



# COLQUITT EMC NEWSLINE

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## MAY IS NATIONAL ELECTRIC SAFETY MONTH

During the month of May, electric cooperatives across the nation join together to recognize National Electrical Safety Month by promoting awareness of the dangers of electricity and how to be safe when using electrically powered devices.

Here are several tips to keep in mind when using electricity:

- **Unplug it.** Appliances, tools and other devices are still connected to electricity when they are plugged in. Turn off AND unplug all portable electric devices when you're finished using them.
- **Toss it.** Inspect electrical cords often for broken connectors or fraying, and throw away any worn cords to eliminate the possibility of shock, short circuit or fire.
- **Cover it.** Use plug covers in outlets if you have young children. Teach them never to put their fingers in electrical outlets or appliances, and keep cords and electrical devices away from them.
- **Avoid it.** Never go near a power line. If you encounter a downed line, leave the area immediately and notify your cooperative or call 911. Never place ladders, poles or other items near power lines, and don't drive over downed lines.

If there is a downed power line nearby, leave the area immediately and notify your cooperative or call 911. If others are around, let them know that they need to stay away.

Teach children to stay away from power lines and substations and make sure they can recognize "Danger-High Voltage" signs.

Never use electrical equipment near any wet areas, such as pools or ponds.

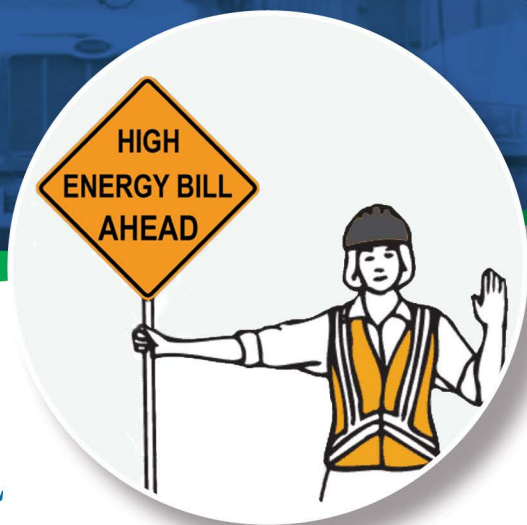
Remember, electricity looks for the shortest, most direct path to ground. A ladder, pole or even a wet kite string touching a power line will give electricity a new, shorter path and if you are holding one of these items, you could become a part of that path.

"Call Before You Dig." Dial 811 before starting a digging project, and workers will be sent to your home to mark utility lines in your yard. This service is free, and it has the potential to save your life.



### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- How to Avoid a High Energy Bill
- Bright Ideas Grant Applications Coming Soon
- Recipe of the Month: Strawberry Cobbler



## HOW TO AVOID A HIGH ENERGY BILL

This article addresses the issue of unexpectedly high energy bills and offers a solution to identify potential problems before they cause significant financial strain. While a malfunctioning appliance might not be readily noticeable, it can substantially increase your electricity usage.

The traditional method of relying solely on the monthly bill to discover such issues is reactive and doesn't help prevent high costs. Here, the focus is on being proactive by setting up Energy Usage Alerts through your Colquitt EMC account.

These alerts can notify you within days of an energy problem arising, allowing you to investigate and potentially avoid a significant increase in your next bill.

Here is a step-by-step guide to setting up these alerts:

**1.** Visit **ColquittEMC.com** and click on "**PAY MY BILL**" on the homepage. Sign in to your account (if it's your first time, you'll need to create an account).

**2.** Click on "**MY ACCOUNT**" at the top of the screen. This will display a menu with account options. Choose "**MANAGE ALERTS**" to open the alert management page.

**3.** Verify the email address and phone numbers listed under "**ALERTS SENT TO**". You can edit this information by clicking the pencil icon on the right. Note that text message alerts might incur charges depending on your mobile provider.

**4.** Click on "**BALANCE & USAGE NOTIFICATION**" to access the high energy usage alert settings.

**5.** In the designated field, enter the minimum daily dollar amount you want to be notified about.

To calculate this amount, divide your desired monthly bill total by 30.5 (the conversion factor). For instance, if you aim for a \$100 monthly bill, divide \$100 by 30.5 to get \$3.28. This would be the amount that triggers an alert.

**6.** Activate your preferred notification method (email or text message) using the slide buttons at the bottom of the page.

