



## 2020 Annual Meeting Update

By Danny Nichols, General Manager

In last month's newsletter, I shared the likelihood of having a modified Annual Meeting. Since then, events surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic have made little change; and if anything, they have become slightly worse. Given these facts, the plans for our Annual Meeting will include all precautions required by our Governor and the CDC.

This year's Annual Meeting can be best described as a "Drive-Through" Meeting. Once on the Spence Field site, all members will remain in their vehicles and will be directed to a Registration Tent. At this location, our employees will register all members. They will ask for the Registration Card and an additional Card that we previously mailed to them. This additional card will allow members to acknowledge receipt of the items that are required for our business meeting. At this location, members will be given the results of the election of directors. The next stop will be the Meals/Door Prize Tent where members will receive their meals, door prize, and a booklet that includes the information we typically provide at our business meeting. Members will then be directed on how to exit the Spence Field site.

The "Official Annual Meeting Notice" will be mailed to all Colquitt EMC members in late September and will contain more details about this year's meeting. Included in that mailing will be the Registration Card and the Acknowledgement Card. **It is very important for all Members to bring those cards to the Annual Meeting.**

It is our intent to have a "Meeting" that meets all requirements of our ByLaws, but also allows for the safest manner in which to conduct such a meeting. Beyond the "drive-through," all other parts of our Annual Meeting have been cancelled.

Colquitt EMC appreciates your understanding of these changes, and we look forward to a time when we can resume our normal Annual Meetings.

### LUNCH RESERVATION FORM FOR COLQUITT EMC'S 84th ANNUAL MEETING TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2020



Please reserve  
your meals by  
October 20<sup>th</sup>

Drive-Thru: 9 A.M. - 1 P.M.  
Expo Site, Spence Field in Moultrie

Limit  
3  
meals  
per member

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

**Deadline for drive-thru lunch reservations is October 20, 2020.**

## 2020 Board Candidates

The Nominating Committee of Colquitt Electric Membership Corporation met on June 10, 2020 and nominated the following individuals whose names will be placed on the ballot and voted on by the Colquitt EMC membership prior to the November 3, 2020 Annual Meeting: District 2, Brooks County: Patti Niewoehner, District 3, Berrien County: Jake Ford and District 4, Cook County: Simmie King.

In addition to nominations made by the Nominating Committee, any 50 or more members may make nominations by petition. The following individuals were nominated by petition: District 3, Berrien County: Ronnie Gaskins, District 3, Berrien County: Ben Griner and District 3, Berrien County: Jesse McMillan.

The Colquitt EMC Bylaws allow for district director elections. This means that the only members who will be voting for director positions are those who have memberships in the districts (counties) of the directors who are up for election. Members vote for directors via mail with the election results presented at the Annual Meeting. No later than October 2, Annual Meeting notices will be mailed to each member whose membership was active on August 31. Ballots/voting information will be mailed to members in the districts (counties) of the directors who are up for election (Brooks, Berrien and Cook counties). Ballots must be returned by mail or hand delivery to any Colquitt EMC office by October 16.



### DISTRICT 2 – BROOKS COUNTY

#### Patti Price Niewoehner

- Served on the Colquitt EMC Board of Directors since 2017
- Currently serves as Secretary-Treasurer
- Earned Credentialed Cooperative Director Certificate
- Graduate of Valdosta State University, Bachelor of Business Administration & Marketing
- Professional Career of 25+ years in the Agricultural Chemical Industry
- Manages day-to-day operations of family farm
- Certified Operational Excellence with Six Sigma
- Secretary of Wiregrass Camellia Society
- Treasurer of Georgia Citrus Association
- Member of Quitman United Methodist Church



### DISTRICT 3 – BERRIEN COUNTY

#### Jake Ford

- Sales Representative for Bayer Crop Science
- Co-Owner and Secretary of Georgia Quality Pecan
- Graduate of University of Georgia and Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College
- Farms row crops and pecans in Alapaha
- Graduate of Leadership Georgia Class of 2018
- Program Chair of Leadership Georgia
- Board member and Secretary of Georgia Association of Conservation Districts
- Board member and Vice-Chairman of Alapaha Soil & Water Conservation District
- Member and Treasurer of Alapaha Baptist Church



### DISTRICT 3 – BERRIEN COUNTY

#### Ronnie Gaskins

- Mechanic for Shiver's Diesel with 40 Years of Experience
- Graduate of Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College
- Chairman of the Berrien County Board of Commissioners
- Chairman of Georgia Hunting & Fishing Federation Board of Directors
- Member of the Baptist faith





