



# COLQUITT EMC NEWSLINE

VOLUME 52, NUMBER 9

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## *A Message...*

### FROM OUR PRESIDENT/CEO

My Fellow Members,

Over the past two months, I have written articles for our Member Newsletter; and that is an unusual occurrence. The intent of the articles was to explain how Colquitt EMC is being affected by rising costs (or inflation). These costs are forcing us to examine the rates we charge for electric energy. Our cost of wholesale power has increased between 15% and 20%. A sharp increase in the cost of the fuels that power our generating plants has been the number one reason for that increase. We have also dealt with an increase in the cost of materials that we use daily.

With these costs in mind, we hired a consulting firm, GDS Associates from Atlanta, to assist us with a Cost of Service Study. GDS performed the study and determined that Colquitt would need a 5.5% rate increase to meet the financial requirements of the institutions that loan us money to run our business. A rate increase needs to be approached in a serious manner and only when it is clearly required for the financial health of the EMC.

Our history shows that Colquitt EMC is committed to being a low-cost power provider. This is a large part of who we are and who we have been. If you visit the Georgia Public Service Commission website, you will find a list of electric rates for residential accounts. This list includes retail rates for all EMCs in Georgia, all municipal electric systems, and the one investor-owned utility (Georgia Power). These retail rates are maintained from 1997 through 2022. I have analyzed this 26-year history of retail rate information, and my analysis revealed several things. In the summer, Colquitt EMC was ranked as the seventh lowest EMC among 41 EMCs and Georgia Power for the last 26 years. Also in the summer, Colquitt EMC rates were over 9% less than the average of all these providers since 1997. In addition, our summer rates were over 12% less than those of Georgia Power for the past 26 years.

Georgia Power recently requested a 12% increase in its rates to take affect over the next 3 years. The good news is that we are only seeking 5.5%. The other good news is that we are a non-profit cooperative. All margins above our cost to provide electric service are returned to our members.

Colquitt EMC always works to provide the best possible service at the lowest possible cost. A recent example of this commitment occurred when we realized a need for better facilities at our headquarters in Moultrie. Any business, especially a utility, needs proper facilities to provide good service. Some of our facilities were built in 1949. As we formulated plans to upgrade our Moultrie campus, we made goals. The primary goal was to build these new facilities from our existing cash flow and not borrow money to build them. We were successful in this endeavor and paid for these buildings as they were constructed. We have now been in the new facilities for over three years, and we do not have one penny of debt.

It is our intention to always be good stewards of the money we collect. We will constantly strive to be a low-cost provider of electric energy and still provide quality customer service. These will always be in the forefront of everything we do at Colquitt EMC.

*Danny Nichols*

Danny Nichols  
President/CEO



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## 2022 BOARD CANDIDATES

The Nominating Committee of Colquitt Electric Membership Corporation met Wednesday, June 7, 2022, 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 1, 2022 Annual Meeting:

District 1 - Colquitt County  
**Huey Hiers**

District 5 - Lowndes County

**Elmer Bowen**  
**William (Bill) Branham**  
**William S. (Bill) Bryan**  
**Mitch Cothron**  
**Thomas (Trey) Cothron, III**  
**Harold Davis**  
**Bill Kendall**  
**Tally Mark Wisenbaker**

District 6 - Tift County  
**B. Don Copeland**

In addition to nominations made by the Nominating Committee, any 50 or more members may make nominations by petition. The deadline to receive nominations by petition is August 5, 2022.

The Colquitt EMC Bylaws allow for district director elections. This means that 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 September 30th, 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 (Colquitt, Lowndes and Tift). Ballots must be returned by mail or hand delivery to any Colquitt EMC office by October 14.

### DISTRICT 1 – COLQUITT COUNTY

#### Huey Hiers

- Served on Colquitt EMC's Board since 1986.  
-Previously served as president, vice president and secretary-treasurer
- Retired from Valdosta State University
- Member of Colquitt County Farm Bureau
- Served four years in the United States Air Force
- Member of Wesley Chapel United Methodist Church



### DISTRICT 5 – LOWNDES COUNTY

#### Elmer Bowen

- Retired from Roadway Freight Lines with 30 years of service
- Member of Francis Lake Baptist Church, Lake Park, Georgia



**Sunbelt Ag Expo, North America's Premier Farm Show, will be held October 18-20, 2022 in Moultrie, GA. Experience the new era of agriculture! For more information, visit [www.sunbeltexpo.com](http://www.sunbeltexpo.com).**