**7.** Click "**SAVE**" to confirm your settings.

By following these steps and setting an appropriate daily threshold, you'll be notified promptly if your energy usage exceeds your target, allowing you to identify and address potential issues before they significantly impact your next bill.

## BRIGHT IDEAS GRANT APPLICATIONS COMING SOON



Bright Ideas Grant Applications will be available at [colquitemc.com](http://colquitemc.com) June 1-August 1. Bright Ideas awards teachers money for innovative lessons and projects to energize student learning. The Bright Ideas Program awards grants of up to \$1,000 to winning teachers. Public and private school teachers teaching grades K-12 in any subject area are eligible to apply. Schools in the areas that Colquitt EMC serves may submit more than one application. However, teachers are eligible to submit only one application per school year. The grants are not for professional development. The deadline for Bright Ideas Grant Applications is August 1.

If you have any questions, please contact Sonya Aldridge at 229-985-3620 ext. 1225.

# SUMMARY OF BYLAW PROVISIONS PERTAINING TO MEMBERSHIP, ANNUAL MEETINGS, BOARD REPRESENTATION, NOMINATION AND ELECTION PROCEDURES FOR ELECTION TO THE BOARD

## ARTICLE II: Meetings of Members

**Section 1. Annual Meeting.** The annual meeting of the members shall be held between October 1<sup>st</sup> and November 30<sup>th</sup> of each year at such place in the counties of Colquitt, Tift, Cook, Berrien, Lowndes, or Brooks as shall be designated in the notice of the meeting for the purpose of reporting results of the directors' election, passing upon reports covering the previous fiscal year, and transacting such other business as may come before the meeting. Failure to hold the annual meeting at the designated time shall not work a forfeiture or dissolution of the Cooperative.

**Section 2. Special Meeting.** Special meetings of the members may be called by resolution of the Board of Directors or upon written request signed by at least three (3) directors or at least ten percent (10%) of all the members, and it shall thereupon be the duty of the Secretary to cause notice of such meeting to be given as hereinafter provided. Special meetings of the members may be held at any place within the county of Colquitt in the state of Georgia specified in the notice of the special meeting.

**Section 3. Notice of Members' Meetings.** Written or printed notice stating the place, day, and hour of the meeting and, in case of a special meeting, the purpose or purposes for which the meeting is called, shall be delivered not less than seven (7) days nor more than thirty (30) days before the date of the meeting, either personally or by mail to each member, by or at the direction of the Secretary, or upon default in duty by the Secretary, by the persons calling the meeting, in the case of a special meeting, or by any other director in the case of any meeting whose time, place, and date have actually been fixed by the Board of Directors. In making such computation, the date of the meeting shall not be counted. If mailed, such notice shall be deemed to be delivered five (5) days from date when deposited in the United States mail, addressed to the member at his address as it appears on the records of the Cooperative, with postage thereon prepaid. The failure of any member to receive notice of an annual or special meeting of the members shall not invalidate any action which may be taken by the members at any such meeting, and the attendance in person of a member at any meeting of the members shall constitute a waiver of notice of such meeting unless such attendance shall be for the express purpose of objecting to the transaction of any business, or one or more items of business, on the grounds that the meeting shall not have been lawfully called or convened.

No matter which requires the affirmative vote of at least a clear majority of all the Cooperative's members shall be acted upon at any meeting of the members unless notice of such matter shall have been contained in the notice of the meeting.

**Section 4. Quorum.** At least one hundred fifty (150) of the members present in person shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at all meetings of the members. If less than a quorum is present at any meeting, a majority of those present in person may adjourn the meeting from time to time without further notice.

**Section 5. Voting.** Each member who is not in a status of suspension, as provided for in Section 6 of Article I shall be entitled to one (1) vote and no more upon each matter submitted to a vote. Voting by members other than members who are natural persons shall be allowed upon the presentation to the Cooperative prior to or upon registration at each member meeting of satisfactory evidence entitling the person presenting the same to vote. At all meetings of the members at which a quorum is present all questions shall be decided by a vote of a majority of the members voting thereon, except as otherwise provided by law, the Articles of Incorporation of the Cooperative, or these Bylaws.