### DISTRICT 3 – BERRIEN COUNTY

#### Ben Griner

- Owner/ Operator of Griner Farms, LLC in West Berrien
- Maintenance Supervisor at Chaparral Boats, Inc.
- Career of 20+ years in Industrial Maintenance
- Graduate of Berrien High School and Wiregrass Technical College
- Holds Machine Tool Technology Degree and Electrical Training
- Certified Volunteer Fireman with the West Berrien Volunteer Fire Department
- Member, Councilman and Building Committee Member of Tift Avenue Church of God



### DISTRICT 3 – BERRIEN COUNTY

#### Jesse McMillan

- Graduate of ABAC, Mercer University, and Medical College of Georgia School of Dentistry
- Partner at Hilliard & McMillan Family Dentistry
- Member of Berrien County Recreation Association Board of Directors
- Member of Berrien County Young Farmers
- Served as deacon, finance chairman, and youth Sunday School teacher at First Baptist Church Adel



### DISTRICT 4 – COOK COUNTY

#### Simmie King

- Served on the Colquitt EMC Board of Directors since 1984 Previously served as President and Vice-President
- Earned Credentialed Cooperative Director Certificate
- Serves on Georgia System Operations Corporation Board of Directors
- Farms in the Fellowship Community of Cook County
- Member of the Baptist faith

## Keeping your home safe from COVID-19

The American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) has recommended installing high-efficiency media filters to help in controlling virus transmission through the air using the home's heating, ventilating and air-conditioning (HVAC) equipment.

Most air handlers have a slot for replaceable media/paper filters. Such filters should be upgraded to high-efficiency filters (such as MERV14) or higher, when the system allows it. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is advised when changing filters that may contain virus-laden particles.



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*A Message from Our General Manager:*

## **Broadband Partnership with Windstream**

My fellow members,

You may have seen recent announcements of a partnership between Colquitt EMC and Windstream to expand broadband services. I am writing to update you on this partnership.

About 18 months ago, the Georgia Legislature passed legislation that would allow EMC's to be involved in the broadband business. At that point, each one of the 41 EMC's in Georgia could then make decisions as to the extent of its involvement. We determined through both internal and external feasibility studies that it would not be economically feasible for Colquitt EMC to install broadband throughout our service territory. Colquitt EMC still recognized the need and sought other ways to assist in expanding broadband to what is known as the underserved areas in our service territory.

Colquitt EMC and Windstream enjoy an excellent working relationship. Throughout our service territory, many of our members are also Windstream customers. We began discussions with Windstream earlier this year about how Colquitt EMC could assist Windstream in expanding its broadband system. Those discussions were successful, and we believe we have reached an agreement that will accomplish that.

We will soon be entering a planning process where underserved areas are identified, and both companies will decide where to begin projects to expand Windstream broadband.

This partnership will allow broadband to slowly expand throughout Colquitt EMC's service area. The complete coverage of our territory will take many years. This partnership is the first small step in achieving that goal.

It is Colquitt EMC's objective to approach this partnership and these goals in a conservative and pragmatic manner. Our mission remains to provide reliable electric service at the lowest possible cost. However, if we can assist broadband providers in expanding their business within our territory without a negative impact to us, I believe that will be in the best interest of our EMC, our communities, and our members.



*Danny Nichols, General Manager*



## Recipes of the Month



### **Chicken Salad Sandwich Mix with Apples and Cranberries**

**INGREDIENTS** *Serves: 4*  
1 (12 1/2 ounce) can chicken breasts  
1 large granny smith apple, peeled, cored,  
and diced  
1/3 cup dried cranberries  
1 stalk celery  
1/3 cup light mayonnaise  
1/3 cup light sour cream  
1 tablespoon lemon juice  
1/4 teaspoon ground cinnamon  
1/8 teaspoon salt  
pepper  
4 flour tortillas

**DIRECTIONS**  
In medium bowl, shred chicken. Add apple, cranberries, and celery. In small bowl mix mayonnaise, sour cream, lemon juice, cinnamon, salt, and pepper. Stir dressing into chicken mixture. Spoon onto tortillas, wrap, and enjoy.



### **Best Grape Salad**

**INGREDIENTS** *Serves: 15*  
2 lbs green seedless grapes  
2 lbs red seedless grapes  
8 ounces sour cream  
8 ounces cream cheese, softened  
1/2 cup granulated sugar  
1 teaspoon vanilla extract, to taste

**TOPPING INGREDIENTS**  
1 cup brown sugar, packed, to taste  
1 cup crushed pecans, to taste

**DIRECTIONS**  
Wash and stem grapes. Set aside. Mix sour cream, cream cheese, white sugar and vanilla by hand until blended. Stir grapes into mixture, and pour in large serving bowl. For topping: Combine brown sugar, and crushed pecans. Sprinkle over top of grapes to cover completely. Chill overnight.

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