

Electric News

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Little Ocmulgee EMC to Celebrate 78 Years of Service to the Members



The 78th Little Ocmulgee EMC Annual Meeting of Members will be held Nov. 9, 2016, at the Wheeler County High School gymnasium in Alamo. Doors will open promptly at 12:30 p.m. for member registration.

Prior to the business session, which begins at 2 p.m., there will be a health fair, vendor booths and gospel entertainment. Door prizes will be awarded at the conclusion of the meeting.

Pursuant to the Little Ocmulgee EMC Bylaws, a committee to nominate members for directorship has been appointed. The following members will serve:

- **Laurens County (District 1):** Larry Windham, Curtis Pauldo and Jimmy Butler
- **Telfair/Dodge counties (District 2):** Carey Knowles, John E. Seay and Terry Giles, Sr.
- **Wheeler/Montgomery counties (District 3):** Carey Clark, Tommy Clark and Jamie Nobles

If you have comments or suggestions concerning nominations or persons who wish to

be considered for director nomination, please contact these committee members.

The Nominating Committee will meet Aug. 23, 2016, to make director nominations. One director from each district is elected each year and will serve staggered three-year terms.

Directors seeking re-election for another three year term are:

- **Laurens County (District 1):** LaRue Fountain
- **Telfair/Dodge counties (District 2):** Wesley Yawn
- **Wheeler/Montgomery counties (District 3):** Carey Locke

Nominations for directors can also be made by petition, which must be signed by 15 or more Little Ocmulgee EMC members and submitted to the co-op no later than Friday, Sept. 9, 2016, at 5 p.m. Nominations are not allowed from the floor at the annual meeting.



Independence Day Closing

Our offices will be closed Monday, July 4, 2016, in observance of Independence Day. In case of an electrical emergency, please call (912) 568-7171 or toll-free in Georgia at (800) 342-1290.

For your convenience, night deposit boxes are available at our main office in Alamo and the Dublin branch office or you may pay your bill online at www.loemc.com.

Capital Credit Assignment For 2015

Being a member of Little Ocmulgee EMC has many advantages. One is that margins made at the end of each year are posted to each member's capital credit accounts and refunded on a 30-year cycle.

Margins are the amount of money remaining at the end of the year after the cooperative has paid its total operating cost. Capital credits are assigned to each member's capital credit account, based on the amount of money paid for electricity used during that year.

Example

Total Annual Electric Bill (2015)	CC Factor	Capital Credits Posted to Member's Account
\$1,000 (estimate)	.044203	\$44.20

In 1983, Little Ocmulgee EMC began making refunds for the first time in its history, beginning with deceased members' estates. In 1985, the first

"general" refund (based on first in/first out) was issued for 1948 and 1949. Through 2015, approximately \$6,282,708 has been refunded to members and deceased members' estates since 1983. Listed below are the capital credit factors for the past five years.

Year	Factor
2015	.044203
2014	.036799
2013	.024811
2012	.031582
2011	.045706

The cooperative will continue to make refunds on deceased members' estates, as well as general refunds, as financial stability permits. Any capital credit refund of less than \$5 shall be held over to the following year or years, until such credits can be paid in the amount of \$5 or more.

Final Two Months to Claim Undeliverable Capital Credits; Deadline Is Sept. 1

A current list of members with unclaimed capital credit checks issued in 2010, marked as "undeliverable" by the post office, is located for review at LOEMC's offices in Alamo, Dublin and McRae. This list can be viewed online at www.loemc.com.

The last possible date to claim these funds is Sept. 1, 2016. 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.

Our corporate office in Alamo and the branch office in Dublin are open Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. The McRae branch is open from 8 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday and closed for lunch 12:30-1:30 p.m.

Buying an Older Home? Make a Few Energy Updates

Some homeowners swear by their older houses because of their sturdy construction and attention to detail. But most older homes are energy hogs.

If you live in one—or are planning to—invest in a few energy-saving upgrades:

- **Replace the windows.**

Single-pane windows allow cool, air-conditioned air to escape and invite summer heat indoors. Double-pane windows are more energy efficient and can considerably trim your air conditioning expenses.

- **Install a programmable thermostat.** The older your home, the less likely it features a thermostat



that automatically resets itself after your family's morning rush hour. Keeping the house comfortably cool during the day while nobody's in it is a waste of energy.

- **Plug leaks and cracks.** They're inevitable as a home ages. Caulk around electrical and cable outlets, windows, window air conditioners and the dryer vent, and in cracks in bricks, siding or stucco.

- **Add attic insulation.** Chances are, your home wasn't built with enough. Plus, insulation is likely to have diminished over the years or become detached from floors and walls.

