



## Colquitt EMC Manager thanks fellow members

***My fellow Colquitt EMC members,***

On the evening of September 1<sup>st</sup>, Hurricane Hermine made landfall on the Florida Gulf Coast and continued on a path that led it directly to our EMC service area. Our system began feeling the effects of the storm that evening, and those effects intensified as the center of the storm approached. Hermine's path carried it directly through the center of our service territory, bringing with it 65 mph winds, lightning, and over five inches of rainfall. All of this combined to produce widespread outages across our system. At its peak, Colquitt EMC had approximately 35,000 of its 66,000 members without power.



At Colquitt EMC, preparations for this storm were well underway before it arrived. Days before Hermine made landfall, meetings were conducted with our operations people from Moultrie and our district personnel from both Tifton and Valdosta. These meetings were to insure that all necessary steps were being taken to prepare for the storm and its aftermath. Colquitt EMC personnel were notified of the storm's timetable and placed on alert for the work to come. We also called upon our contract construction and right-of-way crews to be on standby to assist us with power restoration.

With over 35,000 outages scattered over our seven county service area, Colquitt EMC was able to restore service to 90% of its members within 12 hours and to 99% of the membership in less than 48 hours. Having over 34 years of experience in electric distribution, I have seen my fair share of storms and the outages they bring. *I can tell you that I am proud of how our electric system "held up" and how quickly we were able to restore service to our members. This could not have been accomplished without the hard work of over 100 service personnel who worked throughout the storm to restore power.* These men work in a dangerous profession every day. The danger is only compounded when working through storm conditions like we experienced. In addition to service personnel, other employees worked through the storm at our warehouses and offices. They provide the materials and equipment as needed and directed the outage restoration efforts. I would like to commend all employees for their efforts.

I understand that a storm such as this can cause large scale outages. If you are one of the members affected, I know it can be very difficult. I want to assure all our members that providing the best possible service to you is our top priority. The guiding principle at Colquitt EMC has always been to provide the most reliable electric service at the lowest possible cost.

I would like to thank our members for their support and patience during that difficult Labor Day weekend. It was, indeed, a number of "days of labor" for the employees of Colquitt EMC.

***Danny Nichols, General Manager***



**BRIGHT  
IDEAS**

## Colquitt EMC Awards Grants To Area Teachers

Colquitt Electric Membership Corporation awarded six area teachers with Bright Ideas education grants. The winning teachers included: **Beth Baker** from Pine Grove Middle School, **David Marchant** from G.O. Bailey Primary School, **Mariah Elder** from Pine Grove Elementary, **Angie Tillman** from Brooks County Middle School, **Jennifer Alexander** from Tift County High School and **Teresa Farrar** from Lowndes High School.

They were surprised in their classrooms and presented with a big check courtesy of the "Bright Ideas Prize Team" – representatives from Colquitt EMC.

Teachers often have innovative ideas about how learning can be made more exciting and interesting for their students but do not always have the resources to implement these projects. The purpose of the Bright Ideas education grant is to provide funding for those teachers to put their creative plans in action.

Funding for the grants is made possible through Georgia legislation that allows unclaimed capital credits to be used for education in the communities served by EMC's.





**Colquitt EMC is joining with 30,000 other cooperatives nationwide in October to celebrate National Cooperative Month.** The theme for this year's celebration, "Cooperatives Build" recognizes the many ways cooperatives help to build stronger communities and a stronger economy.

During this time, it makes sense to highlight the qualities that make electric cooperatives different from other types of utilities and businesses. Rural America is served by a network of 1,000 electric cooperatives, most of which were formed in the 1930s and 40s to bring electricity to farms and rural communities. Electric co-ops are owned by those they serve. That's why those who receive electric service from America's electric cooperatives are called members, not customers. Without members, there would be no cooperative. One principle that sets co-ops apart from other businesses is their concern for community. Cooperatives have a special responsibility to support the areas in which their members live and work. From sponsoring a local school's baseball team to supporting new jobs and industry through our economic development efforts, co-ops stand as a driving force in their communities.

