

newsletter

Serving the Members of Ocmulgee Electric Membership Corporation

What you don't know could be costing you

Check Ocmulgee EMC's website at www.ocmulgeeemc.com to evaluate the energy efficiency of your home and appliances. HomeEnergySuite is a library of knowledge with hands-on interactive tools that will both entertain and educate you and your children about electricity. You can learn how to use electricity safely and conserve it wisely.



With a few strokes on the keyboard you can make some very interesting comparisons. You can immediately see the savings from upgrading your attic insulation, windows or other components of the thermal envelope of your home. You can determine the cost of heating and cooling your home, and estimate the savings and the return on investment of upgrading to a higher-efficiency HVAC system. You'll know what you are spending on lighting, water heating and appliances. You may instantly see the effects of modifying use habits on your energy costs. **This is a powerful tool!**

Click on the "Home Energy Suite" tab on the bottom left of our home page. Remember, you can utilize the available estimates of appliance use calculators or get the actual wattage off most appliances from the nomenclature plate on the back of the appliance. Volts times amps equal watts ($V \times A = W$). When you put the number of watts into the calculator, you will see the actual cost of operation.



Please feel free to call the Ocmulgee EMC Member Services Department at (478) 374-7001 with any questions or comments.



The holidays are coming

The Board of Directors, management and staff of Ocmulgee EMC wish for you and your family a safe, healthy, and happy holiday season. It has been our pleasure to serve you this past year as we look forward to 2013.

- We will close our office for Thanksgiving on Thursday and Friday, Nov. 22 and 23.
- We will observe the Christmas holidays by closing on Tuesday and Wednesday, Dec. 25 and 26.
- We will close for the New Year's holiday on Tuesday, Jan. 1, 2013.

As always, Ocmulgee EMC employees will always be standing by in case of an emergency. Should you lose power, please call 478-374-7001 or 800-342-5509.



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Membership Corporation
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Emergency Service
24 Hrs. a Day
Including Weekends & Holidays

Ocmulgee EMC

Students learn the Co-Op Way at Cooperative Youth Conference

Tara Smith, Drew Hawkins and Eli Belflower, representing Ocmulgee EMC, learned the cooperative way of conducting business while expanding their leadership skills and abilities at the 28th annual Georgia Cooperative Youth Conference.

The youth conference was held in July at the Georgia FFA/FCCLA in Covington, and was sponsored by the Georgia Cooperative

Council as part of its ongoing mission to educate students about cooperatives while building their leadership skills. The council also strives to promote teamwork, through a series of exercises, training and presentations. This year's group included 41 high school students from around the state.

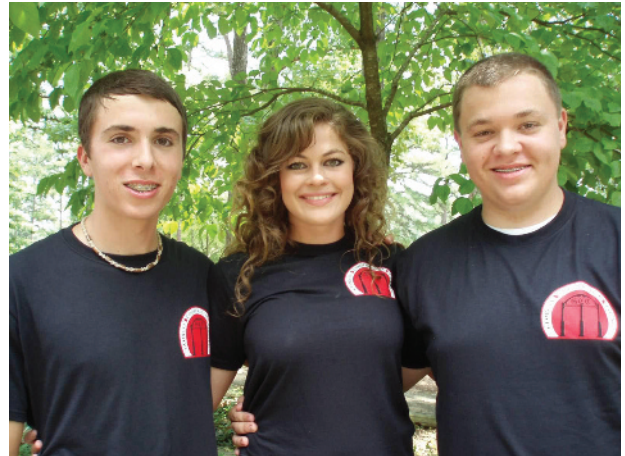
Tara, Drew and Eli gained firsthand experience learning how cooperatives are structured and how they operate, in Georgia and around the world. They explored how the seven fundamental cooperative principles affect the business decisions and the operation of a co-op within a community.

During the five-day conference, students engaged in activities such as the Congressional Insight workshop, where they participated in making staff, media and legislation decisions to gain a deeper understanding of why their involvement in the political process is vital. Student teams could make decisions regarding a number of political matters over a simulated two-year period, while keeping in mind the ultimate goals of re-election and public approval.

Other highlights of the conference included personality assessments that taught students how to work efficiently with a range of character types and the "Co-ops 101" program, where speakers discussed the cooperative way of business, including history, organization, member benefits, opportunities and current issues.

The teens took a field trip to Snapping Shoals EMC in Covington to witness a co-op in action. They also engaged in leisure activities, such as mixers and ropes courses, which allowed them to build their social and networking skills.

This year's presenters included Craig Scoggins with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Gabe Snow with the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, Mark Camp with Southern States, Karen Nikitopoulos with the Georgia Cotton Commission, Mark Coiner with Dairy Farmers of America, Jack McMullen with Farm Credit Associations, Mark Nofi, GEMC Federal Credit Union and Gail Cutler with Georgia EMC.



