

newsletter

Serving the Members of Ocmulgee Electric Membership Corporation

2012 Annual Meeting highlights

Ocmulgee EMC (OEMC) hosted its 74th Annual Meeting of Members on Wednesday, Oct. 10, 2012, at the Eastman-Dodge Recreation Department Gymnasium in Eastman.

A total of 812 Members registered for the meeting and enjoyed entertainment by Ray and Wanelle and The Phoenix Band.

Rev. Mike Grenade gave the invocation to open the meeting. Board President Barry Martin welcomed all Members and guests. Directors Algje Jones and Billy Hartley were unopposed for their board seats, while Blake Rowland was challenged by Rocky Stuckey. Rowland was re-elected, receiving 56 percent of the votes cast. The membership voted down an amendment to the Bylaws of Ocmulgee EMC for a minority-only slot on the board, with 62 percent against it.

In the Treasurer's Report, Martin informed Members about the positive growth of Ocmulgee EMC. In the past 30 years, he said, OEMC's investment per Member has risen from \$1,310 to \$4,220, while the number of meters has risen from 7,237 to 11,812. During that same time, the miles of lines energized have grown from 1,279 to 1,997.

General Manager W. H. Peacock addressed Members about challenges faced by the cooperative in 2011-2012. These included construction of a large number of three-phase-line extensions to meet farmer demand for new irrigation pumps. Line crews had to work overtime to keep up with this demand, plus do



Col. Al Danner is a winner! Presenting the gift is Ocmulgee EMC lineman Anthony Holder.

normal construction and maintenance.

Another challenge to OEMC was a summer weather pattern that produced several record hot/high-demand days, but allowed overall energy sales to fall by 8 percent from last year. This created a real challenge to the co-op because the wholesale power purchase price is based on maximum demand days.

Peacock stated that fortunately, the co-op refinanced several loans at lower interest rates to improve cash flow. An engineering study was also done, and recommendations to add equipment to the electrical distribution system and a rebalance of

the load on major three-phase feeders are already improving the efficiency of the system and saving money. This will continue to increase revenue in the future.

The general manager also mentioned the progress that the co-op has made in improving its

Continued on page 20C



Ocmulgee EMC employees receiving service plaques included, from left, Tony Brown, General Manager W.H. Peacock, Chuck Lowery, Thad Haley, Donna Hardy and Karen Rogers.

ATTENTION, AGRICULTURAL CONSUMERS OF OCMULGEE EMC:

Georgia Agricultural Sales Tax Exemption guidelines

In 2012, Gov. Nathan Deal signed House Bill 386, which included a number of changes to Georgia's tax system. These changes, which will take effect Jan. 1, 2013, include:

1. The nullification of the existing Agricultural Certificate of Exemption, ST-A1, as a valid state form;
2. The replacement of ST-A1 with a tax exemption certificate issued yearly by the Department of Agriculture to each qualified agricultural producer; and
3. The necessity of the agricultural producer to apply annually to the Department of Agriculture for the tax exemption certificate at a small fee.

Effective Jan. 1, 2013, no accounts will be tax exempt, due to House Bill 386. For your accounts to be tax exempt from that date forward, you will need to provide Ocmulgee EMC with a copy of your new tax exemption certificate issued by the Department of Agriculture. You will also need to renew this annually. For any account to be tax exempt on Jan. 1, 2013, we will need your new tax exemption form by Dec. 31, 2012.

You will need to list each account that will receive the exemption on the GATE addendum form. Bring this sheet with you when you bring in your exemption certificate. If you set up new accounts during the calendar year, you will need to inform us when the account is set up that it needs to be tax exempt. If you fail to do that, and tax is charged and collected on those accounts, you will need to request a refund from the state. Ocmulgee EMC is not allowed to refund collected sales tax.

Per the Department of Agriculture, applications for the exemption certificate will be accepted via their website at www.agr.georgia.gov.

Students Compete In EMC/FFA Career Development Event



Joseph Rozar, left photo, and Eli Belflower compete in the the Area III EMC /FFA Career Development event. Eli, the area winner, moves on to compete in the statewide competition in January.

Eli Belflower and Joseph Rozar, representing the Bleckley County FFA and Hawkinsville High FFA, respectively, recently competed in the Area III EMC /FFA Career Development event. This very difficult competition has three parts, the most important of which is the wiring problem. Each student must acquire the correct materials and wire a problem consisting of panel disconnects, lights, switches and receptacles. They must know how to determine the correct breaker size, conductor size and count, and box sizes for the given problem. Then they must have the skill to actually wire the problem in a predetermined amount of time and make it work correctly.

In the problem-solving segment, the student uses code and hand-books, such as the National Electrical Code, to answer difficult questions about electrical wiring codes and references. The final part of the contest is the speech/demonstration portion, in which the student stands before a panel of judges and explains the process of wiring a problem.

A special congratulations to Eli Belflower, the winner of the 2012 Area III contest! Eli will compete in the statewide competition in Covington in January.

These young men and their agriculture education instructors (Walt Parks at Bleckley County and Jody Cravey at Hawkinsville) are to be commended. Tom Cranford, ag instructor at Dodge County High, is a great supporter and participant, but did not have a student competing this year.

The EMCs are proud to sponsor and support this contest through Georgia EMC and look forward to its continued success.

