



Plugged in to Altamaha EMC | Fiber

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



87th Annual Meeting Highlights

The 87th Annual Meeting of Altamaha EMC/Fiber members, held on November 1st at Southeastern Technical College in Vidalia, surpassed expectations with a remarkable attendance of over 700 registered members. Dr. Barry Dotson, Vice President of Student Affairs at Southeastern Technical College, set the tone for the event with a welcoming address.

Following the introduction, George McLendon, CEO/General Manager, provided an insightful overview of Altamaha EMC's accomplishments and the implemented improvements. A special acknowledgment was made to the dedicated employees who played a pivotal role in the restoration efforts post-Hurricane Idalia. Gratitude was expressed for their sacrifices during this challenging period. Jason Peacock from McNair, McLemore, Middlebrooks, and Co. presented the cooperative's sound financial position through a thorough review of financial reports.

Elections were a focal point this year, with three districts—Districts 1, 3, and 4—on the ballot. Directors Bill Benton (District 1), Brandon Braddy (District 3), and Robert Youmans (District 4) were unanimously re-elected, securing their positions for another commendable three-year term on the board.

In a heartfelt tribute to the commitment of its employees, Altamaha EMC took the opportunity to recognize and honor two individuals who retired during the past year. Dennis Clements and former General Manager/CEO Romanous Dotson were celebrated for their years of dedicated service.

Both retirees were presented with rocking chairs as a symbol of appreciation for their enduring contributions to the cooperative.

Beyond the scope of the meeting's agenda, Altamaha EMC demonstrated its commitment to community welfare by selecting The Refuge Domestic Violence Shelter as the designated cause for this year. Fundraising efforts included a raffle for a \$100 gift card, organized by The Refuge, and members generously contributed monetary donations to support victims of domestic violence.

The spirit of generosity extended even further as door prizes were distributed after the meeting adjourned. Each attendee, be it a member or guest, was presented with a bucket of prizes, and everyone was treated to refreshments, adding a delightful conclusion to the event.

The success of this year's Annual Meeting stands as a testament to the cooperative spirit that defines Altamaha EMC/Fiber. The management, board, and employees express sincere gratitude to all who contributed, making the gathering a memorable and impactful occasion.



Reliable Power for Today—and Tomorrow

As we usher in a new year, it prompts a moment of contemplation for me as the CEO of Altamaha EMC/Fiber. It's a time to assess where we stand and envision the path ahead, particularly in terms of better serving our cooperative members. At Altamaha EMC/Fiber, we remain dedicated to innovation and the integration of new technologies to enhance our services, recognizing the increasing reliance on electricity to drive our economy.

Ensuring a steadfast and economical power supply is our commitment as we adapt to a changing energy landscape and the evolving needs of our community. A pivotal aspect of this commitment involves the careful management of our energy resources. Contrary to common perception, Altamaha EMC/Fiber doesn't generate electricity; instead, we source it from our provider, Oglethorpe Power, and subsequently distribute it across our community.

To bolster the reliability and affordability of our power supply, Altamaha EMC/Fiber leverages technology to fortify our local grid, minimize service disruptions, and enhance outage response times. Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) facilitates two-way communication between the cooperative and consumers, aiding in pinpointing outage locations and analyzing meter issues. This technology not only provides real-time data, saving costs, but also elevates power reliability for the entire community.

Our proactive approach includes scheduled tree trimming to prevent service interruptions caused by overgrown limbs. Employing drone inspections for lines and vegetation has proven cost-effective, offering accurate monitoring of tree health and identifying potential issues. As technology progresses, we foresee incorporating advanced mapping software to further enhance environmental maintenance and service reliability.

In our pursuit of continuous improvement, we closely monitor trends and best practices from other electric cooperatives in Georgia and nationwide. Embracing the cooperative business model, we view collaboration, not competition, as key to our success.

Looking ahead to 2024, Altamaha EMC/Fiber remains steadfast in our commitment to providing reliable, affordable electricity for the benefit of our community today and in the future.

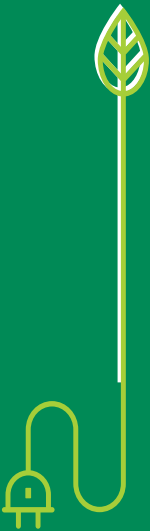
-CEO/General Manager George McLendon

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Get smart with a better way to heat and cool your home! Smart thermostats are Wi-Fi enabled and automatically adjust heating and cooling temperature settings in your home for optimal performance. Smart thermostats learn your temperature preferences and establish a schedule that adjusts to energy-saving settings when you're asleep or away.

For maximum energy savings, look for smart thermostat models with the ENERGY STAR® label.

Source: Dept. of Energy





Walter Harrison Scholarship Applications Now Available

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

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. Fifteen scholarships will be awarded statewide in early spring of 2024.

Students who apply for the scholarship must live in the household of an Altamaha EMC member. Applicants 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 their 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 \$250,000 to students via the Walter Harrison Scholarship program.

Applications are available for download on our website. You can also request an application by contacting Will NeSmith via email at will.nesmith@altamahaemc.com or call 912-526-2173. Completed applications are due by January 26, 2024.



Foundation Scholarship Applications Now Available

Four scholarships, worth \$1,000 each, will be awarded to local students in March 2024. The Altamaha EMC Foundation Scholarship program was founded in an effort to help local students further their education. The scholarships are funded entirely by members’ donations through Operation Round Up. Applicants must be a high school senior and live in the household of an Altamaha EMC member.

Applications are available on our website, www.altamahaemc.com. You can also request an application by contacting Will NeSmith via email at will.nesmith@altamahaemc.com or call 912-526-2173.

Scholarships will be awarded based on academic ability and financial need. Winners will be announced in March 2024. Completed applications are due by February 29, 2024.





GATE Card Exemption Renewal

If you are currently receiving a GATE sales-tax exemption, please check the expiration date on your card immediately. If your card expires at the end of 2023, you must renew your certification before December 31, 2023 in order to continue receiving the exemption. You can apply for, or renew, the tax exemption certification on the Department of Agriculture website at www.agr.georgia.gov. If you have questions about your

certification, please call the Department of Agriculture at 1-855-327-6829. We must have a copy of your GATE card to apply the exemption to your accounts. A copy of your GATE card can be sent to:

Altamaha EMC
ATTN: Sharon Rauton
PO Box 346
Lyons, GA 30436

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 25th, December 26th, 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.



ALTAMAHA
EMC | FIBER



Member RECIPES

Chocolate Toffee Topped Cracker Snack

INGREDIENTS:

4 ounces crackers (saltine, Ritz, or butter)
1 cup butter
1 cup brown sugar
2 cups semisweet chocolate chip morsels
1 cup roughly chopped pecans

DIRECTIONS:

Preheat oven to 400 degrees F. Line rimmed baking sheet with single cracker in rows. Set aside. Combine butter and sugar in a saucepan on stove top. Bring to a boil; then boil for 3 minutes. Immediately pour over crackers, spread to cover completely. Place baking sheet in preheated oven. Bake 5 minutes. Remove from oven and sprinkle chocolate and nuts over top of each cracker. Let sit about 5 minutes then spread/swirl slightly. Allow to cool completely (about 30 minutes.) Break apart to separate crackers. Serve.

***-From the kitchen of
Anita Shepherd***

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.