

BEACON



Amicalola Electric
Membership Corporation

"Owned By Those We Serve"

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Comments from the CEO

Reliable power for today—and tomorrow



Todd Payne
President/CEO
Amicalola EMC

As 2023 comes to a close, the prospect of ringing in a new year sparks a sense of renewed hope and optimism about the future. As the CEO, for me, it's a time to reflect on where we are and where we're going. At the heart of this reflection, I think about ways we can better serve you, the members of the cooperative.

Our team at Amicalola EMC is always looking ahead, exploring ways to innovate and utilize new technologies to improve our services. As our nation increasingly relies on electricity to power the economy, keeping the lights on has never been more important. We're committed to powering—and empowering—our community at a cost local families and businesses can afford.

So how are we working to ensure reliable and affordable power while adapting to a changing energy landscape and our community's evolving needs?

One critical component of reliable power is the mix of energy resources used to generate the electricity that keeps the lights on across north Georgia. You may not realize it, but Amicalola EMC doesn't generate electricity. Instead, we purchase it from our energy providers, Oglethorpe Power Corp., Georgia



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—Todd Payne, President/CEO

Energy Cooperative and others. From there, we distribute it to homes and businesses throughout our community.

We're increasingly using more electricity generated from renewable energy sources, but we still depend on a diverse energy mix to ensure reliable power that's available to our members whenever they need it.

In addition to managing a reliable energy mix, Amicalola EMC is using technology to enhance our

local grid, limit service disruptions and improve outage response times.

Automated distribution equipment helps to lessen the impact of power outages by working to pinpoint the exact location of the outage. We can then isolate the section of line affected and quickly restore the unaffected sections of the circuit, ultimately improving power reliability for our entire community.

One of the best methods for improving our services to you is monitoring trends and leading practices from other electric co-ops in Georgia and across the country. Learning from other co-ops is one of the many benefits of the cooperative business model. Because for us, it's about cooperation, not competition.

As we turn our focus to 2024, Amicalola EMC will continue working to provide the safe, reliable and affordable electricity you expect and deserve—for today and tomorrow. On behalf of the employees, staff and members of the board of directors, I'd like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous new year.

Amicalola EMC donates \$480,000 for education and community development

Amicalola EMC is a not-for-profit electric cooperative that operates by seven core principles, one of which is members' economic participation. In a cooperative, all members contribute equally to its assets. Any surplus funds, after covering the operational expenses, are returned to the members as refunds when financial conditions permit. This year, the Amicalola EMC board of directors approved a capital credit refund in the amount of \$2.7 million to members who received electric service in 2003. Active account holders will receive a credit on their bill, while former members will receive a check by mail if we have the current mailing address.

Unclaimed funds are held for an additional five years, during which time you can claim any funds due you by providing a current mailing address. According to Georgia's unclaimed property laws, Amicalola EMC may then allocate the funds back to the communities it serves for the purpose of education, economic development and 501(c)(3) charities. Because of this, Amicalola EMC has



Representatives from Dawson and Lumpkin Chamber of Commerce offices, development authorities, food pantries and free health clinics are shown here receiving donations provided by unclaimed property funds.

awarded over \$480,000 to local organizations in 2023. These unclaimed capital credits went to fund high school scholarships, Bright Ideas teacher grants, local fire department projects, economic development projects, chamber of commerce initiatives, local Rotary Club projects and to help stock local food pantries. Piedmont Mountainside (hospital) was able to receive

\$40,000, \$30,000 from Amicalola EMC and a \$10,000 matching grant from Co-Bank, a rural utility lender.

As a member-owner of Amicalola EMC, you can take pride in knowing that the cooperative strives to provide safe, reliable and affordable electricity, while also supporting development and improved quality of life for its local residents.



Troy Leist of Dawson County Fire receives a donation from CEO Todd Payne. Forty-eight fire departments across the Amicalola EMC service area each received a \$1,000 donation in September using unclaimed property funds.



Representatives from Gilmer County receive funds for economic development, health care and other local nonprofits.

