



Volume 50, Number 5

NewsLine

May 2020

A Message from Our General Manager:

Grass Roots Initiative

My fellow members,

There were times in the past when legislation was introduced at either the state or national level that had potential impact to Colquitt EMC as well as other EMC's in Georgia. The EMC's initially got together and formed Georgia EMC (GEMC) in the 1950's. One of its goals was to lobby or influence legislation that was favorable to the EMC's. For years, GEMC has performed well in its mission on behalf of the EMC's. During the past few years, several EMC's have put together "Grass Roots" movements with their own members. This "Grass Roots" movement consisted of EMC members who were willing to contact their elected officials when legislation appeared that would have an impact on the EMC's ability to continue its great work of serving its members.

Colquitt EMC has never formed a "Grass Roots" movement among our own members. In fact, our Cooperative has tried to remain apolitical; that is to say, we did not wish to get involved in politics unless absolutely necessary. This has worked for Colquitt EMC since 1936. However, I have noticed over the last three years that legislation which adversely affects Colquitt EMC has become more common. I am concerned with this trend, and I feel it will continue with a more dire impact to Colquitt EMC as a result.

I believe it is now time for a "Call to Action" at Colquitt EMC. We will be seeking members who are willing to join a "Grass Roots" movement on behalf of Colquitt EMC. This "Grass Roots" movement consists of obtaining email addresses from interested members. When the need arises, these members will be notified via the provided email. The members will be given a description of the current legislative issue, a summary of Colquitt EMC's stance on the issue, and the email addresses of the legislators who can have an impact on its success or failure.

To participate in this "Call to Action," go to ColquittEMC.com. I can assure you we will never give email addresses to others and promise to only call upon this group when absolutely necessary.

We hope you will join us in our effort to make our voices heard.

Danny Nichols, General Manager



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 1st and November 30th 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 members were presented to the Colquitt EMC Board of Directors to serve on the 2020 Nominating Committee:

Joan Carpenter
13869 Hwy. 125 N
Tifton, GA 31794

Keith Harris
2880 Caulie Harris Road
Adel, Georgia 31620

Van F. Murphy
9284 Valdosta Hwy.
Quitman, Georgia 31643

Jo Lynn Futch
2451 Brookfield Lenox Road
Tifton, Georgia 31794

Thad Marshall
2325 Futch Road
Adel, Georgia 31620

Jim A. Wilson
P. O. Box 70
Quitman, GA 31643

This Committee will be officially seated on June 8, 2020

The Nominating Committee will meet at 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, June 10, 2020 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 2020 Annual Meeting of Members will be held on Tuesday, November 3 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.

The following Directors' terms will expire on Nov. 3, 2020:

District 2 – **Patti Niewoehner**
Brooks County

District 3 – **Jimmy Griner**
Berrien County

District 4 – **Simmie King**
Cook County

Monitor energy use with High Energy Usage Alerts from Colquitt EMC

Mary is a Colquitt EMC member on a fixed income. She monitors her energy use, and her bill is usually about \$100. When she received her bill this month, it was \$325. Mary is shocked and confused, so she calls her local office. After answering a few questions, the customer service representative suggests the problem might be a hidden hot water leak. Mary calls her plumber, and he discovers a significant leak and repairs it. Mary's power use returns to normal, but she asks herself, "Is there a way I could know if my power cost is going to jump up before I get a high power bill?" The answer to Mary's question is YES!

Colquitt EMC can now notify members of their "daily" power use. It's called **High Energy Usage Alerts**. Once set up, members will receive notifications by text, email, mobile push notification or phone call any time their daily power cost is on track to produce a monthly bill higher than a targeted amount specified.

Because High Energy Usage Alerts requires the member's permission, the member must opt-in to receive the notifications. Once opted-in, the member can set the daily maximum power cost (\$) or energy use (kWh) that is appropriate for their household and budget.

To set up High Energy Use Alerts, call any Colquitt EMC office during business hours and request the alerts be activated. Before setting up High Energy Usage Alerts, the member should determine what their target amount should be.

Using Mary's account as an example, she wants to know if her daily energy cost is on track to produce a power bill over \$100. *To determine her daily target power cost, she divides \$100 (her desired maximum bill amount) by 30 (the number of days per billing period) and comes up with a value of \$3.33.* Mary calls her local Colquitt EMC office and asks to be alerted anytime her daily power cost exceeds \$3.33. Now she will be notified any day her power cost exceeds her target amount.

Colquitt EMC encourages members to sign up for High Energy Usage Alerts to take control over their power bill. We look forward to helping our members sign up for this money saving feature!