From left: Ocmulgee EMC's representatives at the Georgia Cooperative Youth Conference were Eli Belflower, Tara Smith and Drew Hawkins.

Give thanks for rural electric pioneers

They did their work nearly 80 years ago, and most of them have passed away. But the legacy of the men and women who petitioned, paid for and built the electric cooperative that serves your neighborhood lives on every time you turn on the lights, watch TV or charge your cellphone.

This holiday season, give thanks for the pioneers who helped bring electricity to the rural communities and farms that the big for-profit electric companies refused to serve. Perhaps your grandparents or your neighbors' relatives were involved in collecting membership fees or signatures. Maybe you've heard their stories.

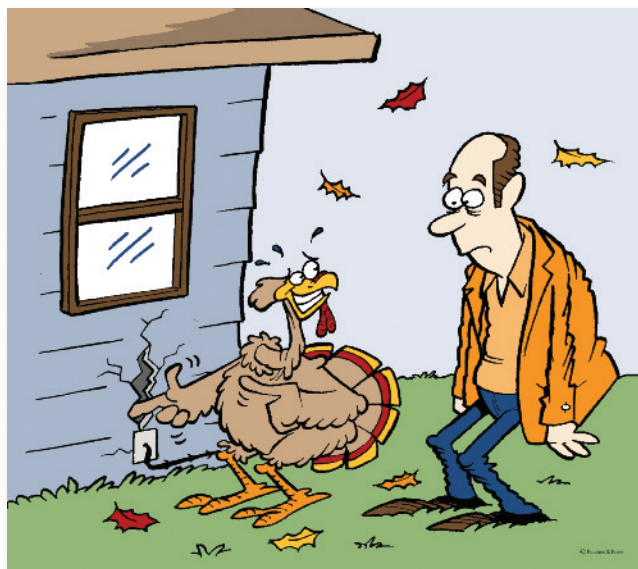
Thanksgiving is an appropriate time to recall their sacrifices, their pre-electricity lifestyles and their foresight, which laid the foundation for the at-your-fingertips electric, phone and Internet services you enjoy today.



When you take your turkey out of your electric oven this season, or when you switch on your electric furnace or heat pump for the first time this fall, remember those who lived without the convenience of electricity—and that they wanted it so badly they literally took matters into their own hands.



Beat the cold: Caulk before Thanksgiving



If your house is drafty, or if your heating bill seems too high, the warm, conditioned indoor air could be leaking out of the house—or the cold outdoor weather is finding its way in.

Caulking obvious holes and cracks is a good place to start saving money and energy as the weather cools off.

Go outside and take a slow walk around your house. Look for any penetration where something from the outside goes inside, like cables for TV and Internet or phone lines.

You might also find holes in exterior walls for plumbing pipes, outdoor spigots, sump pumps and dryer vents. Caulk around those openings so the hole is just big enough to let the line through with no “breathing room” around it.

A side benefit: Mice, snakes and other critters won't have such an easy time squeezing into your house when they're looking for shelter from the cold.

Young couples learn about cooperatives

Brad and Kellie Dowdy joined couples from across Georgia and the Carolinas during the recent 2012 Couples Co-op Conference on Pawleys Island, S.C. Brad, a staking technician with Ocmulgee EMC, has been with the co-op for 12 years. Kelly works at the Department of Community Affairs in Eastman, and they have two children: Cade, 7, and Jaycie, 4.

Co-sponsored by Georgia EMC, the three-day event was held in partnership with the Georgia, North Carolina and South Carolina Cooperative Councils.

Twenty-four couples from the three states gathered at the Pawleys Plantation and Golf Country Club. They took part

in a series of activities and presentations designed to teach the important role cooperatives play in the community and to foster cooperation among attendees and other area leaders.

"The 2012 Couples Conference was a great mixture of food, fun, fellowship and education," says Cindy Greene, director of the Georgia Co-op Council. According to Greene, attendees learn firsthand about coopera-

tives and their unique characteristics, compared with other business structures.

Participants learned about the economic advantages of the co-op business model, met with representatives from a variety of cooperatives to discuss relevant issues, polished their leadership skills, and made friendships with other attendees.



Brad and Kellie Dowdy represented Ocmulgee EMC at the 2012 Couples Co-op Conference.

An important part of the Conference includes an education on the diversity of industries represented by co-ops. Cooperatives come in different shapes and sizes and include a broad collection of industries such as agriculture, health care, electric, housing, food, purchasing, finance and insurance, education and child care, telecommunications and technology. Examples include Land O' Lakes butter, Ocean Spray cranberry juice, Sun-Maid raisins, Welch's jellies, Nationwide Insurance, Blue Diamond almonds, Ace Hardware and REI outdoor gear, among many others.

Employee recognition

Jenny Martin
12 Years

Thanks for your hard work and continued dedication!