Electric News

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Little Ocmulgee EMC to Celebrate 77 Years of Service to the Members

The 77th Little Ocmulgee EMC Annual Meeting of Members will be held Nov. 11, 2015, 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 J.Q. Russ
- **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. 25, 2015, 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)*:** Grant Rowe
- **Telfair/Dodge counties *(District 2)*:** George Best
- **Wheeler/Montgomery counties *(District 3)*:** Benny Evans

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 5 p.m. Sept. 11, 2015. Nominations are not allowed from the floor at the Annual Meeting.

Independence Day Closing

Our offices will be closed Friday, July 3, 2015, 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 2014

Being a member of Little Ocmulgee EMC (LOEMC) 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 (2014)	CC factor	Capital credits posted to member's account
$1,000 (estimate)	.036799	$36.80

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 2014, approximately $5,971,153 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
2014	.036799
2013	.024811
2012	.031582
2011	.045706
2010	.045576

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 2009, marked as "undeliverable" by the post office, is located for review at LOEMC's offices in Alamo, Dublin and McRae. This list can also be viewed online at *www.loemc.com*.

The last possible date to claim these funds is Sept. 1, 2015. 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.-4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday and closed for lunch from 12:30-1:30 p.m.

Schedule a Checkup for Your Central Air System

Will your A/C hold up another year? That's a good question for a trained, licensed HVAC professional.

Every year, even if things went well the previous summer, have your central air conditioning system or heat pump inspected and maintained by a knowledgeable technician. The tech will be able to tell you if your A/C is displaying any warning signs that could cause it to break down in the heat of summer.

Plus, you can increase your chances of having a cool, comfortable house all summer by:

- Regularly cleaning around your outdoor unit so it's clear of debris, leaves, dirt and twigs.
- Keeping the grass trimmed around that unit.
- Changing indoor air filters once a month during the cooling season.
- If your filters are nondisposable, clean them each month.
- If your home has room air conditioners, change their filters every month too.

How Old Are Your Major Appliances?

If your home is full of appliances that qualify as relics, you're beating the odds.

The National Association of Home Builders estimates that the average lifespan of major household appliances is 10 years.

That's not as long as they used to last. For example, 20 years ago, new clothes dryers and refrigerators were expected to last 13 years. But trash compactors back then were supposed to last only six years, and microwaves and dishwashers nine years.

That's not to say the warranty on those appliances lasts as long. Most appliances come with warranties of just one year. And the more you use an appliance, of course, the quicker it can wear out.

Plus, most homeowners replace their appliances before a decade has passed. At some point, you might find that it's cheaper to replace an appliance than to continually repair it.

If you're feeling lucky because your refrigerator, washing machine or water heater has lasted longer than you expected, you might not be as fortunate as you think. The older an appliance gets, the less energy efficient it is, as its seals wear out and its motor winds down.

Plus, newer versions of those appliances have been designed to comply with updated regulations for energy and water efficiency, so they use less energy—which could lower your monthly power bill. A brand-new refrigerator, for example, could save you up to $100 a year, compared with a 20-year-old device, even though it's still running well.

STATEMENT OF NONDISCRIMINATION

Little Ocmulgee Electric Membership Corporation is the recipient of federal financial assistance from the Rural Utilities Service, an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and is subject to the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended; the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended; and the rules and regulations of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, which provide that no person in the United States on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age or disability shall be excluded from participation in, admission or access to, denied the benefits of or otherwise be subjected to discrimination under any of this organization's programs or activities.

The person(s) responsible for coordinating this organization's nondiscrimination compliance efforts are Lewis Sheffield, General Manager, and Carey Locke, Board President of Little Ocmulgee Electric Membership Corporation. Any individual or specific class of individuals who feels this organization has subjected them to discrimination may obtain further information about the statutes and regulations listed above from and/or file a written complaint with this organization; or the Administrator, Rural Utilities Service, Stop 1510, 1400 Independence Ave. SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-1510; or the Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Ave. SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; or call (202) 720-5964 (voice or TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. Complaints must be filed within 180 days after the alleged discrimination. Confidentiality will be maintained to the extent possible.

Don't Turn Thermostat Too Low

Your house has been closed up all day, with the thermostat set to a moderate temperature while everyone was away. Will your warm home cool off quicker if you turn the thermostat down to 50 degrees for a while?

The answer may surprise you: It's "no."

Lowering the thermostat beyond the temperature you want for your house will force your air conditioner to run longer, not faster. That means you could pay more money for a house that's too chilly.

Instead, set the device to the desired temperature, and give it a chance to cool your home off slowly.

Here are a few other smart-money, summer-cooling tips:

- Install a programmable thermostat, which you can set higher for hours when the house is empty, but then lower during your at-home hours. Program it to turn the air conditioning back on about an hour before you're due home, and your place will feel comfortable when you walk through the door.
- Set the thermostat at 78 degrees. You'll save about 15 percent on your cooling bill over a 72-degree setting, while remaining comfortable.
- Move lamps, TVs and appliances away from the thermostat. The heat they produce can trick your air conditioning system into "thinking" the air is warmer than it really is, and it will keep running even when the rest of the house is cool enough.
- Open shades and blinds on cloudy days, but close them when the sun is shining. That will keep the sun from overheating your house and forcing your A/C to work overtime.
- Check the seal around your room air conditioners for air leaks. If they don't fit snugly enough into window frames, they can let hot air into the house—undoing the cooling benefits of the unit.

Keep Fireworks Away from Power Lines

Can't wait for the professional fireworks display—the one that the local firefighters supervise so nobody gets hurt? You're taking a huge risk.

Even fireworks that are legal can be dangerous, the U.S. Fire Administration warns. In fact, Fourth of July revelers report 9,300 fireworks-related injuries a year.

The biggest culprit: firecrackers, which are responsible for 1,600 of those injuries. Next worst are bottle rockets and sparklers, which burn at about 2,000 degrees, according to the administration.

If you must put on your own backyard show, light your fireworks in open areas far from power lines.

If any of your fireworks become tangled in an overhead wire or create a spark on one, call 911 and Little Ocmulgee EMC immediately. Do not try to solve the problem yourself.

Here are some additional safety tips from the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission:

- Children should be spectators, not participants, in the show. Never give children fireworks or sparklers.
- Read and carefully follow directions and warning labels. Most injuries result from improper use.
- Keep spectators at least 20 feet away and not downwind from where the fireworks will be set off.
- Light fireworks only on a smooth, flat surface, away from all flammable materials, including dry leaves.
- Never try to relight fireworks that don't function.
- Keep a bucket of water nearby in case of fire.