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Celebrating the Georgia lifestyle

GEMC

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Electric News

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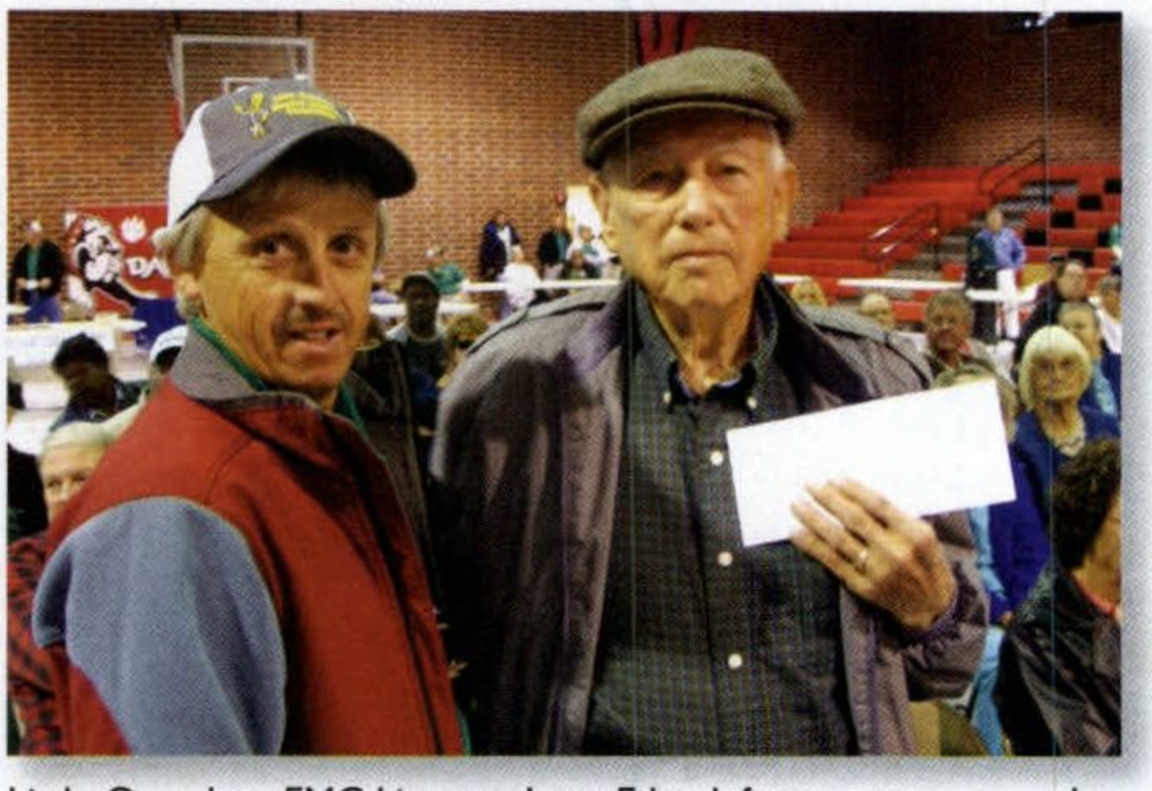
75-Year Milestone Celebrated at Annual Meeting

Little Ocmulgee EMC (LOEMC) held its 75th annual meeting on Wednesday, Nov. 13, 2013, at the Wheeler County High School gymnasium in Alamo. Celebrating this milestone were 214 registered members, who participated in a health fair, visited vendor booths and were entertained by a local gospel group, Glory Road Trio.

General Manager Lewis Sheffield reported that LOEMC is in sound financial shape and encouraged members to be aware of future changes in the electric industry that could mean price increases. Incumbent Directors LaRue Fountain, Wesley Yawn and Carey Locke were re-elected by acclamation to another three-year term on the board.

Each year at the annual meeting, LOEMC proudly honors and acknowledges all veterans with gratitude and indebtedness. Dewitt Phagan, 94-year-old member of the Cedar Grove community in Laurens County, was recognized as the oldest veteran and oldest EMC member present.

