



COLQUITT EMC NewsLINE

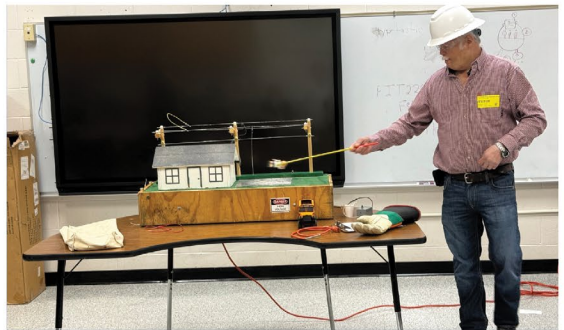
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COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS



Serviceman, Jake Stone, represented Colquitt EMC at Berrien Middle School's career fair.



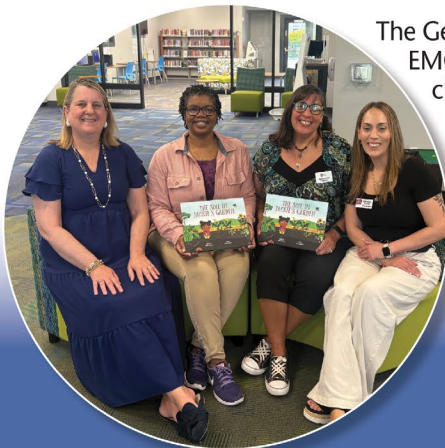
Safety Coordinator, Charlie Wiard, spoke to 5th Grade Students at Annie Belle Clark Elementary School about electrical safety.



The Tifton Office recently hosted a group of Tift County High School special needs students, giving them a tour and educating them about energy and our cooperative.



The Moultrie Office & Headquarters was a stop on the Local Teacher Immersion Tour for Colquitt County School Teachers. Teachers learned about our partnerships with local schools, such as scholarships, class presentations, Washington Youth Tour and the Bright Ideas Grant for Teachers.



The Georgia Foundation for Agriculture, Georgia Farm Bureau and Georgia EMCs jointly promoted agricultural literacy by donating copies of the children's book "The Soil in Jackie's Garden" to nearly 400 libraries in the Georgia Public Library Service. Pictured (L-R) Sonya Aldridge, Colquitt EMC's Director of Public Relations; Tania Gordon-Murdaugh McMullen Southside Library's Branch Assistant; Andi Morgante, Willis L. Miller Library's Children Services Coordinator; Christine Cortez, Lowndes County Farm Bureau's Office Manager.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

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**The following
Directors' terms will expire
on 10/28/2025:**

District 1 –
Huey Hiers (Colquitt County)

District 5 –
Thomas G. Cothron, III
(Lowndes County)

District 7 –
B. Don Copeland
(Tift County)

MEMBERS PRESENTED TO THE COLQUITT EMC BOARD OF DIRECTORS TO SERVE ON 2025 NOMINATING COMMITTEE:

Jeff Barrett

6476 Clyattville Nankin Road
Valdosta, GA 31601-1060

Robert Owens

395 Owen Medford Road
Lenox, GA 31637-3215

Zach Stone

98 Cooper Stone Road North
Tifton, GA 31794-8910

David Croft

P.O. Box 128
Berlin, GA 31722-0128

Darlene Reynolds

P.O. Box 144
Berlin, GA 31722-0144

Oscar Zipperer

7675 Woodfield Road
Valdosta, GA 31601-0132

THIS COMMITTEE WILL BE OFFICIALLY SEATED ON JUNE 2, 2025

The nominating committee will meet at 9:00 A.M. on Tuesday, June 3, 2025 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 2025 Annual Meeting of Members will be held on October 28, 2025, 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.*

BRIGHT IDEAS GRANT APPLICATIONS COMING SOON



Bright Ideas Grant Applications will be available at colquittemc.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.

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.



NOW ACCEPTING COLQUITT EMC SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

Colquitt EMC Scholarship Applications are available April 1 through June 15. Applicants must:

- Reside in the household of a Colquitt EMC Member.
- Be enrolled in a college or technical college with campus locations/degree offerings within Colquitt EMC's service area.
- Have a minimum GPA of 2.5.
- Submit a complete application with two

letters of recommendation, proof of enrollment and transcript.