Prepare for the trip of your life!

The Washington Youth Tour is one of the premier leadership/learning opportunities available to high school students around the country. Local co-ops, including Ocmulgee EMC, team up with state and national associations, such as Georgia Electric Membership Corp. (GEMC) and the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), to provide young people an opportunity to experience firsthand the history and culture of our great nation.

More than 1,500 students from around the United States converge on Washington, D.C., each year. The Georgia delegation is always a stand-out group because of the courtesy and respect they display while touring the venues in Washington. Some of the brightest and best students in Georgia apply for this trip. Pair them with the organization, discipline and diligence brought by GEMC and other co-op employees and you get a dynamic leadership experience.

The Washington Youth Tour is scheduled for June 13-20, 2013. It provides an unparalleled learning and social event that can only be obtained by experiencing the many interesting, exciting and truly historical places with peers from around the state and nation.

Before leaving for Washington, the group spends time in the Atlanta area doing fun things such as team-building events, and then travels to Warm Springs to visit the Little White House, the birthplace of rural electrification.

Once in the nation's capital, delegates visit landmarks such as the U.S. Capitol, the Smithsonian museums, the Washington Monument and Lincoln and Jefferson memorials. No visit to Washington is complete without a trip to the Holocaust Memorial Museum and Arlington National Cemetery, where Georgia's delegation participates in the



Ocmulgee EMC's 2012 Washington Youth Tour delegates, from left, were Mellisa McLeod, from Hawkinsville; Sanna Gough, from Cochran; and Brandi Holland, from Cochran. With them is Zach Danforth, from Eastman, who was sponsored by Georgia EMC.

laying of a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns. A moonlight cruise on the Potomac River highlights the week's social activities. Delegates are sure to make new friends and gain a much greater sense of what it means to be an American.

If you would like to go on the trip of a lifetime, contact Phil Bearden at OEMC, (478) 374-7001, or contact your high school counselor or librarian.

To qualify:

- Be a high school sophomore, junior or senior.
- Be 16 years old by June 13, 2013.
- Live or attend school in Ocmulgee EMC's service territory.
- Have parental permission to enter and go.
- Be willing to follow the contest rules.

Annual Meeting highlights, *Continued from page 20A*

right-of-way program and thanked members for their support. He said that Ocmulgee EMC, through its share of Oglethorpe Power, will own a portion of the new nuclear generation being constructed at Plant Vogtle, which will come on line in 2017.

Peacock then recognized all OEMC employees for their hard work and dedication to the membership. Several employees were honored with a plaque for years

of service with Ocmulgee EMC. These included W.H. Peacock, 35 years; Chuck Lowery, 25 years; Donna Hardy, 20 years; Tony Brown, 15 years; Virginia Locke, 15 years; Karen Rogers, 10 years; and Thad Haley, 5 years.

A total of 86 prizes were handed out to Members. The grand prize of a Holland Grill went to Margaret Owens.

Willie Wiredhand is still making his rounds

Willie Wiredhand recently visited local schools to talk about electrical safety and hand out coloring books. Each year, the first-graders at North Dodge Elementary, South Dodge Elementary, Bleckley County Primary and Hawkinsville Elementary schools enjoy a visit from the beloved EMC mascot. The children are taught to realize the importance of electricity in their everyday life and how to be safe in certain situations.



Willie and "Mr. Phil" discuss electrical safety at Hawkinsville Elementary School.



Bleckley County Primary School first-graders pose with Willie Wiredhand.

Over the past 10 years, Phil Bearden, director of Safety and Loss Control with Ocmulgee EMC, and Willie have spoken to nearly 8,000 students in Middle Georgia, leaving them with a coloring book, a smile and a greater appreciation and respect for the work that electricity does for them.



Employee Recognition

W.H. Peacock

General Manager — 35 years

Phil Bearden

Member Services — 32 years

Tony Brown

Operations — 16 years

Chuck Lowery

Operations — 26 years

Ruby McKinnon

Consumer Services — 19 years

Virginia Ryals

Consumer Services — 16 years

Larry Harrell

Office Services — 27 years

Jeffrey Underwood

Office Services — 15 years

Michael Roland

Computer Services — 13 years

Anthony Holder

Office Services — 5 years

Trey Cannon

Operations — 4 years

Johnny King

Operations — 3 years

Sharon Breedlove

Office Services — 2 years

Thanks for your hard work and continued dedication!

STATEMENT OF NONDISCRIMINATION

Ocmulgee Electric Membership Corporation is the recipient of federal financing from the Rural Electrification Administration, an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and is subject to the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended, and the rules and regulations of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, which provide that no person in the United States on the basis of race, color, national origin, age or handicap shall be excluded from participation in, admission or access to, denied the benefits of or otherwise be subjected to discrimination under any of this organization's programs or activities.

The person responsible for coordinating this organization's nondiscrimination compliance efforts is W.H. Peacock, general manager. Any individual, or specific class of individuals, who feel that this organization has subjected them to discrimination may obtain further information about the statutes and regulations listed above from and/or file a written complaint with this organization; or the Secretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250; or the Administrator, Rural Electrification Administration, Washington, D.C. 20250. Complaints must be filed within 180 days after the alleged discrimination. Confidentiality will be maintained to the extent possible.