

GRADY E.M.C. NEWS

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Grady EMC Conducts 74th Annual Meeting

Grady EMC conducted its 74th Annual Membership Meeting on Friday, October 19, 2012. The meeting was held at the corporate office's headquarters on Highway 84 W in Cairo, Ga. Beautiful weather greeted the 604 members registering along with the estimated total crowd of 1300. The large, beautiful, American flag flew majestically above the meeting facility. The Willing Servants of Colquitt, Ga. entertained the large crowd with some great Southern Gospel Music. As usual,



refreshments, renewing fellowships with old friends as well as making new acquaintances, free gifts, and great door prizes were all part of the meeting.

Mr. Donald Cooper, Chairman of the Board of Directors, officially called the business meeting to order. Mr. Cooper called upon Pastor Mitch Clements, Summerhill Baptist Church in Boston, Ga. to offer the invocation. Ms. Claire Chason, attorney for Grady EMC, was then called upon and conducted the business affairs of the cooperative. Directors Dewey Brock, Jr., District 1, James Freeman, District 4, and G. Willis Smith, District 7 ran unopposed and were re-elected by acclamation to serve another three year term. We congratulate Mr. Brock, Mr. Freeman, and Mr. Smith and thank them for their service to the cooperative. Attorney Chason, upon completion of her duties, presented Mr. Thomas A. Rosser, President of Grady EMC. He welcomed and thanked everyone for attending their annual meeting. After introducing special guests in the audience, he introduced and thanked the Board of Directors individually for the duties they perform for Grady EMC. Mr. Rosser then introduced a video presentation produced by Grady EMC's IT department showing *continues page 2*

HOLIDAY HOURS

Grady EMC will observe the following:
THANKSGIVING – closed November 22nd and 23rd, CHRISTMAS – closed December 24th and 25th, and NEW YEAR'S – closed January 1st, 2013.

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

H. LAMAR STRICKLAND
District 5

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

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the hazards, hard work and dangers involved in maintaining a clean right-of-way to produce the least amount of power interruptions.

The remaining portion of the program was conducted by Wayne Windham, Operations Manager for the cooperative. He conducted the drawing and awarding of more than 100 door prizes that were donated by various businesses and vendors. The grand prize (photo above) was a 39" flat screen TV donated by Cook Electronics in Cairo, and was won by Mrs. Mary Strickland. Shown presenting the grand prize is Donnie Prince, Member Services Manager for Grady EMC. Thanks to everyone that donated items for this event and we look forward to seeing you at the 75th annual meeting. ■



IMPORTANT NOTICE – Each year Grady EMC must conduct year end maintenance of our system. Please make note that we will be unable to accept any payments or inquiries on accounts beginning December 30th, 2012 at 11:30 p.m. until January 1st, 2013 at 12:00 a.m. due to this maintenance process. As always, Grady EMC personnel will be on site for any emergencies during this time. We regret any inconvenience this may cause.

— **Urgent Notification** —

NEW GEORGIA AGRICULTURAL SALES TAX EXEMPTION GUIDELINES

— **Urgent Notification** —

For those involved in the agricultural industry, earlier this year Governor Nathan Deal signed House Bill 386 which included a number of changes to Georgia's tax system.

These changes will take effect January 1, 2013, and include: 1) The nullification of the existing Agricultural Certificate of Exemption, ST-A1, as a valid state form, 2) The replacement of ST-A1 with a tax exemption certificate issued yearly by the Department of Agriculture to each qualified agricultural producer, and 3) The necessity of the agricultural producer to apply annually to the Department of Agriculture for the tax exemption certificate at a small fee.

What this means, for any of your accounts that have previously been tax exempt with Grady EMC, is that effective January 1, 2013, no accounts will be tax exempt due to House Bill 386. For your accounts to be tax exempt from January 1, 2013 forward, you will need to provide Grady EMC with a copy of your new tax exemption certificate issued by the Department of Agriculture.

For you to be tax exempt on January 1, 2013, we will need your new tax exemption form by December 31, 2012. Per the Department of Agriculture, applications for the exemption certificate will be accepted starting November 15, 2012, via their website at www.agr.georgia.gov.

Grady EMC is ready to assist you with this new exemption process; however, we are limited until we receive the new application form from you. Please contact our Customer Service Department with any questions you may have.

WASHINGTON YOUTH TOUR 2013

June 13-20, 2013 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 nations 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 2013 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 1, 2013 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 counties.

Shown, left to right, in the photos right are the 2012 WYT delegates as they toured Washington (top photo): Kara Meng, Thomas County delegate attending the Scholars Academy in Thomasville, Clint Edmunds, Decatur County delegate attending Bainbridge High School, and Courtney Bearrentine, Grady County delegate attending Cairo High School. The lower photo pictures Kara, Courtney, and Clint, along with chaperones Tina and Scott Dubose as they attend the kick-off banquet in Atlanta.

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 controlled 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. ■



2013 Right-of-Way Program

As the year 2012 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 2012.

In 2013, those members served by the Reno substation and the Eason Crossing 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 2013 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 \$149,000 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 1st, 2013. Winners will be announced by Georgia Electric Membership Corporation on or before April 1, 2013. ■