

GRADY E.M.C. NEWS

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Grady EMC Conducts 73rd Annual Meeting

The 73rd Annual Grady EMC Membership Meeting was held on Friday, October 21, 2011. A beautiful, crisp, fall morning welcomed the estimated total crowd of 1,200 with 580 members registering. The American flag flew over the entrance into the complex where the meeting was conducted. The Harmony Boys from Camilla, Georgia entertained the crowd with some wonderful Southern Gospel music. Refreshments, free gifts, and great door prizes were all part of this year's meeting.

During the business portion of the meeting, Directors Lamar Carlton and Robert E. Lee, representing Districts 3 and 6 respectively, were re-elected to serve another three year term. We congratulate Mr. Carlton and Mr. Lee and thank them for the vital services they provide to the cooperative.

Mr. Donald Cooper, Chairman of the Board of Directors, officially called the business meeting to order. Mr. Cooper then presented Pastor Johnny Moore of Family Worship Center in Cairo to offer the invocation.

Ms. Claire Chason, attorney for Grady EMC, was then called upon by the Chairman to conduct the business affairs of the cooperative. Upon completion of her duties, she introduced Mr. Thomas A. Rosser, President of Grady EMC. Mr. Rosser welcomed and thanked everyone for attending their annual meeting. He introduced some special guests attending the meeting as well. After introducing the Board of

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HOLIDAY HOURS

Grady EMC will observe the following:
THANKSGIVING – closed November 24th and 25th, **CHRISTMAS** – closed December 23rd and 26th, and **NEW YEAR'S** – closed January 2nd, 2012.

We wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

T.A. ROSSER
President

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

DONALD COOPER
Chairman - District 2

DEWEY BROCK, Jr.
District 1

LAMAR CARLTON
Vice-Chairman - District 3

ROBERT E. LEE
Secretary - Treasurer - District 6

JAMES FREEMAN
District 4

G. WILLIS SMITH
District 7

Attorney
CLAIRE CHASON

OFFICE HOURS

8:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.

Drive Thru - 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.

MONDAY thru FRIDAY

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

After a brief illness, Mr. Leon O. Maxwell, III, passed away recently. Lee, as he was more commonly called, had been a Director for Grady EMC since his election in October 1992. He passed away on Tuesday, November 1, 2011 at Tallahassee Memorial Hospital. Mr. Maxwell was 69 years young. He was a member of Calvary Baptist Church and was interred in Piedmont Cemetery in Calvary.

Mr. Maxwell was a soft-spoken individ-

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Directors individually, he thanked them for the work they perform for the coop and then closed by saying "May God Bless America". Mr. Rosser also introduced a video, prepared by employees of Grady EMC, demonstrating the complexity of how electricity is generated, transmitted, and distributed to our homes. The video was well received and helped bring about a clearer understanding of the process involved in either flipping a switch, or getting a cup of hot coffee.

The final portion of the program was turned over to Wayne Windham, Operations Manager for Grady EMC. He conducted the drawing and awarding of over 100 excellent door prizes that were donated by various vendors and businesses. Donnie Prince, Grady EMC's Member Services Manager, is shown presenting the grand prize to Mrs. William J. Connell. The 32" flat screen TV was donated by Cook Electronics of Cairo. Grady EMC would like to thank all of those that donated items for this event. We look forward to seeing you next year at the 74th annual meeting. ■



Grady EMC loses a long-time and valued Director

ual expressing a gentleness of heart. He was devoted to Grady EMC and took his position seriously in the performance of his duties as a Director for the cooperative. He would listen to both sides of the issues presented and arrive at conclusions that were in the best interests of all members of Grady EMC. He was not only concerned about the local operations of Grady EMC, but also on the national level as he traveled to Washington, DC several times to participate in the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's (NRECA) legislative conferences.

Mr. Maxwell led an interesting life. After graduating from Cairo High School, he went on to serve his country in the U.S. Army for three years serving in Japan and Germany. Mr. Maxwell attended Georgia Southwestern College in Americus, Georgia receiving a Bachelor of Science degree in Economics and Business Administration which would later become a valuable asset to the Board of Directors he loved serving on. After working with

International Harvester Company, he was employed as a special agent in the Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms

division of the U.S. Treasury Department. During this tenure, he was assigned as a Secret Service agent for George Wallace, Ronald Reagan, Gerald Ford, and Jimmy Carter. Mr. Maxwell also became a licensed pilot. After retiring from Civil Service, he returned to his home in Calvary where he managed L.O. Maxwell Farms, Inc., a true source of pleasure for him.

Mr. Maxwell's presence will surely be missed. We would like to say thank you to his family for the many hours he put into making Grady EMC a better cooperative and better place to work. ■



WASHINGTON YOUTH TOUR 2012



JUNE 14-21, 2012 will be an opportunistic date for three aspiring high school juniors. This event, sponsored by Grady EMC and the EMC's of Georgia, is a motivational, dynamic leadership experience. It is a week-long, all expenses paid trip to Washington D.C. Previous student delegates have said that the Washington Youth Tour is by no means a typical tour of our nation's Capitol. It is a fast-paced, high energy, educational and fun event. The three delegates that are fortunate enough to be selected by Grady EMC for the 2012 WYT, will be among a group of approximately one hundred students who will travel as a Georgia delegation. During this week, there will be close to 1,500 students from across the United States that converge upon Washington sent by their respective electric cooperatives.

Before departing for Washington, delegates will be honored with a kick-off banquet in Atlanta and enjoy a private tour of the birthplace of rural electrification – the Little White House in Warm Springs, Ga.

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. Visiting the halls of Congress, having an opportunity to discuss issues with your elected representatives, to meet state and national leaders, and to improve your leadership skills are all intermingled during this high-powered week.

In order to apply for the WYT, please contact your school's guidance department. Each school has a designated WYT coordinator to work with the interested students. The delegates

selected will be enrolled in the junior class and be at least 16 years of age at the time of the tour. A question/interview process and a written resume will be utilized in determining the winners. The deadline for submitting the resumes is March 5, 2012 and may be turned into your school's WYT coordinator.

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. Students do not have to live in the home of a Grady EMC member to be eligible.

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

ties.

Shown in the photo below left to right are the 2011 WYT delegates: Jordan Downing, Grady County delegate from Cairo High School, Gabby Howard, Decatur County delegate from Bainbridge High School, and Davis Jenkins, Thomas County Delegate from Thomas County Central High School. The above

left photo, referred to as Hill Day, is of the entire Georgia delegation pictured in front of the Capitol.

The purpose of the WYT 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. BEST WISHES to all participants. ■



In just a short time, farmers, plantations, and individuals will begin to do some control burning. Whether in your yard, field or woods, Grady EMC would like to bring to your attention that we have had to replace several electric distribution poles as a result of permanent damage brought on by fire. We understand how this type of accident can happen and we are asking you to take EXTRA PRECAUTIONS this year in order to prevent this from happening. Not only does this create a potential safety problem by weakening the integrity of the pole and possibly causing it to break; but also, creates an unnecessary cost to you for having the pole replaced. Please do your part in helping hold down costs at your cooperative. Thank you in advance for your cooperation, help, and understanding. ■



2012 Right-of-Way Program

As the year 2011 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 2011.

In 2012, those members served by the Recovery substation and the Attapulugus substation will have their right-of-ways maintained.

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 maintained 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 2012 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 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 \$142,000 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, 2012. Winners will be announced by Georgia Electric Membership Corporation on or before April 1, 2011. ■