

JEMICOnews

A PUBLICATION FOR JACKSON EMC MEMBERS

WORKING THE LINES WITH
BRANDON
SANDERS

APRIL 2017 | IN THIS ISSUE

BRIGHTEN UP WITH LED LIGHTBULBS

HOW MUCH CAN YOU SAVE WITH A NEW REFRIGERATOR?

FOUNDATION GRANTS LIFESAVING AED TO 96 ROUNDTABLE



TEAMWORK!

The best coaches know that no single player can take the team to triumph. It takes all teammates working cohesively together to win the game.

New York Knicks president Phil Jackson knows a thing or two about teamwork. The former NBA player and coach led the Chicago Bulls to six NBA championships and led the Los Angeles Lakers to claim five NBA rings. Add to that his two championships as a player with the Knicks, and he holds the NBA record for the most combined championships as a player and head coach, 13. Someone with that kind of record might dare to take the credit. But not Jackson, who says: “The strength of the team is each individual member. The strength of each member is the team.”

At Jackson EMC, we wholeheartedly agree with that line of thinking. It takes the entire team—including our employees, management, board and members—to make our business a success. Whether it’s our linemen depending on each other for safety while working through storms to restore power, or our engineers developing plans for our future power distribution system upgrades, or our contact center working to increase engagement with our members, we know we all depend on each other to get the job done.

Recently, a team of employees at Jackson EMC had an opportunity to work on a project that’s a bit out of the box for us. There are two bird families that like to build their summer nests on a bridge that

crosses Lake Lanier, we’ve all enjoyed watching them return each spring for several years.

In two years that bridge is set to be replaced and the Osprey need a new place to call home. Benny Bagwell, engineering and operations coordinator in Gainesville, decided he wanted to help and got involved in building new habitat for the migratory birds. With Benny’s leadership, a team of five linemen boarded a barge on Lake Lanier with a derrick truck to build this new habitat for the birds. Working off a barge is new for us, we’re used to installing power lines, not bird nests. We worked with Scott Bridge Company to set two poles with nest platforms designed by the Audubon Society in a location selected by the DOT and Army Corps of Engineers. We all had a unique role to play and together we accomplished something important for our community and these beautiful birds. You can read more about this project, and watch a video of the install on our website.

Do you have a story to share? Send me an email to chip@jacksonemc.com

Chip Jakins, President/CEO



REACH OUT TO US ON SOCIAL MEDIA TO TELL YOUR STORY.

#THANKALINEMAN

You can help us celebrate our linemen.

In April, take a moment to thank a lineman for the work they do by sharing your stories with the hashtag, #ThankALineman, on Facebook,

Twitter and other social media platforms. Or write the Jackson EMC office closest to you, and we’ll make sure our line workers receive your letter of thanks.

SMART CONNECTIONS: THANK A LINEMAN

When the lights go out, so do they!

If your appliances are operating, your lights brighten the room when you flip a switch, and your power tools are charged and ready for the task—it’s likely you have an electric line worker to thank.

Linemen play a crucial role every day to keep your power on, although their work is noticed most in times of crisis, like when an ice storm downs electric lines or a tornado cripples the power system. At times like these, when the lights go out, so do Jackson EMC’s line workers.

To honor those who keep the electric system up and running, April is celebrated as Linemen Appreciation Month by Georgia’s

electric utilities, including Jackson EMC. We salute the highly-skilled and brave personnel who build and maintain our power system through routine days and during treacherous weather events that present dangerous jobs and hazardous working conditions.

At Jackson EMC, 119 line workers maintain 13,845 miles of power lines throughout 10 Northeast Georgia counties that comprise our service territory.

To thank these brave workers for all they do, Jackson EMC will devote the week of April 10 to honoring them and their often-heroic efforts.

REFRIGERATORS: They've come a long way, Baby!

Refrigerators are not the energy hogs they used to be, thanks to improvements in insulation and compressors that enable today's models to operate using significantly less energy than their older counterparts.

In fact, according to the U.S. Department of Energy, new ENERGY STAR® refrigerators use at least 15 percent less energy than non-ENERGY STAR® models—and a whopping 40 percent less energy than similar models sold in 2001.

When shopping for a new refrigerator, be sure to check the EnergyGuide label. It describes in kilowatt-hours (kWh) how much electricity the refrigerator uses in one year; the less energy the fridge uses, the less you pay for power to run it.

Along with looking for ENERGY STAR® models when shopping for a new refrigerator, select the size fridge that fits your home's needs, and remember that top freezer models are more energy efficient than side-by-sides. Also, icemakers and water dispensers will add to your power bill since they utilize more energy.