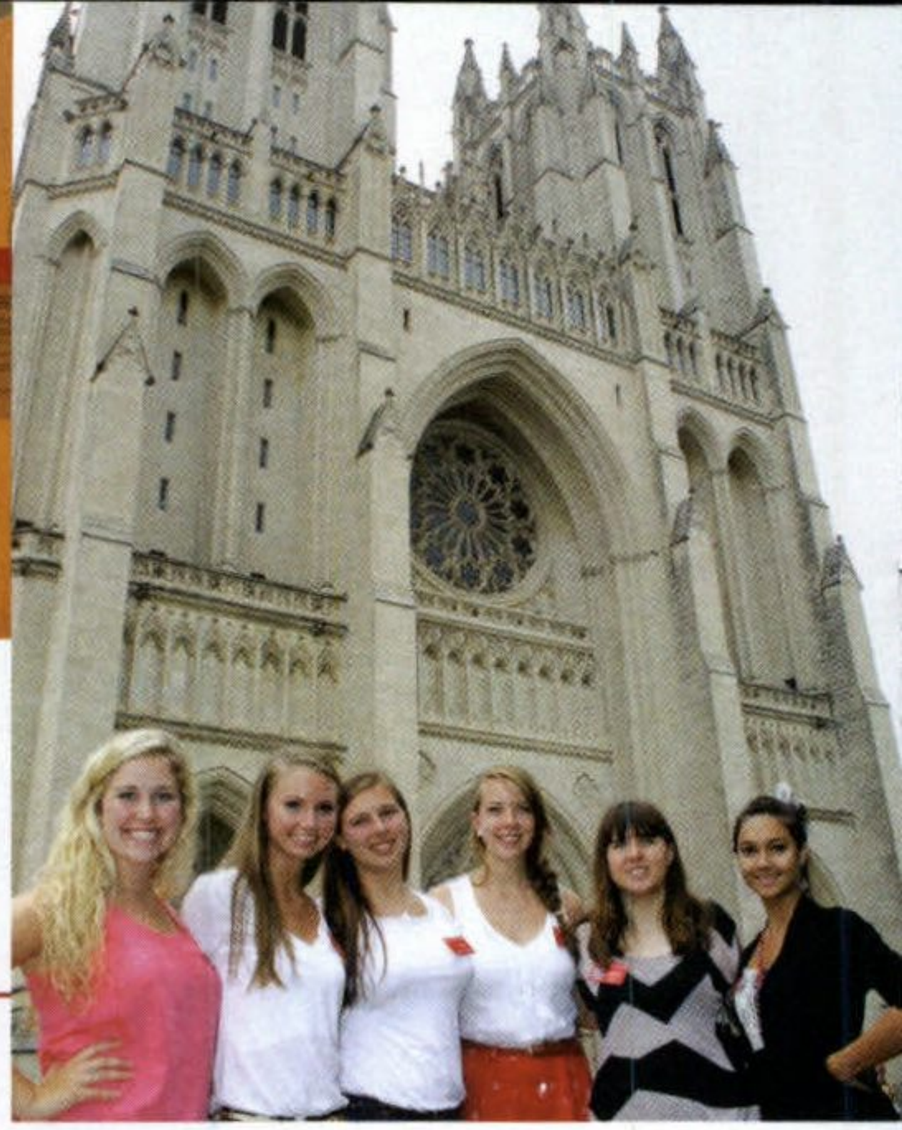


Little Ocmulgee EMC Lineman Jerry Edge, left, presents an award to Dewitt Phagan, 94, the oldest veteran and oldest member present.

Others acknowledged were the youngest veteran, Janice Coleman of Glenwood, and youngest member, Jennelle Register of Jacksonville.

LOEMC sends its appreciation to all the vendors, entertainment and health fair participants, who always make our annual meetings such a great success. Many thanks to the following vendors: Lower Oconee Hospital, Oconee Fall Line Technical College, Job Training Unlimited Inc., Premier Heating and Air, Three Rivers Home Health, Air-Evac Lifeteam, Right From the Start Medicaid, Langdale Forest Products, Joe's Exterminators, Little Ocmulgee State Park and Integrity Hospice.

Little Ocmulgee EMC members had an opportunity to visit with vendors at the annual meeting.



Be Part of the 2014 **Washington Youth Tour**

PHOTOS BY BYRON McCOMBS

Above: The Georgia delegation toured the National Cathedral, a sacred place and spiritual resource for people of all faiths with its beautiful architecture. The cathedral was rated as one of the 2013 tour's highlights.

Top left: Emma Faulk stands on the grounds of Mount Vernon, an American landmark and a lasting reminder of the life and legacy of the father of our country, George Washington.

Top middle: Emma and Oconee EMC delegate Emily Hatchett visit with Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie at Madame Tussauds wax museum.

Attention, high school students: Here are some of the reasons to get excited about the Washington Youth Tour (WYT):

- Meet in Atlanta and spend a great week in Washington, D.C., and its environs, taking in many of that historic city's iconic locations, museums, memorials and monuments.
- Make more than 100 new friends from every part of Georgia, all of them your age or within a year or two. The friendships you form can last a lifetime.
- Meet WYT participants from across the country and even take a boat ride on the Potomac River with some other states' delegates.
- Taste the cultural scene with several stops, including a theater performance.
- Meet your U.S. senators and representatives on their turf—the U.S. Capitol—and get a glimpse into how laws are made.
- Stay on the go from early morning until late at night—and love every minute of it.
- Work as part of a team and develop leadership skills that will serve you well, no matter what career you pursue.
- Learn about the beginning of rural electrification and visit its birthplace.
- Learn about the role of Georgia's electric cooperatives, sponsors of the tour.
- Have a great accomplishment to put on your college applications.
- Have fun!

