

THE LAMPLIGHTER

Official Member Newsletter of Washington EMC

October 2024

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

Co-ops power communities with purpose

Communities come in all shapes and sizes. Some are based on geographical proximity, some are based on shared interests or hobbies and some communities can even be found in virtual spaces like social media groups. Regardless of where or how they are formed, communities can bring people together and create a sense of belonging.

Washington EMC is deeply committed to our consumer-members, and we're glad you are part of the electric cooperative community.

This October, more than 30,000 cooperatives across the U.S. are celebrating National Co-op Month. It's a time to reflect on all the aspects that set cooperatives apart from other types of

businesses but, more importantly, it's a time to celebrate the power of co-op membership.

Electric cooperatives are not-for-profit utilities that are built by the communities they serve. For Washington EMC, our mission has always been to provide you with reliable power. Since December 2021, we also offer high-speed internet access across our 10-county service territory. In conjunction with our internet partner Conexon, we recently completed the project by installing the last of the 2,300 miles of high-speed, fiber-optic lines. We care about your quality of life, and because we are locally operated, we're uniquely suited to meet our members' evolving energy needs, as well as your



Wendy Sellers
President/CEO

broadband internet needs.

Beyond the business of electricity, our employees and directors are equally

Continued on page 20C

OCTOBER IS NATIONAL



Electric cooperatives are not-for-profit community-led utilities. Because we are a co-op, we can adapt to our local members' needs, providing the programs and services you care about most. That's the power of co-op membership.



An electric membership corporation

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Brenda English, *Milledgeville*
Billy Helton, *Warthen*
Jeff Lacksen, *Sparta*
Ken Vickers, *Wrightsville*

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.

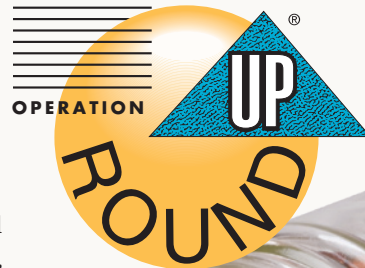
Pay by phone

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

Community News

The Operation Round Up (ORU) Board met July 29 and approved funding for the following organizations: Boys and Girls Club—Greater Augusta (Washington County), Angel House of Georgia, Miriam Ministry, Georgia Lions Club, Golden Harvest Food Bank, Ronald McDonald House Charities, Warren County Pop Warner and Washington County High School.

We are so proud to be able to give back to the ones making a difference in our communities. The next board meeting will be October 28 and the deadline for submitting an application is September 30. For more information, visit www.washingtonemc.com and click on the Community tab.

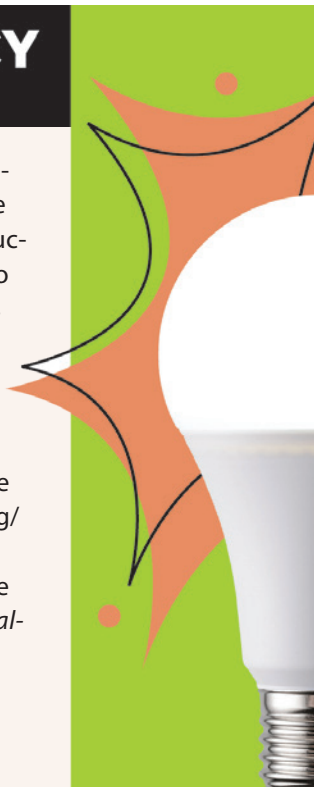


ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

If you recently made or plan to make energy efficiency improvements to your home, you may be eligible for federal tax credits. The Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) of 2022 empowers homeowners to save money on energy efficiency improvements and upgrades. Homeowners can save up to \$3,000 annually to lower the cost of efficiency upgrades by up to 30%.

A few upgrades covered through the IRA include new exterior doors, windows, insulation, heating/cooling equipment and other major appliances. If you completed an upgrade this year or you are considering one, visit www.energystar.gov/federal-tax-credits to learn if you qualify for a tax credit.

Source: energystar.gov



Co-ops power communities, *Continued from page 20A*

invested in our local community. Why? Because we live here, too. That's why we work hard to support local economic development projects, youth programs and scholarships, charitable giving initiatives and additional programs that make our community a better place to call home.

All co-ops, including Washington EMC, are guided by seven cooperative principles that embody the values and spirit of the cooperative movement. These seven principles are a framework to help all co-ops navigate challenges and opportunities, while also remaining true to our purpose:

- 1. Open and Voluntary Membership:** Co-op membership is open to anyone who can use the co-op's services.
- 2. Democratic Member Control:** Members make decisions that

shape the cooperative. Why? Because co-ops are created by the members, for the members.

- 3. Members' Economic Participation:** Members contribute money to the co-op to make sure it runs smoothly now and in the future. At Washington EMC, this happens through paying your energy bills.
- 4. Autonomy and Independence:** Co-ops are independent and can operate on their own, which ultimately benefits the members.
- 5. Education, Training and Information:** Co-ops continuously focus on education to ensure employees have the training and information they need to make the co-op successful.
- 6. Cooperation Among Cooperatives:** Co-ops share with and learn from other cooperatives. We help

each other out in times of need because we want other co-ops to thrive.

7. Concern for Community: All cooperatives work for the greater good of the local communities they serve. Co-ops give back to their communities to help them thrive and grow. As we celebrate National Co-op Month this month and the power of membership, we hope you will recognize the many aspects that set electric cooperatives apart. Our mission is reliable power. Our purpose is people—the local communities we're proud to serve.

We would also like to present you with a token of appreciation. Stop by one of our locations on any Friday in October, bring your copy of this issue of *Georgia Magazine* and we will present you with a gift.

SCORE BIG THIS SEASON WITH CRAZY-FAST INTERNET

Huddle up your devices and let Connect, powered by Washington EMC, power your ultimate game day experience!

SIGN UP TODAY!

Visit www.conexonconnect.com or call (844) 542-6663 to sign up today!



SCAN ME



Join us for the 2024 Annual Meeting



**Plan now to attend the
87th Annual Meeting
Saturday
October 5, 2024**

**Ridge Road Schools
285 Ridge Road
Sandersville, GA 31082**

Registration and voting begins at 8:30 a.m.
Business meeting starts at 10 a.m.

AGENDA:

Call to order
Invocation
Reading of notice
Minutes of previous meeting
Reports to the membership
Election of directors
Old business
New business
Attendance prize drawing
Adjourn

The 2024 Annual Meeting of Members of Washington Electric Membership Corp. will be held at 10 a.m. on Saturday, October 5, 2024, in the Ridge Road Schools cafeteria located at 285 Ridge Road in Sandersville. The location is easily

accessed from Highway 88 (Fall Line Freeway), Highway 24 (Davisboro Road) and Highway 242 (Riddleville Road).

This location offers convenient access and ample parking. Be sure to join us for your Annual Meeting.

Annual Meeting of Members October 5, 2024

Attendance gift—galvanized bucket



GRAND PRIZE

\$500

Credit on your power bill!

Must be present to win.

**Register to receive instant
prizes and more!**