

newsletter

Serving the Members of Ocmulgee Electric Membership Corporation

Prepare to take flight!

Enter the Ocmulgee EMC Washington Youth Tour contest

The Washington Youth Tour (WYT) is one of the premier leadership/learning opportunities available to high school students around the country. Local electric co-ops, including Ocmulgee Electric Membership Corporation (OEMC), team up with state and national associations like Georgia EMC and the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) to provide young people an opportunity to experience firsthand the history and culture of our great nation.

More than 1,500 students from around the United States converge on Washington each year for the WYT. The Georgia delegation is always a standout group because of the courtesy and respect they display while touring the venues in Washington. Some of the brightest and best students in Georgia apply for this trip, and when paired with the organization, discipline and diligence brought by OEMC and the co-op employees involved, the finished product is a dynamic leadership experience.

The 2012 Washington Youth Tour, scheduled for June 14-21, provides an unparalleled learning and social event that can only be obtained by experiencing the many interesting, exciting and truly historical places with peers from around the state and nation.

Before leaving for Washington, the group will spend time in the Atlanta area doing fun things such as team-building events and traveling to Warm Springs to



This could be you! Ocmulgee EMC's 2011 Washington Youth Tour delegates, from left, Cody Jones, Roxan Stuckey and Allison Coats, strike a pose in front of George Washington's home at Mount Vernon.

visit President Franklin D. Roosevelt's Little White House, the birthplace of rural electrification.

Once in Washington, D.C., delegates will tour landmarks such as the Capitol, the Smithsonian museums, the Washington Monument and Lincoln and Jefferson memorials, among others. They will also visit the Holocaust Memorial Museum and Arlington National Cemetery, where Georgia's delegation lays a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns.

A moonlight cruise on the Potomac River highlights the week's social activities.

Youth Tour delegates make new friends and gain a much greater sense of what it means to be an American.

If you would like to go on the trip of a lifetime, contact Phil Bearden at OEMC, (478) 374-7001, or contact your high school counselor or librarian.



The U.S. Capitol was one of many stops on the Washington Youth Tour.

To qualify, a student must:

- Be a high school sophomore, junior or senior
- Be 16 years old by June 14, 2012
- Live or attend school in Ocmulgee EMC's service territory
- Have parental permission to participate
- Be willing to follow the contest rules



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Emergency Service
24 Hrs. a Day
Including Weekends & Holidays

2011 Annual Meeting attracts 870 members

Ocmulgee EMC hosted its 73rd Annual Meeting on Wednesday, Oct. 12, 2011, at the Eastman-Dodge Recreation Department Gymnasium in Eastman.

The 870 members who registered for the meeting received gift packets that included an OEMC ball cap, a clock/thermometer/hygrometer combination and two compact fluorescent lightbulbs. The group enjoyed entertainment by The Medicine Men.

The Rev. Mike Grenade brought the invocation. Board President Barry Martin welcomed all members and special guests. Martin highlighted the minutes from last year's meeting and then gave the Treasurer's Report.

In the Manager's Report, W.H. Peacock, general manager, encouraged members to stay abreast of the changes that the federal government is mandating to electric utilities to clean up coal-fired power plants. These major initiatives, which are extravagantly expensive, could be implemented at a slower rate to prevent the cost of electric power from increasing at a burdensome rate to customers around the country. Peacock encouraged members to contact their legislators and ask them to proceed cautiously.

Peacock then mentioned some of the system upgrades listed in the OEMC 2010-2014 work plan, including pole change-outs, conductor size upgrades and removing the last bit of copper primary conductor on Ocmulgee's system. He stated that Ocmulgee recently completed two miles of three-phase line on Friendship Church Road and 200 pole change-outs around the system.

The general manager also asked members to cooperate with the co-op's right-of-way program by allowing Ocmulgee to clear its 30-foot right of way and keeping it clear by not planting trees under or near power lines.

Peacock then handed out the 2011 "Years of Service" plaques to several employees. Those recognized were Phil Bearden for 30 years of service, Larry Harrell and Felton Hilburn for 25 years, and Chan Rogers and Jane Warnock for 10 years each. Peacock thanked them for their years of dedicated service to the

members of Ocmulgee EMC and recognized all employees for their hard work and dedication to keep the lights on.

John Phillips, attorney for Ocmulgee EMC, announced the results of the contested Board of Directors election between incumbent Billy Joiner and local businessman Randy Giddens. Joiner retained his seat, receiving 554 votes to Giddens' 219.

John Woodard and Charles M. Pittman were unopposed for new 3-year terms on the Board.



Judy Brooks, center, winner of the grand prize—a Holland grill—celebrates her good fortune with Board Member Buddy Fordham, left, and Ocmulgee EMC General Manager W.H. Peacock.



Ocmulgee employees report for duty at 2011 Annual Meeting.

Ocmulgee EMC to upgrade account numbers in January 2012

On Jan. 16, 2012, Ocmulgee EMC's billing system will change the end of your member separator number, also known as the account number, from two digits to three. This seemingly simple change will allow Ocmulgee EMC to better serve our growing number of members and those who have more than one account.

The following questions and answers should address any concern that you might have, but please feel free to give us a call with any questions.

Why is Ocmulgee EMC changing member separator numbers?

This change is the result of a computer system software upgrade that will allow Ocmulgee EMC to better serve its members.

How is my account number changing?