The 2014 Washington Youth Tour, set for June 12-19, starts in Atlanta, where delegates—rising high school seniors, juniors or recent graduates—representing electric membership corporations (EMCs) from throughout the state gather for kickoff events. After a day in Georgia, it's off to the nation's capital, where the schedule is jam-packed until the return flight.

Delegates on the 2013 WYT had the time of their lives, as these photos and personal accounts of their trip show. Now, electric co-ops across Georgia are looking for delegates to represent them on the 2014 tour. Interested? See details on page 26D.

Tentative 2014 Itinerary

June 12: Kickoff banquet, Georgia International Convention Center, Atlanta

June 13: Little White House, Warm Springs; team-building at Woodward Academy, Atlanta; flight to Washington, D.C.

June 14: Tour and lunch at Mount Vernon; dinner at Union Station; evening guided tour of FDR, Jefferson, Martin Luther King Jr., World War II memorials; photo op of White House

June 15: Guided tour of Lincoln, Korean War and Vietnam Veterans memorials; Arlington National Cemetery guided tour, with wreath-laying at Tomb of the Unknowns; tour of Fort McHenry, Baltimore, Md.; tour of historic ships, Baltimore; dinner at Hard Rock Café

June 16: All States 50th anniversary celebration event; tour Smithsonian museums; cruise on Potomac River

June 17: Tour Supreme Court, U.S. Capitol and Washington National Cathedral; Sunset Parade at U.S. Marine Corps War Memorial (Iwo Jima statue)

June 18: Meet with Georgia's congressional delegation; tour Newseum and Madame Tussauds Wax Museum; dinner at performance of "The Lion King" at the Kennedy Center

June 19: Return flight to Atlanta

Note: Itinerary subject to change

Emma and Emily are reminded of the 16 million who served and more than 400,000 who sacrificed their lives for the United States, as they stand before the beautiful pool, monuments and fountains of the World War II Memorial.

Reggie and Sylvia Faulk, parents of Emma Faulk, attended the kickoff banquet in Atlanta at the Georgia International Convention Center. The keynote speaker was state Rep. Brooks Coleman, Chairman of the Georgia House Education Committee, who entertained the guests with his motivational speech "Leaders for the 21st Century."

In Their Own Words ...
The 2013 Washington Youth Tour

Favorite Activity or Tour Stop

Sarah Beth Cates, *Planters EMC, Millen*
I thoroughly enjoyed the team-building activities. It was a great way to meet and get to know the other delegates. Like .

Betsy Brown, *Georgia EMC/Hart EMC*
Mount Vernon displayed so much history and was absolutely beautiful. We got to explore the whole estate. My favorite was the huge flower garden. Like .

Grace Curtis, *Diverse Power, LaGrange*
To fully comprehend the compassion, sorrow, respect and pride that inspired the creation of the monuments and memorials, you have to see them in person. Like .

Emma Faulk, *Little Ocmulgee EMC, Alamo*
When I first heard of the casualties of war laid to rest in Arlington National Cemetery, it seemed like just a number. But when I saw the actual graves, I finally understood the true cost of war.

Evan Mercer, *Cobb EMC, Marietta*
The All-States Youth Day was incredibly exciting. We learned the importance of having a great attitude and its effects on leadership skills. Like .

Katrina Young, *Canoochee EMC, Reidsville*
One day it rained, and our plans had to change. At the end of the day, all the rain and plan deviations made for laughs and great memories.

From a Chaperone's *(and Former Delegate's)* Perspective

As a 2000 Washington Youth Tour delegate and Georgia's Youth Leadership Council representative, I described my experience as a "once-in-a-lifetime" opportunity. Now again, after serving as a chaperone on the 2013 WYT, I echo that sentiment.

In both capacities, I learned there is something about this program that simply changes a person and leaves one with a relentless drive to evolve. Ironically, though, I discovered that the fundamental goals of this program—to foster leadership skills and promote an understanding of rural electrification—are quite the same as they were more than a decade ago.

I have been able to apply the leadership skills I learned as a delegate in my personal and professional lives, and I have supported the efforts of the WYT and local EMCs ever since my time on the tour. I am sure 2013's delegation will do the same.

Similarly, the "electricity" generated by such a dynamic group of young people was as impressive as ever. As a delegate, one of the most lasting impressions was that there were other young people out there like me—students who welcomed leadership opportunities, who challenged themselves, who embraced diversity and who truly wished to improve their world. In the 2013 delegation, I saw reflections of these same qualities.

While technology and time have altered our reality, one thing remains constant: Georgia's young people have much to offer our world, and this is spotlighted nowhere better than on the Washington Youth Tour.

—Blair Inabinet

Blair Inabinet and her husband, Bill, were chaperones on the 2013 WYT. Blair was a delegate in 2000, representing Little Ocmulgee EMC in Alamo. A teacher at Youth Middle School in Loganville, she lives in Monroe.