

Steve Blair Joins
Board of Directors

What Will You Do
With Your Savings?

JEMCOnews

A PUBLICATION FOR JACKSON EMC MEMBERS

June 2015



**2015 WASHINGTON
YOUTH TOUR
DELEGATES**



President/CEO
Chip Jakins

Chip Jakins

Pops

My brother and I were raised by wonderful parents. Mimi and Pops as they are known by their grandkids. Pops, or Bucky Jakins as he's known by most of the rest of us, retired in April after a long and impressive career in the electric cooperative business. Over the years, it's been a real comfort for me to be able to call him and talk shop, one co-op manager to another, and I'll miss that. I know he's always going to be a co-op manager at heart, despite his new full-time job as Pops to five grandkids.

As my Dad reached this important milestone – and as he now embarks on this new journey known as retirement – I didn't want this Father's Day to pass without paying a bit of homage to him.

I'll start by saying that when we were growing up, my brother and I often questioned his parenting tactics. We didn't understand why we had to tend to the garden and eat the vegetables it produced. Why did we have to split so much wood and cut the grass with an old push mower? Why did we have to work on nearly everything before we could use it: cars, boat motors, lawn mowers? You know I never saw Dad go into a hardware store; he had everything we ever needed to fix something already in the garage, which he made us clean constantly. He learned how to fix things from my grandfather, Buddy (the first E.A. Jakins). He was "the" mechanic in town.

When we asked why, he'd say, "it builds character." Mom would say "it made memories." Looking back, my brother and I would agree with them both. Dad was shaping us in his own special way to be adaptive, to have a strong work ethic and solve problems. It's no surprise that we both turned out to be engineers – just like him; with a knack for business – just like him.


Perhaps, I was destined to be so much like my father. I am the third to bear our family name, Ernest Adelbert Jakins. None of us actually go by that name, and neither does my son. So, I became "Chip" from day one, but had to grow into the "off the old block" part. Dad would

take me out on service calls with him when I was just a boy. I'd hold the flashlight for him in the dark while he worked on the power lines, or keep the seat warm in the cab of the truck when he met with members. Those times we rode together, he instilled in me the same things his father did for him – a good work ethic that calls for trustworthiness and dependability and an appreciation for people.

Trustworthiness and dependability are not only important between a father and his children, but to a business as well. A reputation for accountability and dependability is what we are all about at Jackson EMC. That reputation wouldn't be possible without the employees who carry themselves with the same kind of integrity.

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The children of Jackson EMC's employees look up to their parents just like I look up to mine – some of them look 40 feet up a power pole or to someone hoisted in the air on the arm of a bucket truck, in fact. Some fathers at Jackson EMC work in rain, heat and cold, day and night, when duty calls. It's not an easy job. The hours are long, and tasks are dangerous. But the payoff – making life better for all of us – fuels these resilient men.

Working in this business with Dad, I've seen how cooperatives are a lot like family: We're not perfect, but we care about one another. It shows in how we treat each other, how we operate our business and in how we treat our members. Pops taught me to be reliable, to dedicate myself to a job that benefits the community. Every day I get to work with men (and women) who have been taught to do the same thing. Happy Father's Day to them and to all the "Pops" out there! 

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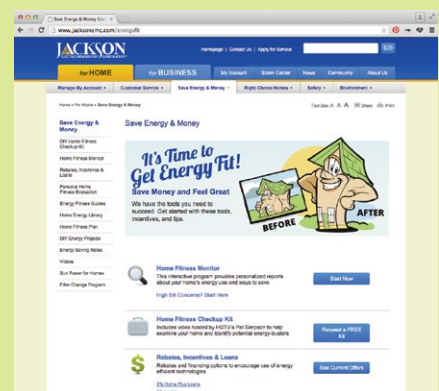
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Member Value

ELECTRIC BILLS OFTEN INCREASE IN THE SUMMER. The increase in summer bills is due to higher cost per kWh and because members use more electricity in the summer compared to the rest of the year. While no one likes higher bills, Jackson EMC members enjoy some of the lowest rates in the state.

