



# LAMPLIGHTER

The Official Member Newsletter of Washington EMC

August 2009

Serving members in Baldwin, Emanuel, Glascock, Hancock, Jefferson, Johnson, Laurens, Warren, Washington and Wilkinson counties.

## Fire in the sky—sparks fly

### 14,400 volts fries tree limbs and most anything else



Bill Durden Photos

(Clockwise, from left) Garyth Everett, Washington EMC Lineman works to remove a fallen limb from the overhead distribution lines. The high-voltage electric current quickly burned a path in the limb that ignited as it lay stretched across the power lines. Emergency crews, firefighters and law enforcement were called to the scene by passersby who witnessed the fiery display taking place 40 feet in the air.

Everything in the house blinks, then goes off and doesn't come back on. Then you wonder, "What's wrong?" Although the electricity is off, things are working correctly. The distribution equipment installed to prevent power lines from overheating and burning has done the job for which it is designed.

Limbs and other things can fall

onto power lines. The fault equipment will make several attempts to burn a limb or other object off the electric lines. The equipment then opens the circuit and stops the flow of electricity, if necessary, before damaging the electrical system.

A lineman is dispatched to the scene to assess the situation when any outage occurs. Power is then

restored as quickly and as safely as conditions permit.

Keep away from all downed power lines—contact can be fatal. If you see a hazardous situation involving electric power lines, contact the proper utility immediately or call 911 for help. The Washington EMC Call Center can be reached by calling (478) 552-2577 or (800) 552-2577 anytime, day or night.



An electric membership Corporation

258 North Harris Street • P. O. Box 598  
Sandersville, GA 31082

e-mail: [wemc@washingtonemc.com](mailto:wemc@washingtonemc.com)

[www.washingtonemc.com](http://www.washingtonemc.com)

Frank Askew, *President/CEO*

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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### OFFICE HOURS:

8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Monday through Friday

Night Depository available for payments  
made after office hours

### 24-Hour Emergency Call Center

To report a power interruption  
please call:

**Local (478) 552-2577**

**Long Distance (800) 552-2577**

#### Milledgeville Local Office

500 East Hancock Street

Milledgeville, GA 31061

Phone (478) 452-1574

#### Sparta Local Office

12860 Broad Street

Sparta, GA 31087

Phone (706) 444-6650

#### Wrightsville Local Office

100 West College Street

Wrightsville, GA 31096

Phone (478) 864-2593

### APPLIANCE SALES & SERVICE CENTER

319 North Smith Street

Sandersville, GA 31082

Open Monday through Friday

8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

# Our energy, our future

Frank Askew, President/CEO



## Plant Washington is needed more than ever

Our need for power at the electric cooperative level—and the overall requirements of all Georgia electric providers—is only going to grow in the years ahead. It is our sincere hope that Plant Washington is built and placed into service as quickly as possible. The more resources we have available, the better we can provide long-term, reliable service to our members.

Washington EMC joined with other like-minded electric membership corporations (EMCs) in Georgia to form Power4Georgians as a way to mutually explore methods to meet future energy needs. Washington EMC's strategy has been, and will continue to be, to examine and implement a broad array of energy solutions to accomplish this objective.

Such energy solutions include: promoting energy efficiency, encouraging renewable energy, optimizing current energy sources and building new generation resources as appropriate.

We believe Plant Washington is needed more than ever. Its successful completion will not only help hold down the cost of energy but provide electricity that will help Georgia grow responsibly for decades to come.

Georgia has a real need for new sources of base-load generation, and Plant Washington represents an important and vital part of the solution. We feel very strongly that Power4Georgians and the Plant Washington project represent the best course of action for us as we continue to look for ways to provide our members with reliable and affordable electricity.

## Compact fluorescent lamp drop-off

Recycle your compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) here.



Drop off your used or burned-out CFLs at any Washington EMC location for proper disposal.

You can also purchase new CFLs here too.

*(CFLs must be undamaged to qualify for disposal.)*



## Washington EMC

You also can visit [www.earth911.com](http://www.earth911.com) to search for options by ZIP code.

