Electric News

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Members Celebrate 74th Annual Meeting

The 74th Annual Meeting of Members of Little Ocmulgee EMC (LOEMC) was held Nov. 14, 2012, at the Wheeler County High School gym. The 193 registered Members in attendance were entertained by the gospel sounds of Higher Praise, visited with local vendors and participated in a health fair provided by Lower Oconee Community Hospital, of Glenwood, and the Oconee Fall Line Technical College nursing program.

In celebration of Veterans Day, Little Ocmulgee EMC proudly acknowledged all veterans of foreign wars with gratitude and indebtedness. LOEMC Senior Staking Technician Donnie Adams and fellow Co-op employees recognize W.E. Browning, of Glenwood, as the oldest attending veteran.

Lewis Sheffield, LOEMC General Manager, reported to the membership on the sound financial condition of the Co-op, the local charities who had benefited from unclaimed capital credits, the increase in Membership, and the maintenance of our lines and equipment. Sheffield presented service awards to eight employees with more than 70 years of service to the Membership.

Sheffield announced that three incumbent directors were re-elected by acclamation: Grant Rowe—District 1; George Best—District 2; and Benny Evans—District 3. He also presented a special recognition to the oldest veteran in attendance, W.E. Browning, of Glenwood, and the oldest Member on hand, Latha Cartwright, of McRae, who had celebrated her 101st birthday.

Little Ocmulgee EMC sends its appreciation to all the vendors who, along with the health fair and entertainment, always make our Annual Meetings such a great success. Many thanks to the following vendors: Langdale Forest Products, Holland Grills, Three Rivers Home Health, Premier Heating and Air, Little Ocmulgee State Park and Lodge, South Central Health District – WIC, Right From the Start Medicaid, AirEvac Lifeteam and Friends of Little Ocmulgee State Park.

Nov. 14, 2012

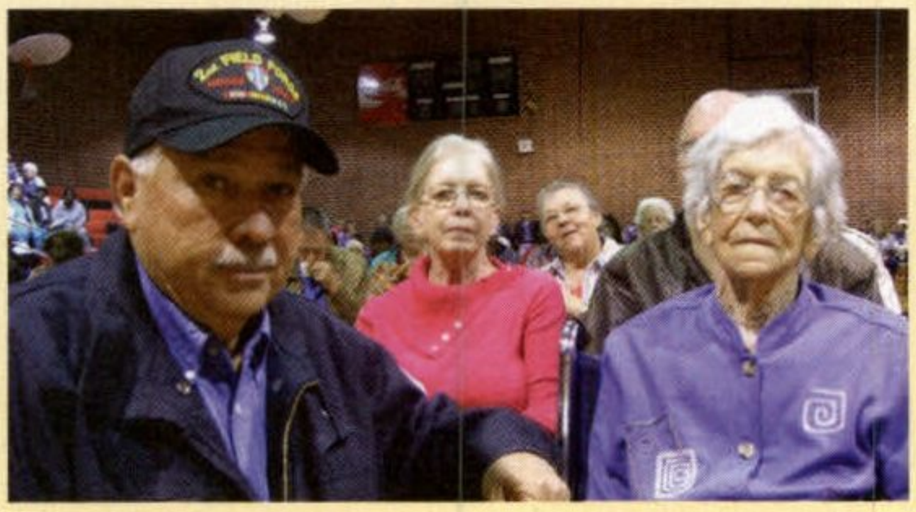
Gentlemen,

It was my privilege to accompany 101-year-old Latha Cartwright and her daughter, Vivian Cooper, to this year's Annual Meeting. Your staff was most courteous and kind, especially the man who helped me with Mrs. Cartwright. I did not get his name but he was a well-mannered, patient young man, who promptly met us with a golf cart and whisked Mrs. Cartwright and her walker straight through the back entrance and to the front row of the assembly.

After the business meeting, it was announced that Mrs. Cartwright was the oldest Member attending. She is keenly aware of the attention shown her and holds your company in very high esteem … as do I.

I know of other companies who could take heed and follow your fine example. Your company provided the electricity to my house on Sudie Pearl Jones Road when I lived there several years ago. I'm sorry to say I never attended the Annual Meetings. Now I know what I missed. Thank you for being there.

Very truly yours,
William J. Ivie, McRae



Latha Cartwright, of McRae, who celebrated her 101st birthday, was honored at the Annual Meeting as the oldest attending member. Seated behind her are her daughter, Vivian Cooper, and friend, William J. Ivie.

LOEMC Participates in Emergency Preparedness Fair

Little Ocmulgee EMC, along with Oconee EMC and Altamaha EMC, participated in the Fourth Annual Laurens County Emergency Preparedness Fair on Oct. 27, 2012, at the Dublin Mall. Representatives shared energy and conservation tips and distributed informational brochures and materials.

