



# Plugged in to Altamaha EMC

AUGUST 2017

*The Official Newsletter of Altamaha Electric Membership Corporation*

**Serving: Toombs, Montgomery, Emanuel, Treutlen, Laurens, Johnson and Tattnall**

## Stay connected by updating your contact information

**I**n the utility business, we know rough weather will occur, and sometimes power outages simply can't be avoided. But did you know there are steps you can take to ensure your electricity is restored as quickly and safely as possible? By keeping your contact information up to date, you can take full advantage of the services Altamaha EMC offers.

You may have noticed prompts through our monthly newsletters and bill messages requesting your updated contact information. If we don't have the correct phone number linked to your home address, it makes it much more difficult for you to report an outage.

Remember the old days when you had to speak to a customer service representative in order to report a power outage? Waiting on hold could be frustrating and time consuming. Today, with the press of a button, you can easily report an outage. At Altamaha EMC, we use the phone number you provide to link your service address to our outage management system. For example, if you call us to report an outage, our automated system instantly recognizes your phone number and can determine the particular service address from which you are reporting an outage. Once you give our system a response, your outage is reported. It's

that simple! But remember – this only works if your current phone number is linked to your service address.

Updating your contact information is helpful because it also speeds up the power restoration process. With correct information, our outage management system can predict the location and the possible cause of an outage, making it easier for our crews to correct the problem.

You can also sign up for email and text alerts to remind you of your due date, receive payment confirmations, etc. Call us today at 912-526-8181 to make sure your contact information is up to date.

### UPDATE YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION

*All members who update their contact information by September 30<sup>th</sup> will be entered to win a \$50 bill credit.* You must update your information to be eligible for the drawing.

Please contact us to update your mailing address, home phone number, work phone number, cell phone number and email address. Three easy ways to reply and enter to win...

- Call our customer service department during office hours at 912-526-8181, or toll-free at 1-800-822-4563. Press 0 to speak to a customer service representative.
- Visit [www.altamahaemc.com](http://www.altamahaemc.com) and update your contact information through the online bill pay link on the front page.
- Complete the information below and return it with your payment.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Acct # \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Please list all cell phone numbers that you might use when calling to report a power outage.

*\*We respect your privacy and do not share e-mail or other personal information with third parties.*



## Rural Communities Have a Voice in Washington

Given the incessant news out of Washington highlighting partisan bickering and gridlock in Congress, it can be hard to tell whether our elected leaders are listening and being responsive to the concerns of rural Americans. That's why America's electric cooperatives urged members to get out and vote in the last election and are now focused on advancing the interests of rural communities in our nation's capital. We've asked for a seat at the table—a request that's been met with some success.

Early this year, the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), our national service organization in Washington, led a group of more than 40 organizations in sending a letter to President Trump asking him to make rural issues a top priority of his administration. “As you witnessed first-hand during the campaign, the issues facing rural America are no less significant than those facing urban parts of the country, but can be more easily overlooked because America's small towns and rural areas make up just 15 percent of the nation's population,” the groups wrote.

To address this concern, the organizations urged the president to designate a senior member of the White House staff to take point on rural issues or establish an office of rural policy within the Executive Office of the President. In response to this and other electric cooperative outreach efforts, in late April President Trump signed an executive order establishing an interagency Rural America Task Force to examine the issues facing rural America and identify actions needed to address them.

NRECA CEO Jim Matheson called the creation of the task force “a key step as we seek to develop rural communities economically. That includes

implementing new energy technologies to meet tomorrow's energy needs, while also deploying broadband and other services to enhance daily lives throughout rural America.”

Electric cooperatives also have been weighing in on another big topic in Washington: the need to improve the nation's aging infrastructure. Co-ops have told policymakers that they must look beyond merely repairing roads and bridges if a federal infrastructure initiative is going to meet the needs of rural communities. High on co-ops' list of priorities is closing the rural-urban digital divide by expanding rural access to high-speed Internet service, which Matheson calls “a key ingredient for a healthy 21st century economy, particularly in rural areas.”

Given this imperative, co-ops were very pleased when the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) appointed Matheson to serve on a newly created Broadband Deployment Advisory Committee. The mission of the panel, which held its inaugural meeting in April, is to advise and make recommendations to the FCC on how to accelerate the deployment of broadband by reducing and removing regulatory barriers to infrastructure investment. Matheson will work to ensure that rural needs are addressed.

This isn't to say that everything in Washington will go co-ops' way. The federal government is a massive bureaucracy with many interests vying for attention. But there's one thing you can count on: Electric cooperatives, including Altamaha EMC, will fight to make their voices heard on Capitol Hill and within the many federal agencies that impact the quality of life in rural communities. They'll always strive to get a seat at the table.

# Make a Contingency Plan

Do you have a loved one with a medical necessity for electricity? If the answer is yes, then you need to have a contingency plan for power outages. Altamaha EMC cannot guarantee uninterrupted power to your home, especially during a severe storm where power outages can last for an extended period of time, even days.

While Altamaha EMC works to prevent extended power outages, there are some circumstances we can't control. As a home medical device user, it is important that you know in advance what to do in an emergency situation.

A patient plan might include some or all of these items:

- Extra medical supplies on hand
- Extra prescription drugs on hand
- Installing and maintaining a backup generator along with an adequate fuel supply
- Moving the patient to an alternate location. You should have two locations available – one nearby and one outside of the local area.

***In any emergency situation, always remember to dial 911. PLEASE REMEMBER THAT CALLING 911 WILL NOT GET YOUR POWER BACK ON QUICKER.***

## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Setting your thermostat to a colder setting than normal when you turn on your air conditioner will not cool your home any faster and could result in excessive cooling and unnecessary expense.