Try out the Refrigerator Retirement Savings Calculator at www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?fuseaction=refrig.calculator to determine how much you might save by switching to a new ENERGY STAR® refrigerator.

Input information into the calculator above such as cost for electricity and your refrigerator model and age to determine how much you could save by switching to a new, comparable model.

According to the calculator, using Georgia's average electric rate of 11 cents per kWh, a 1997 top freezer refrigerator with 20 cubic feet capacity costs about \$121 in annual energy costs. A 2007 similar model costs about \$76 to run.

Replacing either model with a 2017 ENERGY STAR® certified refrigerator of the same size and model would result in annual energy costs of \$45, resulting in a savings of \$340 over five years when replacing the 1997 model or \$141 in five-year savings when replacing the 2007 fridge.



To further stretch your energy savings, the Department of Energy offers these tips:



COVER LIQUIDS AND WRAP FOODS STORED IN THE REFRIGERATOR

Uncovered foods release moisture and make the compressor work harder.



MAKE SURE YOUR FRIDGE DOOR SEALS ARE AIRTIGHT

Test by closing the door over a dollar bill that's half-in/half-out of the refrigerator. If you can pull the bill out easily, the latch may need adjustment, the seal may need replacing or you may need to consider buying a new unit.



REGULARLY DEFROST MANUAL-DEFROST FREEZERS AND REFRIGERATORS

Frost buildup decreases the energy efficiency of the unit.



CHECK FRIDGE TEMPERATURE

by placing an appliance thermometer in a glass of water on a center shelf; read after 24 hours. Check freezer temperature with a thermometer placed between frozen packages; read after 24 hours.



DON'T KEEP YOUR FRIDGE OR FREEZER TOO COLD

Recommended temperatures are 35-38 degrees for the fresh food compartment and 0 degrees for separate freezers for long-term storage.

1997 REFRIGERATOR



1,031 kWh
TO OPERATE



\$121.66
ANNUAL
ENERGY COST

2007 REFRIGERATOR



651 kWh
TO OPERATE



\$76.82
ANNUAL
ENERGY COST

2017 ENERGY STAR® REFRIGERATOR



381 kWh
TO OPERATE



\$45.00
ANNUAL
ENERGY COST

Comparison of 20 cubic feet top freezer refrigerators; GA average electric rate of 11 cents per kilowatt-hour



WORKING THE LINES WITH
**BRANDON
SANDERS**

The work of a lineman has changed a lot in the 79 years since Jackson EMC hired its first one; in 1938 linemen worked without bucket trucks, dug and set poles by hand and completed all of their work without the protection of safety gear. Today, the job is much different. To see what a typical day is like on the job, meet Brandon Sanders, a Jackson EMC lineman apprentice.

“Nothing’s ever the same,” Brandon said, about a typical day on the job. “It may look the same on a piece of paper, but each job is different; that’s what keeps it interesting.”

Brandon is one of 119 linemen serving Jackson EMC’s members every day.



8:00 A.M.

Every day might be a little different, but they all start at 8 a.m. with a crew meeting. Brandon gathers with the rest of his team (five other linemen and a foreman) for the first meeting of the day. They learn about the day’s jobs and everyone contributes to the plan on how to attack the day.

“There are some things we do on a normal basis that some people wouldn’t want to do, but we work together as linemen to carry out that plan safely. We all look out for each other,” he said. “Safety is emphasized here – above everything else. That’s a tremendous thing.”

All Jackson EMC employees attend monthly safety meetings, although the content can vary based on your job function. Linemen cover topics including outage restoration, grounding and blood-borne pathogens. All employees are CPR and first-aid certified and complete defensive driving courses.

8:30 A.M.

By 8:30 a.m. the crew members are gathering the necessary equipment, tools and water needed for the day - some supplies and equipment have already been collected the night before. Within a few minutes, the trucks are loaded and headed to the jobsite. Most of this day will be spent installing transformers in a new subdivision. Yesterday, this crew spent several hours running the wire underground to serve this neighborhood. (*Jackson EMC began running wire underground in the 1960s*). Banana peelers, speed strippers, adjustable end strippers and semi-conductor scorers are specialty tools developed to make underground line work faster and more precise. Wire is in-

sulated; to complete the electric circuit, the electrical wire must be exposed by stripping off the insulation. These precision tools help linemen complete their work more efficiently. “We didn’t always have these tools,” said Charlie Watson, Jackson EMC operations superintendent. “They all do about the same thing, but the most important thing is they prevent linemen from accidentally cutting too deep, or over cutting the wire.”

