

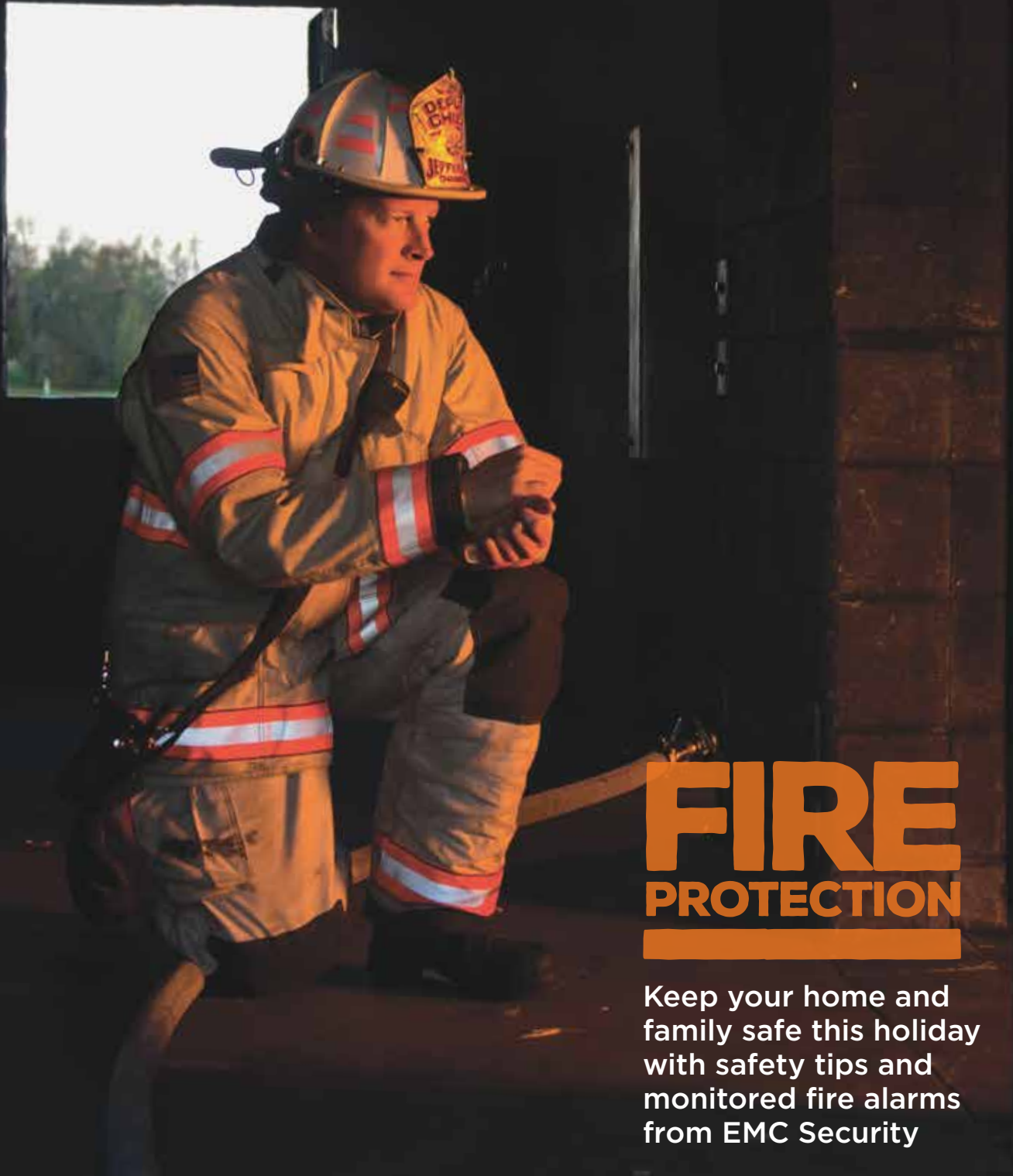
Bright Ideas Funded

MEMBERS RECEIVE  
\$6.5 MILLION IN  
MARGIN REFUNDS

# JEMCOnews

A PUBLICATION FOR JACKSON EMC MEMBERS

December 2015



## FIRE PROTECTION

Keep your home and family safe this holiday with safety tips and monitored fire alarms from EMC Security



President/CEO  
Chip Jakins  
chip@jacksonemc.com

*Chip Jakins*

## Family Tradition

Recently, I was honored to join a group of newly-hired Jackson EMC employees for an orientation class. I know, I've been here a while – 18 months to be exact – but I still feel new enough to have wanted to experience orientation with them. It was important to spend that time with Josh, a lineman and an expectant father from Lawrenceville, Daniela, who answers your calls in the contact center, and everyone else who joins me on this journey. They are my new family.

