

BEACON



Amicalola Electric
Membership Corporation

"Owned By Those We Serve"

Vol 69 | Issue 3 | MAY 2019

Memorial Day 2019 –
Monday, May 27



Our offices will be closed in remembrance of the heroes who gave the ultimate sacrifice. Today and every day, we celebrate their extraordinary service, commitment and courage.



Comments from the CEO



Todd Payne
President/CEO
Amicalola EMC

Safety starts with you

Tips for spotting potential electrical hazards in your home

Electricity plays many roles in our lives, from powering baby monitors, cellphones and lighting, to running HVAC systems and appliances. No wonder we get so comfortable with its instant availability that when we flip a switch, we expect most systems or devices to do the job.

May is National Electrical Safety Month, and here at Amicalola EMC, we think it's a great time to look around your home and check for potential safety hazards.

Remember, every electrical device has a purpose and a service life span. While we can extend their operations with maintenance and care, none of them are designed to last or work forever. When electricity is involved, failures can present electrical hazards that might be avoided with periodic inspections.

Ground-fault circuit interrupters

Outdoor outlets or those in potentially damp locations in a kitchen, bathroom or laundry room often include GFCI features. They are designed to sense abnormal current flows, breaking the circuit to prevent potential electric shocks from devices plugged into the outlets.

The average GFCI outlet is designed

to last about 10 years, but in areas prone to electrical storms, they can wear out in five years or less. Check them frequently by pressing the red test button. Make sure you hit the black reset button when you are done. Contact a licensed electrician to replace any failing GFCI outlets.

Loose or damaged outlets or switches

Unstable electrical outlets or wall switches with signs of heat damage or discoloration can offer early warnings of potential shock or electrical fire hazards. Loose connections can allow electrical current arcing. If you see these warning signs, it may be time to contact an electrician.

Surge protectors

Power strips with surge protectors can help safeguard expensive equipment like televisions, home entertainment systems and computer components. Surge protectors are rated for the number of joules they can effectively absorb. That means if your surge protector is rated at 1,000 joules, it should be replaced when it hits or passes that limit. When the limit is reached, protection stops, and you're

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Recruiting and retaining a skilled workforce

BY TODD PAYNE, PRESIDENT/CEO

As our longtime employees begin to reach retirement age, one of our biggest priorities at Amicalola EMC is recruiting and retaining a skilled workforce.

Research has projected that by the end of this year, millennials (generally referring to the generation of people born between the early 1980s and 1990s) will surpass Baby Boomers to become the largest living generation in the United States. Millennials are expected to become the majority generation in the workforce within the next few years.

A successful merger of generations in the workplace will require taking the best of all generational values and creating a recipe to provide our members with the same dependable electric service they have come to expect; one that meets their needs and exceeds their expectations.



Our plan for this includes learning and development opportunities for our less tenured employees. It also includes encouraging our longer tenured employees to act as mentors, sharing the valuable knowledge and experience

they've gained throughout their careers.

Regardless of generation, we will work together to create a workforce culture that empowers all employees and contributes to the overall success of our cooperative.

Safety starts with you

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left with a basic power strip.

Some surge protectors include indicator lights that flicker to warn you when they've stopped working as designed, but many do not. If your electrical system takes a major hit, or if you don't remember when you bought your surge protector, replacement may be the best option.

Extension cords

If you use extension cords regularly to connect devices and equipment to your wall outlets, you may live in an underwired home. Remember, extension cords are designed for temporary, occasional or periodic use.

If an extension cord gets noticeably warm when in use, it could be undersized for the intended use. If it

shows any signs of frayed, cracked or heat-damaged insulation, it should be replaced. If the grounding prong is missing, crimped or loose, a grounded cord will not provide the protection designed into its performance. And always make sure that extension cords used in outdoor or potentially damp locations are rated for exterior use.

According to the Consumer Product Safety Commission, approximately 51,000 electrical fires are reported each year in the United States, causing more than \$1.3 billion in annual property damage.