**Section 6. Order of Business.** The order of business at the annual meeting of the members, and so far as possible at all other meetings of the members, shall be essentially as follows:

Report on the number of members present in person in order to determine the existence of a quorum, reading of the notice of the meeting and proof of the due publication of mailing thereof, or the waiver or waivers of notice of the meeting, as the case may be. The reading of unapproved minutes of previous meetings and the taking of necessary action thereon, the reading of unapproved minutes may be waived by a majority of the members present; and announcement of directors elected, presentation and consideration of, and action upon, reports of officers, directors, and committees, unfinished business, new business, adjournment.

## ARTICLE III: Directors

**Section 1. Number and General Powers.** The business and affairs of the Cooperative shall be managed by a Board of nine (9) directors which shall exercise all of the powers of the Cooperative except such as are by law, by the Articles of Incorporation of the Cooperative, or by these Bylaws conferred upon or reserved to the members.

The area served by Colquitt Electric Membership Corporation shall be divided into districts for the purpose of determining the district or area from which representatives shall be chosen to serve on the Board of Directors.

The directors shall be fixed as follows:

District 1	Colquitt County	2 Directors
District 2	Brooks County	1 Director
District 3	Berrien County	1 Director
District 4	Cook County	1 Director
District 5	Lowndes County	2 Directors
District 6	Tift County	1 Director
District 7	Worth-Tift Counties	1 Director

At the expiration of the term of any director his successor shall be elected for a period of three (3) years.

**Section 2. Qualification, Election, and Tenure.** No member shall be eligible to become or remain a director or to hold any position of trust in the Cooperative who is in any way employed by or financially interested in a competing enterprise or a business selling electric energy or supplies to the Cooperative. No person shall be eligible to become or remain a director of the Cooperative who is an employee, a close relative of an incumbent director or of an employee of the Cooperative, or is not a member of the Cooperative.

No members presently or formerly employed by the Cooperative shall be eligible to become or remain a director, Member of the Nominating Committee, or serve in any other capacity, either appointed or elected, or involving any Cooperative election for five (5) years after the termination of his/her employment from the Cooperative. This Bylaw change is effective on October 28, 2014, and only applies to those members who are separated from Colquitt EMC after October 28, 2014.

Upon the establishment of the fact that any person holding a directorship or any other position of trust in the Cooperative lacks eligibility under this Section, it shall be the duty of the Board of Directors to withhold such position from such person, or to cause him to be removed therefrom, as the case may be. Nothing in this Section contained shall, or shall be construed to, affect in any manner whatsoever, the validity of any action taken at any meeting of the Board of Directors, unless such action is taken with respect to a matter which is affected by the provisions of this Section and in which one or more of the Directors have an interest adverse to that of the Cooperative.

Nothing in this Section contained shall, or shall be construed to, affect in any manner whatsoever the validity of any action taken at any meeting of the Board of Directors.

**Section 3. Nominations.** It shall be the duty of the Board of Directors to appoint, not less than ninety (90) days nor more than one hundred fifty (150) days before the date of each annual meeting, a committee on nominations consisting of not less than five (5) nor more than eleven (11) members who shall be selected so as to give equitable representation on the Committee to the geographical areas served or to be served by the Cooperative. No employee of the Cooperative, member of the Board of Directors, known candidate for election, or any close relative or member of the same household of an employee, director, or a known candidate shall be appointed a member of such Committee. The Committee shall prepare and post at the principal office of the Cooperative at least sixty (60) days before the annual meeting a list of nominations for directors to be elected, listing separately the nominee or nominees with respect to each Directorate District from which a director must or may, pursuant to this Article, be elected. The Committee may include more nominees than there are to be elected, but it shall show clearly which nominees are opposed with respect to the same Directorate District.

Any fifty (50) or more members may make other nominations in writing over their signatures in like manner listing the nominees separately with respect to the Directorate Districts from which they are nominated, not less than eighty-five (85) days prior to the meeting, and the Secretary shall post the same at the same place the list of nominations made by the Committee is posted.