Out of 94 electric utilities surveyed statewide, Jackson EMC was the seventh lowest, according to the Georgia Public Service Commission's Summer 2014 Residential Rate Survey. Jackson EMC members using 1,500 kWh a month save \$74 on each bill when compared to other electric utilities in the state.

What will you buy with your savings this month?

46 song downloads



20

ICED COFFEES
with
whipped cream



6 PIZZAS



50 pool noodles



TRAVEL

1 round-trip plane ticket to Fort Lauderdale, FL

AIR TICKET		ECONOMY CLASS	
John Smith	8:55 AM	John Smith	8:55 AM
From: Atlanta, GA - ATL	10:55 AM	From: Atlanta, GA - ATL	8:55 AM
To: Ft. Lauderdale, FL - FLL	Price: \$69	To: Ft. Lauderdale, FL - FLL	10:55 AM
Flight: 1383		Price: \$69	

2 tickets to see the Atlanta Braves + Concessions for the game



18 video game RENTALS



YOUTH LEADERS

JOHN F. KENNEDY said: "We must do all that we can to give our children the best in education and social upbringing - for while they are the youth of today, they shall be the leaders of tomorrow."

This belief describes the motivation supporting the annual Washington Youth Tour, which sends high school students on a leadership journey to the Nation's Capital. Since Sen. Lyndon B. Johnson first urged electric cooperatives to take on this mission in 1957, more than 50,000 students have taken part in the national program.



EMILY BAUER

Brookwood High School '16

"My goal is to make the people around me the best they can possibly be. That is my mission statement."

Emily Bauer is on stage, leading a program for a group of student leaders at Brookwood High School. Everyone can see she is poised, prepared and

pulled together. She has spent her high school years pulling people together, a skill she learned from her older brothers.

"Seeing my brothers as examples of selfless leaders from a young age; they've always motivated me," she said.

One way she is making her brothers proud is through the creation of the Brookwood Executive Board, a team made up of all the presidents of Brookwood's 30+ student organizations.

"When we met, we saw we didn't have the unity and common bond we really wanted. We are all doing so many awesome things, we had to find out how to work together," Bauer said. "As a group, we create a more productive school and community."

Students of all ages look to Bauer for guidance. She serves as a Peer Leader, mentoring struggling high school students. She also works with local elementary and middle school students. She leads the varsity tennis team, the Brookwood leadership team and serves as a Freshman Academy mentor. She's also a member of the Beta Club, Student Government, Math National Honors Society and Spanish Club.

"In truth, nothing appears to be beyond her intellectual grasp. What truly distinguishes Emily, however, is her extraordinary self-discipline," Mary Britt, AP teacher at Brookwood High School, wrote about Bauer.

Emily is the daughter of Charles and Janice Bauer of Snellville. She plans to study accounting and finance at the University of Georgia.

Emily Bauer, Kristen Gomez, Chris Larkins and Kirtan Parekh will represent Jackson EMC as delegates on the June 11-18 leadership tour of Washington D.C. Along with 108 Georgia delegates, they will join 1,600 co-op delegates from across the nation as they explore museums and memorials and meet with state and national representatives.

CHRIS LARKINS

Dacula High School '16

"As a person of Dacula and the world, I do not only want to break ground, change people's lives and revolutionize society in Dacula; I want to create change throughout the world."

It's 6 a.m., more than an hour before school starts at Dacula High School, and Chris Larkins is holding a planning committee meeting for a TEDx event he is trying to bring to Gwinnett County.

"We are inviting ideas; not speakers," he says to a small group of classmates at the early morning meeting.

Larkins credits his sister, a Georgia Tech sophomore, with sparking his interest in TED Talks.