We spent a couple of days learning the ins and outs of life at Jackson EMC. Our activities included spending time touring our district offices, learning about the history of our cooperative and hearing from some longtime employees. We all now know more about each other, our co-op and its history. But more importantly, the culture of this organization has been passed along to a new generation.

Next month we'll hold our annual years of service recognition breakfast where we will celebrate 1,430 years of service among employees with milestone anniversaries ranging from five years to 40 years. This is a Jackson EMC tradition that lets us honor our employees' service to our members. Many people who come to work at Jackson EMC stay for their entire career. Our two longest-serving employees at

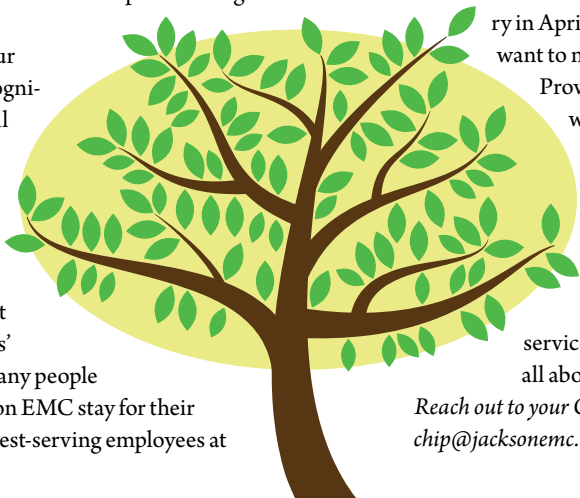
work today have been serving this cooperative for more than 43 years: Benny Bagwell, our Gainesville District Engineering & Operations Coordinator, and Dwight Frost, a Line Foreman for our corporate line crews. That speaks volumes about our employees' dedication to their work and service to you.

At least once a year we hold a Jackson EMC family reunion where we gather together with our retired employees and share information about what's going on in the cooperative. Mostly we just enjoy spending time together. In October, more than 100 retired employees and their guests joined us for lunch. They still feel the connection to the cooperative and its members. That's a good indication of how strong our cooperative's culture really is.

I'll celebrate my own two-year anniversary in April. I like this new family and I want to make sure it keeps its traditions.

Providing this kind of rewarding work environment for our employees ensures that we'll continue to attract the kind of people right for our family: People dedicated to serving our members with reliable, courteous and personalized service. It's what this family is all about.

Reach out to your CEO; send Chip an email at [chip@jacksonemc.com](mailto:chip@jacksonemc.com). ▲



### JEMCO news

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April Sorrow, Editor.

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Neighbors Helping Neighbors



Project SHARE

DOING THE MOST GOOD

Since 1985, Project SHARE has provided more than \$80 million in necessary assistance to people throughout Georgia. Project SHARE is a Salvation Army program that provides emergency assistance to neighbors with basic necessities such as food, shelter, clothing, utility bills and medical care. Jackson EMC members can participate in Project SHARE by donating \$1 or more on their monthly bill. See your December bill insert for more details or visit [www.jacksonemc.com/share](http://www.jacksonemc.com/share).

# \$50,000+ Awarded in Bright Ideas Grants



**E**ducators from 24 schools received \$50,608 in Bright Ideas innovation grants in November from Jackson EMC. These funds will empower educators to teach middle school students everything from engineering design using 3D printing to life science in a garden that uses innovative design to involve students of all ability levels. One school will learn to build magnetic levitation vehicles. Another school will use Bright Ideas grant funds to create a Maker Space and Critical Think Tank for all students to use in the media center.

“Educators we spoke with when we were planning this program advised that middle school grades are a critical time when students continue their education or drop out. They felt while creativity and innovation are important at all education levels, this was a particularly critical time to engage them, and where Bright Ideas could do the most

good,” said Bonnie Jones, Jackson EMC director of public relations and communications. “Based on their feedback, we focused these grants on educational opportunities in 6th, 7th and 8th grades.”

