



Pictured is Rex Robinson along with his wife, Julie, as they prepared to leave from Grady EMC to Mississippi. Rex, an employee with Grady EMC's engineering department, and Julie volunteered to collect goods from various collection points in Thomas and Grady counties and transported them to the hurricane devastated areas. The Robinsons used their own personal vehicle and trailer along with paying for the expense to transport these items. We want to thank Rex and Julie for their unselfishness and for their compassion which is evidenced by not only them, but by thousands of people from our area that contributed so much to those people in need. Rex and Julie live in the Boston area.



Also pictured is a group of Grady EMC employees as they help load items onto the trailer. The trailer was completely packed as they left.



Grady EMC employees, Darryl Hooks on the left, and Mike Savitz were in Louisiana and Mississippi helping to restore power after the hurricanes demolished portions of the states. Darryl and Mike were gone for several days living and working in places where all that was there was primarily tents with sleeping cots to lie down on and get a few hours rest and whatever food was furnished them by other volunteers. We thank Mike and Darryl and their respective families for the hardships they endured in going to the aid of those much less fortunate.

## 2006 - Right-of-Way Program - 2006

As the year 2005 comes to an end, Grady EMC would like to thank those members for their understanding and cooperation in their involvement with the right-of-way program that was conducted in 2005. Members served by the Reno substation were the ones who had their rights-of-way cleared and cleaned in 2005.

In 2006, those members that are served by the EASON CROSSING and RENO substations will continue to have their rights-of-way cleared and cleaned. This will involve Thomas and Grady counties again as it did in 2005. As you probably already know, the right-of-way policy requires up to a thirty (30) feet right of way. Various methods are used in this program such as tree removal, tree trimming, and spraying of vegetation in order to maintain this right-of-way to help reduce the number and duration of power outages brought on by falling trees, limbs, etc.

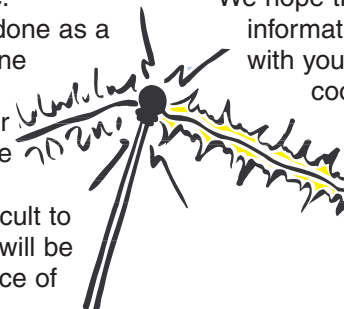
This notification is done as a reminder so that anyone having a concern or doubt can contact your cooperative prior to the work being started on your property. It is difficult to say exactly when this will be done on a specific piece of

property due to the miles of distribution lines involved, varying work schedules, and weather conditions affecting work plans, etc. If you are not sure which substation provides energy to your home, and you would like to know, please call the office and we will verify that information for you.

Grady EMC realizes the sensitive nature of this program for our members, but we are tasked with the responsibility of keeping your lights on with the least amount of interruptions. As we all know, trees, limbs and electricity just don't mix; therefore, the right-of-way program is in place to help keep our lights on as much as possible.

In order to keep potential problems down in the future, we would like to remind and ask everyone that consideration be given to planting trees, bushes, shrubs, etc. at least thirty (30) feet away from an overhead power line.

We hope that providing this information, in conjunction with your understanding and cooperation, will help reduce and eliminate future problems. ■



## GRADY EMC ACCEPTING WALTER HARRISON SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

Grady EMC is currently accepting applications for the 2006 Georgia EMC Walter Harrison Scholarships.

The scholarships are open to anyone who has not yet completed a bachelor's degree and is attending or planning to attend a two- or four-year accredited university, college or technical school in Georgia within the next two years. There will be a total of seven \$1,000 scholarships awarded to individuals living within the service areas of the 36 participating EMC's, including Grady EMC.

Scholarships will be based on financial need and academic ability. The scholarships honor the late Walter Harrison, who was known in Georgia and across the nation as "Mr. Rural Electrification" for his pioneering efforts in the electric cooperative industry. More than \$92,000 in scholarships have been awarded since the program began in 1985.

Those interested in applying for the scholarship should contact their guidance department counselors at their respective schools to receive an application packet. In addition to the application form, applicants will need to submit an autobiography, school transcripts, letters of recommendation and proof of enrollment or an acceptance letter. Application packets may also be picked up at Grady EMC's office by contacting Donnie Prince.

