



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

## Change is in the air

**W**ashington EMC has been a proud provider of low-cost energy to the members in our 10-county service territory since 1937. We work hard to keep the lights on and the energy flowing to nearly 14,000 member households and businesses.

As with numerous other aspects of modern life, our internal business systems use many different kinds of software to deliver power where it needs to go, as well as facilitate billing and payment for those services. Oftentimes, software must be updated to keep workflows efficient and to assist with several other tasks we handle each day. After using our current software for two or three decades in some cases, Washington EMC has made a strategic decision to upgrade software and utilize a different software provider.

Our new provider is National Information Solutions Cooperative (NISC), which is an information technology company that develops and supports software and hardware solutions for their member-owners across the nation.

They've emerged as an industry leader, providing advanced information technology (IT) solutions for consumer and subscriber billing, engineering and operations, as well as many other leading-edge IT solutions.

At NISC, their focus is to enable their member-owners to excel in customer service and compete effectively in the changing utility and



broadband industries. Many other co-ops in Georgia, and nationwide, have experienced great success using NISC.

### When will the change occur?

Washington EMC has selected early November as our “go-live” date—when the new software will be implemented and in full use. Many hours of training and testing will take place leading up to that date, but that’s the first time members will be able to interact with the new system’s features.

Prior to the go-live event, Washington EMC’s internal operations will be utilizing many of the upgrades to help deliver your energy efficiently. As these changes occur, your service will not be affected. As always, Washington EMC will communicate with our members all changes and actions that may be required in the weeks and months to come.



Wendy Sellers  
*President/CEO*

### How will it benefit our members?

The biggest change our members will experience will be in the form of how you pay your utility bill. Shortly before our go-live date, we will introduce members to SmartHub—your one-stop shop for billing and payments, alerts and notifications, use monitoring and generally staying up to date with every aspect of your account.

We’ll provide updates and how-to communications for all of these features. NISC experts will be on-site to assist with any issues as you set up your SmartHub account. And as always, our Washington EMC member service reps will be here to answer any questions.

This change is going to make paying your bill and managing your account easier than ever. We are excited about these improvements and the value they will bring to you, our members!



**WashingtonEMC**

A Member-owned Electric Cooperative

An electric membership corporation

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

Email: [wemc@washingtonemc.com](mailto:wemc@washingtonemc.com)

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

Wendy Sellers, President/CEO

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Mike McDonald,**

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*Vice Chair, District 6*

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#### 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](http://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

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## ENERGY EFFICIENCY

### TIP OF THE MONTH

Take advantage of "shoulder months," which refer to the transitional periods between peak heating and cooling seasons. During the fall, these milder weeks typically occur between September and November. Shoulder months offer a great opportunity to reduce home energy consumption as the need for extensive heating or cooling is reduced. Look for simple ways to boost indoor comfort without running your heating and cooling system. Use ceiling fans and open windows on breezy days to ventilate your home. On cooler days, add a layer of clothing and avoid running the heat.

# Don't shoot at power and fiber lines

Damages can be costly and cause outages for EMCs

By Victoria Scharf DeCastro

**A**s dove-hunting season approaches, Georgia's electric membership corporations (EMCs) are reminding hunters about the hazards of firing at doves perched on power lines and fiber-optic lines.

Power lines are popular roosting spots for doves, which typically congregate on the lines while taking a break from flying or before descending to the ground to feed. This makes them easy targets.

Though it may be tempting to shoot at a bird while it is sitting on a line, firing at power lines is always a bad idea. Shooting in the direction of power lines, fiber cables, insulators and other electrical equipment can result in extensive damage that could cost thousands of dollars to repair. Such unnecessary costs take funds away from other projects and even lead to higher utility

bills. Damage to equipment also could leave businesses and homes without power and internet for extended periods of time.

Fiber-optic cable runs adjacent to and beneath the electric lines. Optical fibers are protected by glass tubing, which shatters when shot and can disrupt phone and internet service.