This new grant program is aimed at funding creative and innovative classroom projects for middle schools within the counties Jackson EMC serves. Educators in grades 6-8 could earn up to \$2,000 for classroom projects that would otherwise go unfunded.

The projects funded directly involve students, provide a creative learning experience through innovative teaching methods, provide ongoing benefits to the students, create opportunities for teamwork and support the continuous improvement of education in Georgia.

Applications for the 2016 program will open in April. For more information about the program, see [www.jacksonemc.com/brightideas](http://www.jacksonemc.com/brightideas).

SCHOOL	AWARD	EDUCATOR	PROJECT	PROJECT SUMMARY
Bear Creek MS	\$748	Ashley Bailey	Makerspace STEAM Lab	Makerspace STEAM Lab
Burney-Harris-Lyons MS	\$799	Craig Rugh	Game Programming	Game Design
C.W. Davis MS	\$1,033	Jared Crandall	An ARMY of ONE	Heat projects using MREs (Meals Ready to Eat)
Chestatee Academy MS	\$1,998	Dawn Hudgins	SOARing With Science	Wildlife Biology & Life Science
Commerce MS	\$700	Adam Shirley	Collaring the Colonial Collard Market	Agriculture technology
Commerce MS	\$1,894	Leslie Stephens	Coming Together - Plants	Study of plant anatomy and Agriculture
Creekland MS	\$1,974	Lisa Schulze	Digging Into the Prehistoric Past	Archaeological dig exploring culture
Dacula MS	\$2,000	Liliana Tamas	Math Remedial - MobyMax	Math Remediation with MobyMax Tablets
East Hall MS	\$361	Dana Farr	Keeping the Link - Generations	Veteran panel for students
East Hall MS	\$821	Michelle Stalions	Let's Get Growing	Get Growing & life science
East Jackson MS	\$1,973	Thomas Layfield	Schoolyard Environmental	Weather and Climate Science Concepts
Frank Osborne MS	\$1,145	Keri Humrighouse	MagLev Project Vehicle	Project: MagLev (Magnetic Levitation) Vehicle
Gainesville MS	\$1,635	Courtney Hagans	Subscribed to Success	Subscribed to Success YouTube
Gainesville MS	\$1,349	Kimberly Kennedy	Computer Programming	3-D Printing computer programming and design
Haymon-Morris MS	\$1,892	Teresa Johnson	Little Bits Circuits & Sphero Robotics	Students and electronics
Haymon-Morris MS	\$1,972	Denise Coulombe	FIZ (Fit Zone)	FIZ (Fitness Individual Zone)
Hull MS	\$640	Jason Garner	Electricity & Magnetism	Electrically power homes
Jefferson MS	\$800	Candace Simmons	Biomimicry & Nature	Exploring engineered products inspired by Nature
Jones MS	\$2,000	Barbara Teti	Living Under the Sea	Commitment to literacy
Lanier MS	\$2,000	Lindsay Brenner	Tower Garden	Vertical aeroponic growing system
Lanier MS	\$1,245	Katerina Flanders	McGregor's Garden	Gardening & sustainability
Lanier MS	\$1,800	Catherine Warnock	Teaching Social & Life Skills	Autism Spectrum Disorders
Lanier MS	\$329	Rod Parris	Math Skills	Greatest Common Factor & Least Common Multiple
Lanier MS	\$2,000	Michele Langhans	Using Robotics in STEM	STEM, Project-Based Learning & Lego EV3 robots
Lumpkin County MS	\$724	Tina Wood	Project SAFE - Water	Polluting groundwater
Lumpkin County MS	\$1,961	Bryan Fagan	Technology & Engineering	STEM course teaching with Little Bits
North Hall MS	\$490	Dean DeVito	Website Design & Historian	21st century digital competencies
North Hall MS	\$1,435	Jay Hargis	Orienteering	Compasses & Contour Maps for orienteering skills
North Hall MS	\$2,000	Jeff Gerrell	3D and Beyond	Engineering and Digital Technology
Northbrook MS	\$1,424	Karen Jackson	Problem Solving in Science	Problem Solving in Science
Pinckneyville MS	\$1,299	Lisa Kasko	Game On! : Let's Roll	Game-based learning
Radloff MS	\$1,284	Julie Wilkerson	Renewable Energy with K'NEX	Renewable energy
Radloff MS	\$1,887	Wayne Dail	Solar Energy Inquiry & Application	Solar power as a renewable energy source
Sweetwater MS	\$1,374	Jessica Mincey	World News in the Classroom	World news in classrooms
Twin Rivers MS	\$1,694	Sandra Wise	Makerspaces CCT	MakerSpace Creative & Critical Think Tank
World Language Academy	\$1,929	Laurie Brown	Every BODY is Important	Human body & exploring medical careers



