

Grady Electric Membership Corporation presents \$1,000 Walter Harrison Scholarship

Miss Tiffany Norton, of Cairo, was recently awarded a \$1,000 Walter Harrison Scholarship for outstanding achievement in academics and community service among high school students and college undergraduates.

Grady Electric Membership Corporation was pleased to present this prestigious scholarship to Tiffany recently. This scholarship is presented to students who are involved in their community and excel through grade point average, SAT score, academic rank and scholastic honors. The students' need for financial aid is also a consideration. All students that live in the home of a Grady EMC member throughout Grady EMC's service territory are eligible to apply annually.

The \$1,000 scholarship can be applied to any accredited two or four-year university, college or vocational-technical school in Georgia

Tiffany is the daughter of Charlie and Teresa Norton of Cairo. She will be attending the University of Georgia in Athens, GA. this fall. Tiffany has been an active member of several clubs including Key Club, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Interact, History, Spanish, Student Council, 4-H and Youth Apprenticeship. She has also received many academic rewards including Top Ten Student, Wofford Scholar, Georgia Certificate of Merit, Erskine Fellow, Presbyterian College Scholar, Who's Who Among American High School Students and National Honor Roll, among others. Tiffany also received recognition as an "All-American Cheerleader" while serving as a cheerleader for Cairo High School. She also performed as a member of the F.I.R.M. Dance Company. Participating in American Cancer Society Relay For Life, Foster Home Children Christmas Gifts, bake sales, Tree of Lights for the needy, and the Christmas Parade are a few of the community events she has been involved in. Tiffany has worked after school and during summers helping with Pre-k through 5th grade students in the summer fun program and the Youth Apprenticeship Program to help raise money for her college costs. Tiffany's future aspiration is to become a pharmacist.

Tiffany is one of only seventy-seven (77) highly deserving applicants selected for this scholarship throughout the state of Georgia.



The Walter Harrison Scholarship was created in 1985 by the board of directors of Georgia EMC, a trade association representing the 42 electric cooperatives, Georgia Transmission Corp. and Oglethorpe Power Corp.

Walter Harrison was a pioneer in the rural electricity movement and a leader at the local, state and national levels in electric cooperative programs.

Since 1985, Georgia's electric cooperatives, the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association and the Georgia Rural Electric Supply Corporation have awarded nearly \$100,000 to students through the Walter Harrison Scholarship Program.

Grady EMC is extremely proud to be a sponsor of the Walter Harrison Scholarship. Shown in the photo presenting Tiffany with a plaque is Donnie Prince, Grady EMC, and her parents Charlie and Teresa Norton. We wish Tiffany much continued success in her future endeavors. Congratulations

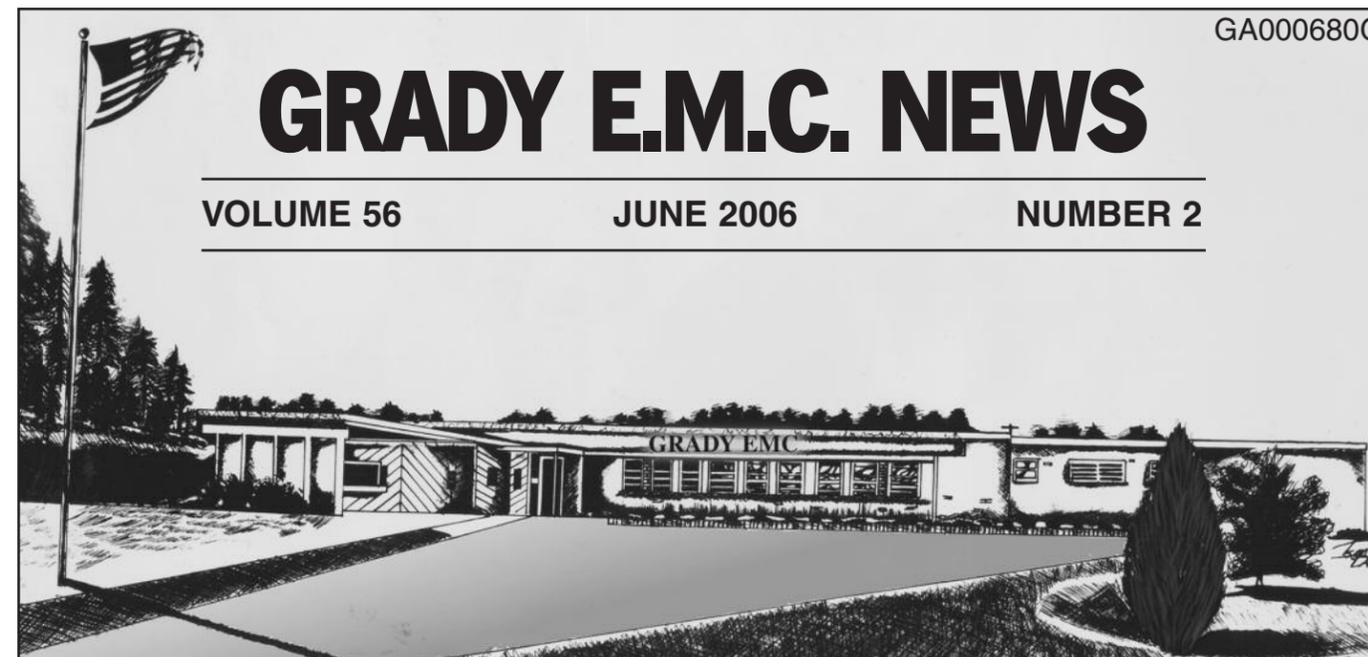
Grady Electric Membership Corporation was founded in 1937, and is a rural electric cooperative providing power to over 15,000 proud and satisfied members. The primary service area covers Decatur, Grady, and Thomas counties. Approximately 2,800 miles of distribution lines, spanning almost 100 miles, from one end to the other are served by this cooperative with a total of sixty (60) dedicated employees.