"I watched three straight hours of TED Talks. Then, I decided that I wanted to bring this curiosity and inspiration to my own school," he said.

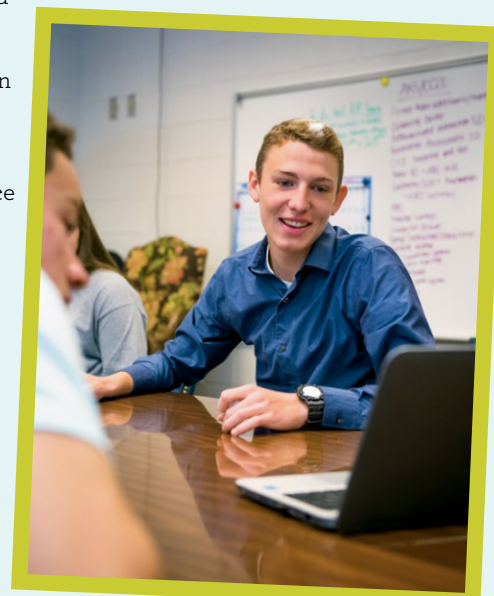
Success for him means this event will spread new ideas, challenge notions and create new possibilities.

"My hope is for students to take these ideas to college with them and into their communities and change the world," he said.

When he's not planning Gwinnett County's first TEDx event, Larkins is bringing other experiences to his school through the founding of the DHS Model United Nations. He's excelling academically in five AP courses, serving as junior class treasurer and National Honor Society vice-president while on the varsity swim and soccer teams. He's a member of Beta Club, Mu Alpha Theta, National English Honor Society, Academic Decathlon and the Dacula Mentoring Team. He is also the baritone section leader in the marching band. On Sunday, he teaches religion classes to first graders at Saint Lawrence Catholic Church.

"My goal is to not only serve my school, but my community as well," he said.

Chris is the son of Alan and Rosanne Larkins of Dacula. He plans to study industrial engineering and business at Georgia Tech or Columbia University.





KRISTEN GOMEZ

Mill Creek High School '16

"A true leader's success isn't measured in the power of herself, but rather the power she can engender in others."

It's Friday night and Kristen Gomez is out with friends – at Fort Daniel Elementary School making copies and designing bulletin boards so teachers can go home and start their weekend. She is the coordinator of the volunteer program that connects Beta Club members with Fort Daniel to lend a hand.

"The biggest part of leadership is integrity because you can't expect people to follow you if you don't do what you are asking of them," Gomez said. "Leadership isn't so much about standing up in front of people as it is to show them you care and encourage them."

Noticing a lack of STEM educational opportunities for elementary school students, Gomez founded and co-directed the Duncan Creek Elementary School Robotics Club in 2013. "I felt it was my calling to create this environment and empower others through providing this opportunity for young people to get exposure to robotics," Gomez said. In addition, she used her skills to found Legacy Gwinnett, an organization that seeks to unite the cluster schools in the community to work toward community improvement.

"She lives the life of a leader by serving others with integrity, commitment and maturity," Nancy Ward, executive director of the Gwinnett Student Leadership Team wrote about Gomez.

She also holds several leadership positions at Mill Creek High School, including president of the TALON leadership club, director of community outreach for student council, vice-president of Beta Club, and she serves as a student representative on GSLT.

She is not only an outstanding student, currently ranked first in her class, but she is involved in numerous extra-curricular activities as an elite soccer player for MCHS and the Atlanta Fire United. She also volunteered as a camp counselor at the Georgia Aquarium, has logged over 100 hours as a physical therapy intern and works a part-time job.

Kristen is the daughter of Jorge and Marianne Gomez of Dacula. She plans to study biomedical engineering at either Duke, Carnegie Mellon or Yale.

KIRTAN PAREKH

North Gwinnett High School '16

"I set my goal, and pursue it with passion and dedication."

