

# BEACON



Amicalola Electric Membership Corporation

“Owned By Those We Serve”

Vol 65 | Issue 2 | MARCH 2015

Let your voice be heard!

Amicalola EMC works hard to make sure your voice is heard and represented by working with elected officials at the state and national level on regulatory and policy issues that impact the energy industry.



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## Comments from the CEO

### The power of policy impacts our members



Charles Gibson  
President/CEO  
Amicalola EMC

It seems whenever you turn on a TV, listen to the radio or pick up a newspaper, you hear something about the government and those who represent us at either the state or national level.

Through Georgia EMC and the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), we have dedicated staff members who work to ensure our members' interests are represented, and *heard*, by elected officials. Members of these government relations and policy teams work tirelessly to tackle complicated regulatory and policy issues. They monitor issues in the ever-changing energy market and then evaluate how those issues impact our communities.

They have a deep understanding of the needs of the communities we serve, and they use that knowledge

to ensure that your needs are represented in major legislative decision-making.

We work with elected officials to make sure that your interests are being considered to ensure that you will always be provided with safe, reliable and affordable electric service. That is the cooperative difference.

It isn't just our government relations team that helps us effect policy and legislative change; your voice also makes a huge difference in how quickly and effectively we can drive change. Through our grassroots advocacy programs, we encourage you to make your voice heard. This is how we show state and national officials that we are acting in your best interest. Your collective voice shows that we represent communities and families, not corporate interests.



# Amicalola EMC announces employee promotions



President/CEO Charles Gibson, far left, and Senior VP Sam Owenby, far right, congratulate employees Darrell Vick, Joey Fellows and Kerry Veazey on their recent promotions.

President/CEO Charles Gibson is pleased to announce three employee promotions. Joel Fellows has been named District Manager of the headquarters office in Jasper and Kerry Veazey has been named District Manager for the northern district office in Ellijay. Darrell Vick will replace Veazey as the Construction Crew Leader at the headquarters office in Jasper.

Both Fellows and Veazey are longtime employees of Amicalola EMC and bring a wealth of

knowledge and experience to their new positions. Among their duties is the responsibility to schedule and supervise the line construction crews assigned to each office. Vick is an experienced construction crew member and brings several years of knowledge and experience to the crew leader position.

The board of directors and all staff members congratulate these three employees and wish them well in their new positions.

## Statement of Nondiscrimination

Amicalola Electric Membership Corporation is the recipient of federal financial assistance from the Rural Utility Service, an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and is subject to the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended; the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended; and the rules and regulations of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, which provide that no person in the United States on basis of race, color, national origin, age or handicap shall be excluded from participation in, admission or access to, denied the benefits of, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination under any of this organization's programs or activities.

The person responsible for coordinating this organization's nondiscrimination compliance efforts is Patricia B. Evans, Executive Assistant to the President/CEO. Any individual, or specific class of individuals, who feels that this organization has subjected them to discrimination may obtain further information about the statutes and regulations listed above, and/or may file a written complaint with this organization; or the Secretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington DC 20250; or the Administrator, Rural Utility Service, Washington, DC 20250. Complaints must be filed within 180 days after the alleged discrimination. Confidentiality will be maintained to the extent possible.

Let us keep you in hot water! For just \$1.49 a month, we will fix or replace your water heater. Please call 706-253-5200 for more info.



# Clearing for reliability

There are many ways that Amicalola EMC provides you with safe, reliable and affordable electric service. One of the most common—and crucial—ways is referred to as right-of-way clearing (or vegetation management).

A right of way (ROW) refers to a strip of land underneath or around power lines that your electric cooperative has the right and responsibility to maintain and clear. Trees must be contained to a distance far enough from power lines, so they will not cause harm to individuals or disruption to electrical service.

Clearing the ROW is critical to keeping your lights on. An average of 15 percent of power interruptions occur when trees, shrubs or bushes grow too close to power lines.

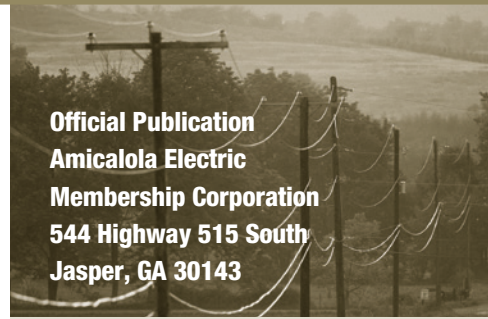
If a tree encroaches on this safe distance, our vegetation management team will trim back branches and brush using chain saws, bucket trucks, tree climbers, brush chippers and mowers.

We also use EPA-approved herbicides to control unwanted vegetation species in the right of way. Using a selective application process that involves the use of backpack sprayers, we can closely control the application of herbicides.



ROW clearing keeps your family safe by ensuring that tree branches do not become energized due to close contact with a downed power line. Power lines can carry up to 14,400 volts, and an energized tree branch is incredibly dangerous—even deadly. Be mindful when around trees close to power lines, and make sure your children know that climbing trees near power lines is extremely dangerous.

Remember to contact us at 706-253-5200 if you decide to trim or remove trees that are close to power lines.



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**Membership Corporation**  
**544 Highway 515 South**  
**Jasper, GA 30143**

Charles L. Gibson, *President*

## Board of Directors

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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](http://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:

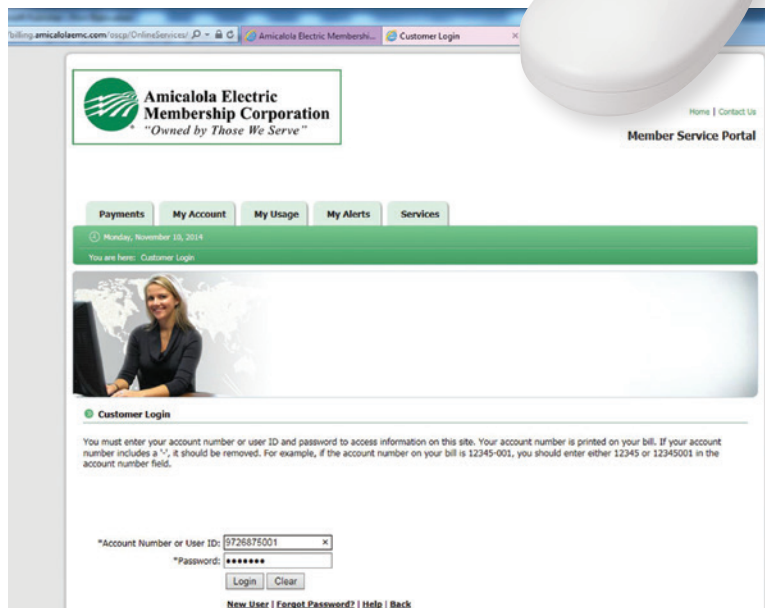
Stacey Godfrey Fields, CCC



# Member service portal

Amicalola EMC offers expanded member benefits through the member service portal. Available online at [www.amicalolaemc.com](http://www.amicalolaemc.com), the member service portal gives you the ability to:

- Set up an e-check profile
- Make payments
- View account profile
- View billing and payment history
- Sign up and manage your e-Bill account
- Set up alerts and reminders on your account



## Energy Efficiency

### *Tip of the Month*

They're out of sight, but don't forget about your air ducts. Taking care of them can save money and energy. Check ducts for air leaks. Take care of minor sealing jobs with heat-approved tape, especially in attics and in vented crawl spaces. Call the pros for major ductwork repairs.

*Source: U.S. Department of Energy*



## 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.

