

Plugged in to Altamaha EMC

DECEMBER 2018

The Official Newsletter of Altamaha Electric Membership Corporation

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

82nd Annual Meeting Highlights

Altamaha EMC's annual meeting of the members was held November 7, 2018. A total of 841 members registered for the meeting.

Romanous Dotson, Altamaha EMC General Manager/CEO, addressed the membership and discussed the impact of Hurricane Michael and the restoration efforts following the storm. Bryan Isgett of McNair, McLemore, Middlebrooks and Co. reviewed the cooperative's financial reports showing the sound financial position of Altamaha EMC.

Directors Brett Williams, Danny Shepherd and Alex Grindler were each re-elected by acclamation to a three-year term on the board.

Shepherd Center was the cause for this year's annual meeting. Shepherd Center, located in Atlanta, Georgia, is a private, not-for-profit hospital specializing in medical treatment, research and rehabilitation for people with spinal cord injury, brain injury, multiple sclerosis, spine and chronic pain, and other neuromuscular conditions. Founded in 1975, Shepherd Center is ranked by U.S. News & World Report among the top 10 rehabilitation hospitals in the nation. In its more than four decades, Shepherd Center has grown from a six-bed rehabilitation unit to a world-renowned, 152-bed hospital that treats more than 900 inpatients, 575 day program patients and more than 7,100 outpatients each year. Altamaha EMC members purchased raffle tickets and made donations to benefit Shepherd Center. Over \$1,500 was raised and will be donated in honor of Raymond Strickland. Raymond was injured earlier this year when working an outage and was treated at Shepherd Center.

Door prizes were awarded after the meeting adjourned. All members and guests were given a bucket with prizes and treated to refreshments as they left the meeting.



Thank you to Lasseter Equipment of Lyons for allowing us to borrow the tractors to pull the parking lot shuttles.



Members were treated to golf cart rides from the parking lot to the entrance of Southeastern Technical College.



Darvin Powell of Mount Vernon was the lucky winner of an electric stand mixer.



Wayne Rowland of Lyons won a door prize.



These ladies were all smiles as they arrived at the annual meeting.



Attendees were given an Altamaha EMC bucket and other goodies as they left the meeting.

Safety First During the Holidays

Nearly every household uses extra electricity during the holidays—for cooking, decorating and heating the house to everyone's satisfaction. Take extra care to use electricity safely and to ask family members and house guests to do the same. Here are a few tips to follow:

- One of the riskiest holiday behaviors is overloading your electrical outlets. This will happen if you plug together strand after strand of outdoor or tree lights, and then plug them into an extension cord that you plug into an outlet.
 - Plugging multiple strands of cords into a power strip does not add any juice to the electrical circuit that powers the outlet.
 - Check decorative lights for damaged cords, plugs and sockets. Replace anything that's frayed, cracked or broken. Buy cords that are certified by UL; look for the UL symbol on the package.
 - Don't run extension cords under rugs, carpets or baseboards. This creates a fire hazard.
 - When you put up outdoor decorations, avoid stringing lights in trees near power lines.
 - Fasten outdoor lights securely with insulated staples, never nails or tacks.
 - Keep electric lights away from decorative metal trees.
 - Keep all light strings out of reach of small children and pets. Both like to chew the wires!
- December is the month when you're most likely to buy toys and gifts. Purchase safe ones. If you're shopping for children, buy toys that are age appropriate. You don't want your gift to turn a child's holiday into a nightmare. Here is a checklist for buying safe toys:
- Check the minimum age recommendation on the package. Buy a gift that suits a child's age, ability and interest level.
 - Supervise children when they use electronic toys. Put the toys away after playtime in a dry area out of smaller kids' reach.
 - Teach your children how to use their toys safely. For example, if a toy has a cord that plugs into the wall, teach the child how to safely use electrical outlets. Demonstrate how to unplug by pulling on the plug itself, not the cord.
 - Look for the letters "ASTM" on the packaging of the toys you buy. That means the toy meets the American Society for Testing and Materials' safety standards.
 - Buying toys from thrift shops, flea markets and garage sales will save you a few bucks, but second-hand toys may not adhere to newer safety standards and could be dangerous.
 - Keep an eye out for toy recalls online at www.cpsc.gov.

HOLIDAY CLOSING NOTICE

The board of directors, management and employees of Altamaha EMC extend to you and your family our best wishes for a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous and Happy New Year!

***In observance of the holiday season, the offices of Altamaha EMC will be closed
December 24th, December 25th, and January 1st.***

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

NOTICE TO CITY OF VIDALIA RESIDENTS

The City of Vidalia, like many municipalities in Georgia, has elected to impose a “franchise fee” on utility companies, such as Altamaha EMC, operating within their city limits. Generally, franchise fees are charged directly to the utilities that provide various services within a city’s limits.