The band room at North Gwinnett High School is literally banging with excitement. Kirtan Parekh and his fellow drummers are preparing for tomorrow's concert – an elite event where only the top percussion ensembles will be showcased.

Before he can take the stage with his band mates, he'll attend another meeting in Atlanta. As the state president of the Georgia Association of Student Councils, he's planning the Georgia Student Council Convention for 2016; the theme is "Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Leadership."

"Our goal for the week is to be inspired by dynamic speakers, student-led workshops and activities with leadership messages we can all bring back to our schools and use to make a difference."

Parekh set goals for impacting his school long ago.

"Day one of my freshman year, I was exposed to the wonders of student leadership," Parekh said about his experience with Expectations 101, a daylong freshman orientation program at NGHS. "I told myself I would be the leader I saw on stage that day – that I would be planning this for the freshmen in two years."

Now he is. Parekh worked with the North Gwinnett Student Leadership Team to plan and lead the 2015 Expectations 101 program.

When he isn't working with students at NGHS as a mentor, drum major, Beta Club meeting coordinator or as the junior class president, he's reaching out to other Gwinnett County students through the Trident Competition, a scholarship competition he designed and runs. He is also a member of the youth leader board for the city of Suwanee.

"Kirtan is an exemplary student at North Gwinnett, excels in community service and possesses natural leadership ability," said Adam Edge, Suwanee Downtown and Business Development Manager. "Those qualities, combined with his maturity, integrity and work ethic, give me full confidence Kirtan is not only worthy of selection, but is the quintessential individual for whom this program was created."

Kirtan is the son of Mehul and Nita Parekh of Suwanee. He plans to study business and industrial engineering at Georgia Tech.



Summer (FUN) School

Many students anticipate the last day of school as a signal for freedom from studying over the summer. However, to succeed in school – and in life – children and young adults need ongoing opportunities to learn and practice essential skills. When schools close for the summer, many children are unable to access educational opportunities, as well as basic needs such as healthy meals and adult supervision. Finding affordable, accessible summer care for children can be challenging for parents too.

At its April meeting, the Jackson EMC Foundation granted \$15,000 to help support a summer camp in Gwinnett County, delivered through Exodus Outreach, Inc., to serve children who would otherwise be home alone during the summer school vacation. The funds will be used to

provide meals to the children and to fund certified teachers.

Studies from the National Summer Learning Association report over the summer, students can lose about two months of grade-level math and reading competency.

To address the need for affordable, accessible and educational summer care for children in Gwinnett County, Exodus Outreach began delivering a summer program in 2006.

“The program is specifically designed to provide supervision to students who would otherwise be at home alone,” Dr. Kary E. Harris, Founder and CEO of Exodus Outreach, wrote in her grant application. “The main goal of the camp is to keep the students safe and provide a quality program that includes developmentally

appropriate curriculum, healthy meals, field trips, guest speakers, physical education activities and mentors.”

The program is offered to parents free of charge. Students in kindergarten through rising eighth graders are selected based on need and available space. ▲



operationroundup

Foundation Grants

The Jackson EMC Foundation board of directors awarded a total \$123,500 in grants during its April meeting, including \$120,000 to organizations and \$3,500 to an individual.

Organizational Grant Recipients:

\$15,000 to Camp Koinonia in Homer to provide 60 Banks County underprivileged third through sixth grade students referred by Family Connection and DFACS with a five-day camping experience that provides positive learning experiences to establish strong character, leadership and team-building skills, and build personal relationships.

\$15,000 to Exodus Outreach, a Buford nonprofit organization serving people in all walks of life who are hurting and in need of support, for a summer program that offers kindergarten through eighth grade at-risk students in Gwinnett and Hall counties with a supervised summer learning program that readies students to succeed in school in the fall.

\$15,000 to the Gwinnett Student Leadership Team for its student leadership program, a two-year program serving high school juniors and seniors in 22 public schools, providing practical leadership skills and training to return to their home high school to facilitate the core leadership principles with groups there to increase the capacity to develop student leaders.