The applications must be submitted to Grady EMC no later than Friday, February 3, 2006. Winners will be announced by Georgia Electric Membership Corporation on or before April 1, 2006. ■



# GRADY E.M.C. NEWS

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NUMBER 4

*Seasons Greetings*  
and a very *Happy New Year*  
From the Directors, Staff and Employees of  
the Grady Electric Membership Corporation  
Holiday Hours: Our office will be closed  
for Christmas, Monday, December 26,  
and Monday, January 2, 2006, for New Year's Day.  
In case of emergency, assistance may be reached 24 hours a day,  
7 days a week, at (229) 377-4182.






## GRADY EMC






"Your local cooperative with access to the world's power."



GRADY ELECTRIC  
MEMBERSHIP CORPORATION  
P.O. BOX 270  
CAIRO, GEORGIA 39828

T.A. ROSSER  
General Manager

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CLOSED HOLIDAYS,  
SATURDAY & SUNDAY

BUSINESS and SERVICE CALLS  
DURING and AFTER  
OFFICE HOURS  
377-4182  
TOLL FREE  
SERVICE NUMBER  
1-800-942-4362

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Grady Electric Membership  
Corporation

## 67th annual meeting held

A rather warm, sunny, October morning greeted members of Grady Electric Membership Corporation as the cooperative conducted its 67th annual meeting on Friday, October 21, 2005. The meeting was held at Grady EMC's office complex located on Highway 84W in Cairo, Ga. A total of 600 members registered to vote and re-elected Mr. Lamar Carlton representing District 3 in Thomas County and Mr. Robert E. Lee representing District 6 in Grady County. A crowd estimated at 1,000 representing members from all service areas enjoyed the fellowship one with another.

The Harmony Boys from Camilla, Ga. performed for the crowd and as always, did an excellent job. Rev. Alton Harper, Jimmy Thomas, Chuck Berry, Ken Davis, and Ms. Ruby Merritt have a special talent of presenting Jesus Christ through their music. We thank them for their special contribution to the meeting.

Mr. Donald Cooper, Chairman of the Board of Directors of Grady EMC, opened the business portion of the meeting by calling upon Reverend Carl Harrell, pastor of Union Springs Baptist Church, Whigham, Ga. to offer the invocation. As Mr. Cooper called the meeting to order, he then asked Grady EMC's attorney, J. Kevin Chason, to conduct the business matters of the meeting. Mr. Chason then introduced Mr. Thomas A. Rosser, General Manager of Grady EMC. Mr. Rosser welcomed those in attendance and introduced some guests in attendance. Mr. Rosser spoke of the physical hardships we had to overcome in 2004 due to the hurricanes that ravaged our system and in 2005 are having to overcome the economic hardships brought on by the hurricanes. He told the membership that overcoming this year, 2005, didn't mean restoring power and repairing buildings and roads, that it meant having to pay for higher costs for fuel for vehicles and power generation as well as other costs that are increasing because of this. Mr. Rosser stated, "we can say we're not going to take it any more, and we certainly don't have to. Only problem is, we don't want to walk, and we don't want to be in the dark". Mr. Rosser also pointed out that Grady EMC has not had a rate increase since May, 1992 as some members might have thought differently. He told the membership Grady EMC was still operating on the same margin now we had then. He then discussed the issue of an additional charge we are all seeing on our bills as a direct result of the increase in wholesale power costs to the cooperative which is more or less directly related to the increase in fuel cost. He informed the members and recognized they were probably already thinking about the possibility of increased rates unless cost pressures ease. He stated, "we may be forced to increase our rates, but right now, we are continuing to try to find better and more efficient ways of doing things". He talked about changes made in the telephone system and the efficiency it can provide and asked the members to please use the new system following the prompts as requested. He asked that the members give the system a chance to operate and time for the employees to optimize the system. He recognized that making changes comes hard and that new technology takes a while to get the "bugs" worked out. In his presentation also, Mr. Rosser discussed the use of generators and that if not connected properly could cause death to someone working on the line. He asked us to remember how fortunate we have been as compared to those people in Mississippi, Louisiana, and Texas. He said, "thank God for that, and ask for God's help for those people". Mr. Rosser then asked for a moment of silence to honor James Mckee, a dedicated employee of Grady EMC who died while on the job this year. He gave an update on the status of another employee, Bryan Wynn, who was electrocuted while working to restore power. He survived the shock and is on a long road to recovery. Towards the end of his presentation, Mr. Rosser told of the crews from Grady EMC that left their families for several days to help restore power to those victims in Louisiana and Mississippi. They gave of themselves unselfishly to help restore power where there were no modern conveniences. He then recognized the Board of Directors and employees and asked to join him in a round of applause for the job they do. Mr. Rosser closed by thanking everyone for taking the time to attend and by stating "may God Bless America". He then turned over the fun part of the program to Wayne Windham for the drawing of the gifts. ■



