



COLQUITT EMC NEWSLINE

VOLUME 55, NUMBER 7

JULY 2025

2025 BOARD CANDIDATES

The Nominating Committee of Colquitt Electric Membership Corporation met Tuesday, June 3, 2025, and nominated the following individuals whose names will be placed on the ballot and voted on by the Colquitt EMC membership prior to the October 28, 2025 Annual Meeting.

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 1, 2025. Members vote for directors via mail with election results presented at the Annual Meeting*.

**Note: 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.*

District 1 - Colquitt County

Brett Bennett
Al Funderburk
Matt Murphy

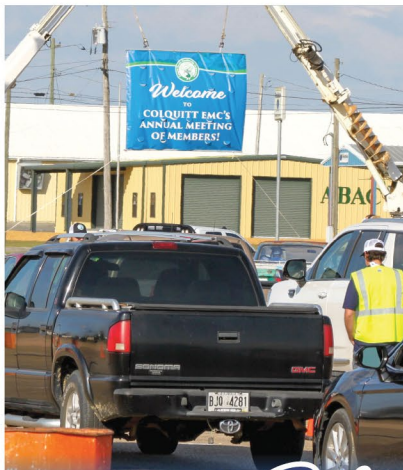
District 5 - Lowndes County

Trey Cothron

District 6 - Tift County

B. Don Copeland

(See biographies inside.)



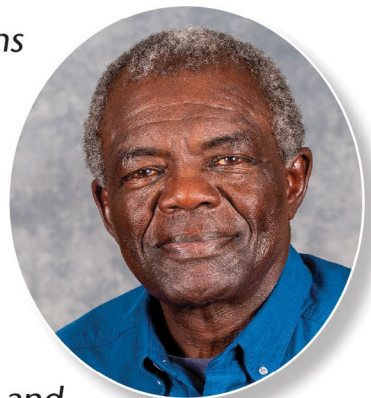
Save the Date

OCTOBER 28, 2025
COLQUITT EMC'S
89TH ANNUAL
MEETING
OF MEMBERS
SPENCE FIELD, MOULTRIE

Remembering Sam Bass

Colquitt EMC mourns the loss of longtime employee, Sam Bass. Sam served Colquitt EMC for over 26 years and worked as Valdosta's Buildings and Groundskeeper.

Please keep his family and friends in your thoughts and prayers as they navigate this difficult time.



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DISTRICT 1 – COLQUITT COUNTY

Brett Bennett

- 1994 Graduate of Colquitt County High School
- Began B&C Poultry Farm in 1994
- Kenny Bennett Farms since 1998
- Farm Manager/Co Owner L&M Farms of Georgia 2000-2024
- Owner/Operator of Bennet Family Farms since 2024
- Member of Colquitt County Young Farmers
- Member of Colquitt County Farm Bureau
- Member of Colquitt County Junior Livestock Association and served on various committees within the association
- Member of Autreyville Baptist Church

Al Funderburk

- 1987 Graduate of Valdosta State College with Bachelor of Business Administration in Accounting
- Successfully completed the Uniform Certified Public Accounting (CPA) Examination in 1992
- 38 years' experience in accounting and taxation for individuals and small businesses
- Partner at Funderburk & Newsome, CPAs in Moultrie since 2002
- National Wild Turkey Woodlands Conservation Award Winner in 2007
- Member, Treasurer and Deacon of Hartsfield Baptist Church

Matt Murphy

- Sales Representative for Lasseter Tractor 17+ years
- Graduate of Louisiana Tech University and Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College
- Farms row crops and cattle
- Graduate of Georgia Agrileaders Foundation Program (AGL) Class of 2009
- Honorary Member of Georgia Young Farmers
- Member of First Baptist Church Moultrie

DISTRICT 5 – LOWNDES COUNTY

Thomas (Trey) Cothron, III

- Served on Colquitt EMC's Board since 2022
- 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 and Firefighter 2 Certification
- Attends Redlands Baptist Church



DISTRICT 6 – TIFT COUNTY

B. Don Copeland

- Served on Colquitt EMC's Board since 1979
- Credentialed Cooperative Director
- Previously served as Chairman and Vice Chairman of Colquitt EMC Board
- Previously served as Chairman and Vice Chairman of Georgia Electric Membership Corporation's Board of Directors
- Retired from United Parcel Service
- Member of New River Baptist Church



TAYLOR FURMAN SELECTED AS WALTER HARRISON SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

Taylor Furman of Adel was selected as a 2025 Walter Harrison Scholarship Winner. She is the daughter of Josef S. Furman III and Jessica D. Furman. Taylor is a 2025 graduate of Cook High School, where she graduated with a 4.0 GPA and was involved with HOSA, FBLA, BETA, Anchor, Key Club and Chamber of Commerce Junior Board. She plans to attend Valdosta State University where she will major in Elementary Education.

