

JEMCOnews



YEAR ROUND
ENERGY
SAVINGS

A SEASONAL CHECKLIST
TO SAVE ENERGY

DECEMBER 2018

JACKSON EMC RETURNS \$10 MILLION TO MEMBERS

STUDENTS: APPLY FOR A SCHOLARSHIP FROM JACKSON EMC

CREWS HELP SOUTH GEORGIA, FLORIDA RESIDENTS AFTER HURRICANE



TIMES OF CHANGE

Just like a family reunion, our retirees gather annually to spend time with each other and to hear what's happening in the cooperative. There are plenty of stories shared, welcoming hugs and time together. It's a chance to reunite with dear friends, honor traditions and thank those who worked so hard to create the work culture we enjoy at Jackson EMC.

At Jackson EMC, we strive to create a great culture that provides an atmosphere where employees enjoy their work and have lasting and meaningful careers. It's not unusual for our employees to have careers that last decades. In fact, some of our most recent retirees included people like Johnny Thomas, a line foreman, who retired with 44 years of service and Sally Ekard, a senior communication coordinator, who retired after 35 years. When people stay with an organization for that many years, I think that's a good indication of a strong, positive culture.

Like many organizations, as our long-term employees transition into retirement, Jackson EMC is embracing new generations of employees ready to make their mark in the workplace. I'm impressed by what I see from the younger generation, and I know they'll bring new perspectives and fresh ideas that will carry our cooperative forward in ways that will make our members proud.

Just as our employees are changing and growing, our cooperative changes and grows, too. Exciting things are happening at Jackson EMC that will allow us to serve you in new and better ways. Behind the scenes, our employees are working hard to bring you a major overhaul of our technology systems. During the next year, you'll hear more about these changes, but they include advances that will provide more valuable information to serve you better.

We always plan to grow and change with the times – keeping the best parts of our culture and improving with every new generation of employees and members. We hope this allows us to meet and exceed your expectations in new and exciting ways while remaining the electric cooperative you've come to know and trust. Stay tuned for all that lies ahead in 2019!

Have a question for Chip? Email him at chip@jacksonemc.com.

Chip Jakins, President/CEO

STUDENTS: APPLY FOR \$1,000 SCHOLARSHIP FROM JACKSON EMC



THE DEADLINE TO APPLY IS JANUARY 25, 2019

Jackson EMC is accepting applications for the annual Walter Harrison Scholarship, which provides \$1,000 for academic expenses to students pursuing a post-secondary education at Georgia colleges and technical schools.

Named in honor of a leader in the state and national electric cooperative movements, the Walter Harrison Scholarship is open to students who live in a primary residence served by Jackson EMC.

Applicants must be accepted, or currently enrolled, as a full- or part-time student, at any accredited two- or four-year university, college, or vocational-technical institute in Georgia.

 APPLICATION AND COMPLETE DETAILS AVAILABLE AT JACKSONEMC.COM/WALTERHARRISONSCOLARSHIP.

JACKSON EMC TEAMS
NAMED AMONG

the Best

AT INTERNATIONAL EVENT

A journeyman linemen team from Jackson EMC was recently named the top electric cooperative team at the 35th Annual International Lineman's Rodeo in Bonner Springs, Kansas.

The event features some of the top linemen from around the world to compete in traditional linemen skills and tasks. This year's event featured more than 300 apprentices and more than 200 journeyman teams.

Jackson EMC sent two journeyman teams, each with three competitors, to the rodeo. Both teams won some of the highest awards at the international event.

The journeyman team with Justin Cash, Austin Gragg and Clay Phillips, all of Jefferson, won first place overall in the electric cooperative division at the rodeo. The team also placed second as the World Champion Journeyman Team at the International Lineman's Rodeo.



Jackson EMC's journeyman teams competing in the 35th Annual International Lineman's Rodeo in October won some of the highest awards. Shown are: Justin Cash, Austin Gragg, Clay Phillips, Kevin Grant, Matt Tolar and Scotty Tompkins.