Annual meeting recap

The 82nd Annual Meeting of the Amicalola EMC membership was held on Saturday, Oct. 7, 2023. Over 200 members and guests were in attendance.



CEO Todd Payne congratulates Andy Holden for 50 years of serving the cooperative.

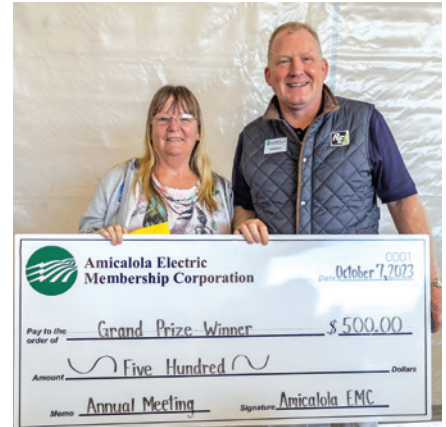
Entertainment was provided by the Glorybound Quartet, a local Southern gospel group. Attendees received gift bags and snacks. Many lucky members won prizes.

The following employees who had earned service awards for 30 years of service or more were recognized: Roger Fendley, 30 years; Allen Hamrick, Lamar Logan, Dub Allen and Kenneth Payne, 35 years; Todd Satterfield and Jr. Watkins, 40 years; Andy Holden, 50 years.

Also recognized were Director Travis Cline, for 20 years of service and Director Reggie Stowers, for 30 years of service.

All other employee service awards will be presented at a later time.

Directors **John H. Bennett Jr.** (Post 6 – Cherokee/Bartow counties),



Caren Fortner was the lucky grand-prize winner at this year's annual meeting, taking home \$500 cash!

Charles R. Fendley (Post 3 – Pickens County), and **Randall Ponder** (Post 1 – Gilmer/Murray counties) were re-elected.

AEMC Board of Directors return \$2.7 million in capital credits refunds



Members contribute equitably to, and democratically control, the capital of the cooperative.



In September, our board of directors authorized a general refund of capital credits in the amount of \$2.7 million for members who had service during the year 2003. From left: Amicalola EMC board members Reggie Stowers, Secretary-Treasurer Randall Ponder, Travis Cline, David Pierce, Shelley Cantrell, Chairman Charles Fendley, CEO Todd Payne, Kathy Burt, Edward Tucker, Attorney Phillip Landrum and Vice Chairman John Bennett.

2024 Scholarship and Washington Youth Tour deadline



It's scholarship time! The deadline to apply for the 2024 Amicalola EMC scholarship (high school seniors) and the 2024 Washington Youth Tour (high school juniors) is Jan. 31, 2024. Students must live in an Amicalola EMC household to be eligible. To apply, go to www.amicalolaemc.com, My Community. For more information, please call Stacey Fields at 706-253-5287.



Retirements

Congratulations to Donna Lindsey on her retirement. Thank you for your many years of dedicated service to our members.

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Donna Lindsey receives congratulations from CEO Todd Payne on her retirement after completing 20 years of service to the cooperative.



Holiday fire safety tips from Gilmer County Fire & Rescue and Pickens County Fire & Rescue

Gilmer Fire & Rescue and Pickens Fire & Rescue would like to wish everyone a happy holiday season and share some important fire safety tips to help keep your family safe during the holidays.

- Check to make sure your smoke alarms are working. Change batteries twice a year and replace smoke detectors every ten years.
- Do not overload electrical outlets.
- Use battery-operated candles.
- Check decorations for a certification label.
- Keep combustibles at least 3 feet away from heat sources.
- Never leave a fire or heat source unattended.
- Properly remove ashes from a fireplace or wood heating unit by placing them in a metal container.



DO NOT place in a combustible container like a plastic bucket or cardboard box.

- Never use gas- or charcoal-fueled devices inside.
- Turn off, unplug or extinguish all decorations when leaving or going to sleep.
- Close doors while sleeping.

We wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



Holiday office closings

Our offices will be closed Monday, Dec. 25, and Tuesday, Dec. 26, so our employees may celebrate Christmas with their families. We will be closed on Monday, Jan. 1, 2024, for New Year's Day. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!