



Plugged in to Altamaha EMC

SEPTEMBER 2018

The Official Newsletter of Altamaha Electric Membership Corporation

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

Lend Your Voice to Rural America

In 2016, rural America played a big part in our national elections – 500,000 MORE rural voters went to the polls than in 2012. This is an incredible story, as many in small communities across our country went to the polls to ensure their voices were heard, and elected officials took notice. But, elections matter EVERY year.

2018 will be no different, and electric cooperatives have the opportunity to play a vital role in encouraging rural voter turnout and engaging on issues that matter most to us. This year, we must build on the momentum we started in 2016, to join with 42 million members of electric cooperatives around the country, and remind our elected officials that rural issues matter.

Electric co-ops, including Altamaha EMC, are not-for-profit energy providers that are owned by the members they serve. They provide coverage for 88 percent of our nation's counties. They are a foundation in their communities and their members can make a difference in lending their voices to issues like rural infrastructure and broadband, and maintaining access to affordable, reliable electricity.

To ensure that all electric co-op members continue the drumbeat that started in 2016, the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) will continue the successful Co-ops Vote program. This is a non-partisan initiative that remains quite simple at its core: to ensure that members are registered to vote and they go to the polls for every election, and to ensure rural issues remain part of the national discussion.

By participating in the Co-ops Vote program in 2018, co-op members continue to send a

resounding message that all candidates – at all levels – will need to put rural America's concerns front and center in order to earn our vote. We proved in 2016 that with millions of electric co-op members speaking out with one voice, we can have a major impact in making our top issues part of the national conversation.

I encourage everyone, regardless of their political beliefs, to join America's electric cooperatives in this national effort. Let's continue to stand up for the priorities of the rural electric co-op community – it's more important now than ever. Learn more at www.vote.coop.

Georgia's general election is November 6, 2018. Remember, you can't vote unless you're registered. The deadline to register to be eligible to vote in the general election is October 9, 2018. You can register to vote by going to the voter registration office in your county or you can register online at <https://registertovote.sos.ga.gov>.

-Romanous Dotson, CEO



ALTAMAHA EMC SENDS STUDENT LEADER TO CO-OP COUNCIL CONFERENCE

Caitlyn Conner represented Altamaha EMC at the 2018 Georgia Cooperative Council Youth Leadership Conference in Covington, GA. The conference is an engaging leadership and learning experience for students that highlights the impact of cooperatives on communities.

The camp-like conference, held July 16-20, gave the attendees a week of leadership, learning and laughter and provided them the opportunity to grow in areas of leadership, problem-solving, relationship building and communication. Caitlyn stated, “This camp has given me a new perspective on leadership, new lifelong friends and a newfound appreciation for cooperatives.”

Electric cooperatives from all over the state sponsor the conference because it provides a unique way for students to see exactly what EMCs do and why they are vital in their communities. The conference emphasized the Seven Cooperative Principles all cooperative businesses follow: voluntary and open membership, democratic membership control, members’ economic participation, autonomy and independence, education and training for members, cooperation between co-ops, and concern for local communities.

Students not only learned about the different types



of co-ops and their impact, but they also learned more about themselves and what it takes to be a leader. Caitlyn reflects on her time at the conference by saying, “Being a good leader takes lots of practice. This week has given me a good foundation to build on my leadership skills.”

Leading and learning took place throughout the week, but it wasn’t without moments of fun and games. A ropes course, mud course, and team building exercises are just a few of the activities that brought students together and helped them build meaningful friendships that made the goodbyes at the end of the week so hard.

Caitlyn is the daughter of Charlie and Ami Conner of Lyons. She is a 2018 graduate of Toombs County High School and is attending Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College this fall.

2018 Annual Meeting



Mark your calendars for our 2018 Annual Meeting of the Members on Wednesday, November 7, 2018 at 2:30 PM at Southeastern Technical College in Vidalia. All members are invited to attend.

In addition to the annual financial reports, election of three seats on the Board of Directors and the general business session, many prizes will be given away. Refreshments will be served following the meeting.