Over cutting, Charlie explains, can shorten the lifespan of the equipment.

11:30 A.M.

By 11:30 a.m. two transformers have been set. Today, the entire group is grabbing lunch together. Some other crews will join them at a nearby restaurant. Most days, however, they eat a sandwich on the jobsite.

After lunch, it’s back to the neighborhood to continue the work installing the transformers to serve a section of the new neighborhood. First, the crew needs to hand dig about 200 feet of cable to uncover the existing lines.

“This project started several months ago, and we’ve had some rain recently so we want to be sure those lines are still where they’re marked,” said David Holloway, Jackson EMC line foreman.

With four men digging, it took only a few minutes to expose the wire. Now, work continues setting the third and final transformer for the eight-home section of the subdivision. Every task includes a team: Setting the concrete foundation requires a ground man and a boom truck operator, wiring the transformer goes much faster with two people stripping insulation and running ground wire, digging holes is faster (and more fun) with

more than one shovel in the ground. While this work is going on, there’s a support team of foremen, dispatchers and system control working to ensure the lines are safe.

4:00 P.M.

At 4 p.m. the crew heads back to the office to get ready for the next day. As they exit the trucks, they’re moving equipment from one truck to another, planning for what they’ll need the next day. Brandon settles down at a table in the breakroom with a few other linemen for a quick card game. He’ll stay late today to help light a new billboard. They have to cut power to some other nearby businesses to make the connection, so they’re hanging around until after 5 p.m. when the other businesses close their doors so they can get to work.

10:00 P.M.

A wind storm blows some trees down and Brandon gets the call to come into work.

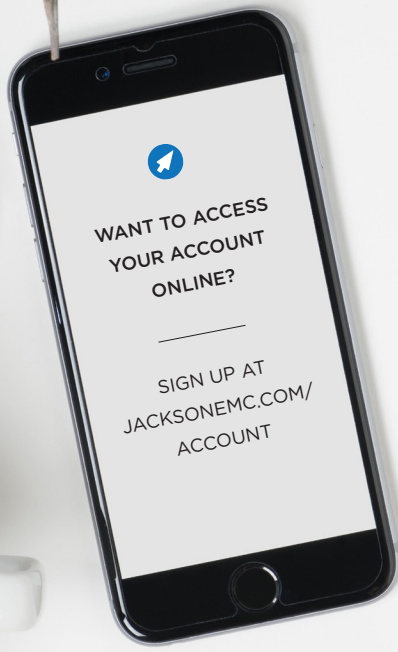
“When system control calls you with an outage, they can pretty much tell you where it is,” Brandon said. “They can give you a fuse, a recloser, or a viper and they can guide you on in to where it is and most of the time they’re right.”

This time, the outage took Brandon and his partner through the woods, across a creek and into a pasture. He spends several hours working to get his neighbor’s lights back on.

Because he’s spent so many hours of overtime today, he’ll get the day off tomorrow. Which, he’ll probably spend at least some of fishing.

NEED TO KNOW: ONLINE ACCOUNT ACCESS FEATURES

THANKS TO YOUR PERSONAL "MY ACCOUNT" FEATURE AT WWW.JACKSONEMC.COM/ACCOUNT, YOU ARE NEVER ALONE WHEN IT COMES TO ACCESSING IMPORTANT INFORMATION OR CONDUCTING BUSINESS WITH JACKSON EMC.



Logging in to your online account opens a world of possibilities at your fingertips. View all of your account information, whether you're searching for your current bill or need to review your transaction history.

Wondering why your power bill is less this month than last month? Your personalized account displays your current bill with a detailed explanation of how to read it. Plus, your account history allows you to compare your current bill with last month's, or last year's.

Most conveniently, My Account allows you to pay your bill online, either from your home or work computer or on-the-go with our mobile app. Register to use your checking account to pay your monthly power bill, and set up recurring payments, if you choose. Or use your credit card to pay online anytime. Also, learn more about payment plans, like budget billing.

Detailed graphics at your My Account site show you how to read your electric meter. This information gives you even greater control over your power usage—and, in turn, your upcoming power bills.

Want to sign up for paperless billing and our E-newsletter? You can do that online. And you can report outages in seconds from your online account.

Finally, the Home Energy Monitor at your personal My Account allows you to calculate and analyze your home's energy efficiency. This specialized service details where your home's energy dollars are spent and offers personalized advice on how you can cut down your energy use and save cash.

