

# LAMPLIGHTER

The Official Member Newsletter of Washington EMC

August 2011

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

## Boys & Girls Club of Washington County

Program helps youth become responsible, caring citizens



Bill Durden

Gathered at the Boys & Girls Club of Washington County Capital Campaign kickoff are, front row, from left, Wendy Sellers, Washington EMC vice president of finance and administration; Dr. Christy Mountain, Boys & Girls Club of Washington County board chair; and Board Members Kim Jackson, Judy McCorkle and Susie Wilcher. Second row, from left, Boys & Girls Club of Washington County Board Members Ree Garrett, Roy Jackson, Edward Burten, Benjie Tarbutton and Dexter Wansley.

**R**eady. Set. Go. The Washington Electric Foundation recently donated \$5,000 to help launch the capital campaign to bring a new Boys & Girls Club to Washington County. The program is slated to begin in fall 2011.

The Boys & Girls Club of Washington County will offer an after-school program in the beginning, serving children age 6 to 10 at first, then adding older age groups as the program progresses. The initial focus will be on tutoring and some recreational activities, such as arts and crafts, and offerings will expand as the club grows.

The club will provide a safe, positive environment for fun and supportive relationships. Club staff and programs consistently communicate the expectation that every child has the potential to excel, be productive and succeed at the club, and in life.

Boys & Girls Clubs affect the lives of young people in vital areas, such as academic success, good character, citizenship and healthy lifestyles. The club programs and activities help youth thrive.

Whether you volunteer, mentor, tutor or educate others, collectively, it makes a difference. Help the club help kids. Give today! Through the support

of caring individuals and businesses, we can help the Boys & Girls Club of Washington County provide the life-changing programs and guidance that will make it successful.

No matter how you participate, we can all help young people reach their full potential. Join in and help kids find their path to a great future! To learn more about how you can contribute to the Boys & Girls Club of Washington County, contact Dr. Christy Mountain, board chair, at (478) 552-0006 or spokesperson, Benjie Tarbutton at (478) 552-5151.

You can make a difference. Visit [bgca.org](http://bgca.org) to learn more.



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

Frank Askew, *President/CEO*

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Mildred D. Jackson,  
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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 E. Hancock St.  
Milledgeville, GA 31061  
Phone (478) 452-1574

#### Sparta Local Office

12860 Broad St.  
Sparta, GA 31087  
Phone (706) 444-6650

#### Wrightsville Local Office

100 W. College St.  
Wrightsville, GA 31096  
Phone (478) 864-2593

#### APPLIANCE SALES & SERVICE CENTER

319 N. Smith St.  
Sandersville, GA 31082  
Open Monday through Friday  
8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

# Co-op membership has many benefits



Frank Askew,  
*President/CEO*

## We are non-profit and member-owned

Washington EMC is a non-profit, consumer-owned cooperative, headquartered in Sandersville, Ga. We provide electricity and related services to more than 15,000 residential, commercial and industrial consumers in a 10-county area in east central Georgia. Our service area covers parts of Washington, Johnson, Hancock, Baldwin, Warren, Glascock, Laurens, Wilkinson, Emanuel and Jefferson counties.

Our roots go back to the 1930s and the early days of America's rural electrification. Since that time, Washington EMC has built a strong reputation for providing reliable power and excellent customer service.

Our mission has always been to provide quality electric service at the lowest cost possible. We are a progres-

sive cooperative, and constantly look for new ways to improve our services.

We strive daily to show just how important our consumer-owners are. This is why customer satisfaction remains as job No. 1 with us.

We are a not-for-profit, member-owned organization. As owners, our members receive a portion of the revenues above the cost of doing business. The sum of the refund check is based on the amount each member paid for electric service during the years a refund is applicable.

Refunds totalling \$754,697 have been approved by your board of directors. Qualified members should receive these checks in early September. Membership does have its rewards, and we are proud to share the benefit of cooperative membership with our members.

*Washington EMC ... every member counts*

# Refunds



## Members will get \$754,697

### Checks to be issued in September

**T**he Board of Directors of Washington EMC recently approved the return of patronage capital. Member-owners who received electric service from Washington EMC during the qualified period, including 1990, 1991 and 1992, are eligible to receive these capital credits. The checks are scheduled to be mailed in early September 2011.

