

# BEACON



Amicalola Electric  
Membership Corporation

"Owned By Those We Serve"

Vol 67 | Issue 1 | JANUARY 2017

## Comments from the CEO

### Electric cooperatives are ready to work with elected officials

As the nation prepares to welcome a new Congress and administration, America's electric cooperatives are ready to welcome back old friends and introduce ourselves to newcomers.

The co-ops' message to elected officials, both old and new, Republican and Democrat, will be the same: We all need to work together to protect consumer access to safe, reliable and affordable electric service.

We have reason to believe this message will be well-received. After all, co-ops speak for more than 42 million electric consumers nationwide, a sizeable constituency by any measure.

As co-ops reach out to engage with elected officials, they will build on the strength of Co-ops Vote, the grassroots initiative to reverse declining voter turnout in rural areas. This initiative sent a strong message to the country's elected officials that rural electric consumers matter.

And co-ops will be reinforcing



**As the nation prepares to welcome a new Congress and administration, the message of America's electric cooperatives to elected officials is simple: We all need to work in partnership to protect consumer access to safe, reliable and affordable electric service.**



this message with a request that policymakers keep the needs of consumers front and center. Needs such as funding for infrastructure—especially transmission lines and access to natural gas. Increasing the efficiency of the electric system and determining the future of hydropower and nuclear energy are also key concerns. Elected officials will be mak-

ing decisions affecting every aspect of the electric system.

Advocating for these issues is nothing new. In fact, we've been doing it for years. And we're ready to continue the fight on your behalf.

Here at Amicalola EMC, we will be reaching out to local, state and federal officials, explaining the unique member-owned, not-for-profit co-op business model and reminding longtime politicians of our co-op's commitment to its members.

In Washington, D.C., our national trade association, the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, will be conducting conversations, speaking with key agencies and departments within the new administration.

Electric co-ops are optimistic. As we work with our elected leaders, we hope to renew a spirit of cooperation in the nation's capital and in statehouses across the country.



Todd Payne  
President/CEO  
Amicalola EMC

### Are we holding your money?

Local electric cooperatives operate at cost; any excess revenues are returned to member-owners in the form of capital credit refunds.

To find out if you have an unclaimed refund, visit [www.amicalolaemc.com](http://www.amicalolaemc.com). Choose the **Capital Credits** tab on the home page, and then click on the

**Unclaimed Recipients** link. You may also call 706-253-5200 or visit any Amicalola EMC office.



After a mandatory five year waiting period, any unclaimed capital credit refunds are distributed in accordance with Georgia's unclaimed property laws O.C.G.A. §44-12-236.



BYRON McCOMBS

*"The Newseum had two exhibits about 9/11. Walking through those rooms was very saddening, for it was like reliving that day all over again, but at the same time, it increased the pride and love I have for my country. My participation in the Youth Tour has increased my want and desire to help people in my future career. My favorite stop was the Arlington Cemetery. I looked at the vast area of graves and became filled with emotion. All of those men and women gave the ultimate price so that I could enjoy freedom. I couldn't be more grateful."*

**Sidney Bates**  
Lumpkin High



BYRON McCOMBS

*"The Washington Youth Tour was one of the most educational and inspiring trips of my life. Having the opportunity to meet and become friends with future and current leaders of our country opened my eyes to the many opportunities I have before me and helped me realize how much of an impact an individual can make."*

**Katelyn Pope**  
Gilmer High



BETH McMILLAN



BYRON McCOMBS

Georgia's 2016 Washington Youth Tour delegation gathers at the base of the Washington Monument.

**Want to go on the 2017 Washington Youth Tour?**



BYRON MCCOMBS

**★ Washington Youth Tour  
2017 tentative itinerary**

- **June 8:** Kickoff banquet, Atlanta
- **June 9:** Team-building activities; flight to Washington, D.C.

**Dates TBD for the following activities:**

- Tour and lunch at Mount Vernon; dinner at Union Station; evening guided tour of memorials; photo op at White House
- Guided tour of Jefferson, Lincoln, Korean War and Vietnam Veterans memorials; Arlington National Cemetery guided tour; dinner performance of “Beauty and the Beast” at Toby’s Dinner Theatre in Columbia, Md.
- All States assembly; tour Smithsonian museums; cruise on Potomac River
- Tour Supreme Court, U.S. Capitol and Washington National Cathedral; Sunset Parade at U.S. Marine Corps War Memorial (Iwo Jima statue)
- Meet with Georgia’s congressional delegation; tour Newseum and Library of Congress; All States farewell event
- **June 15:** Return flight to Atlanta

*Note: Itinerary subject to change*

*“My favorite stop on the trip was the Holocaust Memorial Museum; it is a special, sobering place. It made me grateful to live in the great country we do. The tour as a whole made me more driven and motivated to make a change in America.”*

**Drake Crump**  
Gilmer High

*“The day that made the greatest impression on me was the day we went to the Holocaust Memorial Museum. It really made me realize how awful it was during those times. My advice to future delegates is: Enjoy it because it is the chance of a lifetime.”*

**Hannah Weatherby**  
Cherokee High



**Contact Amicalola EMC for information!**

## New for 2017

### Scholarship and Washington Youth Tour applications available online!

High school seniors may now apply for the 2017 Amicalola EMC Scholarship competition. Applications will be accepted online **only** at [www.amicalolaemc.com](http://www.amicalolaemc.com)>MyCommunity>scholarships. Winners will be determined based upon grade-point average, SAT or ACT scores and household income.



High school juniors may apply for the 2017 Washington Youth Tour, to be held June 8-15, 2017. Applications will be accepted online **only** at [www.amicalolaemc.com](http://www.amicalolaemc.com)>MyCommunity>YouthTour. Winners will be chosen, in part, based upon letters of recommendation and personal interviews.

The deadline to enter both programs is Jan. 31, 2017. For more information, contact Stacey Fields, Director of Public Relations, 706-253-5287 or [staceyf1@amicalolaemc.com](mailto:staceyf1@amicalolaemc.com).

## Nondiscrimination Statement

Amicalola Electric Membership Corporation is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotope, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the respon-

sible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at [http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint\\_filing\\_cust.html](http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html) and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

- (1) mail:** U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;
- (2) fax:** (202) 690-7442; or
- (3) email:** [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

## Magazine cover photos: A peek behind the scenes

After delegates from across Georgia arrive in Atlanta for the Washington Youth Tour kickoff, they pose for the first of the week's many photo ops. This, however, is the only one in front of a green screen.

Photographer Louis Tonsmeire, of Cartersville, banners with the dressed-up delegates, grouped by EMC, helping to ease any nervousness they (or their parents) may have at meeting so many new people. Once one group's photo is completed, another is ushered in. The *GEORGIA Magazine* cover shoot finishes up just in time for the kickoff banquet.

Magazine Production Coordinator Gayle Hartman then goes through all the images, picking out the best one of each co-op's delegates (eyes open, clothes and hair in place). The green screen is removed, the photos are retouched and a Washington, D.C., landmark—most often the U.S. Capitol—is placed behind the delegates. The process takes several weeks because of the volume of photos involved.



BYRON MCCOMBS

As photographer Louis Tonsmeire lines up the shot, Washington Youth Tour delegates pose for the cover of *GEORGIA Magazine*. The green screen is later replaced with an iconic Washington, D.C., scene.

The cover shots were taken on-site in Washington, D.C., until 2009. The change came about because of the Youth Tour's busy schedule and the time the photo shoot took. Plus, shooting the photos outdoors meant the weather could always be a factor.