



THE LAMPLIGHTER

Official Member Newsletter of Washington EMC

July 2025

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

Who owns what?

Understanding electric equipment responsibilities

As July rolls in with longer days and rising temperatures, it also brings an increased potential for severe weather. Summer storms can arrive quickly and hit hard, sometimes causing significant damage to essential electric equipment throughout our community.

Washington EMC is always prepared to respond swiftly to outages and restore power safely, but it is also important for homeowners to understand which parts of the electric system are their responsibility and which are maintained by us at the co-op. Understanding these key differences can help speed up repairs and ensure everyone stays safe when the weather turns rough.

Washington EMC is responsible for maintaining and repairing the equipment and lines that run to your home, including utility poles, distribution power lines, electric meters and pad-mounted transformers.

Washington EMC members are responsible for the equipment located between the electric meter and your home or business, including any underground service lines that lead into the structure and the service panel. Members are also responsible

for the weatherhead and service mast located outside the home.

If any equipment the homeowner is responsible for is damaged, please call a licensed electrician to conduct the repairs. A professional has the experience and know-how to assess and manage these types of repairs.

When severe weather damages electrical equipment, it's important to note that any necessary repairs to the homeowner's equipment must be conducted before Washington EMC crews can restore power to your home or business. By understanding the equipment you are responsible for, the repair and restoration process will be smoother and faster.

Washington EMC will disconnect any service for repairs and return to reconnect your service after those repairs have been completed. We ask that you never "pull a meter," as we refer to that as meter tampering. That can be quite dangerous and you will be fined for those actions. As always, please give us a call, and we'll be glad to answer any questions regarding disconnects before repairs are needed.

Our community takes great pride in the beautiful trees and landscaping that contribute to the natural beauty where we live; however, regular trim-



Wendy Sellers
President/CEO

ming is essential to ensure reliable electric service and minimize damage from severe weather. Washington EMC and our partners, Georgia Right of Way, Gunnison Tree Services and others, regularly trim trees throughout our service territory to improve service reliability. If you spot a tree limb that is obstructing a distribution power line outside your home, please call us so we can trim those limbs and maintain those lines.

By working together to understand the essential equipment that powers daily life, we can all be better prepared to start the repair and restoration process if severe weather impacts our community.

If you have any questions about your electrical equipment, we're here to help. Please contact Washington EMC at (800) 552-2577.



An electric membership corporation

258 N. Harris St. • P.O. Box 598
Sandersville, GA 31082

Email: wemc@washingtonemc.com
Website: www.washingtonemc.com
Wendy Sellers, President/CEO

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mike McDonald,

Chair, District 1

Mike Beckworth,

Vice Chair, District 6

Brenda English,

Secretary/Treasurer, District 3

Mildred W. Jackson, District 5

Jeff Lacksen, District 2

Becky Prince, District 4

Ken Vickers, District 7

OFFICE HOURS

8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Monday through Friday

PHONES

Local (478) 552-2577
Long distance (800) 552-2577

24-HOUR CALL CENTER

To report a power interruption
please call:

Local (478) 552-2577
Long distance (800) 552-2577

BRANCH LOCATIONS

12860 Broad St.
Sparta, GA 31087
Closed on Thursday

100 W. College St.
Wrightsville, GA 31096
Closed on Wednesday

Convenient bill pay options include:

Drive-thru payment window

319 N. Smith St., Sandersville, GA 31082
Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Pay your bill online

www.washingtonemc.com

Use the free Washington EMC mobile app

Look for WEMC in the
App Store or Android Market.

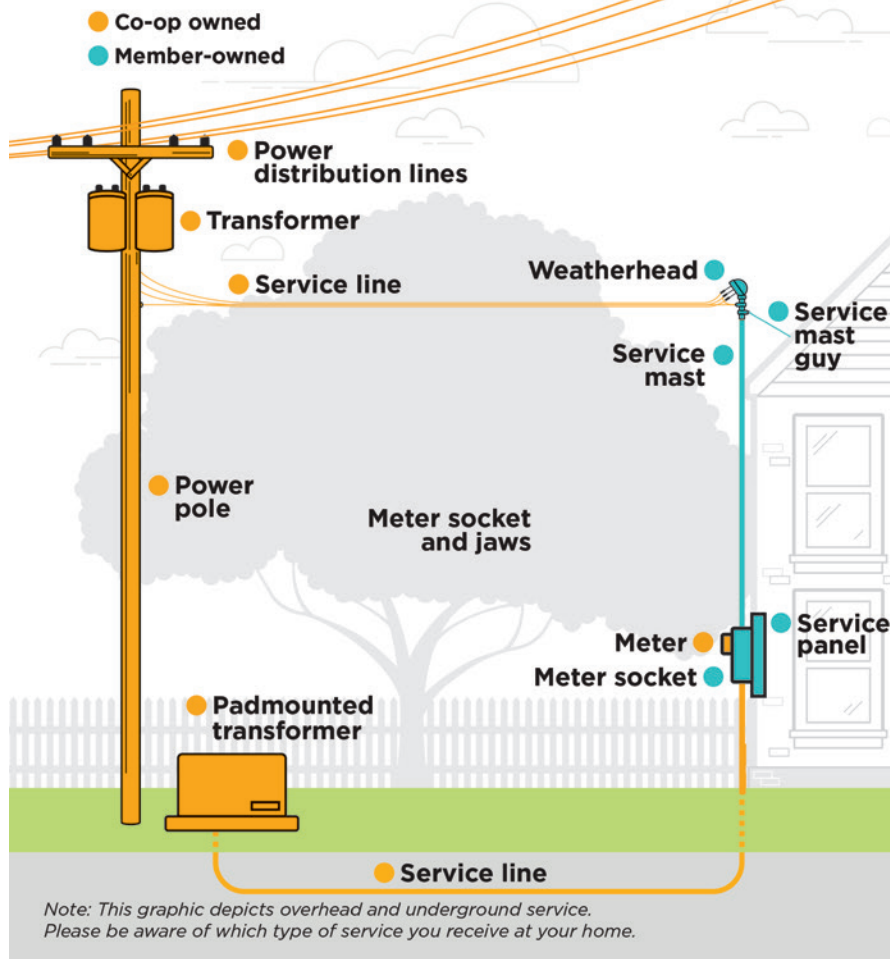
Pay by phone

(478) 552-2577 or (800) 552-2577

Who Owns What?