\$15,000 to the Summer Scholars Institute, a three-year academic

enrichment program designed to help at-risk middle and high school students in Hall County prepare for college and careers. Held at the University of North Georgia's Gainesville campus, the summer program concentrates on the basic areas of reading, writing and mathematics, along with science for third-year students.

\$13,500 to Extra Special People in Watkinsville to provide an opportunity for special needs or seriously ill children from low-income or financially distressed families in Barrow, Clarke, Gwinnett, Jackson and Madison counties to attend a week-long camp where they can explore nature, discover their own abilities, master new skills and make new friends.

\$10,000 to Camp Twin Lakes, a not-for-profit organization which offers year-round recreational, therapeutic and educational programs for children facing serious illness and other challenges, to help children in Jackson EMC's 10-county service area attend its state-of-the-art, fully accessible campsites.

\$10,000 to the Spectrum Autism Support Group, a parent-run nonprofit group in Suwanee that provides support, education and resources for the entire spectrum of autism disorders to families in Barrow,

Gwinnett, Hall and Jackson counties, to enable disadvantaged autistic individuals ages 4-22 to attend the organization's week-long summer camp program where daily activities are used to teach social skills lessons.

\$8,000 to Camp Kudzu, a year-round camping program for children with diabetes and their families to teach diabetes management skills that will reduce their risk of diabetes-related complications, as well as improve their attitude about living with the disease, to help children from the 10 counties served by Jackson EMC attend a one-week overnight summer camp.

\$7,000 to the Young Women's Christian Organization (YWCO) in Athens to help girls from low-income families attend the Girls Club, a structured recreational and educational summer program targeting young girls ages 5-14 from low-to-moderate income families, and to help defray bus transportation expenses.

\$5,000 to Bread for Life, a North-east Georgia nonprofit organization focused on job training and work readiness for those who are unemployed and have few or no marketable skills, to provide baking training for clients in Barrow, Clarke, Jackson and Madison counties using both experiential and classroom training

that earns participants a ServSafe® Food Handler certification.

\$2,750 to Carepointe Community Ministries of Cross Pointe Church in Duluth to help provide Pack'n Play infant cribs to parents in Gwinnett, Barrow and Hall counties who cannot afford baby beds in order to avoid infant deaths caused from sleeping in the same bed with parents.

\$2,000 to Camp to Belong Georgia, a free summer camp that reunites brothers and sisters living separately in foster care or other out-of-home care to strengthen relationships, increase self-esteem, create healthier attitudes and childhood memories, to enable children in the 10 counties Jackson EMC serves to attend the camp.

\$1,750 to the Gainesville First United Methodist Church to help fund a summer soccer camp for at-risk elementary school-aged children in the Baker and Glover neighborhood.

Individual Grant Recipients:

\$3,500 to make repairs to a handicap-accessible van for a young man with muscular dystrophy.

For more information about the Jackson EMC Foundation, or to apply for a grant, visit www.jacksonemc.com/jemcfoundation.

Blair to succeed retiring JEMC board member Jones



Steve Blair



Ray Jones

Ray C. Jones is retiring from the Jackson EMC board of directors after nearly 40 years of service. He is succeeded by Steve Blair, who is well-known in Hall County for his community and board service.

A member of Jackson EMC since 1954, Jones spent his professional career in Georgia's poultry industry. In addition to his professional affiliations, Jones has been very involved in the Gainesville/Hall County community. He was named to the Jackson EMC board in December 1976.

"Jackson EMC couldn't have had better representation from Hall County than Ray Jones. His business experience and deep ties to the farming community made him an asset to the cooperative. Ray has been an integral part of making sure the people he represents had reliable, affordable power they needed to support growth and development," said Jackson EMC Board Chairman Otis Jones. The cooperative had 37,953 members and 4,290 miles of energized wire when Jones was named to the board. Today, the cooperative serves nearly 217,000 meters and has more than 13,600 miles of energize wire.