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## ***Energy Vampires are Attacking Your Home***

### *Here's How to Stop Them...*

Halloween is almost here, and a band of spooky energy vampires could be lurking around your home. Energy vampires are appliances that continue to draw power from electrical outlets, even when turned off or idle. Some of these appliances can cause substantial increases to your energy usage, costing you and your family hundreds of dollars per year.

Here is a list of practical actions to take care of energy vampires in your home for good:

- **In the Bathroom** – Unplug that hair dryer...

If you're leaving devices like hair dryers, curling irons, or electric shavers plugged into the wall, this could be a cause for concern. Even when turned off, these devices can idly sip electricity from your outlet costing you money. Outsmart those pesky energy vampires and tug the plug.

- **In the Kitchen**

Before you leave for the day, make a habit of turning off all unnecessary kitchen appliances, especially that new espresso machine. Granted, coffee makers only use 1-3 watts when off, but add that to your microwave, small kitchen television, toaster oven, and other unused appliances and you could save \$10-20 per year.

- **In the Living room**

Older set-top cable boxes and DVRs in your living room are some of the most frightening of energy vampires, as they're less efficient than newer models. Some of these devices are constantly draining 25-45 watts of energy when off. To mitigate this energy waste, hook up your entertainment center and other living room appliances to power strips or an outlet with a wall switch. Then you can easily switch the whole system off when you need to. But remember if you are planning to record a show, your cable box will need to be turned on. It also takes time for your program guide to load, so it may be best to only shut your cable box off if you are not going to use it for extended periods.

- **In the Home Office**

You may have finished working, but your laptops and PCs in the home office are contributing to your electric bill. Be sure to keep your computers on sleep mode if not in use. Of course, a desktop or laptop computer can still use 15-21 watts when idle. Turn it off instead and that could be up to \$20 in savings from one device alone. Inkjet printers and fax machines, as well as other computers, can easily add to these costs; so be sure to use power strips and flip them off when not in use.



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**Happy  
Thanksgiving!**

*Colquitt EMC offices will be closed  
Thursday, November 24th  
and Friday, November 25th*

**Don't Miss The 2016  
Annual Meeting  
November 1st  
A Celebration of  
80 Years of Service!**



*"Omega Quartet"*

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## LUNCH RESERVATION FORM FOR COLQUITT EMC's 80th ANNUAL MEETING

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2016**

Lunch from 11:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.

Registration - 11:00 A.M.

Business Meeting: 1:30 P.M.

Expo Site, Spence Field in Moultrie

Although your meal is tasty enough for leftovers, we ask that you enjoy your lunch on the premises.

**Limit  
3  
meals  
per member**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Account # \_\_\_\_\_

Member's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Including myself, you may plan on \_\_\_\_\_ person(s) for lunch.

*Deadline for reservations is October 18, 2016*



## Recipes of the Month



### **Apple Cake**

#### **INGREDIENTS**

1 1/2 cups sugar  
1 cup oil  
3 eggs  
1 3/4 cups flour  
1 teaspoon salt  
1 teaspoon baking soda  
1 teaspoon cinnamon  
1 teaspoon vanilla  
3 large apples, chopped  
1/2 cup chopped nuts (optional)

*Yield: 12 Slices*

#### **DIRECTIONS**

Mix sugar, oil, and eggs in large bowl. Mix flour, salt, baking soda, and cinnamon in separate bowl. Add sugar mixture to flour mixture. Add vanilla, apples, and nuts. Bake in 9 x 12" greased and floured pan at 350 degrees for 45 minutes. Sprinkle with powdered sugar if desired.



### **Harvest Caramel Corn**

#### **INGREDIENTS**

3 quarts popped popcorn  
3/4 cup brown sugar  
1/4 cup margarine  
3 1/2 tablespoons corn syrup  
1/4 teaspoon salt  
1 1/2 teaspoons pumpkin pie spice  
1/2 teaspoon ginger  
1/4 teaspoon allspice  
1/4 teaspoon baking soda

*Yield: 3 Quarts*

#### **DIRECTIONS**

Dissolve the sugar, margarine, corn syrup and salt until firm ball stage. Remove from heat and add spices and baking soda. Pour over popcorn, stirring well. Spread evenly on baking sheet and bake at 250°F 45-50 minutes stirring every 15 minutes until done. Cool. (Be careful-burns easily).

(Cut Here) ✂