In addition, they won second place in an event to replace polymer insulators and seventh place in an event to change switches on a pole.

Kevin Grant, Matt Tolar and Scotty Tompkins, all of Oakwood, won third place as the World Champion Journeyman Team. They also won second place overall in the electric cooperative division, eighth place in the polymer insulator replacement event and eighth place in the switch changeout event.

One of Jackson EMC's apprentices, Dillon Welborn of Jefferson, placed ninth in the hurtman rescue event. The hurtman rescue simulates the rescue of an injured worker stranded at the top of a utility pole.

Jackson EMC sent the competitors to the International Lineman's Rodeo, based on their performance at the Georgia Lineman's Rodeo in May.

MEMBERS MAKE IT DELICIOUS

Pecan Pie



INGREDIENTS:

- 1 cup sugar
- 1 cup light Karo syrup
- 3 eggs, well beaten
- 1 stick butter
- 1 1/2 cups pecans, chopped
- 2 pie crusts of choice

DIRECTIONS

Melt butter. Mix sugar, syrup, eggs and pecans. Pour mixture in to two pie crusts. Bake at 300 degrees for 35-40 minutes, or until done.

“ I started baking this recipe at Christmas. When I gave people these pecan pies, they said it was the best pecan pie recipe. ”

—BEVERLY PHARR, WINDER



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



YEAR ROUND ENERGY SAVINGS

When the weather changes each season, your home's energy efficiency changes, too. And while you may not be able to do all energy-saving steps at once, you can tackle a few tasks each season.

Follow our energy-saving checklist to stay on track.



WINTER



Set your thermostat to 68 degrees in the winter. As a rule of thumb, your heating cost will increase three percent for each degree above 68 degrees.



When buying new appliances or electronics, **purchase ENERGY STAR®-certified products**, which are more energy efficient than standard products. According to ENERGY STAR®, a certified full-sized electric dryer will save you \$200 in energy bills over the life of the product.

 Visit energystar.gov for more energy-saving product comparisons.



Perform an energy evaluation to give you information on where your house may be losing energy and what you can do to save money. Jackson EMC offers professional home energy evaluations with a representative visiting your house. Or, you can use our DIY Home Checkup Kit.

 Visit jacksonemc.com/savenow for details.



SPRING



Switch to energy-saving lightbulbs. By replacing five of your home's most frequently used light bulbs with ENERGY-STAR®-certified bulbs, you can save up to \$45 each year.



Check the condition of your water heater, including keeping the temperature set to an energy-efficient 120 degrees. Typically, a water heater accounts for 14 percent of a home's annual energy costs.



Start using ceiling fans, so people in rooms feel cooler.



SUMMER



Close blinds and drapes over windows to block the sun's rays from heating your home in the summer.



Wash dishes and clothes in the early morning or evening. By doing these chores during cooler times of the day, you'll reduce the heat and humidity appliances can produce.



Set your thermostat to 78 degrees in the summer. Lower settings will increase operating costs approximately five percent for every degree below 78 degrees. Installing a programmable thermostat can save you as much as 10% on energy costs every year.



FALL



Inspect windows, doors and attic entryways for air leaks, and gaps in caulking and weather stripping. These small gaps and cracks can cause heated or cooled air from your home to escape, which, in turn, causes your energy costs to rise.



Ensure your electric devices are connected to a power strip and turn it off when the devices aren't being used. These "energy vampires" can drain energy when the devices are plugged in, but not being used. Energy vampires could cost the average household up to \$100-\$200 a year.



Decorate with LED holiday lights, which save energy and are more durable than traditional lightbulbs. The energy cost to use an incandescent string of holiday lights for 12 hours each day for 40 days is \$10, but the energy cost for LED string lights is \$0.27, according to the U.S. Department of Energy.



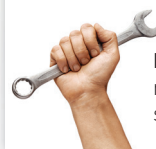
EVERY 1-2 MONTHS



Change your HVAC system's air filters.



