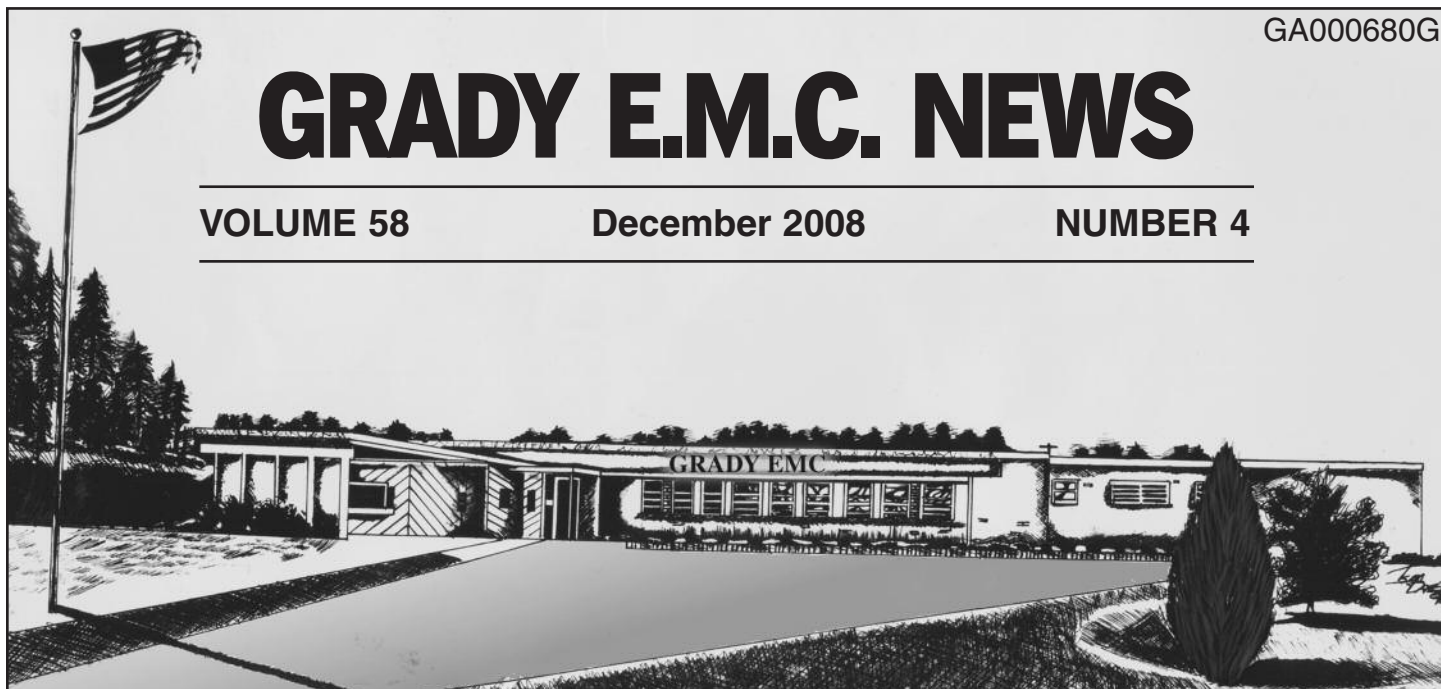


GRADY E.M.C. NEWS

VOLUME 58

December 2008

NUMBER 4



70TH ANNUAL MEETING

Grady EMC conducted its 70th Annual Membership Meeting on Friday, October 17, 2008. Beautiful weather brought out what was estimated at over 1,000 in total attendance with 542 members registering. The meeting was held at Grady EMC's office complex on Highway 84 W in Cairo, Ga.

Mr. Robert E. Lee of District 6, and Mr. Lamar Carlton of District 3 were re-elected without opposition to their seats on the Board of Directors. Their three year terms were approved by a unanimous voice vote of the membership.

The Harmony Boys of Camilla, Ga. provided the entertainment for this year's meeting. As usual, they did an excellent job of singing some great Southern gospel music. They are well liked and received a friendly and hearty ovation at the beginning and ending of their program. Prior to the business meeting starting, Donnie Prince led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance, and the Harmony Boys concluded by singing the National Anthem.

Mr. Donald Cooper, Chairman of the Board of Directors, officially called the business meeting to order. He then called upon Reverend Roger Brinkley, Pastor of Reno Baptist Church, for the invocation. Mr. Cooper then called upon J. Kevin Chason, Grady EMC's attorney, to conduct the business matters of the meeting. After Mr. Chason had completed the business portion of the meeting, he introduced Thomas A. Rosser, General Manager of Grady EMC. Mr. Rosser welcomed everyone to their meeting and introduced some special guests in attendance.



Mr. Rosser addressed two
continues on page 2



GRADY EMC



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

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

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President

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MONDAY thru FRIDAY
CLOSED HOLIDAYS,
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Published Quarterly,
Mailed to All Members of
Grady Electric Membership
Corporation

areas of concern. The first was to acknowledge the feelings he had, as well as those members in attendance, about the troubled direction in which our country is headed. He told the membership that some of our members are concerned that we have a Christian Gospel group sing at our meetings, as well as the American Flag being on stage. He explained that these members thought we should not be biased in our meeting, and not demonstrate any religious leanings. Mr. Rosser commented, "Personally, I am proud of my Christian Faith, as I am sure you are proud of your faith." He went on to say, "But since we try to abide by the wishes of our members whenever possible, we are going to put this issue to a vote. All in favor of continuing our tradition of having a Christian Gospel group for entertainment, as well as honoring our country by displaying our country's flag, please signify by saying aye." A resounding "aye" was heard all across the membership. When he asked for those opposed by like sign, a dead quiet came over the crowd. He then thanked the members.