Ocmulgee EMC account numbers currently end in a two-digit separator number. For members with more than one account, the first member separator ends with -01. Subsequent accounts go up to -02, -03, -04, etc. With this change, each member will have a three-digit separator number at the end of their account (-001), which may also rise with the number of accounts -001, -002, -003, etc. *This member separator number is the only thing that will change on your bill.*

I pay my bill by bank draft. Do I need to make any changes?

If you have authorized Ocmulgee EMC to draft your payment from your checking account on your due date, *you do not need to take any action.*

If I mail my payment or make a payment in the office, is there anything I need to do?

No, you don't need to do anything about the change. However, when you pay your bill after Jan. 16, please confirm that you are paying toward your new account number. You'll be able to see the new account number. There will be three digits beyond the hyphen in your account number instead of two. Ocmulgee EMC has worked to make the transition to the new account numbers as seamless as possible.

I am on a pre-authorized payment plan through my bank's website. Will I need to notify my bank of the new account number?

Yes, if Ocmulgee EMC is paid with an electronic transmission from your bank's website, *you'll need to go into your online bank account and change the payment information to include your new account number.*

Where do I find my account number on my bill?

Your account number can be found in the upper left-hand and bottom right-hand corners of your bill.

How can I confirm my new account number on my bill?

There will be a hyphen in your account number, and there will be three digits instead of two beyond the hyphen in your new account number.

Whom should I contact if I have additional questions?

Please contact us at (478) 374-7001 or (800) 342-5509, and we will be happy to assist you.

Employee Recognition

Phil Bearden

Member Services — 31 years

Virginia Ryals

Consumer Services — 15 years

Anthony Holder

Office Services — 4 years

Tony Brown

Operations — 15 years

Larry Harrell

Office Services — 26 years

Trey Cannon

Operations — 3 Years

Chuck Lowery

Operations — 25 years

Jeffrey Underwood

Office Services — 14 years

Johnny King

Operations — 2 Years

Ruby McKinnon

Consumer Services — 18 years

Michael Roland

Computer Services — 12 years

Sharon Breedlove

Office Services — 1 year

Thanks for your hard work and continued dedication!

Line inspections continue

As 2012 arrives, Ocmulgee EMC is continuing its effort to cover our entire electrical grid system in a very detailed line-inspection program. OEMC personnel are in the process of visiting every switch, transformer and meter on our system.

This proactive, preventive measure helps to identify and correct any mapping, right-of-way or loss-control issues before they



Ocmulgee EMC employee David Hawkins matches meter number, reading and location while checking for hazards.



become problems. If we are in your neighborhood or yard, we may simply be inspecting our system or already making necessary corrections. Just remember, we are hard at work to ensure that you have safe and reliable electric service.

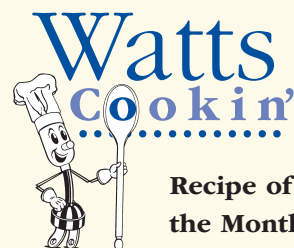
If you have any questions, comments or concerns, please give us a call at (478) 374-7001.

Hawkins inspects a VA-4 assembly with streetlight in Greenwood Heights in Eastman.

STATEMENT OF NONDISCRIMINATION

Ocmulgee Electric Membership Corporation is the recipient of federal financing from the Rural Electrification Administration, an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and is subject to the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended, and the rules and regulations of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, which provide that no person in the United States on the basis of race, color, national origin, age or handicap shall be excluded from participation in, admission or access to, denied the benefits of or otherwise be subjected to discrimination under any of this organization's programs or activities.

The person responsible for coordinating this organization's nondiscrimination compliance efforts is W.H. Peacock, general manager. Any individual, or specific class of individuals, who feel that this organization has subjected them to discrimination may obtain further information about the statutes and regulations listed above from and/or file a written complaint with this organization; or the Secretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250; or the Administrator, Rural Electrification Administration, Washington, D.C. 20250. Complaints must be filed within 180 days after the alleged discrimination. Confidentiality will be maintained to the extent possible.



Recipe of the Month

Hotcakes, griddle cakes and flapjacks—Oh my! However you refer to them, pancakes are a great breakfast staple with big potential for variety.

This month, instead of the usual buttermilk pancakes and bacon, whip up these Pineapple Pancakes, a recipe developed by the Georgia Egg Commission. Your family will flip for them!

Pineapple Pancakes

*Courtesy of
the Georgia Egg Commission*

- 2 cups self-rising flour
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- 2 tablespoons sugar
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 2 eggs, beaten
- 4 tablespoons canola oil
- 2 teaspoons maple flavoring
- 2-1/2 cups buttermilk
- 1 (8-ounce) can crushed pineapple, well drained
- 1/3 cup pecan chips
- Maple syrup

Combine flour, baking powder, sugar and baking soda, mixing dry ingredients together. Add eggs, canola oil, maple flavoring and buttermilk. Using mixer on high speed, beat until batter is smooth. Stir in pineapple and pecan chips until blended.

Pour desired amount of pancake batter onto hot, lightly greased griddle. When batter begins to bubble, using a spatula, carefully flip pancake over, cooking until golden brown. Serve with maple syrup. Serves 4.

Nutritional analysis (per serving): Calories: 179; Protein: 5 grams; Carbohydrates: 22 grams; Fat: 8 grams (1 gram saturated); Cholesterol: 37 milligrams; Sodium: 488 milligrams; Calcium: 173 milligrams.

For more information on Georgia's eggs, including recipes and nutritional tips, visit www.georgiaeggs.org.