Steve Blair is a graduate of Georgia College & State University with a bachelor's degree in accounting and an MBA. Blair taught accounting at Gainesville State College from 1973 to 2010, and continues to teach at the University of North Georgia part-time. He has served on the Jackson EMC Foundation Board of Directors since September 2011.

"Steve has all the attributes that will make him a very effective Jackson EMC board member. He is highly qualified with his expertise in financial analysis. He knows the cooperative's mission well, with his prior service as nominating committee chairman and current service on the Foundation board. Steve is an excellent choice for our cooperative," said Jones.

Blair served on the Hall County School Board from 1990-2002. He currently serves as a member of the Hospital Authority of Hall County and as a deacon at Chestnut Mountain Presbyterian Church. Father of three and grandfather of six, he and his wife, Merry, reside in Gainesville.

WHAT'S COOKIN'?

"These are things I grow in my garden. Last year, I actually grew way too many zucchini and my family was sick of it, so I mixed in the green onions and jalapeños and topped it with cheese and they loved it."
- Connie Allen - Gainesville, GA

Georgia Summer Garden Casserole

Ingredients:

- 4 yellow squash
- 3 zucchini squash
- 2 jalapeños or cayenne peppers (without seeds)
- 5 green onions with about an inch of green tops cut into chunks
- 2 cups shredded cheddar cheese
- Pat of salted butter
- Salt

Instructions:

- Heat oven to 350°.
- Spray 8-9" square casserole dish with cooking spray.
- Add butter to dish.
- Wash, quarter and cut vegetables.
- Salt the vegetables and drain for at least 30 minutes on paper towels.



Pat moisture off vegetables and add to casserole dish.
Top with cheddar cheese.
Bake until top is golden brown - about 45 minutes.
Serves four as a side dish.

Consider this:

- Add more or less vegetables to your desired thickness, taste and servings needed.
- Add halved tomytoe tomatoes.
- Add minced garlic.
- Substitute other cheeses in place of Cheddar, like an Italian blend.

Submit
Recipes to:
Cooperative Cooking
Jackson EMC
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Jefferson, GA 30549

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You may already know where some air leaks into and out of your home, such as under the door. Find leaks and plug them to avoid paying to condition the air outside of your house. Save energy and money by making some easy and inexpensive improvements to your home.

Follow these steps from the U.S. Department of Energy:



Test your home for air tightness. On a windy day, carefully hold a lit incense stick or a smoke pen next to your windows, doors, electrical boxes, plumbing fixtures, electrical outlets, ceiling fixtures, attic hatches and other places where air may leak. If the smoke stream travels horizontally, you have located an air leak that may need caulking, sealing, or weather stripping.



Use foam sealant on larger gaps around windows, baseboards and other places where air may leak out.



Caulk and seal air leaks where plumbing, ducting, or electrical wiring comes through walls, floors, ceilings and soffits over cabinets.



Caulk and weather strip doors and windows that leak air.



Install foam gaskets behind outlet and switch plates on exterior walls.



Check your dryer vent to be sure it is not blocked. This will save energy and may prevent a fire.



Replace door bottoms and thresholds with ones that have pliable sealing gaskets.



Keep the fireplace flue damper tightly closed when not in use.



Add weather stripping and insulation to attic access doors.

We'll show you how to complete many of these tasks with step-by-step videos at www.jacksonemc.com/diy-energy-projects.

For a thorough and accurate measurement of air leakage in your home, call 770-822-3211 to schedule a Personal Home Fitness Evaluation. A blower door test, which depressurizes a home, can reveal the location of many leaks. An energy fitness evaluation can also determine areas in your home that need more insulation. For more information, visit www.jacksonemc.com/evaluation.