

# JEMCOnews

A PUBLICATION FOR JACKSON EMC MEMBERS



A LESSON IN

LEADERSHIP



## AUGUST 2022 | IN THIS ISSUE

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# HELPING HANDS

One of the great opportunities I experience each year is meeting our student delegates for the Washington Youth Tour. Earlier this summer, we sent four high school students to Washington, D.C., for the state's oldest leadership development program.

While on the tour, delegates learn about cooperative principles, including "Concern for Community," while meeting other highly-motivated teens from across Georgia and the U.S. I always look forward to meeting our delegates and seeing how they grow into their roles in the community. You'll learn more about our student delegates in this issue of *JEMCO News*.

Folks often ask about the work Jackson EMC does in the community - from educational initiatives to supporting civic organizations and charitable programs. Co-ops, like Jackson EMC, were founded on the premise of making life better for people in the community, and we have a real stake in the community we serve.

With the start of a new school year, you may see some of our employees in schools teaching students how to stay safe around electricity or sharing the great opportunities at career fairs.

Applications for our Bright Ideas grant program, which has now awarded more than \$400,000 to middle school teachers for innovative classroom projects, are now open. Our employees also engage with local organizations, like school boards, civic groups, youth activities and more. We're proud that our employees have the opportunity to take such active roles in our community.

**Have a story to share? Email me at [chip@jacksonemc.com](mailto:chip@jacksonemc.com).**

**Chip Jakins**  
President/CEO

## Bright Ideas GRANT APPLICATION DEADLINE APPROACHING

**Are you a middle school educator with an innovative or creative class project that needs funding? Jackson EMC is now accepting proposals for Bright Ideas grants. The deadline to apply is Sept. 6.**

Bright Ideas is a grant program from Jackson EMC that funds creative and innovative classroom projects in middle schools. Educators who teach sixth through eighth grades can earn up to \$2,000 for projects conducted either face-to-face or in digital learning environments. Bright Ideas grants have been awarded to educators providing instruction in history, language arts, math, science, social studies, information technology, music, drama and more. Some recent recipients have incorporated engineering design, interactive technology, virtual reality or artificial intelligence in their lessons.

Bright Ideas grant applications must be submitted online no later than Sept. 6. Applicants must be state-certified educators in a public middle school in Jackson EMC's service area.



**TO APPLY FOR A BRIGHT IDEAS GRANT, VISIT [JACKSONEMC.COM/BRIGHTIDEAS](https://www.jacksonemc.com/brightideas)**

# ANNUAL MEETING NOTICE

## to members

Dear Member,

Official notice is hereby given that the 2022 meeting of the members of Jackson Electric Membership Corporation will be held at the headquarters in Jefferson, Ga., on **Thursday, September 22, 2022.**

Registration will begin at approximately 5:00 p.m. The meeting will be called to order at approximately 6:30 p.m. by the chairperson. The purpose of the meeting is to:

1. Receive reports of officers, directors and committees;
2. Elect three directors; and
3. Handle all other business that may properly come before the meeting or any adjournment thereof.

The meeting will feature prizes, entertainment, a box supper, important business and other special programs. Additional details will be available in the September issue of *JEMCO News* and on our website, [jacksonemc.com](http://jacksonemc.com).

You are requested to be present.

Sincerely,  
Lynn Price, Secretary, Board of Directors



### SAVE THE DATE: JACKSON EMC'S ANNUAL MEETING

September 22, 2022, at 5:00 p.m.  
Jackson EMC | Jefferson, Georgia

Boxed supper, prizes and entertainment



## ANNUAL MEETING PERFORMERS ANNOUNCED

**Greater Vision, an award-winning gospel group, will perform at Jackson EMC's Annual Meeting on Thursday, Sept. 22, at the headquarters in Jefferson.**

Registration begins at 5:00 p.m. that day.

Greater Vision regularly appears on the TV program *InTouch*, as well as the *Gaither Gospel Series*. Gerald Wolfe, the group's founder, served as co-host on Bill Gaither's syndicated *Homecoming Radio* show, which aired weekly on almost 3,000 radio stations around the world.

The group's performers include Wolfe, who serves as pianist and emcee. Multi-award-winning songwriter Rodney Griffin sings the lead for the group. Chris Allman, writer of the 2015 Song of the Year, "For All He's Done," sings tenor. Joe Epley, a baritone, is the newest member of Greater Vision.

Greater Vision performs more than 175 times a year. Its latest album, "The Journey," celebrates the group's more than 30 years of ministry.



# A LESSON IN

# LEADERSHIP



**Around 1,000 high school students from across the country, representing their local electric cooperatives, had the unique opportunity to learn about leadership and public service in the nation's capital. Four students representing Jackson EMC were among the delegates.**

"Meeting our senators on the steps of the U.S. Capitol was surreal," said Jillian Vacha, a junior at North Gwinnett High School, who was one of Jackson EMC's student delegates on the Washington Youth Tour. "It was the coolest experience and meeting them helped me recognize the influence young people can have on the government."