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Jared Lawlor Named Statewide Walter Harrison Scholarship Winner

Jared Lawlor, a graduating senior from Lowndes High, is one of 12 recipients of the Walter Harrison Scholarship for 2020. The scholarship, sponsored by the electric co-ops in Georgia, is named in tribute to Walter Harrison, a pioneer in the rural electricity movement and a leader at the local, state and national levels in the electric cooperative program. Recipients are chosen based on their academic achievements, extracurricular activities, and their service to the community.



Jared Lawlor

Jared, a National AP Scholar and National Merit Scholar, will attend Georgia Tech this fall and pursue a degree in computer science. He represented Lowndes High as a Governor's Honors Program State Semifinalist for Social Studies and was also nominated locally for Governor's Honors in science, social studies, commutative arts and math. He was awarded the Woodsmen of the World award for American History and the Barnabas Award for the Lowndes Youth Leadership League.

Jared served as Head Drum Major and Band Captain of the Lowndes High Georgia Bridgemen. As an active member of Future Business Leaders of America, he served as treasurer and received multiple region and state awards in Business Ethics and Information Technology. He was Class Cabinet President in the 11th grade and 10th grade Vice President. Jared served as Event Coordinator for the Science Club and helped to organize tutoring sessions for science students.

As a participant in the Young Entrepreneurs Academy, Jared wrote an award-winning business plan which created an app to help students improve marching technique. He also served as Vice Chairman of the First Federal Savings of Valdosta Student Bank Board.

Congratulations, Jared! We wish you the best at Georgia Tech.

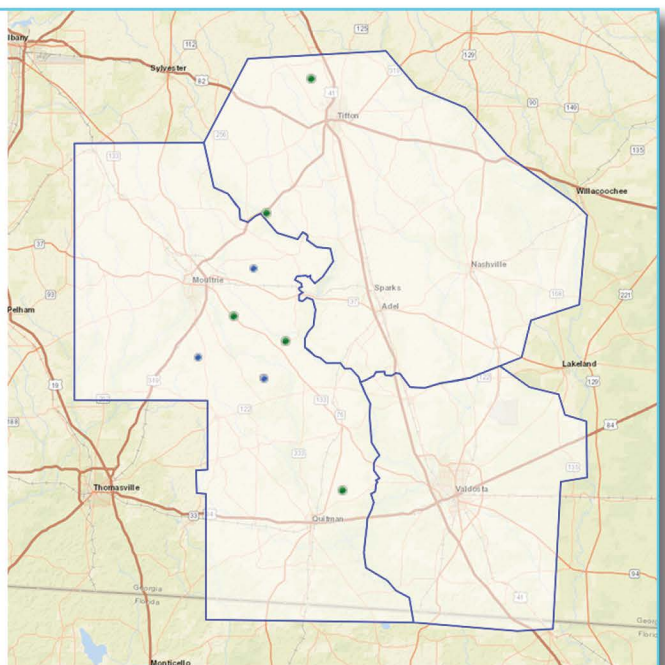


Check out our **NEW** Outage Map!

Available at colquittemc.com



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Recipes of the Month



Peaches and Cream Pie

INGREDIENTS

Serves: 8

3 cups fresh peeled and chopped peaches
1 unbaked 9-inch deep dish pie pastry
1 cup sugar
1/3 cup all-purpose flour
1/8 teaspoon salt
2 eggs, beaten
1/2 cup sour cream
1/2 cup sugar
1/2 cup all-purpose flour
1/4 cup butter
1 fresh peach, sliced for garnish if desired

DIRECTIONS

Preheat oven to 350F degrees. Place 3 cups fresh peaches into pie pastry. In a medium bowl, mix 1 cup sugar, 1/3 cup flour, and salt. Add eggs and sour cream. Blend well. Spoon mixture over peaches. In a separate bowl, combine 1/2 cup sugar, 1/2 cup flour, and 1/4 cup butter until mixture resembles coarse meal. A pastry blender works well, but two forks or two knives will also work. Sprinkle meal mixture evenly over pie. Bake 60 minutes or until golden. Garnish with fresh peach slices, if desired. Refrigerate leftovers.

(Cut Here)



Fresh Peach Cake

INGREDIENTS

Serves: 12

1/2 cup butter
1 1/2 cups brown sugar
2 cups flour, plus
1 tablespoon flour
1 cup buttermilk
1 egg
1 teaspoon baking soda
1/8 teaspoon salt
2 1/2 cups diced peaches
1/4 cup sugar
1 teaspoon cinnamon



DIRECTIONS

Cream butter and sugar and add egg. Add flour, soda, salt and milk and beat until smooth. Gently fold in peaches. Pour into greased and floured 13x9 pan. Mix cinnamon and sugar and sprinkle over top. Bake at 350 degrees for 30 to 35 minutes.