

BEACON



Amicalola Electric
Membership Corporation

"Owned By Those We Serve"

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Comments from the CEO



Todd Payne
President/CEO
Amicalola EMC

Take the time to plug into safety

This month, I'd like to take a moment to reflect on the importance of safety. May is Electrical Safety Month, and we will be sharing safety tips and reminders throughout the month on our Facebook page to help raise awareness about the dangers of electricity. We all depend on electricity to power our lives, but accidents can happen when electricity is improperly used.

Our responsibility to you

Amicalola EMC's concern for safety extends beyond our employees. According to the Electrical Safety Foundation International, thousands of people in the U.S. are critically injured and electrocuted as a result of electrical fires, accidents and electrocution in their own homes. We care deeply about the safety of our members, and this



**ELECTRIC CO-OPS
are committed to
keeping members
and employees SAFE.**

May is National
Electrical Safety Month

plug into safety

AMERICA'S ELECTRIC
COOPERATIVES

month, we encourage you to plug into safety.

To promote safety education in our local communities, we visit local schools to provide safety demonstrations. In addition, we allow schools to bring classes to our facilities to see the equipment linemen use to stay safe. We also provide electrical safety information in this newsletter, and we encourage the public to contact us if they see a downed power line or any other type of dangerous electrical situation. We strive to provide our communities with *safe*, reliable and affordable electricity and to serve as your trusted energy advisor,

now and well into the future.

Our responsibility to employees

It is no accident that safety is a top priority for employees at Amicalola EMC. We are committed to a culture of safety that is integral to our daily operations. In fact, we are part of the Electric Cooperative Safety Accreditation of Georgia, facilitated through Georgia EMC, which follows specific guidelines and protocols for electrical safety that are considered leading practices. Our lineworkers are required to wear personal protective equipment at all times when on the job. This includes special fire-resistant clothing that will self-extinguish, limiting potential injuries from burns and sparks. Insulated and rubber gloves are worn in tandem to protect from electrical shock. Our safety team regularly discusses important safety issues pertaining to work within the building as well as out in the field.

As the CEO of Amicalola EMC, I believe it is my duty and responsibility to raise awareness about the importance of electrical safety, and I encourage you to take a moment to plug into safety. Please visit www.esfi.org for more tips about how to keep you and your loved ones safe.

Amicalola EMC awards \$133,000 in college scholarships

The annual Youth Awards Banquet was held on March 16, at Chattahoochee Technical College in Jasper. Approximately 425 people attended, including students, parents, school administrators, Amicalola EMC key staff members and members of the board of directors.

This year, 136 high school juniors and seniors were awarded \$133,000 in scholarships. In addition, four Washington Youth Tour delegates were announced: Trey Lunn, of Pickens High; Garrett Martin and Makayla Roberson, of Gilmer High; and Nicholas Touron, of Lumpkin High.

The 2017 Washington Youth Tour will take place June 8-15. The longest running youth leadership program in Georgia, the Washington Youth Tour offers a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for delegates to network, gain leadership experience and learn about our nation's capital.



Amicalola EMC names 2017 Washington Youth Tour winners. Back row: Winners of \$500 scholarship, from left, Dalton Crowe (alternate), Pickens High; Brysen Garland, North Georgia Christian Academy; Jacob Hopkins, Lumpkin High; and Elizabeth Morris, Dawson High. Front row: Stacey Fields, Amicalola EMC; the 2017 WYT winners: Trey Lunn, Pickens High; Makayla Roberson, Gilmer High; Garrett Martin, Gilmer High; and Todd Payne, President and CEO. (Not pictured: 2017 Washington Youth Tour winner Nicholas Touron, Lumpkin High.) The winners also receive a \$750 scholarship.



128 high school seniors across the Amicalola EMC service area each received a \$1,000 scholarship, shown here with the Amicalola EMC board of directors at the 2017 Youth Awards Banquet held in March.

Unclaimed capital credits

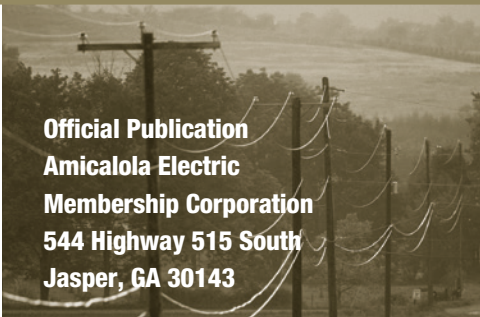
Membership of an electric co-op has many benefits. We are good stewards of your money and strive to give you good value for your dollar. When you pay your monthly electric bill, you can rest assured that every dollar you pay is being spent wisely to provide you with safe, reliable and affordable electricity.