Collectively, eligible members will receive a total refund of \$754,697. 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 con-

sumer. As a nonprofit cooperative, Washington EMC assigns any margins to its members in the form of patronage capital which represent the members' ownership in the cooperative. Each year, after all expenses have been deducted from the electric revenue billed, any remaining margins are assigned to the accounts of members who received electric service from the Cooperative during the year.

Assigned margins are not immediately returned to Washington EMC 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, Washington EMC saves money for its members. Then, when it is financially sound to do so, the cooperative returns those margins to qualifying members through capital credit payments.

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

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## Nominating Committee meets Aug. 9, 2011

### We are member-owned and member-controlled

**T**he following members will serve as the Nominating Committee, to meet at the Washington EMC office located at 258 N. Harris St. in Sandersville, Ga., at 2 p.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 9, 2011:

Jimmy Glover  
115 Jennie Lee Poole Road  
Harrison, GA 31035

Berry Gordy  
8142 Highway 272  
Sandersville, GA 31082

Brenda English  
996 Sparta Highway  
Sparta, GA 31087

Edward Burten  
11167 Sparta-Davisboro Road South  
Warthen, GA 31094

Douglas Barnes  
P. O. Box 337  
Sparta, GA 31087

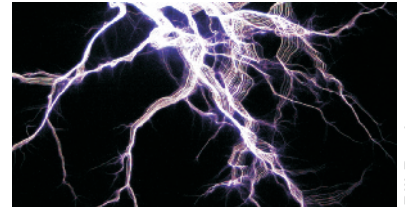
Ray Toulson  
2127 Baker Road  
Mitchell, GA 30820

Tamara C. (Tara) Blount  
P. O. Box 22  
Kite, GA 31049

The committee will meet for the purpose of nominating three directors to be elected at the next Annual Meeting of Members of Washington EMC.



# Lightning season is here



## Is your home protected?

**P**eak lightning season is upon us. A lightning-related surge can enter a home through electric, telephone and satellite or cable TV lines. Damage can occur to your appliances and electronics in 1/120th of a second.

Can anything be done to stop these surges and the damage they create? The answer is yes.

While we may not be able to stop the lightning, we can help prevent the damage. Tesco® surge protection equipment, available through Washington EMC, is one of the best defenses to protect your home from uncontrollable surges and the damage they can cause.

Tesco surge protection equipment monitors and blocks surges and spikes and helps protect things like appliances, computers, TVs, tele-

phones, garage doors and well pumps. Standard, point-of-use protectors can't provide this level of protection—even if you have one for every outlet in the house.

Protecting your appliances and electronics from surges can extend their usefulness. Surges can shorten the life of appliances and home electronics by as much as 50 percent.

Tesco surge protection from Washington EMC is around-the-clock defense for your home electric, telephone and satellite or cable TV lines. You get not only peace of mind, but also one of the industry's leading manufacturer's warranties. If a surge should get through the system and damage your appliances or electronics, the warranty covers repair or replacement, up to \$5,000 per item or \$50,000 per incident. Unlike a home-

owner's insurance policy, there is no deductible.

For only \$9.99 and a one-time installation cost of \$44.95, Tesco surge protection helps protect your appliances and electronics 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Washington EMC takes care of the installation. Tesco takes care of the surges.

Act before the next storm strikes and start enjoying all the benefits of Tesco surge protection. Call Washington EMC at (478) 552-2577, (800) 552-2577 or visit [washingtonemc.com](http://washingtonemc.com) to receive this value-added service from Washington EMC.



## Connecting a portable generator is now safe and easy

# Generating power when the power goes off



### GenerLink™ — safe and easy to use.

**C**onnecting a portable generator is now safe and easy with GenerLink™, available at Washington EMC. Plugging your generator into GenerLink gives you a safe and easy way to connect a generator to your home during those unexpected power outages.

During a power outage, more in-

convenience is the last thing you want. With GenerLink, using your portable generator is quick, easy and safe. Its simple operation is easy; turn off your appliances on your breaker panel, plug your generator into GenerLink, start your generator and turn on your appliances from your breaker panel.

GenerLink, plus your generator, equals your path to power. No more hazardous extension cords. No need for expensive installation of a transfer switch and sub panel. No more dangerous backfeed.

GenerLink is designed with you, the homeowner, in mind. This device is installed by a Washington EMC technician in fewer than 30 minutes.

There is no need to rewire your

home. With GenerLink, you plug in your portable generator and turn on the appliances you need. It's that easy, safe and convenient.

To learn more about GenerLink, contact Mark Riner at Washington EMC by calling (478) 552-2577 or (800) 552-2577.