## DISTRICT 5 – LOWNDES COUNTY

### **William S. (Bill) Bryan**

- Retired Chief Engineer of Moody Air Force Base. Served as an Air Force Civil Engineer Officer for 6 years & as a government employee for 39 years
- Past President of the Moody Chapter of the Society of American Military Engineers
- Past President of the Valdosta/Lowndes County Humane Society
- Attends Park Avenue Methodist Church, Valdosta



## DISTRICT 5 – LOWNDES COUNTY

### **Mitch Cothron**

- Realtor with Southern Classic Realtors; started rental property portfolio and acquired Real Estate license in 2017
- Worked in the trucking industry, 1995-2002
- Co-founded Milo Sanitation, Inc. in 2002 and was owner-operator until 2011
- Member of Alapaha Masonic Lodge of Statenville, Georgia
- Member of Valdosta Board of Realtors, Georgia Assoc. of Realtors & National Assoc. of Realtors
- Attends Enoch Creek Church, Lake Park, GA



## DISTRICT 5 – LOWNDES COUNTY

### **William (Bill) Branham**

- Founder, Chairman & CEO 21st Century Telecommunications, Inc. DBA 21st Century Energy
- Served 4 years in the United States Navy
- Received a Bachelor's Degree from Alabama A&M University with 1 year of Graduate School in Urban Planning
- 36 years of advanced independent urban planning, telecommunications and renewable energy research
- Member of the Valdosta-Lowndes County Metropolitan Planning Organization Citizens Advisory Committee
- Member of the National Institute of Standards Energy SuperCluster "The Branham Project"
- Attends Oracles of Deliverance Church



## DISTRICT 5 – LOWNDES COUNTY

### **Thomas (Trey) Cothron, III**

- Fire Lieutenant with Valdosta Fire Department; assigned to operations division
- Farmer and cattleman with 82 head of cattle
- Attended Valdosta Technical College; Received Firefighter 1 & Firefighter 2 Certification
- Attends Redland Baptist Church

**BOARD CANDIDATE BIOS  
CONTINUED ON BACK PAGE**



**DISTRICT 5 – LOWNDES COUNTY**

**Harold Davis**

- Retired pharmacist from South Georgia Medical Center with 35 years of service.
- 1981 Graduate of the University of Georgia College of Pharmacy
- Member of GA Society of Healthcare Pharmacists
- Member of Corinth Baptist Church

**DISTRICT 5 – LOWNDES COUNTY**

**Tally Mark Wisenbaker**

- Co-owner of Custom Relocation Specialists, 2010 to present, Valdosta, Ga.
- Lowndes County Commissioner District 3, 2014 to present
- United States Navy Reserve, 1971 - 1977
- Received Business Management Degree from Valdosta State University in 1986
- Member/Deacon First Baptist Church, Valdosta



**DISTRICT 5 – LOWNDES COUNTY**

**Bill Kendall**

- Previously served on Colquitt EMC's Board, 1998-2004
- Land Surveyor
- He and his wife operate a horse business in Lowndes County
- Member of Redland Baptist Church

**DISTRICT 6 – TIFT COUNTY**

**B. Don Copeland**

- Served on Colquitt EMC's Board since 1979
- Previously served as president & vice-president
- Credentialed Cooperative Director
- Former chairman & vice-chairman of Georgia Electric Membership Corporation's Board of Directors
- Retired from United Parcel Service
- Member of Tift County Farm Bureau

**CEMC'S 86<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MEETING • LUNCH RESERVATION FORM**

NOVEMBER 1, 2022 DRIVE-THRU: 9AM - 1PM SPENCE FIELD IN MOULTRIE

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

*Deadline for drive-thru lunch reservations is October 18, 2022. (Limit 3 meals per member)*

# Recipes OF THE MONTH



## **Sausage Balls**

### **INGREDIENTS**

1 lb. sausage  
1 10 oz. pkg. shredded sharp cheddar cheese  
2 cups baking mix

### **DIRECTIONS**

Allow cheese and sausage to reach room temperature. Place in mixing bowl with baking mix and blend until smooth. Mixture will be quite dry. Line a cookie sheet with aluminum foil. Spray well with vegetable oil spray. Press/roll mixture into 1-inch balls by hand; place on cookie sheet about 1 inch apart. Bake in 400-degree Fahrenheit oven for 10 to 12 minutes, or until golden brown. Drain on paper toweling. Serve warm.



(Cut Here) ✂

## **Bacon-Wrapped Dates**

### **INGREDIENTS**

1 10 oz. pkg. pitted dates  
1/2 lb. bacon, sliced into quarters

### **DIRECTIONS**

Microwave bacon for about 2 minutes, until partially cooked, but not browned. Wrap each date with a strip of bacon and secure with a wooden toothpick. Broil on low 3 minutes, turn dates and continue broiling 3-4 minutes longer or until browned. Drain on paper towel and serve warm.