A franchise agreement between Altamaha EMC and the City of Vidalia has been executed and this agreement requires a franchise fee equal to four percent (4%) of the cost of your electricity be assessed on your Altamaha EMC bill each month. If you have multiple accounts with Altamaha EMC, this notice is only referring to the electric account(s) within the city limits of Vidalia.

This is a new fee imposed by the City of Vidalia and will begin with the bill that you receive in January 2019. If you have questions regarding the franchise fee, please call the City of Vidalia at 912-537-7661.



Altamaha EMC now has a free mobile app!

ON-THE-GO ACCESS

- View usage
- Make a payment
- View account information

Give the Gift of Electricity this Holiday Season

Looking for a good gift for a family member or friend?

Altamaha EMC has the answer for you... a POWER GIFT CERTIFICATE!

Sometimes finding the perfect gift is almost impossible. Sizes, tastes, even needs differ with every person. But almost everyone has an electric bill. So, what better gift to give someone you care about than the gift of electricity.

The Altamaha EMC POWER GIFT CERTIFICATE makes it easy for you to provide a credit on a relative or friend's electric account. Just provide us the member's name, address and if possible their account number. We'll handle the rest. You may pay by cash, check or debit/credit card.

Altamaha EMC will provide you a certificate to give to them, or at your request, we will mail the certificate to them. Power gift certificates can also be given anonymously.

Stop by our office or call us today for more details.

GATE Certification Expires December 31—Time to Renew

Georgia Governor Nathan Deal signed House Bill 386 into law in 2012. Under this law, all agricultural producers must apply ANNUALLY to the Department of Agriculture in order to remain tax exempt. Current GATE certifications expire on December 31, 2018.

Effective January 1, 2019, all your Altamaha EMC accounts that are currently tax exempt will be taxed unless you provide us a copy of your 2019 GATE card. We must have this card on file before December 31, 2018 in order for your accounts to be tax exempt on January 1, 2019.

You can apply for the tax exemption certificate on the Department of Agriculture website at www.agr.georgia.gov. If you have questions about your certification, please contact the Dept. of Agriculture at 1-855-327-6829.

Scholarship Applications Now Available

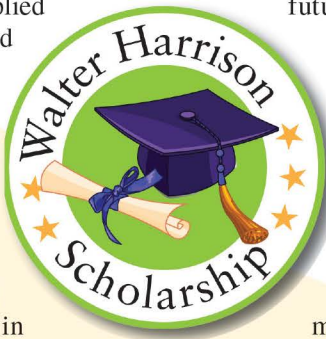
Altamaha EMC is currently accepting applications for the Walter Harrison Scholarship, a program sponsored by Georgia's electric cooperatives.

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The \$1,000 scholarship can be applied to academic expenses at any accredited two- or four-year university, college or vocational-technical institute in Georgia. Factors for consideration include grade point average, SAT scores, academic standing, scholastic honors, and financial need. A scholarship committee comprised of EMC directors and managers selects students who exceed in these areas and who struggle with college expenses. Eleven scholarships will be awarded statewide in early spring of 2019.

Students who apply for the scholarship must be accepted or enrolled in an accredited

undergraduate degree program. They also must complete an application and write a biographical sketch which provides a preview of his or her future plans.



Created in 1985 by the board of directors of Georgia EMC, the scholarship pays tribute to the late Walter Harrison, a pioneer in the rural electricity movement and a leader at local, state and national levels in the electric cooperative program. Since 1985, Georgia's electric cooperatives have awarded more than \$202,500 to students via the Walter Harrison Scholarship program.

You can request an application by contacting Tammye Vaughn at 912-526-2120 or via email at tammye.vaughn@altamahaemc.com. **Completed applications are due by January 31, 2019.**





Member RECIPES



Classic Peanut Butter Cookies

1/4 cup creamy peanut butter
1/4 cup shortening
1/4 cup unsalted butter, softened
1/4 cup granulated sugar
1/4 cup brown sugar
1 large egg
1-1/4 cups all-purpose flour, sifted
1/2 teaspoon baking powder
3/4 teaspoon baking soda
1/4 teaspoon salt
1/4 cup Georgia peanuts, chopped

Combine peanut butter, shortening, butter, sugar, brown sugar and egg. In a separate bowl, sift together flour, baking powder, baking soda and salt. Mix dry ingredients into peanut butter mixture. Add chopped peanuts and stir. Chill batter. Shape into 1-inch balls and place on baking sheet. Flatten with a fork, making crisscross pattern. Bake at 375 degrees for 10-12 minutes until golden brown.

Courtesy of the Georgia Peanut Commission. For more on Georgia Grown peanuts, visit the Georgia Peanut Commission at gapeanuts.com.



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.