Source: U.S. Dept. of Energy



**The offices of Altamaha EMC will  
be closed on Monday, September 4th,  
in observance of Labor Day.**



In the event of a power outage or related problem, standby personnel will be on duty.  
You can report power outages by calling (912) 526-8181 or (800) 822-4563.

# Annual Meeting Information and Director Election Process

*Altamaha EMC will hold its 2017 annual meeting at the Southeastern Technical College in Vidalia, Georgia, on Wednesday, November 1, 2017. Official notice of the time, date and place will be provided to each member in advance of the meeting. Director elections will be held at the annual meeting for District 1, comprised of the cooperative's service territory within Toombs and Tattnall Counties; District 3 comprised of the cooperative's service territory within Montgomery County and District 4 comprised of the cooperative's service territory within Emanuel County. The following is a summary of the provisions of the cooperative's bylaws pertaining to the process for election of directors:*

## **Section 3.03 Qualifications of Directors.**

Qualifications to become or remain a nominee or a director of the cooperative: Must be eighteen (18) years old or older on the date of election. Must be a member and bona fide resident of the district represented and receive service from the cooperative at his or her primary residence. May not, within five (5) years prior to the election, have been an employee of the cooperative. May not be a close relative of any person who is an employee or director of the cooperative. May not be employed by or hold a financial interest in a competing enterprise or a business selling electric energy or supplies to the cooperative. May not be the incumbent of or candidate for a salaried elective public office. May not have been convicted of a felony.

## **Section 3.04 Nominations by Nominating Committee.**

The Board of Directors appoints a nominating committee comprised of independent members of the cooperative. The nominating committee meets not less than sixty five (65) days prior to the annual meeting and nominates one or more candidates for the directorships that are to be filled at the annual meeting. Written notice of the names of the members of the committee and the meeting date for the committee will be provided to the members prior to their meeting and shall be posted at the cooperative's headquarters.

## **Section 3.05 Nominations by petition.**

Other nominations for director elections may be made by written petition signed by not less than one hundred (100) members which shall be submitted to the Secretary of the cooperative or his nominee not less than forty five (45) days prior to such meeting.

## **Section 3.06 Posting of the notice of nominees.**

The Secretary shall be responsible for posting at the headquarters of the Cooperative the nominees for the election made by the nominating committee and by petition and if feasible, shall include same in the notice to the members for the meeting at which the election is to be held.

## **Section 3.07 Restrictions on Other Nominations.**

Except in the event that all candidates nominated by the nominating committee and petition are deceased, or withdrawn in writing from candidacy prior to the election, no other nominations shall be in order.

## **Section 3.08 Election procedures.**

Directors shall be elected by a plurality vote of those members from the applicable voting district, or those authorized to vote for them pursuant to Section 2.05 of these bylaws as set out below, at the meeting in which the election is to be held. Should two or more candidates tie for the highest vote, then run-off ballots shall be taken among them.

## **Section 2.05 Representation of Members.**

Unless it is made to appear otherwise by writing executed by the member and filed with the Secretary or his designate prior to a meeting of the members, a person eighteen (18) years of age or older residing in the primary residential abode of the member, who presents himself or herself to the Secretary, or his designated registrar(s), prior to a meeting of the members, as a representative of such member, shall be deemed to act and vote for the member he purports to represent and in as full and ample manner as if the member had been present and personally acting at the meeting. The presence of the member purported to be represented by such person shall, however, revoke the authority hereby created and only the member shall be entitled to act and vote at such meeting. Except as is expressly provided for herein, no other person shall have the authority to represent, act or vote for any member at a meeting of the members.

## **Section 2.07 Credentials and Election Committee.**

Section 2.07 of the bylaws provides for a committee of not less than five (5) nor more than fifteen (15) independent members to oversee the nominating, registration and election processes and to resolve disputes relating to same.

**2017 Nominating Committee:** The Nominating Committee is scheduled to meet at the headquarters office in Lyons on Wednesday, August 23, 2017. This committee consists of the following members: Melvin McBride, Bruce Herndon, Barry McDonald, Dustin Carter, Harold Ricks and Billy G. Holder.



# Member RECIPES

## Jewish Apple Cake



4 to 5 apples, peeled and sliced  
2 teaspoons cinnamon  
2 ¼ cups sugar  
1 cup vegetable oil  
7 tablespoons orange juice  
2 ½ teaspoons vanilla  
4 eggs  
3 cups flour  
3 ½ teaspoons baking powder  
½ teaspoon salt

### Directions

Combine apples and cinnamon and set aside. Mix sugar, oil, orange juice, vanilla and eggs. Add flour, baking powder and salt. Stir until well mixed. Grease a tube pan well and sprinkle with flour. Alternate with a layer of batter then a layer of the apple mixture, finishing with a layer of apples. Bake at 350 degrees for 1 ½ hours or until done.

*—From the kitchen of Sue Lamb*

Each month, our newsletter features recipes submitted by our members. If you have a favorite recipe and would like to share it with other readers in the Altamaha EMC service area, send a copy, complete with name, address and daytime phone number to: Tammye Vaughn, Altamaha EMC, P.O. Box 346, Lyons, GA 30436. Each month, a recipe will be selected for publication. The member who submitted the featured recipe will be given a \$10 credit on their next Altamaha EMC bill. Due to limited space, not all recipes received will be featured. Recipes printed in *Plugged In* are not independently tested; therefore, we must depend on the accuracy of those members who send recipes to us.