We look forward to seeing you on November 7th.

Tips for a Safe Harvest

Harvest season brings hard work and can be exhausting, but rushing the job to save time can be extremely dangerous (even deadly!) when working near overhead power lines. We urge farm operators and workers to keep the following safety tips in mind:



Use care when operating large machinery near power lines.



Inspect the height of equipment to determine clearance.



Always keep equipment at least 10 feet away (in all directions) from power lines.



Remember to lower extensions when moving loads.



If a power line is sagging or looks to be dangerously low, please call us immediately.

Source: SafeElectricity.org

Don't Let Water Heater Guzzle Energy

You know you can save water by taking shorter showers. But your electric water heater doesn't just guzzle water; it guzzles electricity.



You can stop wasting electricity by replacing an old water heater with a newer, more energy-efficient model. Here are some other tips to save money on your electric bill:



- Drain a bucket of water out of the bottom of the heater twice a year. The bottom can fill with sediment, which separates water from the heating element.
- Invest in an inexpensive water heater blanket or insulation kit, especially for older heaters. Do not insulate over doors or vents.
- Before buying a new water heater, estimate your family's needs. A family of up to four should buy a 30- to 50-gallon tank, while up to seven might require 50 to 80 gallons. Consider appliances such as hot tubs when calculating how much hot water you use, and consult a plumber for help.
- If your house is more than two levels, or if the bathrooms, kitchen and laundry room are spaced far apart, it might be more efficient to invest in a smaller water heater for each level.
- Set the water heater's temperature at 120 degrees or lower. This prevents scalding and standby heat loss and can lower your water heating bill by 10 percent.
- Insulate hot water supply pipes to reduce heat loss.

ACCOUNT NOTIFICATIONS NOW AVAILABLE

In today's busy world, we all need reminders to keep us on track. Altamaha EMC encourages our members to take advantage of our **Alerts and Reminders** program which has the capability to send out various notifications concerning your account. These notifications consist of a Due Date Reminder, Past Due Date Reminder, Account Profile Change, Returned Check Alert, Payment Confirmation and High Energy Usage Alert. These notifications can be sent out by text message and/or email. Call our office today at 912-526-8181 and one of our Member Service Representatives will be happy to assist you in setting up the notifications that you choose. There is no charge for these notifications.



ALTAMAHA
Electric Membership Corporation
Community Owned • Community Built • Community Bigger

Alerts & Reminders

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Due Date Reminder

Remind me 7 day(s) before.

Text Message ☒

Email ☒

Past Due Date Reminder

Alert me when due date has passed.

Text Message ☒

Email ☒





2018

THE REAL SQUEAL

BBQ & MUSIC Festival

Oct. 12 & 13

Lyons, Ga. 30436

FRIDAY-

DOWNTOWN LYONS

SATURDAY-PARTIN PARK

FREE ADMISSION





Member RECIPES



Cream Cheese Banana Bread

1/2 cup butter, softened
3/4 cup sugar
4 oz. cream cheese, softened
2 eggs
1/2 cup milk
1 tsp. vanilla
2 tsp. baking powder
1/4 tsp. salt
2 cups flour, divided
4 small ripe bananas (2-3 large)

Cream together butter, sugar, and cream cheese. Add eggs, milk, vanilla, baking powder, and salt, and mix until well combined. Add in 1½ cups of flour, and stir until well blended. Mash your ripe bananas, then add them to the mixture with the remaining ½ cup of flour. Mix until well combined. Butter 4 mini bread loaf pans. Sprinkle a little flour in each, and shake to spread the flour along the edges. Use a 1 cup measuring cup to scoop the batter into the mini loaf pans. Bake at 350 degrees for 35 minutes, or until a toothpick comes out clean in the center.

Note: *If using one large or two medium loaf pans in place of mini muffin pans, start with 50 minutes baking time, and check every couple of minutes until done.*

–From the kitchen of Brenda Brantley

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.