WASHINGTON YOUTH TOUR 2017



The Washington Youth Tour is one of the nation's premiere Youth Leadership experiences designed to encourage, equip and empower the next generation of leaders. In 2017, Grady EMC will be sponsoring three high school juniors (you must be at least 16 years of age at the time of the trip) to tour our capitol city from June 8-15, 2017. This high-paced week combines experiencing the history of our nation's capitol with the opportunity to meet with current and future leaders



of our great nation. We will select one applicant from Decatur, Grady and Thomas County, each of the three main counties in our service area. The delegates will start their week in Atlanta for a kick off banquet where they will meet other delegates from the state of Georgia. From Atlanta, they will fly to Washington D.C. where they will visit the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington National Cemetery, cruise the Potomac River on a dinner cruise, tour the National Cathedral, Mount Vernon and the U.S. Supreme Court. Throughout the week, delegates will meet with state and national leaders and be challenged by speakers to improve their leadership skills.

To apply for the WYT, contact your school's guidance department. Each school has a WYT coordinator to assist interested students. An interview process and a written resume will be utilized to determine the winners. The deadline for submitting your resume is March 3rd. All resumes must be submitted to your school's WYT coordinator. Best wishes to all participants.

IMPORTANT NOTICE — No payments or inquiries can be made on accounts beginning on December 30, 2016 at 11:30 p.m. until January 1, 2017 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.

The board, management and employees of Grady EMC appreciate hearing your thoughts and concerns regarding your EMC. Input from our members plays a vital part in improving our service and helps us achieve our mission of providing safe, reliable and affordable electricity to Grady, Thomas and Decatur counties.

If you are currently receiving a GATE sales tax exemption for services from Grady EMC, your card will expire on Dec. 31, 2016. In order to continue receiving this exemption, you need to re-apply for the GATE certificate and submit it no later than Dec. 31, 2016.

To apply for or renew a GATE certificate, visit the Department of Agriculture's website or call 855-FARM TAX.



2017 Rebate Schedule

Beginning January 1, 2017, Grady EMC will honor the following rebate schedule for our membership. 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.

GRADY E.M.C. NEWS

Volume 66



In the aftermath of Hurricane Hermine, Grady EMC crews, with assistance from crews from Irby Electric and Sumter EMC, restored over 15,000 member outages in just over 48 hours. We are thankful for the support of fellow EMCs in times of need and are grateful for the dedicated service of the men and women of Grady EMC.

December 2016 Number 4

BO ROSSER

President

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

LAMAR CARLTON Chairman - District 3 **ROBERT E. LEE** Vice-Chairman - District 6 **DEWEY BROCK. Jr.** Secretary/Treasurer - District 1 **RONALD SELLARS** District 2 **JAMES FREEMAN** District 4 EARL STUCKEY District 5 JAMES LEWIS 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 & AFTER** OFFICE HOURS 229-377-4182 1-800-942-4362 OUTAGE NUMBER 229-377-6060 1-877-757-6060

Published Quarterly Mailed to All Members of Grady Electric Membership Corporation

Grady EMC conducts 78th Annual Meeting



Grady EMC conducted its 78th Annual Member Meeting on Friday, October 21, 2016 at the Family Worship Center in Cairo, Georgia. The Rob Mills family to provided entertainment to the crowd, estimated to be more than 1,100 attendees. Our guests this year enjoyed gifts, refreshments and the opportunity to win one of more than one hundred door prizes.

Our opening invocation was offered by Pastor Johnny Moore of Family Worship Center in Cairo.

Grady EMC President and General Manger Bo Rosser started by thanking Grady EMC team members for their restoration work after Hurricane Hermine and Matthew. He then highlighted system and structure improvements made during the past year at Grady EMC. He also introduced new services that are designed to give members new tools to better manage their accounts. He closed by highlighting the goal of Grady EMC. "We want to be the best in providing reliable, affordable electric service to our members" and encouraged continued feedback and new ideas as we continue to grow with our community.

Cal Brantley, a CPA with Nichols, Cauley & Associates from Warner Robins, Ga, gave an overview of the financial report of Grady EMC. The summary is available on our website at www.gradyemc.com.

Steve Minor presided over the business session of the annual member meeting. During the discussion on new business, several members spoke out regarding a broad range of issues.

This year, there were two seats on the Board of Directors that were up for election. Directorate Districts 2 & 5 saw Ronald Sellars and Earl Stuckey elected as new directors. Both directors were elected to three year terms on the Grady EMC Board of Directors.

Operations Manager Wayne Windham and Member Services Manager Donnie Prince closed out the meeting by awarding one hundred

great prizes, some of which were donated to Grady EMC by local vendors and businesses. This year, our grand prize winner was Mr. Daniel Poff who won a new 43" television. We are thankful for each local business who took part in making our annual meeting a success.

We appreciate everyone who participated in this year's event and we look forward to seeing you again next year at our 79th annual meeting.



2017 Right of Way Program

Grady EMC's right of way program is designed to maintain a thirty foot right of way around our distribution lines in our service area. This program helps us to reduce the number and duration of outages brought on by falling trees and limbs. Any bushes, shrubs or trees that are not maintained by the member and infringe on the thirty foot right of way will be maintained by our right of way program. We use various maintenance methods including tree and brush removal, trimming and spraying of vegetation in order to maintain our right of way.

We recognize the sensitive nature of this program and would encourage members to help eliminate future problems by not planting trees and brush within thirty feet of an overhead power line.

This year, members served by Climax, Boydville and Recovery substations will have their right of way maintained. Please be on the lookout for our crews in these areas. We appreciate your understanding and cooperation as we work to fulfill our responsibility to keep the lights on for you and fellow members.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding right of way work on your property, or if you don't know which substation provides energy to your home, please contact your Grady EMC prior to work beginning on your property.

Thank you for your understanding.

Grady EMC refunds Capital Credits to qualified applicants of deceased members. If you would like more information on Estate Refunds, please contact Customer Service at 229-377-4182. They will gladly assist you with this process. Under the bylaws of your cooperative, each dollar of payment by a member in excess of the cost of providing electric services is an investment in the cooperative by the member. Capital credits are used by your cooperative for the expansion of the plant and facilities. It is, in effect, invested in poles, wire, transformers, substations and other property owned by the cooperative. The use of capital credits helps lower the cooperative's needs for borrowed funds and reduces the overall indebtedness of the cooperative.

Grady EMC accepting Walter Harrison Scholarship Applications

Grady EMC is currently accepting applications for the 2017 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 ten \$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 \$181,000 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 recommendations and proof of enrollment or an acceptance letter.

The applications must be submitted to Grady EMC no later than Friday, February 3, 2017. Winners will be announced by Georgia Electric Membership Corporation on or before April 1, 2017.

The management and staff of Grady EMC wishes you and your family a wonderful Holiday season. Have a Blessed Christmas & a Happy New Year!

Grady EMC will observe the following Holiday Hours: CHRISTMAS—Closed December 23rd and 26th NEW YEAR'S—Closed January 2nd, 2017



Well maintained right of ways help prevent outages and improve restoration times.