Bottom line, with your own Jackson EMC online account, you are never more than a touch or tap away from the information and services you need.

OPERATION ROUNDUP: YOUR DONATIONS AT WORK

The Jackson EMC Foundation Board of Directors awarded

\$81,572 IN GRANTS

during its February meeting, including **\$75,737 to organizations** and **\$5,835 to individuals**.

ORGANIZATIONAL GRANT RECIPIENTS:

\$15,000 | Boys & Girls Clubs of Athens to hire part-time staff that will provide instruction at both club locations for its Mind Blowers Program, a targeted supplemental math education program that teaches essential problem-solving and quantitative skills students will use in the classroom, work world and every-day life.

\$10,000 | Athens Urban Ministries, a grassroots organization dedicated to assisting those who need a hand up, to help provide instruction, technology and materials for GED training to help 85 individuals in Barrow, Clarke, Gwinnett, Jackson, Madison and Oglethorpe counties achieve their potential through education and employment, with a goal of becoming self-sufficient.

\$9,604 | Gwinnett Special Forces, a community-based volunteer organization accredited under Special Olympics of Georgia that provides adults with intellectual and development disabilities in Barrow, Gwinnett and Hall counties the opportunity to play sports with a goal of promoting personal growth and athletic development, to purchase necessary equipment and uniforms.

\$8,000 | Gainesville/Hall County 96 Roundtable, a non-profit organization

formed to oversee operations and programs at the Lake Lanier Olympic Center for rowing, canoeing and kayaking, to purchase Automated External Defibrillators for the venue's boathouse and Olympic Timing Tower that will provide emergency medical treatment in cases of cardiac arrest.

\$7,633 | Choices Pregnancy Center in Gainesville to purchase parenting videos, literature and incentive baby items for its My Baby Counts program, which provides crucial parenting skills to pregnant women and new parents in Gwinnett, Hall and Jackson counties, and to conduct middle and high school sexual integrity programs in Gainesville City and Hall County schools.

\$7,500 | Judy House, a faith-based transition home for homeless men who have been incarcerated or under community supervision in Barrow, Gwinnett and Hall counties, to provide necessary personal expenses, transportation, food, household supplies and rent while they seek jobs and reconnect with their families and the community.

\$7,500 | North Gwinnett Arts Association to provide art education, such as Drawing & Painting, Hand building with Clay, Pottery on the Wheel, Beginning Photography, Cartooning, Watercolor Painting, Acrylic Painting and Writing to students ages 5 to 90 who demonstrate financial need.

\$5,000 | Crohn's & Colitis Foundation of America to help 13 children from Barrow, Gwinnett, Hall and Jackson counties attend Camp Oasis, a six-day camping experience at Winder's Camp Will-A-Way, that takes campers' physical and social needs into consideration, provides dietary and medical support and allows campers to interact with

other children who face the same challenges of Crohn's Disease and ulcerative colitis.

\$3,500 | Guest House, a Gainesville non-profit senior day care center serving Banks, Barrow, Gwinnett, Hall, Jackson and Lumpkin counties that offers therapeutic activities, socialization, and professional medical services to frail seniors and those suffering from Alzheimer's and dementia in the safest, most affordable and loving environment possible, to fund an art therapy program that can help enhance communication, brain function and social interaction in dementia patients.

\$2,000 | Casa de Amistad, an Athens non-profit providing social services, referrals, translation, education and advocacy to Latino and Hispanic families living below the poverty line in Barrow, Clarke, Jackson, Madison and Oglethorpe counties, to provide free GED instruction in Spanish to help them achieve their potential through education and employment, with a goal of becoming self-sufficient.

INDIVIDUAL GRANT RECIPIENTS:

\$2,800 to help replace the HVAC unit of **an elderly disabled couple** who have faced serious health issues and medical bills over the past two years.

\$3,035 to purchase a set of dentures for **a diabetic senior citizen** living on a fixed income.



FOR MORE INFORMATION
AND TO APPLY FOR A GRANT,
VISIT [JACKSONEMC.COM/
FOUNDATION](http://JACKSONEMC.COM/FOUNDATION)



Pina Colada Cake



“ The pina colada cake is my husband's favorite! I usually bake it for special occasions or whenever we have people over. And I know it's good because everyone's always asking me for the recipe! ”

- DENISE THOMPSON, LAWRENCEVILLE, GA.

