is wasted through air leaks in the home. Applying caulk around windows, doors, electrical wiring and plumbing can save energy and money. There are many different types of caulking compounds available, but the most popular choice is silicone. Silicone caulk is waterproof, flexible and

won't shrink or crack.

Before applying new caulk, clean and remove any old caulk or paint with a putty knife, screwdriver, brush or solvent. The area should be dry before you apply the new caulk.

Apply the caulk in one continuous stream, and make sure it sticks to both sides of the crack or seam. Afterward, use a putty knife to smooth out the caulk, then wipe the surface with a dry cloth.



Electric co-op policy priorities for the new Congress

Continued from page 24A

existing partnerships and structures are essential to these efforts. We will advocate for resources and technologies that meet the unique cybersecurity and recovery needs of small- and

medium-sized utilities to help protect our systems.

With such a large freshman class of lawmakers, educating them about electric cooperatives and the issues we

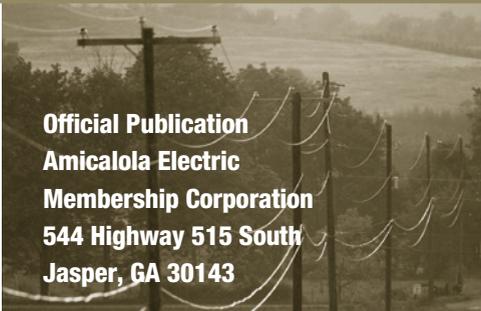
care about will take time and perseverance. Advocating for the interests of our consumer-members and the communities in which they live is at the very heart of our business.

State FFA Wiring Event

Congratulations to Pickens High School (PHS) student Skyler Nold. Skyler is the Sentinel of the PHS FFA Chapter and placed second in the Area I Electrical Wiring Event held at Amicalola EMC in late November. He went on to represent PHS at the state finals held in January.



Skyler Nold



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544 Highway 515 South
Jasper, GA 30143

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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

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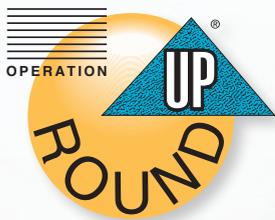
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Office Hours: Monday through Friday
 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Closed on Saturday, Sunday, and holidays

Beacon Editor:

Stacey Godfrey Fields, CCC



Operation Round Up awards \$20,000

January 2019 donations

- ACES Youth Home
- Boys & Girls Clubs of North Georgia
- Ferst Readers of Pickens County
- Gilmer County 4-H
- Next Generation Youth Development Inc.
- Optimist Club of Pickens County
- Prevent Child Abuse Pickens



DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME

Don't forget to spring forward on **March 10!** Set your clocks ahead by one hour.