# FIRE SAFETY

Fires don't take a break for the holidays; actually, your risk increases. According to the National Fire Protection Association, winter months are the leading time of year for fires. Last year, more than 1 million fires were reported in the United States, killing more than 3,200 people and causing \$11.6 billion in property damage.

Jackson EMC's System Control Supervisor, Darrell Chaisson, is also the Deputy Fire Chief for the City of Jefferson Fire Department. He has this advice for protecting your home and loved ones from fire:



Fire Extinguisher

First and foremost, you need to have **smoke and fire alarms** in the home. Make sure you have them inside and outside of bedrooms. Your nose won't wake you up, so you need the alarm. Sleeping with your door closed is the safest way to sleep. The door will add important time in case of a fire.

**Test each alarm** every month and change the batteries when the time changes in the spring and fall. Alarms expire; you need to replace them every 10 years.

Keep a box of **baking soda** handy in the kitchen in case there is a grease fire.

If you use electric space heaters, **unplug them when you leave the room**. Choose models that turn off if they are tipped over.

**Prepare an escape plan**, and test it. You don't want to use an escape ladder for the first time in an emergency.



Escape Ladder

**Don't overload outlets.** Electrical fires are dangerous because by the time you see smoke coming out of the outlet, a fire is already spreading out of sight inside your walls. Never try to put out electrical fires with water.

**Photograph all the rooms in your house**, including the closets. Save the photos with your other important files in a safety deposit box. This makes insurance claims easier.

Buy a **dryer lint brush** to remove lint that escapes the trap in the dryer.



Dryer Lint Brush

**DID YOU KNOW?**

Cooking is the No. 1 cause of home fires and injuries, followed by heating.



## EMC SECURITY:

# Monitored Fire Alarms

**A fire doubles in size every minute.** With EMC Security monitored fire alarms, help gets there fast.

When equipped with monitored alarms, the fire system in your home or business is activated from a smoke detector, heat detector or a combination of both. The activating device alerts your central control panel and that panel uses either a phone line, Internet connection or cellular communicator to alert the central monitoring station.

“A fire alarm is the highest priority alarm processed, second is medical, panic or duress alarms, then intrusion alarms,” according to Vince Raia, president of EMC Security. “The central station software actually pushes high priority alarms ahead of others to the operators.”

Once an operator receives the alarms, they dispatch the fire department by contacting the 911 center. “Fire alarms are handled by a team of operators,” Raia said. “One dispatches while the other tries to reach the homeowner. Some may be false alarms, so this gives the homeowner an opportunity to

cancel. Sometimes these calls yield additional information about people or pets in the home. It all happens very quickly.”

After the fire department is on the way, dispatch notifies the people on the call list supplied by the customer that there has been a fire and help is on the way.

Early detection is vital to containing fires and saving lives. A fast response is important in limiting property loss due to fire, smoke or water damage. Remember, your pets can't call for help, so a monitored system keeps them safe while you're away. Nearly all homeowners' insurers offer discounts to have your home monitored for fire protection.

Consider a monitored fire alarm because every moment counts. For more information, call EMC Security at **770-963-0305** or visit [emcsecurity.com/](http://emcsecurity.com/).



## HOLIDAY FIRE DANGERS:

150 home fires are caused by holiday lights each year; 210 home fires start from Christmas trees. While these fires are rare, they are much more likely to cause injuries and death.



- Never place a Christmas tree near any heating source, such as a fireplace.
- Place the tree away from high traffic areas, doorways and exits.
- Add water to the tree daily to prevent drying.
- Read labels on light strands to be sure they are tested and approved for your intended use.
- Always turn off holiday lights before leaving home or going to bed.
- Pay attention to the number of items you plug into a single outlet to avoid electrical fires.
- After Christmas, recycle the tree. Dried-out trees are a fire danger.

