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Altamaha EMC Holds 89th Meeting of Members

The 89th Annual Meeting of the Members of Altamaha Electric Membership Corporation was held on November 5, 2025, at Southeastern Technical College in Vidalia.

General Manager George McLendon called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m., welcoming members and expressing appreciation for their attendance. Bill Benton delivered the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance before the introduction of directors and special guests.

This year, the cooperative recognized two retirees, Robert Lawler and Michael Woodcock, for their dedicated service. Dr. Barry Dotson, Vice President of Student Affairs at Southeastern Technical College, extended a warm welcome to attendees.

President Randall Morris presided as Business Session Moderator, while Brett Williams, Secretary-Treasurer, recorded the minutes. Williams confirmed that official notice of the meeting was mailed to all members on October 6, 2025, and members voted to adopt the 2024 annual meeting minutes as printed in the program.

Office Manager Tammye Vaughn reported that 775 members were present, constituting a quorum.

During his address, Manager McLendon thanked members for their patience as the cooperative continues rebuilding and upgrading its system following Hurricane Helene. He spoke about the tremendous growth across Georgia, the state's expanding solar efforts, and ongoing work by OPC and Georgia Transmission to meet energy demands efficiently.

McLendon also provided updates on Altamaha Fiber, noting continued expansion across the service area, and highlighted the success of Operation Round Up, which has now given back \$511,900 to local communities.

Jason Peacock, CPA with McNair, McLemore, Middlebrooks & Co., reported that the cooperative remains financially strong based on the June 30, 2025, audit.

Chris Hopkins, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, presented the committee's report, with nominations for Drexel Braddy (District 2), Randall Morris (District 3), and Krista Anderson (District 5). With no petitions submitted, all were re-elected by acclamation.

No new business was brought before the membership, and the business session adjourned at 2:55 p.m.

Following the meeting, Bill Kennedy and Josh Thigpen conducted the drawing for attendance prizes. The Grand Prize, a \$500 bill credit, was awarded to James Toby.



Operation Round Up Spotlight

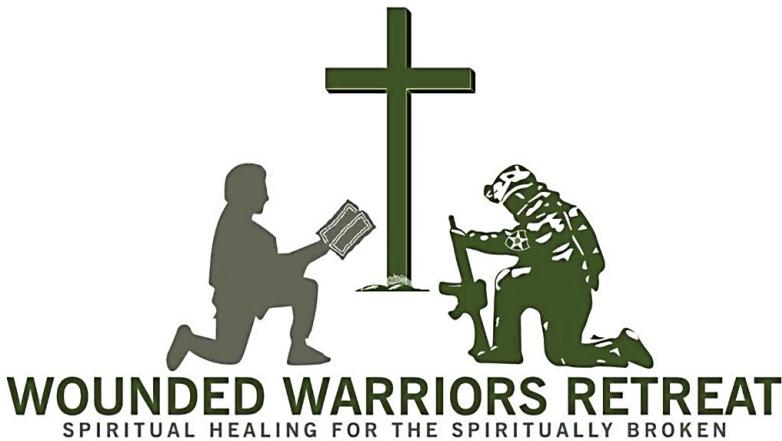
Through Operation Round Up, Altamaha EMC members make a big difference by rounding up their monthly bills to the nearest dollar. These small donations add up to help local organizations doing meaningful work in our communities. This quarter, grants were awarded to the MIJJ Foundation and the Wounded Warrior Retreat.

MIJJ Foundation

The MIJJ Foundation received a \$1,500 grant to purchase dress shirts, ties, and lanyards for students, provide breakfast for meetings, and support trips to the Georgia State Capitol and the Pentagon in Washington DC.

Founded in 2021 with just eight students, the foundation now serves 56 young men in grades 5 through 12 and beyond. Its mission is to cultivate and engage young men through academic coaching, social emotional support, and cultural exposure.

Last year, 97 percent of participants maintained passing averages and nine students made the honor roll. The program's goal is simple but powerful: to Engage, Equip, and Empower young men to reach their full potential.



Wounded Warrior Retreat

The Wounded Warrior Retreat was awarded a \$5,000 grant to help build a 9,000 square foot lodge in Emanuel County. This facility will serve as a place of fellowship and healing for wounded veterans and their families.

The retreat's mission is to mentor, support, and encourage spiritual healing while offering outdoor activities and time to connect with others who have shared similar experiences. For many veterans, it fulfills three important needs; to not be forgotten, to not feel alone, and to continue fellowship with others who understand.

Altamaha EMC is proud to support both organizations through Operation Round Up, helping to strengthen our communities and change lives one rounded up bill at a time.