# Washington Electric Foundation

## Operation Round Up®—your small change adds up



Jimmy Childre, CEO Washington County Regional Medical Center (WCRMC), left, and Michelle Evans, center, Rehab & Sports Medicine Director, receive a check for \$3,596.80 from Bill Durden, Washington EMC Member Services Representative. The Washington Electric Foundation check will purchase a specialized piece of equipment that will enable a patient, who cannot stand on their own, to be supported and receive physical therapy. "We are grateful for the Washington Electric Foundation's generous gift that provides our hospital the opportunity to purchase this equipment and offer a higher level of care to our patients," says Childre.



David Wells, Breaking Free Program Director, left, Dr. Scott Mormon, Administrator, center, and Keegan Mason, Program Assistant, are grateful for the \$2,354 donation to purchase a much-needed trailer for the Breaking Free Nursery. Sales from the nursery help provide funding to support the Breaking Free addiction recovery and training center.



Volunteers Peggy Anthony, Bob Raiford, Jack Shurling, Nelle Turk, Freddie Pittman and Alice Meeks accept a \$3,500 Washington Electric Foundation check for the Christian Life Center to purchase food stock for its food bank to help local citizens throughout Washington County.



## The Washington Electric Foundation —Making life a little brighter

Funding for the Washington Electric Foundation is made possible by Operation Round Up donations made by Washington EMC members. The members voluntarily allow their electric bill to be rounded up to the next

whole dollar each month. The small change adds up to make big differences to those with a need. To make an application for funding, visit [www.washingtonemc.com](http://www.washingtonemc.com) and click on Operation Round Up to learn more.

## Nominating Committee meets Aug. 4, 2009

The following members will serve as the Nominating Committee to meet at the Washington EMC office located at 258 North Harris Street in Sandersville, Ga., at 2 p.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 4, 2009:

Mike Sheppard  
167 Mills Street  
Harrison, GA 31035

Eloise Gordy  
8196 Highway 272  
Sandersville, GA 31082

J.T. Stanton  
2085 Pearson Chapel Road  
Sparta, GA 31087

William B. Kay  
P. O. Box 407  
Sandersville, GA 31082

Ray Toulson  
2127 Baker Road  
Mitchell, GA 30820

Brenda English  
996 Sparta Highway  
Sparta, GA 31087

Wayne Herringdine  
1442 Union Hill Church  
Wrightsville, GA 31096

The committee will meet for the purpose of nominating two directors to be elected at the next Annual Meeting of Members of the Cooperative.

# Washington EMC

## Member-owned and controlled



Cooperation is based on the principle of people working together, pooling their efforts. Many hands, hearts and minds cooperating to provide a needed service to improve the quality of life for families and communities.

Washington Electric Membership Corporation (EMC) is a member-owned utility providing electricity and related services to more than 15,000 metered accounts in 10 east central Georgia counties. Washing-

ton EMC has more than 2,900 miles of electric distribution lines, servicing more than 4,000 square miles from Interstate 20 in Warren County to near I-16 in Emanuel County.

A cooperative is a unique way of doing business. It's an organization providing a service to its owners. The owners are you, the members of Washington EMC.

Proudly serving local communities since 1937, the success of the cooperative rests with its member-owners. The Cooperative is guided by a seven-member board of directors who are elected by the membership at the Annual Meeting of Members. Local ownership, local control, nonprofit operation and cooperation—it's the best way to serve you.

# Refunds

## \$217,944 being returned

The Board of Directors of Washington EMC recently approved the return of patronage capital. Member-owners who received electric service from Washington EMC during 1988 are eligible to receive these capital credits. The checks, scheduled to be mailed in late August, should arrive in early September.

Collectively, members will receive a total refund of \$217,944. Checks for less than \$1 will not be issued. If the amount refunded is less than \$1, it will be added to a future capital credit payment for that consumer. As a non-profit Cooperative, Washington EMC assigns any margins (would-be profits) to its members (the electric customers) in the form of patronage capital. Each year, after all expenses have been deducted from the electric revenue billed, any remaining revenue is assigned to the accounts of members who received electric service from the Cooperative during the year.

Assigned margins are not immediately returned to the Cooperative members, but instead are retained for a period of time. They are used in place of borrowed capital as a source of funding for distribution facilities and general utility plant expenses. This allows the Cooperative to borrow less money and thus incur lower interest charges.

By reducing interest expenses this way, the Cooperative saves money for its members. Then, when it is financially sound to do so, the Co-op returns those margins to qualifying members through capital credit payments.

Being locally owned and controlled ensures the best in service for members of the Cooperative. Neighbors helping neighbors—it's the cooperative way.