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 yellow cake mix
- 1 large can crushed pineapple (drained)
- 2 14-ounce cans sweetened condensed milk
- 2/3 cup shredded coconut
- 1 tub Cool Whip

DIRECTIONS:

Prepare cake mix as directed on package. Add 1/2 can of pineapple to the batter. Bake according to package directions. Using a fork, poke holes in warm cake at 1-inch intervals. Pour sweetened condensed milk evenly over cake. Allow cake to cool. Spread whipped topping over cake. Sprinkle with remaining pineapple and coconut. Refrigerate.

SEND YOUR BEST SUMMER RECIPES: ASORROW@JACKSONEMC.COM OR MAIL TO: COOPERATIVE COOKING | JACKSON EMC | PO BOX 38 | JEFFERSON, GA 30549

COMMUNITY IMPACT: LAKE LANIER OLYMPIC PARK



FOUNDATION PROVIDES AEDS FOR SAFETY'S SAKE

To better provide safety to the thousands of visitors who enjoy the lake and facilities at Lake Lanier Olympic Park, the Jackson EMC Foundation recently awarded \$8,000 for the purchase of automated external defibrillators, or AEDs, for use there.

The grant was made to Gainesville/Hall County '96 Roundtable, the nonprofit that originated in 1993 to help bring canoeing and kayaking events to Gainesville for the 1996 Summer Olympics. The organization was revamped in 2013, as were the grounds and facilities at Lake Lanier Olympic Park, headquartered at 3015 Clarks Bridge Road in Gainesville.

Today, '96 Roundtable oversees operations and programs at the park where rowing, canoeing and kayaking are favorite activities.

The Lanier Canoe and Kayak Club and Lake Lanier Rowing Club both operate from Lake Lanier Olympic Park, with about 300 members at the park each day, according to Venue Manager Morgan House. Along with those daily park participants, visitors from throughout northeast Georgia, across the United States and even internationally come to the Olympic Park for recreation and competitions.

House and Assistant Manager James Watson wrote the request for a grant to purchase AEDs to be placed at the park's boathouse and Olympic Timing Tower to provide emergency medical treatment in cases of cardiac arrest.

“We have literally thousands of athletes who come in and out of this facility on an annual basis, plus we have tens of thousands of general public visitors who come to use the park, picnic area and beach and to fish,” says House. “While it has never happened, the potential for one of our athletes or visitors having heart failure is evident, so having AEDs onsite hopefully will prevent any worst case scenario.”

He expressed gratitude for the organization's first Jackson EMC Foundation grant.

“It shows the Foundation is aware of potential health issues and puts the safety of the general public first and foremost by enabling us to purchase AEDs to provide enhanced safety at the park,” House concludes.

**YOUR POWER.
YOUR COMMUNITY.**

A PUBLICATION FOR
JACKSON EMC MEMBERS

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WAYS TO SAVE: LED LIGHTBULBS

The light-emitting diode, or LED, bulb is a rapidly-developing lighting technology—and today’s most energy efficient bulb. These brilliant innovations emit less heat and use less electricity than both their incandescent and CFL counterparts.

In fact, residential LEDs use up to 75 percent less energy and can last 25 times longer than traditional lightbulbs. That means if you twist in a new LED bulb today, considering the average use of a lightbulb, you won’t have to change it for another 10 years. A decade! Imagine that.

Not only do today’s LED lightbulbs last longer, they are more durable and offer comparable and sometimes even better light quality than other lighting methods.

Of course, the price to purchase these fine-tuned works of wonder is more than what you’d pay for incandescent bulbs. But the LEDs cost less to operate and will last years longer, saving you money in the long run, on both your power bill and bulb purchases.

MAKE
THE SWITCH
TO LED



This U.S. Department of Energy table compares a 60 watt (W) traditional incandescent with energy efficient bulbs that provide similar light levels.

COMPARISONS BETWEEN TRADITIONAL INCANDESCENTS, HALOGEN INCANDESCENTS, CFLS, AND LEDS

	60W TRADITIONAL INCANDESCENT	43W ENERGY-SAVING INCANDESCENT	15W CFL 60W TRADITIONAL	12W LED 60W TRADITIONAL
ENERGY \$ SAVED (%)	-	-25%	-75%	-75%-80%
ANNUAL ENERGY COST*	\$4.80	\$3.50	\$1.20	\$1.00
BULB LIFE	1,000 hours	1,000 TO 3,000 HOURS	10,000 HOURS	25,000 HOURS

*Based on 2 hrs/day of usage, an electricity rate of 11 cents per kilowatt-hour, shown in U.S. dollars <https://www.energy.gov/energysaver/led-lighting>