Children received Watt Wiser coloring books and learned from EMC representatives about personal protection equipment, such as gloves, sleeves, hard hats, and climbing hooks. The children also had hands-on opportunities with the equipment.

From left, Jennifer Bryant and Bobby Payne, with Oconee EMC; Michael Giles, with Altamaha EMC; and Gary L. Selph, with Little Ocmulgee EMC, prepare to greet visitors at the Fourth Annual Laurens County Emergency Preparedness Fair.

Georgia Agriculture Tax Exemption (GATE)

In April 2012, Gov. Nathan Deal signed House Bill 386, which included a number of changes to Georgia's tax system. These changes, which take effect Jan. 1, 2013, include:

- the nullification of the existing Agricultural Certificate of Exemption, ST-A1, as a valid state form
- the replacement of ST-A1 with a tax exemption certificate issued yearly by the Department of Agriculture to each qualified agricultural producer, and
- the necessity of the agricultural producer to apply annually to the Department of Agriculture for the tax exemption certificate, at a small fee.

This means that, effective Jan. 1, 2013, any accounts that have previously been tax exempt with Little Ocmulgee EMC will not be tax exempt. For accounts to be tax exempt from Jan. 1, 2013 forward, LOEMC will have to have a copy of your new tax exemption certificate, issued by the Department of Agriculture, and a list of all EMC meters that qualify for the exemption, followed by the account holder's signature.

For an account to be tax exempt on Jan. 1, 2013, the new tax exemption form must be received by Dec. 31, 2012. The new exemption forms can be obtained online at *www.agr.georgia.gov* or submitted by mail to Georgia Department of Agriculture, P.O. Box 742304, Atlanta, GA 30374-2304. The Department of Agriculture charges $20 for online applications and $25 for mailed applications.

Sales Tax Exemption for Energy in Manufacturing

House Bill 386 also establishes a sales tax exemption phase-in for energy used in manufacturing. To receive this exemption, a customer must qualify under definition of manufacturer in House Bill 386, and the tax exemption applies to all energy used in a contiguous manufacturing facility. In order to qualify for this exemption, the customer must provide Little Ocmulgee EMC with a ST-5M exemption form.

Local Students Could Earn a $1,000 Scholarship

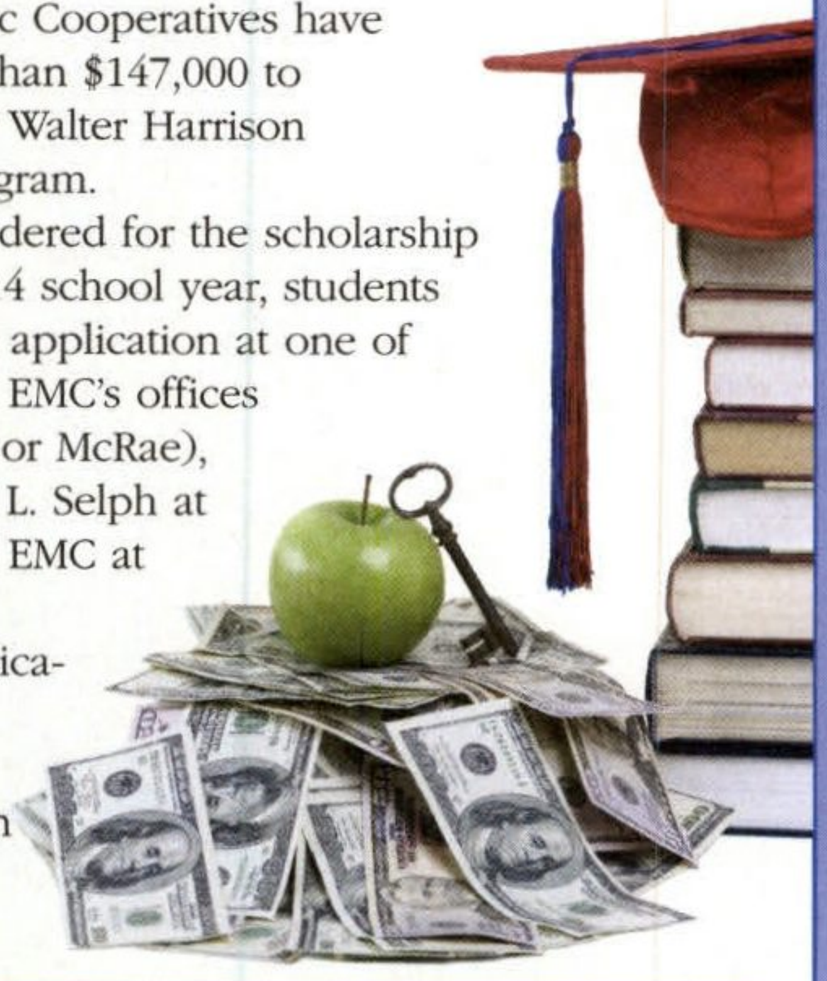
According to the College Board, the average cost of attending a public university for the 2011-2012 school year was $21,447. Attending a private college cost quite a bit more—$42,224.