Electric Co-op Owned Equipment vs Member-Owned Equipment

This graphic depicts equipment owned by the co-op (in gold) and the member (in blue). If a storm damages any equipment owned by the co-op, we are responsible for repairs. If a storm damages any member-owned equipment, the member is responsible for repairs. Members should hire a licensed electrician when making any repairs to member-owned equipment.



ENERGY EFFICIENCY

TIP OF THE MONTH

During summer months, run large appliances that emit heat such as clothes dryers and dishwashers during the evening when the outdoor temperature is lower. Running heat-emitting appliances in the evening will reduce indoor heat gain during the day when outdoor temperatures are highest and ultimately keep your air conditioner from working harder than necessary.

Source: energy.gov

Prince appointed to fill vacancy on Washington EMC board

Washington EMC is proud to announce that Becky Nicholson Prince has been selected as the new District 4 board member. Prince was officially appointed following a special called meeting of the remaining Board members on May 7. The appointment is effective immediately, as Prince joins the other six board members to oversee the business and affairs of the member-owned, utility cooperative.

The appointment was needed to fill the vacancy created with the recent resignation of District 4 Board Member Billy Helton.

Prince is a longtime Washington County resident, having lived more than 55 years here locally. Her professional background comes from working 25-plus years in the kaolin industry and 12 years with the State of Georgia, most recently at the University System of Georgia Shared Services Center in Sandersville.

Prince's commitment as a customer-focused leader will serve Washington EMC well in her new role. She recently stated she has a "real passion for employee and customer satisfaction through communications and team building."

Community news

The Washington Electric Foundation (WEF) Board met April 28 and approved funding through the Operation Round Up program for the following organizations: Boys and Girls Club-Johnson County, Family Connection/Communities in Schools-Hancock County, Warthen Fire Department, Washington County FFA Alumni and Friends, Miriam Ministry, Hancock County 4-H, Johnson County 4-H, Lockerly Arboretum



Foundation, Promise of Hope, Valued and Loved Family Outreach Service, Young Life Sandersville, American Red Cross, Georgia Lions Club Camp for the Blind and Operation Appreciation.

We are so proud to be able to give back to the ones making a difference in our communities! The next WEF board meeting will be July 28 and the deadline for applications is June 30. For more information, visit www.washingtonemc.com.

Do you have money to claim?

Please help Washington EMC locate members and former members who have unclaimed capital credits refunds.

In compliance with the Disposition of Unclaimed Property Act, O.C.G.A. § 44-12-236, Washington EMC is attempting to locate former members whose capital credits checks were issued August 31, 2019, but have been returned by the U.S. Post Office as "undeliverable" or have otherwise been unclaimed.

A current list of the names of these members and instructions for claiming these funds is posted online at www.washingtonemc.com. This list is also available at all Washington EMC locations for reviewing during regular business hours.

The last date to claim these funds is September 30, 2025. If these funds are not claimed by this date, they will be donated for charitable uses, as permitted by O.C.G.A. § 44-12-236. To claim a refund or submit any question about this notice or the list, contact the Washington EMC office at (478) 552-2577.



Holiday office closure

Washington EMC's office will be closed
Friday, July 4,
in observance of Independence Day.



Democratic Member Control



Cooperative Principle 2

Cooperatives are democratic organizations controlled by their members, who actively participate in setting policies and making decisions by electing representatives who are accountable to the membership. In cooperatives, members have equal voting rights (one member, one vote).

2025 Director Elections

The Washington EMC Board of Directors is composed of members just like you, who reside in the specific districts of our service territory and are elected by the membership at the Annual Meeting. Directors are elected for a three-year term. Elections will occur for Districts 3 and 4 at the Annual Meeting of Members on Tuesday, October 28, 2025.

Members interested in serving on the Board of Directors should refer to the Qualifications of Directors and the Nominations sections of the Corporate Bylaws.

The following members will serve on the 2025 Nominating Committee and can be contacted at the addresses below:

District 1

Wendy Purvis
5089 Mitchell Road
Warrenton, GA 30828

District 2

Keith Webster
1030 Watts Road
Sparta, GA 31087

District 3

Amanda Griffin
978 Sparta Highway
Sparta, GA 31087

District 4

Selwyn May
496 Transylvania Drive
Sandersville, GA 31082

District 5

Berry Gordy
8142 Highway 272
Sandersville, GA 31082

District 6

Regina Williams
369 Channell Lane
Tennille, GA 31089

District 7

Tamara Blount
1509 Highway 221 S.
Kite, GA 31049

The Nominating Committee will meet at the Washington EMC headquarters at 258 North Harris St. in Sandersville on Tuesday, July 29, 2025, at 2 p.m., for the purpose of nominating at least one member from Districts 3 and 4.

Members will vote on director candidates at the Annual Meeting on Tuesday, October 28, 2025. Members from all seven representative districts may vote in the election for all director positions.