

GRADY E.M.C. NEWS

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Grady EMC Conducts 76th Annual Meeting

Grady EMC conducted its 76th Annual Membership Meeting on Friday, October 17, 2014. The meeting was held at the corporate office's headquarters on Highway 84 W in Cairo, Ga. A crisp, cool morning greeted the 690 registered members along with a total crowd attendance estimated at 1,200. The American flag was a beautiful, majestic site to see as it waved above the meeting facility to those arriving. The Rob Mills Family from Michigan 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. Thomas A. (Bo) Rosser, Jr., officially called the business meeting to order. He began the meeting by calling upon Brother Carl Harrell, Pastor of Midway Baptist Church, Cairo, Ga. to offer the invocation. Mr. Rosser then introduced and recognized special guests, Grady EMC's Directors, auditor, and legal counsel. He also, in Memory, recognized Mr. Donald Cooper and Mr. Willis Smith for their long-standing contributions and support to Grady EMC. Prior to turning the meeting over to coop attorney, Ms. Claire Chason, Mr. Rosser recognized the military and first responder personnel in attendance to stand and were given a round of applause from the audience. Ms. Chason then came and conducted the business affairs of the meeting. Directors Lamar Carlton, District 3, and Robert Lee, District 6, were re-elected without opposition.

Mr. Rosser returned to the podium with some comments. He stated, "It is an honor to stand before you today for the first time as your general manager". He went on to say, "Despite having a new face as your general manager, one thing that has not changed is our focus, which is providing safe, reliable, and cost effective service for our members. Our members have benefitted from this unwavering focus for years". He talked about a letter sent to each member of the coop concerning a number of issues as well as the decision making behind our practices. He asked the members to take time and read the letter as it addressed the major areas of the recent lawsuit.

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Holiday
Hours

Grady EMC will observe the following: THANKSGIVING – closed November 27th and 28th, CHRISTMAS – closed December 24th and 25th, and NEW YEAR'S – closed January 1st, 2015.

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

T.A. (Bo) ROSSER, Jr.
President

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

LAMAR CARLTON
Chairman - District 3

ROBERT E. LEE
Vice-Chairman - District 6

DEWEY BROCK, Jr.
Secretary/Treasurer - District 1

CAYLOR OUZTS
District 2

JAMES FREEMAN
District 4

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District 5

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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

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Mr. Rosser stated that, "But the bottom line is that the best place to judge a business is through its people and its success". He went on to state several facts about Grady EMC that backed up his comment. Prior to introducing a video, he commented, "Everyone that is a part of Grady EMC - member, employee, vendor - should be proud of the work that has been done at this organization which has placed us among the top businesses in this community, this region, and in our industry".

At the conclusion of the video, Grady EMC's auditor, Mr. Marlan Nichols reported on the strong financial condition of the coop. A great round of applause was afforded Mr. Nichols as he completed his presentation. Counsel Steve Minor was then called upon to complete the business portion of the meeting. He offered several opportunities, for any members with any questions concerning Grady EMC's business practices, to come to the microphone. No one came forward. The business portion of the meeting was then closed. Mr. Rosser closed by saying "May God Bless each and everyone of you". Operations Manager, Wayne Windham, and Donnie Prince, Member Services Manager, concluded the meeting by awarding more than 100 great prizes donated by various businesses and vendors. The grand prize winner was Ms. Vinita Williams. Thank you to everyone that donated items for this event and we look forward to seeing you at the 77th annual meeting. ■



IMPORTANT NOTICE – Grady EMC's office will be closed December 31st and January 1st due to year-end maintenance of our accounting system. No payments or inquiries can be made on accounts beginning on December 30th at 11:30 p.m., 2014 until January 1st, 2015 at 12:00 a.m. (This includes online payments and inquiries). As always, Grady EMC personnel will be on site for any emergencies during this time. We regret any inconvenience this may cause.

2015 Rebate Schedule

Beginning January 1, 2015, 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 15.0 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. A credit of \$200.00 will be applied to member's account.
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. A credit of \$100.00 will be applied to member's account.
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. A credit of \$100.00 will be applied to member's account.

WASHINGTON YOUTH TOUR 2015

June 11-18, 2015 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 2015 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.

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. 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 2, 2015 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.



Pictured left to right are: 2014 WYT delegates Asia Dukes representing Cairo High School from Grady County, Ty Jones representing Bainbridge High School from Decatur County, Tessa McCorkle representing Thomas County Central High School from Thomas County, and Donnie Prince, Grady EMC's Member Services Manager and Youth Tour Coordinator.

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. ■



2015 Right-of-Way Program

As the year 2014 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 2014.

In 2015, those members served by the Pummy Road, Elpino, and Roddenbery substations will have their right-of-way 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 2015 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 \$162,000 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, January 30, 2015. Winners will be announced by Georgia Electric Membership Corporation on or before April 1, 2015. ■