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Combining old-fashioned with high tech

In today's high technology environment in which Grady EMC operates, there still exists remnants of doing things the "old fashioned way".

Computerized phone systems, power outage reporting systems, meter reading systems, mapping systems, and laptop computers in field trucks are only a part of the high technology systems that are currently being used by your cooperative. However; there are still instances when getting the job done has to be done the old-fashioned way.

Climbing poles combines science and art and not everyone can do it. When certain situations arise, your trained linemen are called upon to climb a pole to re-install a downed power line. Areas where bucket trucks are not able to access lines, such as low, wet, boggy areas, lines that go through swampy areas, etc. create the need for these climbers. In the group photo, Harry Reeves, a GEMC safety instructor (back to camera) is

shown giving instructions about the safe, proper way to climb. Third from left is Jeff Gibbs, Grady EMC's safety coordinator and third from right is Wayne Windham, operations manager for the coop as they observe. From l-r is Kyle Henderson, Todd Gibbs, Jeff, Harry, Beau Boyett, Chad Morrell, Wayne, Robbie Meredith, and Trey Gainous. The other photo pictures Kyle Henderson as he puts his training into application. A spike, sunk into the pole by the climber, is all that keeps the lineman from falling. It takes concentration, physical strength, and stamina to do this type work. A lot of the time, pole climbing is occurring during bad weather, raining, etc., creating additional safety hazards for your linemen.

Your employees do this on a voluntary basis. They do this because they realize the importance that electricity plays in each of our lives and the need to help his fellow members. As you can imagine, climbing poles is just another dangerous aspect to a lineman in his line of work. This is one of the reasons why we ask that each of us do not attach anything to a utility pole that could cause a lineman to "cut out" and fall.

This training session was conducted at Grady EMC's office at our safety meeting in April. This was done as part of the ongoing safety training for your employees and also to prepare for the upcoming hurricane/storm season. ■



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GRADY EMC HOSTS EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS MEETING

On April 6, 2006, Grady Electric Membership Corporation hosted a meeting with representatives of Public Safety agencies and the Emergency Operations Centers of Decatur, Thomas and Grady counties.

The purpose of this meeting was to review existing emergency procedures and to determine what enhancements could be added for the upcoming storm season. Procedures already in place were discussed to see if there were areas that could be improved upon. Everyone agreed there is always room for improvement. One enhancement that will be implemented is that Grady EMC will provide the E911 dispatch centers a map of Grady EMC's power lines that will be overlaid onto the existing computerized mapping systems in their respective dispatch centers. These maps will not show any information that can be tied to a Grady EMC member's account; therefore, protecting all our rights of privacy issues. This will allow dispatch personnel to look at their system and determine which power company supplies power to an area that has received significant damage as a result of storm/catastrophic events. This will allow a much more rapid, accurate response to Grady EMC as well as other emergency personnel required for that particular disaster.

Another area of improvement will be the utilization of the internet as a form of non-verbal communications between Grady EMC and the E911 emergency operations centers. This will provide accurate, detailed information between the entities. It will reduce the amount of voice traffic which becomes extremely hectic during mass outages, etc.