- **Replace energy-efficient appliances that are more than 10 years old.** Newer models of water heaters, clothes dryers and dishwashers use up to 50 percent less energy than outdated devices.

Seven Ways to Enjoy Summertime Energy Savings

Here are seven ways to use energy more efficiently this summer—and save some money on electricity:

1. Change the air conditioning system's filter every three months during cooling season—more if your neighborhood is especially dusty. Dirty filters stop air from flowing through, which causes your A/C work harder and use more energy.



2. If you have a programmable thermostat, instruct it to run only part of the day. There's no need to keep your house comfortable



while nobody's in it during the day. Running the A/C at night could be less expensive than cranking it up during the day when it's hot and demand for electricity is at its peak.

3. Run your ceiling fans. If you don't have any, consider it a good investment. Install them in bedrooms, the kitchen and the living room. Fans move the air around and make the people in the room feel cooler. And they're much less expensive to operate than an air conditioner.



4. Close the drapes. A sunny day is pretty to look at through the window, but hot rays can heat the air in your home and force the A/C to work overtime. Keep curtains and blinds drawn on bright, hot days, especially on south- and west-facing windows.

5. Wait until after dark to run your pool pump. Operating it during off-peak hours, when fewer people use a lot of appliances at once, can save money on your energy bill.

6. Switch your central air conditioning system's fan to "auto." The "on" setting allows it run constantly—even when your house is already cool.

American Red Cross Home Fire Campaign Saves Lives

BY SHERRY NICHOLSON

Seven times a day, someone in this country dies in a home fire. Countless others suffer injuries. When a fire starts, you may have as little as two minutes to escape from a burning home before it's too late. As part of its national Home Fire Campaign (redcross.org/homefire), launched in 2014, the American Red Cross is working to reduce home fire deaths and injuries by 25 percent in five years.

In Georgia and nationwide, the Red Cross is joining with local fire departments and community volunteers to visit neighborhoods with a higher incidence of fires, where a fire death has recently occurred or where the agency responds most frequently to help after home fires. Those visits include educating residents about fire safety and installing free smoke alarms in homes that need them.

"Installing smoke alarms cuts the risk of someone dying from a home fire in half," says Eric Corliss, Red Cross Disaster Officer for Georgia. "Working with our partners, we're reducing the risk of death and injury and making people safer with each new smoke alarm we install."

Since the Home Fire Campaign began, the Red Cross and its partners have helped save nearly 100 lives through smoke alarm installations in all 50 states; the first documented save occurred in Albany, Ga. More than 10,000 smoke alarms have been installed in Georgia, and that number is expected to double over the next year. Volunteers have conducted 48 smoke alarm installation events since January, and scheduling continues for most weekends through the year.

In 2015, the Red Cross met emergency needs for lodging, food, clothing, replacement medications, emotional support and more for 4,036 Georgia families who lost their homes and belongings in 2,810 home fires. Some of these fires occurred in apartments or

other multifamily dwellings. Assistance for the first half of 2016 is tracking ahead of last year at this time.

A Red Cross survey conducted last fall showed that many families have a false sense of security about their ability to respond to



Volunteers share safety information and install smoke alarms as part of the Red Cross Home Fire Campaign.

home fires. About 64 percent of parents believe their children would know how to escape a burning home with little help, yet only half had talked to their families about fire safety and only 10 percent had practiced home fire drills.

As part of the Home Fire Campaign, the Red Cross is calling on everyone to take two simple steps that can save lives: Check smoke alarms and practice fire drills at home.

There are several things families and individuals can do to increase their chances of surviving a fire:

- For the best protection, install working smoke alarms on every level and inside every sleeping area of the home.
- Test smoke alarms monthly. Change the batteries once a year and replace the entire unit every 10 years.
- Make sure everyone in the family knows two ways out of every room and can exit the home in less than two minutes.
- Practice your plan. Can your household escape in two minutes or less?

"It's critical to have a fire escape plan and practice it several times a year and at different times of the day," Corliss says. "The plan should include two ways to get out of every room and a place to meet outside."

Georgians can learn how to help prevent a home fire and what to do if one occurs by downloading the Red Cross Emergency app. Children can learn how to prevent a home fire and other emergencies in the Monster Guard: Prepare for Emergencies app. The First Aid app provides expert advice, including what to do for burns, broken bones and breathing and cardiac emergencies. The free apps can be downloaded in app stores or at redcross.org/apps.

People can visit redcross.org/homefire to find out more about how to protect themselves and their loved ones from fire. To find out more about the Home Fire Campaign in Georgia or to become a volunteer for local smoke-alarm installation events, contact stella.kim@redcross.org.

Sherry Nicholson is the Regional Communication Director for the American Red Cross of Georgia.