EVERY 6 MONTHS



Hire a trained professional to perform routine maintenance of your heating and air conditioning system.

COMMUNITY IMPACT: *Boys & Girls* CLUB OF LANIER

When students enter one of the 15 locations hosting the Boys & Girls Club of Lanier, they're not just learning the academic and character development skills they need to succeed - they're also learning how to make healthier lifestyle choices.

Through the club's Triple Play program, youth members are learning how to eat smart, stay fit and form positive relationships. Members receive coaching in sports leagues and fun activities - while also staying physically active and learning to make good choices about nutrition.

"Triple Play is one of our core programs," said Joyce Wilson, chief development officer for the Boys & Girls Club of Lanier (formerly called the Boys & Girls Club of Hall County). "All Boys & Girls Clubs try to incorporate Triple Play in their daily programming."

Thanks to a \$14,800 grant from the Jackson EMC Foundation, the Gainesville-based club is providing staff resources to support Triple Play across its locations. This school year, the program is expected to serve more than 1,000 students a day, according to Wilson.

"A lot of the kids we serve don't have exposure to a variety of healthy activities," Wilson said.

A 2012 study in Hall County estimated that almost 40 percent of youth in the county are obese. Almost all of the youth served by the Boys & Girls Club of Lanier qualify for free or reduced price meals at their schools. The primary goal of the Triple Play program is to reduce childhood obesity.

During Triple Play, club members learn how to make their own healthy meals. Staff members and other professionals educate club members about nutrition, including how to read food labels and pick healthier foods.



TRIPLE PLAY PROGRAM

"One girl went home and started talking about making healthier food choices with her parents," Wilson said. "The girl told us her parents are now also making healthier choices."

Triple Play is also exposing club members to physical activities they may not otherwise experience, Wilson said. Club members have played lacrosse, taken dance lessons and even learned about boxing. Students participate in at least 45 minutes of physical activity each day at the club.

"We are extremely grateful for the support our kids receive from the Jackson EMC Foundation," Wilson said.



FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF LANIER, VISIT BOYSGIRLSCLUBS.COM.

OPERATION ROUND UP®: YOUR DONATIONS AT WORK

The Jackson EMC Foundation board of directors awarded a total

\$96,300 IN GRANTS

during its October meeting, including \$91,300 to organizations and \$5,000 to an individual.

ORGANIZATIONAL GRANT RECIPIENTS:

\$15,000 | Gwinnett Habitat for Humanity, for the "A Brush with Kindness" program, which offers home repair and preservation services to low-income homeowners, so they can continue to live in safe homes for years in the community that supports them.

\$15,000 | Hebron Community Health Center, in Lawrenceville, a nonprofit organization providing medical and dental care to low-income, uninsured Gwinnett County residents, to provide diagnostic follow-up testing, prescription medication and diabetic supplies.

\$15,000 | Interfaith Hospitality Network of Athens, a network of 31 area congregations and more than 800 volunteers, for its Hospitality Shelter Program that provides temporary housing and services to homeless families in need, for a case manager, child care while homeless parents work or seek work, and the Extended Network Program.

\$15,000 | Nothing But The Truth, a Dacula faith-based organization dedicated to meeting needs in the community, to purchase food for the Weekend Food Bag Program that provides food for the weekend to Gwinnett County public school children who have been identified by counselors as food insecure.

\$9,000 | Hall-Dawson CASA Program, Inc., which trains and supervises community volunteers who serve as advocates for abused and neglected children in Juvenile Court proceedings in Hall and Dawson counties, to train new volunteers, cover costs for family visitation, and provide funding for children's food and clothing.

\$7,500 | CHRIS 180 (Creativity, Honor, Respect, Integrity and Safety) Gwinnett Counseling Center, which serves Banks, Gwinnett and Hall counties with a mission to heal children, strengthen families and build community, to support mental health services and trauma counseling for uninsured and underinsured clients in an effort to end the intergenerational cycles of poverty and abuse.