We are fortunate to live in communities where there are dedicated individuals that are willing to communicate and cooperate one with another to achieve a common goal for the good of all its people. We would like to take this time to thank all the individuals representing their communities and organizations for their help and assistance at this meeting. They were: Tonya Griffin and Larry Welch with Decatur County, Ann Powell, Chris Jones, Diana Richards, Granville Jones, and Kyle Morris with Thomas County, and Jeff Gibbs, Rex Robinson, Jeffrey Rehberg, Wayne Windham and Donnie Prince representing Grady EMC. The photo with this article shows several of the representatives who attended the meeting.

We trust that the membership of Grady Electric Membership Corporation will understand that we are constantly striving to reduce outage times as a result of outages brought on by whatever reason. Your increased understanding and cooperation has helped immensely in past emergencies as a result of tornadoes, hurricanes, severe thunderstorms, etc. We remind all the members of Grady EMC to continue to utilize the automated outage reporting system as you have been doing and becoming more familiar with. This has provided a much quicker response time to your outages and provides you with acknowledgment that we are aware of your power outages. An integral part, for continued, successful operation of the outage reporting system, is knowing your account number for the service that is without power or the correct telephone number for your account. Having this information posted in your home or on your person for easy access should help.

Weather predictions for this year appear to be very active as well. We can only pray and hope for the best. ■



2006 Washington Youth Tour

RURAL ELECTRIC YOUTH TOUR

The tradition continues as Grady Electric Membership Corporation will be sending three delegates to Washington, DC. This will be Georgia's 41st annual Washington Youth Tour, an all-expense paid leadership experience sponsored by the Electric Membership Corporations in Georgia, including your cooperative, Grady EMC.

Kayla Hawkins, Alicia Meng, and Nick Thrower will be representing themselves, their families, communities, and schools as they tour our nation's capitol the week of June 8 thru June 15. The tour will begin by visiting the Little White House in Warm Springs, Georgia where President Franklin Delano Roosevelt vacationed and the idea of rural electrification was born. They will depart Atlanta and fly to

Washington for the remaining six nights. Georgia's delegation of 99 will convene with more than 1400 youth representing electric cooperatives across the nation. The delegates will have the opportunity to mingle with peers from other states and exchange views on local and national issues.

While there, the students will meet with national representatives as they attend a Georgia Congressional delegation meeting, a lecture in the Supreme Court and actual congressional sessions. The excellent reputation the Georgia delegation group has attained over the years allows them to even get a tour of the White House and to lay a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

The tour exposes students to the fast-paced world of politics, leadership and agenda-setting. Each year, the Washington Youth Tour challenges teens to consider the part they play in history, government and the cooperative movement, encourages them to become involved citizens, and prompts them to consider careers in public service. It provides them with an opportunity to see for themselves the rich history of this country. It also introduces them to leaders of yesterday and today whose contributions have made it possible for Americans to live in a free and democratic society.

While there, the group will also visit many of the nation's historical monuments and museums such as the Smithsonian Institution, the world's largest museum complex, the Holocaust Museum, Arlington Cemetery, and World War II, Vietnam War, FDR, Lincoln, and Jefferson memorials.

Kayla Hawkins, Decatur County's delegate, is a junior at Bainbridge High School. Kayla has been very active in various school and civic organizations and has recently completed the Bainbridge Decatur County leadership program. She has served as colorguard captain for the BHS Marching Band, is a member of the Future Teachers of America, and the National Honor Society. Her goals are to attend a university and double major in psychology and special education. She would like to return to Bainbridge upon graduation and either be a behavior specialist or a special education teacher.

Alicia Meng, Thomas County's delegate, is a junior at Thomasville High school. Alicia is musically talented with piano, guitar, accordion, and violin, and would like someday to teach piano. Alicia is also a participant in many school and civic organizations. She is a member of the National Honor Society, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, editor of the school's newspaper, and was involved in many sports at THS. Soccer is her favorite. She has volunteered as a soccer coach and has been a junior volunteer at Archbold Hospital. Alicia plans to attend a university and receive a major in biology and minor in journalism going on to obtain a doctorate degree.

Nick Thrower, Grady County's delegate, is a junior at Cairo High School. Nick is an avid soccer player and hopes to play soccer at the college level. Nick also ran cross-country for CHS. Nick has been involved with the Key Club, Interact, and has been very active in his church serving as president of his youth group for the past six years. He has volunteered his time in the community by performing volunteer concerts with his french horn for retirement centers. He has volunteered for the



Kayla Hawkins,
Decatur County



Alicia Meng,
Thomas County



Nick Thrower,
Grady County

"Kids Against Hunger Campaign" by helping with food drives. Nick's future goal is to attend a university with his major study interest in science. He plans on becoming a dentist.

After having the privilege of getting to know these students, we know they can accomplish whatever goals they set for themselves. Grady EMC considers it an honor to sponsor Kayla, Alicia, and Nick for the 2006 WYT. Congratulations to them. ■