### DID YOU KNOW?

In the U.S., a fire department responds to a fire every 24 seconds.

## Moss, Sizemore appointed to Jackson EMC Foundation Board

Phillippa Lewis Moss and Major Mark Sizemore have been appointed to the board of the Jackson EMC Foundation. Moss is director of the Gainesville-Hall Community Service Center and succeeds Steve Blair, who was appointed to the Jackson EMC Board of Directors earlier this year. Sizemore is a member of the Athens-Clarke County Police Department's Centralized Criminal Investigations Division and succeeds Johnny Fowler, who retired from the board in July.

The Jackson EMC Foundation is a 501(c)(3) organization set up to represent the members of Jackson EMC and distribute funds collected from participating members through Operation Round Up. The 11-member volunteer board of directors for the Foundation meets regularly to review grant applications and select recipients for worthwhile, charitable purposes that will improve lives and respond to immediate needs.

As director of the Community Service Center, Moss is responsible for the Senior Center, Meals on Wheels, Hall Area Transit Bus Services and the Center for Family Prosperity where financial emergency assistance and tax assistance is made available. She received a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from the University of California, Irvine, a Master of Public Administration from the University of Southern California and a Master's in Conflict Management from Kennesaw State University. She currently serves on the directing boards of the Salvation Army, Vision 2030, Hall County Family Connections Network, the Medical Center Advisory Board and Health Partners, and is a member of Kiwanis International.

Sizemore has worked at ACCPD for 28 years, enjoying assignments in patrol, public housing, criminal investigation and central communication. A resident of Athens for nearly 30 years, he moved there to attend the University of Georgia. He is a graduate of the University of Georgia, with a Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice; Columbus State University, with a Master of Public Administration; and the Federal Bureau of Investigation National Academy (FBINA) 196th session.

He has served on the Athens-Clarke County Unified Government Pension Board as well as the county's Charity Drive Committee. In addition, he is active in the Beech Haven Baptist Church where he is a Deacon, has taught Sunday school for several years and coached Upward Basketball. ▲



Phillippa Lewis Moss



Maj. Mark Sizemore



## operationroundup

### Jackson EMC Foundation awards \$93,589 in grants

The Jackson EMC Foundation board of directors awarded a total of \$93,589 in grants during its October meeting, including \$87,500 to organizations and \$6,089 to individuals.

#### Organizational Grant Recipients:

**\$15,000 to Gainesville Action Ministries**, a network of 17 Hall County congregations that work to prevent homelessness by providing emergency financial, food and clothing assistance, and children's services, to provide rent assistance that enables clients to stay in their homes.

**\$15,000 to the Boys & Girls Club of Winder-Barrow** in Winder for its Power Hour comprehensive homework help and tutoring program for elementary aged members, and Goals for Graduation, a program that combats academic underachievement in middle and high school aged members to set and work toward goals for school attendance, homework completion and positive study habits.

**\$15,000 to Family Promise of Hall County**, a community effort to end the cycle of family homelessness, to purchase a ductless HVAC system for a home being renovated by the nonprofit to serve as affordable housing for families who have found employment and graduated the 90-day program.

**\$15,000 to Gateway House**, a Hall County nonprofit serving victims of domestic violence and their children, to provide emergency legal assistance in requesting, filing and enforcing a Temporary Protective Order and safety planning to keep abusive partners from having contact with or harassing domestic violence victims.

**\$10,000 to the Boys & Girls Clubs of Athens** for its Mind Blowers Program, a targeted supplemental

math education program to teach essential problem-solving and quantitative skills that students will use in the classroom, work world and everyday life.

**\$7,500 to Adventure Bags**, an Auburn-based nonprofit that sources and stuffs comfort bags that are distributed to displaced children through local DFCS offices, domestic violence shelters, fire departments, group homes and children's shelters to provide comfort and security in a crisis.

**\$5,000 to H.O.P.E., Inc.**, a Duluth nonprofit serving low-income single parents who are working to achieve their college degrees, to help with childcare and housing when either situation threatens a parent's ability to continue their classes.