Undergraduate and graduate students may apply. Previous scholarship recipients are not eligible. Applications will be available at colquittemc.com April 1 and will be due June 15.

If you have any questions regarding the Colquitt EMC Scholarship, please contact Shelby Cloud at 229-985-3620 ext. 1246.

CHILL OUT: 5 EASY WAYS TO KEEP YOUR AC RUNNING SMOOTHLY THIS SUMMER

Summer is here, and that means one thing: your air conditioner is about to work overtime! To keep your house cool and your energy bills low, it's important to make sure your AC is running efficiently. Here are five easy tips to help you keep your cool all summer long:

1. Change Your Air Filter Regularly:

- Think of your air filter like a dust trap. Over time, it gets clogged with dust, pollen, and other gunk.
- A dirty filter makes your AC work harder to push air through, which wastes energy and can even damage your unit.
- You should change your filter every 1-3 months, especially during the summer. If you have pets or allergies, you might need to change it even more often.
- Look for the filter size printed on the old filter and buy a new one that matches. It's a simple task you can do yourself!

2. Keep Your Outdoor Unit Clear:

- Your AC has an outdoor unit that releases heat. Make sure it has plenty of space to breathe!
- Trim any bushes or plants that are growing too close. Aim for at least two feet of clearance around the unit.
- Also, make sure leaves, grass clippings, and other debris aren't blocking the airflow. A blocked unit has to work much harder to cool your home.
- You can use a garden hose to gently clean off

any dirt or debris that has accumulated on the fins of the unit.

3. Seal Air Leaks:

- Imagine trying to cool your house with a window open. That's what air leaks do!
- Check around windows, doors, and any place where pipes or wires enter your house.
- Use caulk or weather stripping to seal any gaps. This will keep the cool air in and the hot air out.
- You can also check for leaks in your ductwork. Ductwork is the system of tubes that moves air throughout your home. If you suspect ductwork leaks, call a professional.

4. Use Your Thermostat Wisely:

- Don't crank your AC down to the lowest setting. It won't cool your house any faster, and it will waste a lot of energy.
- The U.S. Department of Energy recommends setting your thermostat to 78°F (26°C) when you're home.
- If you're going to be away from home for a few hours, raise the temperature a few degrees. You can also use a programmable thermostat to automatically adjust the temperature.
- Ceiling fans can help you feel cooler without lowering the thermostat. Remember that fans cool people, not rooms. Turn them off when you leave the room.

5. Get Regular Maintenance:

- Just like your car, your AC needs regular checkups to keep it running smoothly.
- Schedule an annual maintenance appointment with an HVAC (Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning) professional.
- They'll clean the coils, check the refrigerant levels, and make sure everything is working properly.
- Regular maintenance can help prevent breakdowns and extend the life of your AC.

By following these simple tips, you can keep your AC running efficiently and enjoy a cool and comfortable summer without breaking the bank.



Recipe OF THE MONTH



Creamy Burrito Casserole

INGREDIENTS

- 1 lb ground beef
- ½ medium yellow onion, chopped
- 1 package taco seasoning
- 6 large flour tortillas
- 1 (16 oz) can refried beans
- 2-3 cups shredded taco cheese
- 1 (10 ¾ ounce) can cream of mushroom soup
- 4 ounces sour cream
- Jarred hot sauce, optional

DIRECTIONS

Brown ground beef & onion; drain. Add taco seasoning and stir in refried beans. Mix soup and sour cream in a separate bowl. Spread ½ sour cream mixture in the bottom of casserole dish. Tear up 3 tortillas and spread over sour cream mixture. Put ½ the meat bean mixture over that. Add a layer of cheese. Add hot sauce if desired. Repeat the layers. Sprinkle cheese over the top and bake uncovered at 350 degrees F for 20-30 minutes.

Church of the Month



New Hope Baptist Church

4554 Hwy. 256 Sumner Rd • Scooterville, GA 31798
Pastor Emory Lussi

Service Schedule

Sunday School	10 AM
Sunday Morning Worship	11 AM
Sunday Evening Worship	6 PM
Wednesday Night	7 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@colquittcnc.com. Please include service schedule, address and pastor's name.

Bible Verse of the Month

And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

~ Phillipians 4:7