**Section 4. Voting for Directors.** The election of directors, or any bylaw amendment, change, or action directly relating to the election of directors, will be conducted by mail. To be eligible to vote for directors, a member must have been a member on August 31 of the year in which the election for directors is held. Not less than thirty (30) days prior to each annual meeting, one ballot shall be mailed by the Cooperative to each member entitled to vote. The ballots shall contain the names of all persons nominated by the Nominating Committee or by petition for each Directorate position to which a director is to be elected. Only members residing in each Directorate District may vote for, and elect, the director for that District. No member in any election may vote for more than one nominee from any Directorate District. Members shall mark their ballots indicating the director for whom they wish to vote and return said ballots to the Cooperative either by mail or by delivery to the main office or any district or branch office not less than fifteen (15) days prior to the date of the annual meeting. Any ballot received in the mail or by hand delivery less than fifteen (15) days prior to the date of the annual meeting shall not be counted for the purpose of election of directors. The notice to the members entitled to vote in which the ballots are enclosed shall contain instructions to the members as to how to mark their ballots for election of directors, and said instructions shall be explicitly followed in order for a ballot to be counted. The failure of any member to receive a ballot for any reason shall not invalidate the election of directors as provided for herein.

**Section 4-A. Uncontested Elections.** Notwithstanding anything herein to the contrary, in the event the nominating process set forth in Section 3 of this Article yields only one nominee with respect to the position of director of any Directorate District which must or may, pursuant to this Article, be elected, then no vote of the members shall be required with respect to such Directorate position; and the sole nominee shall be deemed elected in accordance with these Bylaws.

The following  
Directors' terms will expire  
on Oct. 29, 2024:

District 1 –  
**Clay Underwood** (Colquitt County)  
District 5 –  
**Bobby Exum** (Lowndes County)  
District 7 –  
**Gary Branch**  
(Worth/Tift County)

## MEMBERS PRESENTED TO THE COLQUITT EMC BOARD OF DIRECTORS TO SERVE ON 2024 NOMINATING COMMITTEE:

**John H. Davis**

4907 Davidson Road  
Valdosta, GA 31605-5529

**Plenn Hunnicutt**

357 Sauls Road  
Moultrie, GA 31768-6406

**Donald Summers**

3237 Stallings Road  
Valdosta, GA 31605-9229

**Darrell Griffin**

939 Kendallwood Church Road  
Moultrie, GA 31768-8548

**Brandon Johnson**

121 Eagle Drive  
Tifton, GA 31793-6837

**David Sumner**

P.O. Box 7167  
Tifton, GA 31793-7167

## THIS COMMITTEE WILL BE OFFICIALLY SEATED ON JUNE 3, 2024

The nominating committee will meet at 9:00 A.M. on Tuesday, June 4, 2024 at the Colquitt EMC headquarters in Moultrie to make nominations for three board positions.\*

CEMC members elect directors by mail and the results will be announced at the Annual Meeting. The 2024 Annual Meeting of Members will be held on October 29, 2024 at Spence Field in Moultrie.

*\*In addition to nominations made by the Nominating Committee, any 50 or more members may make other nominations by petition not less than eighty-five days prior to the Annual Meeting.*



## CONGRATULATIONS, JASON BOYKIN!

*Last month, the Georgia Utility Coordinating Council recognized Jason Boykin, District Engineering Superintendent, as the 2023 Chairman of the Year for Region 4.*

# Recipe OF THE MONTH



PHOTO BY DIANA EATINGRICHLY

## **Simple Strawberry Cobbler**

### **INGREDIENTS**

4 cups strawberries, cleaned and sliced  
1 cup all-purpose flour  
1/2 teaspoon baking powder  
1 cup sugar  
1 egg, beaten  
1/4 cup butter, in cubes

### **DIRECTIONS**

Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Spread the sliced strawberries evenly in an 8 or 9 inch square baking dish. In a medium sized bowl, mix together the flour, baking powder and sugar. Add the egg, and mix (a fork works best) until crumbly and the dry ingredients are completely incorporated. Spread this over the berries. Dot with the butter cubes. Bake for 45-50 minutes, until the top is golden and the berries are bubbling. Cool slightly before serving.

## Church of the Month



### **Elam Community Baptist Church**

5334 Grooverville Rd. • Quitman, GA

Pastor Randy Blow

### **Service Schedule**

Sunday School	10 AM
Sunday Morning Worship	11 AM
Wednesday Night Service	7 PM

To nominate your church for Church of the Month, please contact Sonya Aldridge at 229-985-3620 ext. 1225 with your church's information. Please include service schedule, address and pastor's name.

### **Bible Verse of the Month**

The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer, my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.

- Psalm 18:2