Keeping in mind these sobering statistics, and to provide a measure of relief for those seeking a college education, Little Ocmulgee EMC encourages high school students whose primary residence is served by LOEMC to apply for the Walter Harrison Scholarship. The $1,000 scholarship, sponsored by Georgia's 42 electric Cooperatives, can be applied to academic expenses at any accredited two- or four-year university, college or vocational-technical institute in Georgia. Seven will be awarded statewide for the 2013-2014 school year.

Factors for consideration include grade-point average, SAT scores, academic standing, scholastic honors, financial need and being part of the household of an EMC Member or employee. A scholarship committee, composed of EMC directors and managers, selects students who excel in these areas and struggle with college expenses. Scholarship applicants must be accepted or enrolled in an accredited undergraduate degree program, and they must complete an application and write an autobiographical sketch that provides a preview of his or her plans.

Created in 1985 by the Board of Directors of Georgia EMC, the scholarship pays tribute to the late Walter Harrison, a pioneer in the rural electric movement and a leader at local, state and national levels in the electric Cooperative program. Since 1985, Georgia's electric Cooperatives have awarded more than $147,000 to students via the Walter Harrison Scholarship program.

To be considered for the scholarship for the 2013-2014 school year, students may pick up an application at one of Little Ocmulgee EMC's offices (Alamo, Dublin or McRae), or contact Gary L. Selph at Little Ocmulgee EMC at (800) 342-1290. Completed applications must be returned to LOEMC by noon Jan. 18, 2013.



New Year's Resolution: Save Energy

Every January, most of us resolve to save money and lose weight. This year, how about resolving to save energy and lose old power-wasting habits?

Here are five resolutions that will be easy to keep:

1. If any of the overhead fixtures, table lamps or outdoor lights around the house still have those old, incandescent lightbulbs, change them to CFLs. CFLs are more energy efficient, so they use less electricity and can reduce power bills.
2. Unplug computers, TV sets, phone chargers and the coffee maker and other kitchen countertop appliances when not being used. They still draw electricity as long as they are plugged in, even if they are turned off. Collectively, that wasted energy adds up.
3. Buy ENERGY STAR appliances when replacing anything, from a computer to a refrigerator to the battery charger for power tools. The ENERGY STAR label guarantees the appliance uses less electricity than comparable products without the label. That means less spent to operate it year after year.
4. Install a programmable thermostat. Program it to lower the heat in the winter by a few degrees after the family leaves the house every day, and to raise it back up just before everybody gets home. You won't feel any less comfortable at home, but you'll notice a dip in the energy bill.
5. Experiment with LED lighting fixtures. The light is built into the fixture—for overhead lighting, table lamps, desk lamps, holiday decorations, wall sconces and all kinds of decorative and task lighting. With no bulbs to burn out, the light will work as long as the fixture does. Chances are, the fixture will be out of style long before its built-in light-emitting diodes give out.

2013 Washington Youth Tour Applications Available

Little Ocmulgee EMC is accepting applications from area high school juniors or seniors for consideration in the prestigious Washington Youth Tour (WYT), a unique leadership opportunity available once a year.

If chosen, the student will join more than 100 delegates from Georgia to represent the state during the 2013 WYT, scheduled for June 13-20. Applicants must be 16 years old by June 13 and attend a local high school. Little Ocmulgee EMC's service territory high schools are: Wheeler County High in Alamo, Telfair County High in McRae, West Laurens High in Dexter/Dublin and Ocmulgee Christian Academy in Lumber City.