"We try to warn about this every hunting season,

but fiber repairs are tedious and can be very expensive," says Kevin Morris, Chief Operating Officer at Washington EMC. "It's just best not to point and shoot anywhere near the overhead lines."

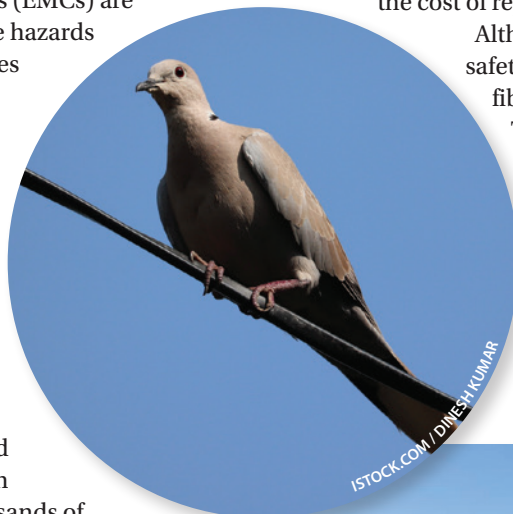
Damaging electrical equipment violates Georgia law\*, which states that anyone who "knowingly and without authority and by force or violence interferes with the operation of any system of public communication, public transportation, sewerage, drainage, water supply, gas, power or other public utility service or with any constituent property

thereof" could face criminal charges and/or be held liable for the cost of repairs.

Although most hunters are committed to safety, gunfire damage to power lines and fiber lines is a growing issue statewide.

To help ensure a safe and successful dove-hunting season, Washington EMC urges hunters to remain aware of the dangers involved and the damage caused by firing at birds perched on power lines and fiber lines.

*\*Code O.C.G.A. § 16-7-22(b)(2)*



## Dove-hunting season dates

According to the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, the 2025-26 official dove-hunting dates are as follows:

- September 6-October 12
- November 22-30
- December 19-January 31, 2026

For the latest information about dove hunting in Georgia, visit [www.georgiawildlife.com/migratory-bird-info](http://www.georgiawildlife.com/migratory-bird-info).



# Unclaimed capital credits

**Last date to claim a capital credit check is September 30, 2025**

**W**ere you a Washington EMC member from 1998-1999? If so, you may have funds to claim.

Washington EMC is attempting to locate former members whose capital credit checks were issued August 31, 2019, but have been returned by the U.S. Post Office as “undeliverable” or otherwise remain unclaimed.

A list of member names and instructions for claiming these funds is posted online at [www.washingtonemc.com](http://www.washingtonemc.com). This list is also available at all Washington EMC locations for review during regular business hours.

The last date to claim these funds is September 30, 2025. If they are not claimed by this date, they will be donated for charitable uses, as permitted by law.

To claim a refund or submit a question about this notice or the list, contact Washington EMC at (478) 552-2577.



## Holiday office closing

All Washington EMC offices will be closed Monday, September 1, in observance of Labor Day. For emergency services, call (800) 552-2577.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 28



## Plan now to attend the 88<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of Washington EMC



### WALK-IN MEETING

Washington Electric Membership Corp. will be holding their 88<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of Members as a walk-in meeting. Members may walk in and vote at any of our three offices.



**GRAND PRIZE**  
**\$500**  
**CREDIT ON YOUR POWER BILL**

### DATE

Registration and voting will be held on Tuesday, October 28, during regular business hours.

258 N. Harris St.  
Sandersville, GA

12860 Broad St.  
Sparta, GA

100 W. College St.  
Wrightsville, GA

### ATTENDANCE GIFT AND BILL CREDITS

Each member who participates in our walk-in Annual Meeting will receive a \$10 bill credit and attendance gift, and be entered into a drawing to be one of 25 lucky members to receive a \$100 credit on their energy bill.



ATTENDANCE GIFT:  
EMERGENCY FLASHLIGHT