Electricity is an essential necessity for modern living, and Amicalola EMC is committed to providing safe, reliable and affordable power to all of our members. We hope you'll keep these



electrical safety tips in mind so that you can note any potential hazards *before* damage occurs.

2019 Youth Awards Banquet

Over 400 were in attendance as 138 of the best and brightest students from across the Amicalola EMC service area were honored on March 21 at the annual Youth Awards Banquet.

133 seniors and 8 juniors stepped up to claim \$138,000 in scholarships and four spots on the 2019 Washington Youth Tour.

All scholarships are funded using unclaimed capital credits in accordance with Georgia's unclaimed property laws, which includes a mandate that the funds must be used for education, economic development or given to a 501(c)(3) charity.



Front row, starting second from left: Logan Joiner, Rianna Henderson, Jenna LaCours and Seth Bouldin were chosen as 2019 WYT delegates. Back row, runners up, from left: Elizabeth Chesser, Chloe Walker, William Teague and Anna Huller. Far left is Amicalola EMC Public Relations Director Stacey Fields; far right is Amicalola EMC President/CEO Todd Payne.



Gilmer High students were all smiles on awards night.



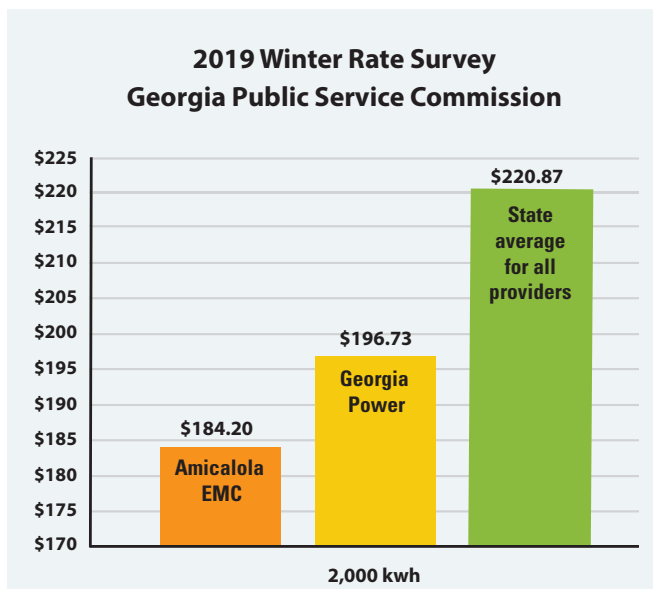
At the Youth Awards Banquet, 133 seniors, shown here with the AEMC Board of Directors, were honored for their achievements.

Unclaimed capital credits

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. 30, 2019. At that time, unclaimed funds will be distributed for charitable purposes in accordance with Georgia's unclaimed property laws.

Amicalola EMC rates lower than state average

According to the 2019 Winter Rate Survey, recently released by the Georgia Public Service Commission, Amicalola EMC members *continue to pay less* for electricity than the average Georgia resident. The survey confirms that Amicalola EMC is lower than the local investor-owned utility and lower than the state average in most categories.



Process for electing directors

Members of Amicalola Electric Membership Corporation are reminded that nominations for the AEMC Board of Directors will be posted July 7, 2019. The Nominating Committee's recommendations for the board will be posted on the bulletin board at the main office in Jasper, Georgia, and on the AEMC website.

The Amicalola EMC Bylaws state "that the committee on nominations shall make at least one nomination for each post for director to be voted on at

the annual meeting. The committee shall prepare and post at the principal office of the Cooperative at least ninety (90) days [July 7, 2019] before the meeting, a list of nominations for directors, but any fifteen (15) or more members may make other nominations in writing over their signatures no less than sixty (60) days [Aug. 6, 2019] prior to the meeting, and the Secretary shall post the same at the same place where the list of nominations made by the committee is posted."

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

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. Bryan Post #4
 Kathy Burt Post #7
 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:

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 706-276-0359
 706-864-0359

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