The second area Mr. Rosser talked about was the telephone system along with what we are trying to accomplish with it. He acknowledged the fact that some "really like" the computerized answering system, and some that "really hate" it. He acknowledged that the younger the member, the more the computer is understood and appreciated. Mr. Rosser stated that, "Our reason for computer answering is simply more efficiency and the ability to handle significantly more calls. This applies especially to storm power restoration, where call volume is extremely high. This phone system is an integral part of our storm outage reporting and restoration system." As an example, he used Hurricane Jeanne that hit us in 2004 to Tropical Storm Fay that hit us in August, 2008. 2,800 phone calls were answered by Grady EMC personnel with Hurricane Jeanne as compared to Tropical Storm Fay with our computerized system answering 20,000 phone calls. This was comparing the same approximate time frame for both events. He stated, "In addition, this is without the added cost of 10 to 15 people to answer the phone, sort tickets, determine outage locations and hopefully not miss anyone."

Mr. Rosser then introduced a short video presentation outlining how the computerized outage system and telephone system work together as well as some interesting photos taken from Tropical Storm Fay. At the end of the video presentation, Mr. Rosser asked the audience to join him in a round of applause for the jobs their Board of Directors and employees do in putting together their annual meeting, and for striving constantly to provide you with the best possible service. In closing, Mr. Rosser thanked everyone for taking the time to attend and participate in their annual meeting. He then stated, "Please remember to keep our troops in your prayers, and may God Bless America."

The program was then turned over to Wayne Windham for the drawing of the gifts. ■

2009 Rebate Schedule

Beginning January 1, 2009, 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 14.0 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. **\$200⁰⁰**
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. **\$100⁰⁰**
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 **\$100⁰⁰**

Effective January 1, 2009, Grady EMC is having to make two small adjustments to some of our rates. The basic, monthly minimum customer charge will increase by \$1.00 per month from \$10.00 to \$11.00. The other change will be in our outdoor residential lighting charge. The 100 watt, residential, high pressure sodium outdoor security light will increase from \$6.00 per light per month to \$9.00 per light per month. These are the only two changes at this time. We regret these increases but we must do this in order to offset the increased costs to your cooperative as a result of increased costs passed on to us. We have fought passing these increases along for quite some time. We know the stresses that our economy is placing on all of us. We simply have to maintain our margins in order to provide the level of responsive, quality service that you have become accustomed to and expect.

WASHINGTON YOUTH TOUR 2009

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 11-18, 2009.

"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 enjoy 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 6, 2009.

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.

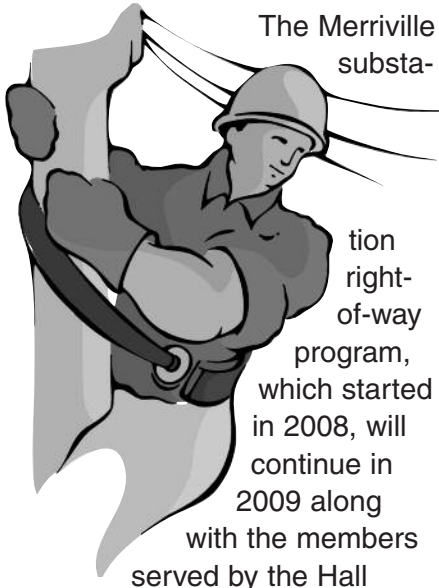
The purpose of this tour is to recognize, promote and enhance leadership skills in students that have a desire to contribute to their communities and country. All aspects of rural electrification are promoted to enhance a better understanding of the value of rural electric cooperatives. GOOD LUCK to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

RURAL
ELECTRIC
YOUTH
TOUR

2009

Right-of-Way Program

As the year 2008 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 2008. Members served by the Pummy Road & Roddenbery substations were the ones who had their rights-of-way cleared and cleaned in 2008.



The Merriville substa-

tion right-of-way program, which started in 2008, will continue in 2009 along

with the members served by the Hall

Road substation. 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. Please note that bushes, shrubs, trees, etc., that are not maintained mechanically by the member from the ground, will be main-

tained by the right of way program.

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 not planting trees, bushes, shrubs, etc. within thirty (30) feet of an overhead power line.

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

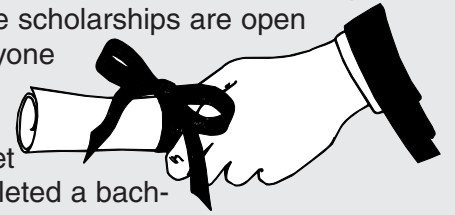
Grady EMC Accepting

WALTER HARRISON SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

Grady EMC is currently accepting applications for the 2009 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 nine \$1,000 scholarships awarded to individuals living within the service areas of the 36 participating EMCs, 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. Approximately \$116,000 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, grade point average, SAT scores, academic standing, scholastic honors, letters of recommendation and proof of enrollment or an acceptance letter.

The applications must be submitted to Grady EMC no later than Friday, February 3rd, 2009. Winners will be announced by Georgia Electric Membership Corporation on or before April 1, 2009. ■