As a not-for profit electric co-op, Amicalola EMC does not make a profit. Any revenue over and above the cost of

doing business is returned to you, our members, in the form of capital credit refunds.

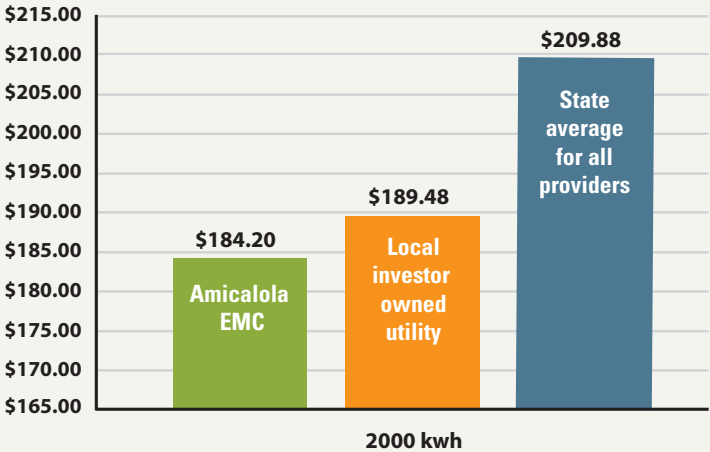
A list of unclaimed capital credit refunds is available for review. You may access it on our website amicalolaemc.com or in person at any local Amicalola EMC office. The last day to claim these funds is Aug. 31, 2017. At that time, unclaimed funds will be distributed for charitable purposes in accordance with Georgia unclaimed property laws.

Amicalola EMC rates lower than the state average



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Membership Corporation
544 Highway 515 South
Jasper, GA 30143

2017 Winter Rate Survey
Georgia Public Service Commission



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

Amicalola EMC members continue to pay less for electricity than the average Georgia resident. The 2017 Winter Rate Survey, recently

released by the Georgia Public Service Commission, confirms that Amicalola EMC is lower than the state average in all categories.

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

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

Celebrate lineman and administrative professionals

During April, we observed two important times of recognition. April 10 was Lineman Appreciation Day and April 26 was National Administrative Professionals Day. Whether inside or outside, the employees of Amicalola EMC are among the best in the nation. Hard working, loyal and committed, we work hard to keep the lights on every day. Thank you for allowing us to be your electric provider.



DONNA GADDIS

Amicalola EMC linemen during the recent 40-hour Lab I Climbing Exercise held during March.



Thunderstorm safety tips from the American Red Cross

When thunderstorms are rolling your way, stay safe with these helpful tips from the American Red Cross:

- Listen to local news or NOAA Weather Radio for emergency updates. Watch for signs of a storm, like darkening skies, lightning flashes or increasing wind.
- Postpone outdoor activities if thunderstorms are likely to occur. Many people struck by lightning are not in the area where rain is occurring.
- If a severe thunderstorm warning is issued, take shelter in a substantial building or in a vehicle with the windows closed. Get out of mobile homes that can blow over in high winds.
- If you can hear thunder, you



are close enough to be in danger from lightning. If thunder roars, go indoors! The National Weather Service recommends staying inside for at least 30 minutes after the last thunderclap.

- Avoid electrical equipment and telephones. Use battery-powered TVs and radios instead.

- Shutter windows and close outside doors securely. Keep away from windows.
- Do not take a bath, shower or use plumbing.
- If you are driving, try to safely exit the roadway and park. Stay in the vehicle and turn on the emergency flashers until the heavy rain ends. Avoid touching metal or other surfaces that conduct electricity in and outside the vehicle.
- If you are outside and cannot reach a safe building, avoid high ground; water; tall, isolated trees; and metal objects such as fences or bleachers. Picnic shelters, dugouts and sheds are NOT safe.

Source: American Red Cross



Holiday office closings

Our offices will be closed on
Monday, May 29, in observance
of Memorial Day.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



Keep warm summer air outside where it belongs! Add caulk or weather stripping to seal air leaks around leaky doors and windows.

—Source: U.S. Department
of Energy