Taylor is one of 17 students from across the state awarded the 2025 Walter Harrison Scholarship. Since 1985, more than \$280,000 has been awarded through the Walter Harrison Scholarship program. This scholarship provides a lasting tribute to Mr. Walter Harrison, a leader at the local, state and national level in the electric cooperatives program and his community, Millen, GA.



STATEMENT OF NONDISCRIMINATION

Colquitt Electric Membership Corporation is the recipient of Federal financial assistance from the Rural Utilities Service, an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and is subject to the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended, and the rules and regulations of the U.S. Department of Agriculture which provide that no person in the United States on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, gender, or disability shall be excluded from participation in, admission or access to, denied the benefits of, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination under any of this organization's programs or activities.

The person responsible for coordinating this organization's non-discrimination compliance efforts is Doug Loftis, Chief Corporate Officer (CCO). Any individual, or specific class of individuals, who feels that this organization has subjected them to discrimination may obtain further information about the statutes and regulations listed above from and/or file a written complaint with this organization; or the Secretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250; or the Administrator, Rural Utilities Service, Washington, D.C. 20250. Complaints must be filed within 180 days after the alleged discrimination. Confidentiality will be maintained to the extent possible.

Danny Nichols, P. E., President/CEO

HEAT PUMP WATER HEATER REBATES OFFERED THROUGH GEORGIA'S HEAR PROGRAM

Electric Heat Pump water heaters can dramatically reduce your energy consumption and now the State of Georgia is providing rebates to help qualified citizens install a new heat pump water heater at half or no cost.

The Home Electrification and Appliance Rebates (HEAR) program will help low-and-moderate income households secure savings on new heat pump water heater purchases.

To participate, households will need to show proof of purchase, installation, income documentation, and adhere to all program requirements.

To qualify for an electrification and appliance rebate (i.e., HEAR program), your project must meet certain criteria, established by U.S. Department of Energy. These standards are commonly known as "qualified electrification projects" (QEP) which ensure all equipment types meet program requirements needed to qualify for a rebate.

The purchase and installation of an electric heat pump water heater is eligible for rebate when the purchase is a first-time purchase of a heat pump water heater (e.g., when upgrading an electric resistance or gas storage water heater).

Electric tank water heaters are eligible for rebates if upgrading to a heat pump water heater.

This is an income-based program where incentive amounts are tied to your household's Area Median Income (AMI) level. For example, the 80% Area Median income for a family of 4 in the Colquitt EMC service area is \$56,400. A family of 4 with an income of less than \$56,400 may be eligible to receive a rebate of up to 100% of the total project cost with an incentive limit (not to exceed) \$1,750 for a heat pump water heater.

The 150% Area Median Income of a family of four in the Colquitt EMC service area is \$105,750. A family making between \$56,400 and \$105,749 may be eligible to receive a rebate of up to 50% of the total project cost with an incentive limit (not to exceed) \$1,750 for a heat pump water heater.

Using an approved contractor is required. An approved contractors list is available at the following website: <https://energyrebates.georgia.gov/find-approved-contractor>



BRIGHT IDEAS GRANT APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE

Bright Ideas Grant Applications are available at 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 Shelby Cloud at 229-985-3620 ext. 1246.



Recipe OF THE MONTH



Watermelon Lemonade

INGREDIENTS

8 cups cubed seedless watermelon
2 (12 ounce) cans frozen lemonade
4 cups water

DIRECTIONS

Place watermelon in a blender or food processor. Cover and blend on medium speed until smooth. Place lemonade concentrates and water in a large pitcher or punch bowl. Add watermelon and mix well. Garnish with additional watermelon if desired.

Church of the Month



Trinity Baptist Church

201 12th Ave. SE • Moultrie, GA 31768
Pastor Nick Dawson

Service Schedule

Sunday School	9:45 AM
Sunday Morning Worship	11:00 AM
Wednesday Family Night	
Supper 5:30 PM	Bible Study 6:15 PM

To nominate your church for Church of the Month, please contact Shelby Cloud at 229-985-3620 ext. 1246 with your church's information or email marketing@colquitemc.com. Please include service schedule, address and pastor's name.

Bible Verse of the Month

Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.

~ Matthew 7:7