**\$2,500 to The Pantry at Hamilton Mill UMC** to purchase food.

**\$2,500 to Spirit of Joy Christian Church Food Pantry** to purchase food.

#### Individual Grant Recipients:

**\$2,689** to install an EZ lock docking system in a handicap accessible van and replace the dentures of a **disabled senior citizen**.

**\$3,400** to replace the HVAC system of a **senior citizen battling cancer**.

For more information about the Jackson EMC Foundation, and to learn how to apply for a grant, visit [www.jacksonemc.com/jemcfoundation](http://www.jacksonemc.com/jemcfoundation). ▲

## Statement of **Non-Discrimination**

Jackson EMC 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 following: the provisions of Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; the Civil Rights Act of 1991, as amended; Section 503 and 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended; the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended; the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1991, as amended; Section 42 of the Vietnam Era Veterans Readjustment Assistance Act of 1974, as amended; 41 CFR Part 60-300, and other protected veterans; and the rules and regulations of the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the U.S. Department of Labor, OFCCP, which provide that no person in the United States on the basis of race, creed, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, age, disability or Vietnam or disabled veteran status shall be excluded from participation in, admission, or access to, denied the benefits of, or otherwise subjected to discrimination under any of this organization's programs or activities. **This contractor and subcontractor shall abide by the requirements of CFR 60-300.5(a) and 60-741.5(a). These regulations prohibit discrimination against qualified individuals on the basis of their status as protected veterans or individuals with disabilities, and prohibit discrimination against all individuals**

**based on their race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or national origin. Moreover, these regulations require that covered prime contractors and subcontractors take affirmative action to employ and advance in employment individuals without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, protected veteran status or disability.**

The person responsible for coordinating this organization's nondiscrimination compliance efforts is William P. Ormsby, Vice President, Human Resources/Corporate Administration. If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, found online at [http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint\\_filing\\_cust.html](http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html), or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax (202) 690-7442 or email at [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov). Complaints must be filed within 180 days after the alleged discrimination. Confidentiality will be maintained to the extent possible. ▲

## smartconnections

### Jackson EMC Returns \$6.5 million in Margin Refunds

Jackson EMC members will receive a check in the mail this month. Each of approximately 219,900 members and former members will receive their share of a total of \$6.5 million in margin refunds in December.

"As part of a not-for-profit cooperative, you're eligible to receive a portion of the revenue left over at the end of the year after all the bills are paid, which we refer to as *margins*," says Board Chairman Otis Jones. "Since your cooperative is in excellent financial condition, your board can return this money to you."

Margins are refunded for a combination of years so that both longtime and newer members, as well as former members, benefit from belonging to an electric cooperative. This year, margin refunds will go to those who received electric service from Jackson EMC in 1989/1990 and 2014. The sum of each member's refund check is calculated according to the amount each member paid for electric service during those years.

After this December's refund, Jackson EMC will have returned \$108 million in margin refunds to our owner/members since our cooperative was founded in 1938.

Each year, Jackson EMC refunds margins, surplus above operating expenses, to its members. By 1963, the co-op had returned more than \$1 million to members and had the highest margin refund record of any electric cooperative in the state. This record of returning margins to members ranks among the highest of the 840 electric cooperatives in the nation. ▲

## Jackson EMC Offices

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EMC Security  
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## WHAT'S COOKIN'?

"I have been making this for 40 years and we never get tired of it."  
(Editor's son agrees it would take more than 40 years to get tired of this dish.)

Martha Britt - Dacula, Ga

## Pepper Steak

### Ingredients:

- 1.5 lbs. steak (sliced in thin strips)
- ¼ cup flour
- ½ tsp. salt
- ⅓ tsp. pepper
- Olive oil
- 14.5 oz. can diced tomatoes
- 1 ¾ cup water
- 1 small onion (chopped)
- 1 small garlic clove (minced)
- 1 bell pepper (seeded and sliced)
- 1 tbsp. Worcestershire sauce



### Instructions:

- Coat steak in mixture of flour, salt and pepper.
- Brown meat in large pan with small amount of oil.
- Add tomatoes, onion, garlic, water. Cover and simmer 1 ¼ hours.
- Add Worcestershire sauce and bell pepper. Cover and simmer 5 minutes.
- Serve over rice or mashed potatoes.

Submit  
Recipes to:

Cooperative Cooking  
Jackson EMC  
P.O. Box 38  
Jefferson, GA 30549