Walter Harrison Scholarship Applications Now Available

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

The \$1,000 scholarship can be applied toward 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 made up of EMC directors and managers will select students who demonstrate academic excellence and face financial challenges. Fifteen scholarships will be awarded statewide in the spring of 2026.

Students who apply must live in the household of an Altamaha EMC or Altamaha Fiber member.

Applicants must be accepted or enrolled in an accredited undergraduate degree program. They are also required to complete an application and include a biographical sketch outlining their future goals and plans.

Created in 1985 by the board of directors of Georgia EMC, the scholarship honors the late Walter Harrison, a pioneer in the rural electrification movement and a respected leader at the local, state, and national levels in the electric cooperative program. Since its creation, Georgia's electric cooperatives have awarded more than \$250,000 to students through the Walter Harrison Scholarship program.

Applications are available for download on our website. You may also request an application by contacting Will NeSmith at will.nesmith@altamahaemc.com or by calling 912-526-2173. ***Completed applications are due by January 30, 2026.***



Foundation Scholarship Applications Now Available

Altamaha EMC is also accepting applications for the Foundation Scholarship program. Four scholarships, valued at \$1,000 each, will be awarded to local students in March 2026.

The Foundation Scholarship program was created to help local students further their education and is funded entirely by members' donations through Operation Round Up. Applicants must be high school seniors and live in the household of an Altamaha EMC member.

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

Scholarships will be awarded based on academic ability and financial need. Winners will be announced in March 2026. ***Completed applications are due by February 27, 2026.***



TIPS TO AVOID ENERGY SCAMS

Look out for the "energy-saving device" scam. Whether sold on social media platforms or through random emails, consumers have fallen victim to scams where these products claim to reduce or even eliminate energy bills. These products are advertised as devices that will "balance" or "clean" the power in your home, thus saving you money. There is no such device that can simply be plugged in to lower energy use.



HOLIDAY CLOSING NOTICE

The board of directors, management and employees of Altamaha EMC/Fiber extend to you and your family our warmest wishes for a 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, 2025, and January 1st, 2026.

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

GATE Card Exemption

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 2025, you must renew your certification before December 31, 2025 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 in order to apply the exemption to your accounts. A copy of your GATE card can be sent to:

Altamaha EMC, ATTN: Stephanie Andrews
PO Box 346
Lyons, GA 30436



ENERGY EFFICIENCY

TIP OF THE MONTH

To maximize your fireplace's efficiency, always keep the damper closed when the fireplace is not in use. An open damper is like an open window, allowing warm indoor air to escape and cold air to enter. Consider installing a fireplace insert, which improves heat output by circulating warm air into the room rather than letting it escape up the chimney. Also, burn only seasoned hardwood to ensure a hotter, cleaner burn. Regularly clean and inspect your chimney to maintain safe and efficient operation.

Source: energy.gov

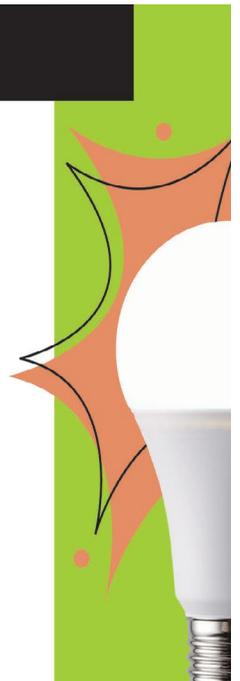




Photo Credit: Georgia Grown

Member RECIPES

Sweet Potato Crescent Rolls

INGREDIENTS

3/4 cup cooked, mashed sweet potato (1 medium sweet potato)
1/4 cup cream cheese, softened
1 tablespoon maple syrup or honey
3/4 teaspoon ground cinnamon, divided
1 pinch ground ginger
1 8-ounce package crescent roll dough
2 tablespoons granulated sugar
1 tablespoon brown sugar
2 tablespoons melted butter



DIRECTIONS

Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Combine cooked, mashed sweet potato, softened cream cheese, maple syrup or honey, 1/4 teaspoon ground cinnamon and ground ginger in a medium bowl. Mix all ingredients until smooth and well-combined. Set aside. Open crescent rolls and separate into individual pieces. Divide and spread sweet potato mixture evenly over the dough, about 2 tablespoons each. Beginning at the wider end, roll up dough lightly until pointed end is on top. Place on baking sheet lined with parchment, then bend rolled dough slightly to form crescent shapes. Mix granulated sugar, brown sugar and 1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon in a small bowl. Brush each roll with melted butter, then sprinkle generously with cinnamon-sugar mixture. Bake in preheated oven for 15-18 minutes or until golden brown. Serve warm. Serves 8.

-Courtesy of Georgia Grown