

BEACON

Comments from the CEO

Preparing to serve you better

Providing reliable power to you is and will always be top priority for Amicalola EMC. These days, power reliability seems to be making news now more than ever.

As the energy industry continues to transition and more segments of the economy are becoming electrified, such as vehicles, machinery and even lawn equipment, additional

pressures are being placed on our nation’s electric grid. It’s a great time to tell you about the measures we take to help ensure your power continues to be reliable.

Vegetation management

Let me be the first to say I love trees and the charm they add to our communities, and I know you do too. While trees provide shade and add beauty to our area, you may be surprised to learn that overgrown vegetation accounts for about half of all power outages.

We strive to keep the co-op’s power lines clear within the right-of-way (ROW) areas. A ROW area is the land a co-op uses to construct, maintain, replace or repair underground and overhead power lines. This ROW enables Amicalola EMC to provide clearance from trees and other obstructions that could hinder distribution power lines. The overall goal of our vegetation management strategy is to provide reliable power to our members while maintaining the beauty of our area.

Generally speaking, healthy trees don’t fall on power lines, and clear lines don’t cause problems. Proactive trimming and pruning keep lines clear to improve power reliability. Vegetation management is costly and time consuming. It entails on-the-

ground, labor-intensive efforts involving dozens of workers assessing vegetation and overseeing the quality and completion of contractor work. Typically, Amicalola EMC spends approximately \$3.5 million per year on vegetation management. Currently, we are on a five-year cycle, meaning it takes about five years to completely trim our system. We continue to look for ways to reduce our costs and improve efficiency.

Planned outages improve reliability

Although it may seem counterintuitive, we also maintain power reliability through planned, controlled outages. By carefully cutting power to one part of our local area for a few hours, Amicalola EMC can perform system repairs and upgrades, which ultimately improve electric service. Rest assured, we will always notify you in advance of a planned outage, so make sure we have your correct contact information on file.

Technology

By installing automated distribution switches on our system, we have been able to increase reliability. For instance, consider a circuit that

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Todd Payne
President/CEO
Amicalola EMC

IN MEMORIAM

1939-2023



In memory of Robert L. Payne, who dedicated 19 years of loyal service to the members of Amicalola EMC.

Recent promotions



From left: Nathan West, Vice President of Operations & Engineering; Todd Payne, President & CEO; Bo Cox, Manager of District Operations, Eastern District Office.

CEO Todd Payne is pleased to announce two recent promotions. Nathan West has accepted the position of Vice President of Engineering & Operations and will oversee all aspects of engineering and operations for the cooperative. Bo Cox has been named Manager of District Operations, Eastern District Office (Dahlonega), and will assume

scheduling and supervision of construction crews assigned to that location.

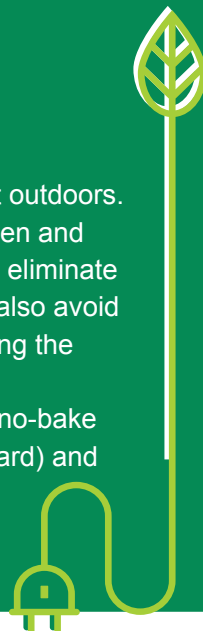
Both West and Cox are committed to providing the members of Amicalola EMC with excellent service and safe and reliable electricity. The board of directors and all staff members congratulate them and wish them well in their new positions.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Summer is a prime opportunity to enjoy the great outdoors. To reduce home energy use, avoid using your oven and use a grill instead. Not only will cooking outdoors eliminate the electricity used to power the stove, but it will also avoid raising the temperature inside your home, reducing the need for air conditioning or cooling.

You can also avoid using the oven with tasty no-bake recipes. Get creative in the kitchen (or the backyard) and find new ways to save energy!

Source: Dept. of Energy



Bright Ideas Teacher Grant Program returns



Timeline to submit applications for 2023

Aug. 1

Begin accepting applications – online only

Aug. 31

Early bird deadline (for a chance to win a gift card)

Sept. 8

Final deadline to apply

All grants will be awarded in October.

Are we holding your money?

Information on unclaimed capital credits refunds may be found at www.amicalolaemc.com, by calling 706-253-5200 or by visiting any Amicalola EMC office.



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

Is rooftop solar right for you?

Georgia's plentiful sunshine makes our state ideal for homegrown solar energy. As interest in renewable energy has grown, so have the number of solar installers who make big promises to help consumers "go green" with solar. Unfortunately, there has also been a significant increase in reports of consumers being misinformed by some solar installers.

If you're considering a rooftop solar system for your home, it's important to do your homework to ensure your investment is all sun and no shade.

As your trusted energy advisor,

Amicalola EMC can help you make smart energy investments, including right-sizing a rooftop solar installation to best meet your energy needs and financial goals. We can help you understand your current electricity use, the many important factors to consider with a rooftop solar installation and what you can expect to gain from your investment.

Visit amicalolaemc.com/my-co-op/renewable-energy to review helpful resources that can support your rooftop solar evaluation process, including frequently asked questions and a list

of important topics to discuss with a solar installer. You'll also find our new **Rooftop Solar Assessment Tool**. Answer a few short questions to generate an estimate of your solar generation potential, ongoing utility costs and estimated payback period for a rooftop solar system.

At Amicalola EMC, we know solar, and we can help you evaluate your solar energy options. For more information, call us at 706-253-5200 to speak with one of our experienced energy advisors.



IS ROOFTOP SOLAR RIGHT FOR YOU?

VISIT OUR ROOFTOP SOLAR
RESOURCE CENTER AT
www.amicalolaemc.com



Office closing

The offices of Amicalola EMC will be closed on Tuesday, July 4, 2023, in observance of Independence Day.



Operation Round Up



Camp Kudzu was awarded \$1,000. From left: Desirae August, VP of Development; Robert G. Shaw, Executive Director; Anna Rambo, Director of Programs; Danielle Holmes, Senior Development Coordinator; and Caroline Tallman, Senior Community Medical Coordinator.

Angels on Horseback received \$1,000. From left: Lexi the Therapy Horse, student Erika Mucha, Angels on Horseback Director Tammy Hermann and volunteer Evelyn Steiner.



St. Vincent de Paul Good Samaritan Conference received a \$1,000 donation to provide assistance to the people of Ellijay who find themselves struggling with rent, utilities and food. From left: Vice President Sue Hughes and President John Miles.

The mission of Tiny Stitches is to provide basic clothing, bedding and other items for newborn babies in North Georgia whose families are not able to provide for them. Front row, from left: Jerry Cox, Susan Brunton and Frances Alkire; second row, from left: Margaret Cox, Marian Bartelski, Amy Wilson and Karen Fulford.

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feeds 1,200 members. Without automation, if a power outage occurs just outside the substation, all 1,200 members are without power until repairs can be made. With automation, this number is broken up into sections, with around 300 members per section. Only the specific section where the fault occurred would remain out until repairs could be made. All other sections would be restored within minutes. The increased reliability comes from being able to divide the system into smaller sections and feed those from different directions.

At Amicalola EMC, we strive to ensure power reliability and minimize the risk of outages. As advancements become more accessible and costs drop, we anticipate the increased use of available technologies to ensure a consistent energy supply while managing the environment.

I encourage you to follow Amicalola EMC on social media for the latest updates as we continue to look for ways to better serve you.