Pictured on the right is Mr. James A. Freeman, a member of the Board of Directors of Grady Electric Membership Corporation in Cairo, Georgia. Mr. Freeman, who represents District 4 in Thomas County, was recognized recently for his twenty (20) years of dedicated and loyal service as an elected director for the Electric Cooperative. Shown presenting Mr. Freeman with a gift of appreciation, is Mr. Donald A. Cooper, Chairman of the Board of Directors for Grady EMC. Congratulations to Mr. Freeman.

## 2006 Rebate Schedule

Beginning January 1, 2006, Grady EMC will honor the following rebate schedule for our membership. Note: All rebates will be applied as "credits" to the respective member's account.

- |   |                           |
|---|---------------------------|
| 1. Conversion from gas heat to a minimum 12.0 S.E.E.R. rated energy efficient heat pump. Installation of the new heat pump must be done by a licensed Georgia HVAC contractor. A copy of the customer invoice along with the necessary paperwork must be submitted by the dealer to Grady EMC who will then verify installation for the member. | <b>\$200<sup>00</sup></b> |
| 2. Conversion from a gas water heater to an electric water heater - member must present a copy of the invoice for the new electric water heater and an EMC representative will verify installation of the unit.   | <b>\$100<sup>00</sup></b> |
| 3. Conversion from a gas stove/range to an electric stove/range - member must present a copy of the invoice for the new electric stove/range and an EMC representative will verify installation of the unit.  | <b>\$100<sup>00</sup></b> |

## WASHINGTON YOUTH TOUR 2006

Once a year Grady EMC selects 3 high school juniors as delegates on the Washington Youth Tour. These students join with dozens of other students from Georgia to represent our state in Washington D.C. - all expenses paid. Once in D.C., the group connects with hundreds of students from across the country for one incredible week in our national capital. The Washington Youth Tour is a fastpaced once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to see how America works. This summer's tour will be held June 8-15, 2006.

"It is not just a week of sightseeing. It is even more than a chance to meet other students from across the nation and shake hands with congressmen I gained a new sense of pride in my country and respect for those who fight to defend the freedoms it offers." These feelings, expressed by a recent delegate underscores the emphasis of the program - a topnotch tour of our nation's capital that includes meetings with state and national leaders and leadership training, as well as visiting all the major sights. Students also meet and discuss their views with students from other states while learning about history, government and careers in public service.

Before departing for Washington, students spend a day in Atlanta touring the Governor's Mansion and CNN Studios, and learn about Georgia's 42 EMCs and the electric cooperative industry and enjoying a private tour of the birthplace of rural electrification—the Little White House.

Washington highlights will include cruising down the Potomac River, laying a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns in Arlington Cemetery, touring the U.S. Supreme Court, the Bureau of Printing and Engraving, Mount Vernon, the National Cathedral and Ford's Theater. The group will visit memorials honoring FDR, Jefferson, Lincoln, Washington, World War II, the Vietnam War and the Korean War, and watch the United States Marine Drum and Bugle Corps and the Silent Drill Platoon perform at the Iwo Jima Memorial. Museums to be

explored include the Smithsonian Institution and the Holocaust Museum.

Interested in a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to experience our government and our history up-close - while having fun, making new friends, and gaining leadership skills?

In order to apply for this event, information packets can be picked up from each school's guidance department. Each school has a designated WYT coordinator to work with the interested students. Delegates selected will be enrolled in the Junior class and be at least 16 years of age at the time of the tour. The contest involves writing an essay of 500-1000 words with the topic being a comparison of electric cooperatives to private, investor-owned utilities. The essay has to be received at Grady EMC's office no later than March 10, 2006.

Students of Grady EMC employees are ineligible to enter the Grady EMC contest; however, these students are eligible to enter the WYT contest sponsored by Georgia Electric Membership Corporation, the statewide organization.

Grady EMC will sponsor a total of three delegates, one from each of our prime service areas of Decatur, Grady, and Thomas counties.

The purpose of this tour is to recognize, promote and enhance leadership skills in students that have a desire to contribute to their communities and country. All aspects of rural electrification are promoted to enhance a better understanding of the value of rural electric cooperatives. GOOD LUCK to all participants. ■