\$5,000 | Winder Noon Lions Club, in Barrow County, whose mission is sight conservation and treatment, to provide eyeglasses for 50 children and adults who are vision impaired.

\$4,800 | Revved Up Kids, a program based in Peachtree Corners that teaches children to recognize unsafe people, avoid dangerous situations and escape attackers, to provide assistance with its sexual abuse prevention training seminars for middle school girls in Gwinnett County.

\$4,000 | Lumpkin County Family Connection, to purchase food for its Backpack Buddy program, which provides six meals, snacks and drinks each week to children identified by Family Advocacy as food insecure.

\$1,000 | Mountain Circuit CASA, which trains and supervises community volunteers who serve as advocates for abused and neglected children in Juvenile Court proceedings in Franklin, Madison and Oglethorpe counties, to train new volunteers.

INDIVIDUAL GRANT RECIPIENTS:

\$5,000 to help provide assistance to a family with medical needs.



FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO APPLY FOR A GRANT, VISIT JACKSONEMC.COM/FOUNDATION

JACKSON EMC CREWS HELP SOUTH GEORGIA, FLORIDA RESIDENTS AFTER HURRICANE

“Cooperation Among Cooperatives” is one of the principles that govern all cooperatives. So, when Hurricane Michael devastated parts of Florida and south Georgia, Jackson EMC was one of several electric cooperatives in the Southeast to answer calls for help from fellow cooperatives to restore power.

In south Georgia, all of Grady EMC’s 19,000-plus members lost power from Hurricane Michael. Jackson EMC sent 63 team members to help restore power to Grady EMC’s members.

“This could happen anywhere,” said Jeremiah Nash, a Jackson EMC line foreman who was part of the restoration effort in Cairo, Georgia. “It could happen at our house. It could happen wherever.”

Grady EMC housed visiting crews in large tents for overnight accommodations, while many residents volunteered to provide meals to crews.

“A lot of people count on linemen to get the power back on,” Nash said. “So, we don’t mind helping – staying away from home for however long if it helps everybody else out.”

After our crews returned from Grady EMC, another group of 21 Jackson EMC team members traveled to Florida to help Gulf Coast Electric Membership Cooperative restore power. Gulf Coast Electric serves 20,815 members. Its service area includes Panama City and Mexico Beach, which were some of the hardest hit areas by the hurricane on Oct. 11.

After a week of supporting restoration efforts around the Panama City area, our crews returned home.



JACKSON EMC SENT MORE THAN 60 TEAM MEMBERS TO HELP RESTORE POWER IN GRADY COUNTY, GEORGIA FOLLOWING HURRICANE MICHAEL.



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 Keith Johnson, Vice President, Human Resources and Employee Development. 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, 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. Complaints must be filed within 180 days after the alleged discrimination. Confidentiality will be maintained to the extent possible.

**YOUR POWER.
YOUR COMMUNITY.**

A PUBLICATION FOR
JACKSON EMC MEMBERS

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JACKSON EMC RETURNS **\$10 MILLION** IN MARGIN REFUNDS

MOST JACKSON EMC MEMBERS WILL RECEIVE A CHECK IN THE MAIL THIS MONTH. THE COOPERATIVE IS SENDING 239,000 CHECKS TO CURRENT AND FORMER MEMBERS FOR THEIR SHARE OF A TOTAL \$10 MILLION IN MARGIN REFUNDS THIS MONTH.

“As owners of a not-for-profit cooperative, you’re entitled to a portion of the funds left over each year after all of the cooperative’s expenses are paid, which we call margin refunds,” said Board Chairman Otis P. Jones. “Your board is proud to be able to return it 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 1990, 1991 and/or 2017. 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 refunded \$135 million in margin refunds to our members since our cooperative was founded in 1938.

Jackson EMC refunds margins, surplus above operating expenses, to its members each year. By 1963, the cooperative 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.

