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M A G A Z I N E

January 2017



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Electric News

Published for Members of the Little Ocmulgee EMC

JANUARY/FEBRUARY/MARCH 2017 • VOLUME 40, NUMBER 1



Little Ocmulgee EMC: 78 Years and Counting!

Little Ocmulgee EMC celebrated its 78th Annual Meeting on Wednesday, Nov. 9, 2016, at the Wheeler County High School gym. The 207 registered members enjoyed gospel music by the Glory Road Trio, along with a health fair and vendor booths from local businesses. After the business session, prizes were awarded to registered members holding lucky tickets.

LOEMC Directors LaRue Fountain, Carey Locke and Wesley Yawn were re-elected to the board by acclamation, for new three-year terms. General Manager Lewis Sheffield told members



Oldest veteran and oldest member honors were presented to Dwight Phagan, of Laurens County, by LOEMC Line Foreman John Yawn, right.

that long-term debt was down and equity up. He also reported that

revenue was down but has recovered. A rate increase is not planned at this time.

In recognition of Veterans Day, Dwight Phagan, of the Cedar Grove community in Laurens County, was honored as the oldest veteran and oldest member in attendance. Sherry Clemons, of Alamo, was recognized as the youngest veteran and Christy Sirmans, of Glenwood, as the youngest member.

Little Ocmulgee EMC wishes to thank all of its members, as well as the vendors and health fair participants who helped make your Annual Meeting such a great success.

Couple Receives Educational Weekend Escape

For most couples, the ideal getaway probably includes an ocean breeze, a spot by the pool and ample time for relaxation. But those who attended the Co-op Education Conference for Couples at The Ridges Resort and Marina in Hiawassee, Ga., experienced a different kind of vacation—one geared toward community stewardship and personal development.

Jake and Hannah Howard, of Cadwell, Ga., sponsored by Little Ocmulgee EMC, joined other couples from across the South to gain a better understanding of the cooperative business model and the impact of cooperatives, both locally and nationally. The conference, sponsored by the

Georgia Cooperative Council, also served as a channel for dialogue between citizens and local cooperative leaders.

The Howards formed lasting friendships with other couples from throughout the state. Jake is a forester for Beasley Timber Management and a volunteer firefighter in Laurens County. Hannah is a registered nurse at the Carl Vinson VA Medical Center in Dublin. They have two children: Tristan, 6, and Cohen, 3.

The three-day event included breakout sessions and encounter workshops where the Howards gained an in-depth look at the operations of several cooperatives. They had the chance to exchange experiences and ideas with coop-



Hannah and Jake Howard

erative leaders and other couples. By the end of the weekend, they developed both a stronger knowledge of cooperatives and a stronger relationship with their local co-op leaders.



BETH McMILLAN

'More than any other annual visitors, we look forward to having your incredible group of young men and women spend time with us here at Mount Vernon. We see thousands upon thousands of students from across the nation, yet your group distinguished themselves by their depth of knowledge, their eagerness to learn and how they carried themselves.'

Samuel G. Murphy

Manager, Department of Historic Trades
George Washington's Mount Vernon

'Sunday, June 12, was my favorite day. Arlington National Cemetery was a very humbling experience that I loved. The National Archives was awesome. I loved being able to see the foundation of our country.'

Kaitlyn Smith

Little Ocmulgee EMC

'Before WYT, I was super shy. This trip made me realize that I can always be myself and not be afraid to speak up or try to make new friends.'

Hillary Owens

Blue Ridge Mountain EMC



BETH McMILLAN



BYRON McCOMBS

Georgia's 2016 Washington Youth Tour delegation gathers at the base of the Washington Monument.

2016 Little Ocmulgee EMC Youth



BYRON McCOMBS

'As we approached the Lincoln Memorial, I was in awe. Presidents, veterans and many other great historical figures stood there and did great things.'

Taylor Green
Irwin EMC

'My favorite stop was Arlington National Cemetery. My parents are veterans, and it means a lot to me that the country honors all of those who served and risked their lives.'

Amari Forever Young
Snapping Shoals EMC

'I always knew I wanted to make a positive change in my community, but through this tour I realized that my aspirations can go way beyond the borders of my small town.'

Maria Velasquez
Altamaha EMC



BYRON McCOMBS



'The Holocaust Memorial Museum was my favorite stop. Not only did it do a fantastic job of explaining the tragedy, it memorialized the victims in the best way possible. It turns their suffering into a cry for action so that the world never stands by and watches something like that happen again.'

Peyton Lee
Southern Rivers Energy

Tour Representative Kaitlyn Smith

Bridges Competes in Area IV Wiring Contest

Ian Bridges, son of Walter and Ina Bridges, of Glenwood, and a junior at Wheeler County High School in Alamo, participated in the recent Area IV EMC/FFA Agricultural Education Career Development Event at Treutlen County High School in Soperton. The program introduces agriculture students to electrification programs while teaching safe, efficient use of electricity. Any active FFA member enrolled in a ninth- through 12th-grade high school agriculture education class in Little Ocmulgee EMC's service area is eligible to participate.

The Georgia FFA Association and electric membership corporations (EMCs) in Georgia, including Little Ocmulgee EMC, have offered this educational initiative for more than four decades. In January 2017, regional winners from throughout the state will compete at the Georgia FFA-FCCLA Camp in Covington. As in their local competitions, state contest participants complete a written exam, a practical wiring problem testing their knowledge of the National Electrical Code and an oral presentation on steps to complete a specific electrical task.

The top two winners in Area IV who will go on to the state competition are: first place, Jackie Swaringim of Toombs County High School in Lyons; second place, Jake Howard of Southeast Bulloch High School in Brooklet.

"This contest is a complete package that takes the student through several areas related to electrical wiring," says Bryant Oliver, ag teacher at Wheeler County High School and a mentor to students preparing for the competition. "Ian is to be congratulated for the effort he put forth while placing fourth among the Area IV contestants in his first wiring contest."



Ian Bridges demonstrates his wiring skills at the 2016 Area IV EMC/FFA wiring contest at Treutlen County High School in Soperton.



Ian Bridges explains to judges how he completed a wiring exercise. Contestants are also required to complete a written exam and a practical wiring problem, testing their knowledge of the National Electrical Code.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



According to the Consumer Electronics Association, the average household owns 24 consumer electronics products, which are responsible for 12 percent of household electricity use. ENERGY STAR-certified audio/video equipment is up to 50 percent more efficient than conventional models.

—Source: EnergyStar.gov