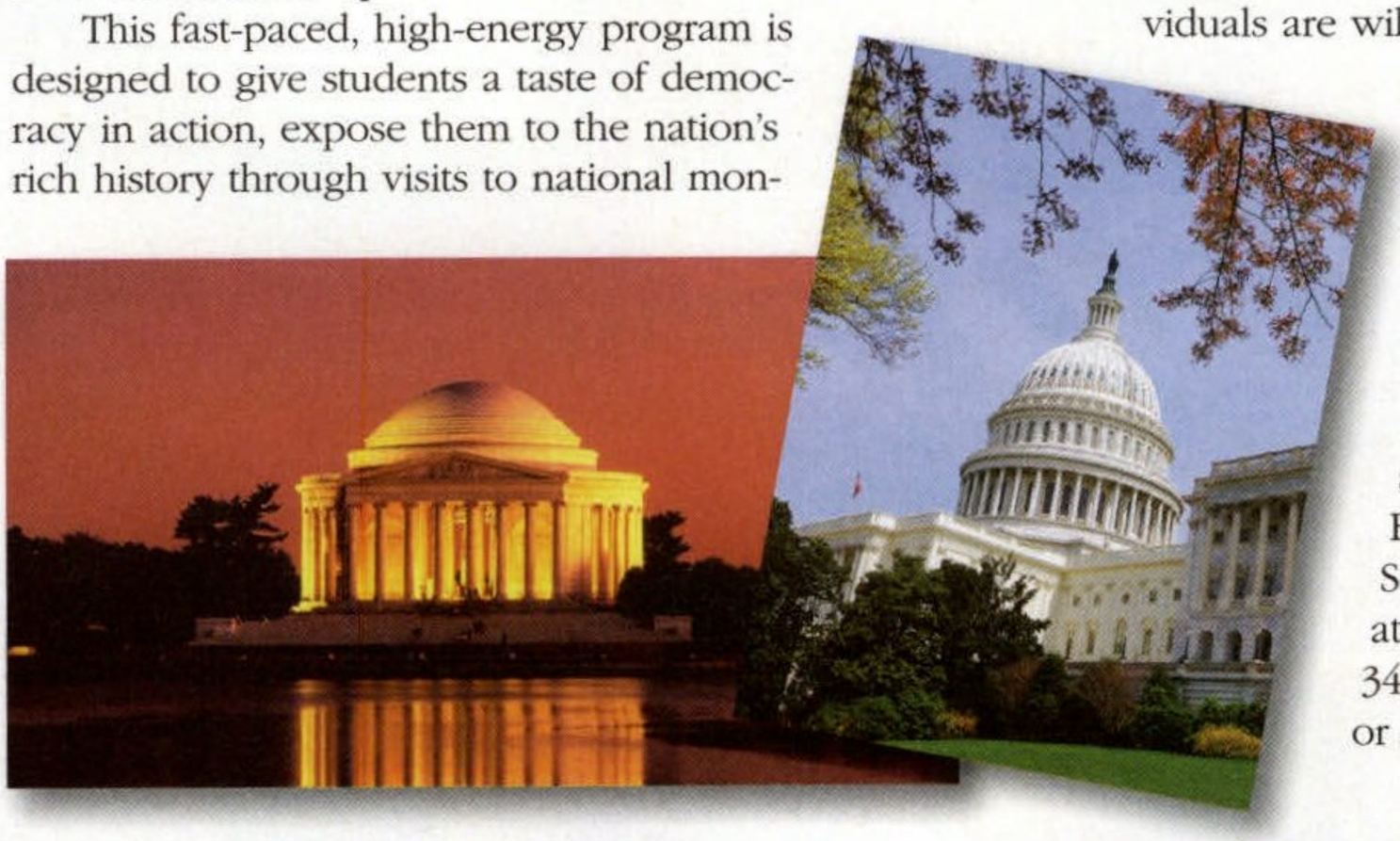
Relatives of Little Ocmulgee EMC employees and directors are prohibited from entering the local contest and are required to apply in a separate, statewide contest (see LOEMC for details.)

Applicants must submit a 500- to 750-word essay on a topic determined by Little Ocmulgee EMC. The essays will be judged on the basis of knowledge of subject, originality, composition, neatness, and grammar. The deadline for submitting essays is noon Friday, Feb. 15, 2013. Four finalists will be chosen to appear for an interview by a committee of judges on March 13, 2013. A winner will be selected after the interviews, and prizes will be awarded to the runners-up.

This fast-paced, high-energy program is designed to give students a taste of democracy in action, expose them to the nation's rich history through visits to national monuments and museums, and encourage students to become public servants.

The tour begins in Georgia, where students get to know one another, learn about Georgia's 42 EMCs and the electric Cooperative industry and enjoy a private tour of the birthplace of rural electrification—the Little White House in Warm Springs.

The group then travels to Washington, D.C., to connect with more than 1,500 students from across the country and see many of the nation's capital's most familiar sites. The trip includes face-to-face meetings with state and national leaders, leadership training and discussions on important issues with students from other states.

"Arlington National Cemetery made me realize we live in a wonderful nation that thousands of individuals are willing to give their lives for and we should not take freedom for granted," says one former student delegate.

Students interested in developing their leadership skills and making friendships that will last a lifetime, while making a pilgrimage to the nation's capital, should contact their high school English department, or Gary L. Selph, Member Services Supervisor at Little Ocmulgee EMC, at (800) 342-1290 to obtain an application or more information.