

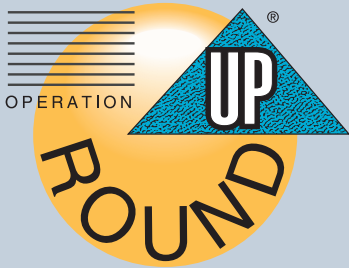
BEACON



Amicalola Electric
Membership Corporation

"Owned By Those We Serve"

Vol 74 | Issue 4 | JULY 2024



Operation Round Up awards \$24,000 in April 2024



- Angels on Horseback Inc.
- Camp Kudzu Inc.
- Core Inc.
- Ferst Readers of Pickens County
- Mountain Wisdom Inc.
- MUST Ministries Inc.
- North Georgia Family Partners LLC
- Operation Appreciation Inc.
- Pickens County 4-H
- St. Vincent de Paul
- The Place
- Tiny Stitches Inc.
- Weekend Snack Program

Qualifying individuals received donations for medical bills, clothing, food, shelter and home repairs.

Comments from the CEO

New EPA power plant rules threaten grid reliability

On April 25 of this year, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released four major new regulations for the electric industry, including a much-anticipated rule to cut emissions from power plants, a sweeping move that will aggravate reliability concerns for electric cooperatives and other utilities nationwide.

"The path outlined by the EPA is unlawful, unrealistic and unachievable," says Jim Matheson, CEO of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. "It undermines electric reliability and poses grave consequences for an already stressed electric grid."

The power plant rule constrains existing coal and new natural gas plants by requiring them to install carbon capture and storage (CCS) technology that is not yet reliable or commercially available.

"The new EPA rules ignore our nation's ongoing electric reliability challenges and are the wrong approach at a critical time for our nation's energy future," Matheson adds.

The power plant rule will force the early closure of electricity generation sources that are available 24/7 and will also impede the construction of new natural gas plants. The timing of these sweeping new rules is particularly troubling as electric utilities face a surge in demand for electricity from factors like

transportation electrification and the rapid expansion of data centers to support artificial intelligence, e-commerce and cryptocurrency.

Under the new rule, existing coal-fired power plants that plan to operate past the start of 2039 must install CCS to capture 90% of emissions by 2032. The rule also requires new natural gas plants that operate more than 40% of the time to install CCS and capture 90% of their carbon emissions by 2032. These standards, and their reliance on unproven CCS technology, will undermine electric reliability.

At Amicalola EMC, approximately 10% of our generation comes from coal-powered plants. The new EPA regulations could affect this existing generation immediately.

Electric cooperatives understand the need to keep the lights on at a cost local families and businesses can afford. Clean energy technologies must be balanced with generation sources that are always available to ensure a reliable electric grid.

Electric cooperatives like Amicalola EMC deliver power to 42 million Americans. Our top priority is to meet our members' energy needs at a price they can afford to pay, and we must have reliable electricity available to do that.



Todd Payne
President/CEO
Amicalola EMC

Spark a conversation, share your co-op story

It's important that our power stays reliable and affordable for our members and the community. Help ensure that it does by sparking a conversation with policymakers nationwide. Share your co-op story with Voices for Cooperative Power and tell everyone why reliable power matters. Please use the QR code to tell your story.



IN MEMORIAM

1988-2024



In memory of Kyle Honea, who dedicated seven years of loyal service to the members of Amicalola EMC.

Do you have a bright idea?

We have some good news, teachers. Bright Ideas has returned. This teacher grant program is designed to reward teachers who are striving to



bring creative learning experiences to their classrooms. Georgia certified teachers at elementary, middle, high schools and private schools in the Amicalola EMC service area are eligible to apply. This could be the year your bright ideas are brought to life!

For more information about Bright Ideas, visit our website by scanning this QR code with your smartphone.

All funding is provided with unclaimed property in accordance with O.C.G.A. §44-12-236.

Timeline to submit applications for 2024

Aug. 1 Begin accepting applications—online only

Aug. 30 Early bird deadline (for a chance to win a gift card)

Sept. 6 Final deadline to apply

All grants will be awarded in October.



For more information on Bright Ideas, scan this QR code with your smartphone.



Andy Bradshaw becomes a Certified Loss Control Professional

Amicalola EMC's Safety Director, Andy Bradshaw, recently completed an intensive program in electric utility safety and loss control. The Certified Loss Control Program is a series of workshops offered by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association in conjunction with the National Utility Training & Safety Education Association. The program is designed to instruct participants in many areas related to electric utility industry safety.

Bradshaw is one of only a few electric professionals in the country to receive this certification this year. The program requires participants to complete a rigorous series of seminars and tests, a 30-hour OSHA course and a detailed final course

project. Loss Control trainees go through four weeklong sessions that are designed to challenge and educate them in new, innovative safety techniques. Participants must also maintain their certificate by attending courses every year in order to stay on top of changes in the industry.

According to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, nearly 4 million injuries occur annually in the workplace. One of the goals of a Certified Loss Control Professional is to help ensure a safe work environment for utility workers and the public in general. Andy Bradshaw does an exceptional job for Amicalola EMC, and we are very proud of him.



President/CEO Todd Payne is pleased to recognize Amicalola EMC's Safety Director, Andy Bradshaw, for becoming a Certified Loss Control Professional.

Retirements

Congratulations to Scotty Newberry on his retirement. In appreciation of 37 years of dedicated service to our members.

President/CEO Todd Payne with retiree Scotty Newberry at his retirement party in April 2024.



Office closings

The offices of Amicalola EMC will be closed on Thursday, July 4, 2024, in observance of Independence Day.

Walter Harrison winners announced



Bryce Longstaff



William Longstaff

Amicalola EMC is pleased to announce brothers Bryce and William Longstaff of Cherokee High School as 2024 statewide Walter Harrison Scholarship winners. The scholarship was named after the late Walter Harrison, a pioneer in rural electrification. As recipients, Bryce and William will receive \$1,000 in addition to the scholarship they were awarded by Amicalola EMC.



Aug. 31, 2024: last day to claim refunds issued in 2018

In compliance with O.C.G.A. § 44-12-236 of the Disposition of Unclaimed Property Act, Amicalola EMC is attempting to locate former members whose capital credits refunds were issued in 2018 but have remained unclaimed.



Individuals may view a current list of these members at any local Amicalola EMC office Monday through Friday during the hours of 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The last possible date to claim these refunds is Aug. 31, 2024. If funds are not claimed by this date, funds will be donated for approved uses as permitted by the above referenced code section.

5 WAYS TO SAVE THIS SUMMER

When summer temperatures rise, so do our energy bills. Here are a few ways you can reduce energy use and grow your summer savings.

1. Raise your thermostat.

The smaller the difference between the indoor and outdoor temp, the more you'll save.

2. Install window coverings

like blinds or light-blocking curtains to prevent indoor heat gain during the day.



3. **Seal leaks with caulk and weatherstripping** around windows and exterior doors. Air leaks force your air conditioner to work harder and run longer than necessary.
4. **Run ceiling fans** for additional cooling but turn them off when you leave the room.
5. **Lower your water heater thermostat** to 120 degrees to reduce standby heat loss.

Hot water maintenance program



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

Source: Dept. of Energy