Jackson EMC's other delegates included David Boers, a junior at Gwinnett Online Campus High School; Isaac Miller, a junior at East Jackson Comprehensive High School; and Ansley Robinson, a junior at Madison County High School. The weeklong experience in Washington, D.C. was sponsored by Georgia's electric cooperatives and organized by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

The Washington Youth Tour celebrated its 57th year in Georgia as the premier leadership development program for many EMCs' youth activities. Delegates from Jackson

EMC were selected based on academics, community service, oral and written communication skills, letters of recommendation and a personal interview. More than 70 students representing Georgia's electric cooperatives began their experience with team-building activities in Atlanta. They then had a special tour of the Little White House in Warm Springs, where they learned about President Franklin Roosevelt's role in the history of electric cooperatives.

Once in Washington, D.C., students visited the Lincoln Memorial, the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial, Arlington National Cemetery, Mount Vernon, the U.S. Air Force and Pentagon 9/11 memorials, the Smithsonian museums and more. While at the Capitol, youth tour delegates met with members of the Georgia congressional delegation.

*Jackson EMC's youth tour delegates share their experiences from the Washington Youth Tour.*

**JILLIAN VACHA**  
North Gwinnett High School

#### **ACTIVITIES:**

Gwinnett Student Leadership Team, Junior Economic Club of Atlanta, volunteer instructor at Mathnasium and Bharathanatyam classical dancer.

#### **DID YOU LEARN A LESSON FROM YOUTH TOUR THAT YOU THINK WILL SERVE YOU WELL IN LIFE?**

"Whether it was staying up late with my roommate or sparking a conversation with a delegate from Illinois, I loved meeting students from across the nation. You realize how similar students are and how small the world really is."

#### **WHAT ONE PLACE OR ACTIVITY ON THE TOUR MADE THE GREATEST IMPRESSION ON YOU?**

"Direct access to senators and them being so open and helpful has greatly increased my interest in politics and government. I can't wait to see where I go from here."



U.S. Sen. Jon Ossoff with Jillian Vacha

**ANSLEY ROBINSON**  
Madison County High School

**ACTIVITIES:**

Volleyball, National Honor Society, Wind Ensemble, Fellowship of Christian Athletes and volunteer with Extra Special People.

**HAS PARTICIPATION IN THE WASHINGTON YOUTH TOUR INFLUENCED OR CHANGED YOUR CAREER PLANS?**

"Touring the Capitol and listening to successful people gave me insight that makes me want to continue my plans to pursue law and public policy."

**DO YOU THINK THE YOUTH TOUR WILL HELP YOU BECOME A BETTER LEADER?**

"I think so because I was able to connect and build relationships with many new people on the tour. I also learned to use teamwork to solve problems."



**ACTIVITIES:**

Model UN, Gwinnett Student Leadership Team, AV Director for Theatre and Fine Arts Program, gaming tournaments, and data and systems analysis expertise to local leaders.

**DAVID BOERS**  
Gwinnett Online Campus High School

**WHAT WAS YOUR FAVORITE STOP ON THE TOUR?**

"The Marine Corps Sunset Parade was cool because we were around so many great people. I also enjoyed the Capitol and the White House stops."

**DO YOU THINK THE YOUTH TOUR WILL HELP YOU BECOME A BETTER LEADER?**

"Yes. Working with so many people definitely helped me learn about leading a group."



**ISAAC MILLER**  
East Jackson Comprehensive High School

**ACTIVITIES:**

National Art Honor Society, Student Council, Beta Club, Choral Program, church youth band and volunteer with iServe Ministries.

**WHAT ONE PLACE OR ACTIVITY MADE THE GREATEST IMPRESSION ON YOU DURING THE TOUR?**

"The Vietnam Veterans Memorial had a powerful effect. Seeing all the names and knowing that many of them were as young as us had a strong effect on me."

**HAS PARTICIPATION IN THE WASHINGTON YOUTH TOUR INFLUENCED OR CHANGED YOUR CAREER PLANS?**

"It made me more interested in public policy."



The Jackson EMC Foundation board of directors awarded a total of

**\$98,460 in grants**

for organizations during its June meeting.

**ORGANIZATIONAL GRANT RECIPIENTS:**

**\$15,000 | Annandale Village**, a nonprofit residential community serving adults with developmental disabilities or traumatic brain injuries, to provide funding for renovation supplies, including flooring, paint and trim, for a women’s home in the residential community.

**\$15,000 | Family Promise of Athens**, a network of area congregations and more than 1,000 volunteers, for its Preventing & Breaking the Cycle of Homelessness Program that provides temporary housing and services to homeless families.

**\$15,000 | Georgia Mountains YMCA**, in Gainesville, to help underprivileged elementary and middle school students attend its afterschool program, which provides a safe environment with homework assistance, enrichment activities, relationship building, sports, games and arts and crafts at elementary schools in Banks and Hall counties.

**\$10,000 | Athens Area Diaper Bank**, to provide diapers for low-income families in Clarke County.

**\$10,000 | Judy House**, for its transitional housing program, which provides resources, counseling and emergency housing for men released from corrective programs.



Judy House

**\$9,600 | Families 4 Families**, a nonprofit agency that recruits, trains, and supports foster families across all Jackson EMC counties, for the home study approval process.

**\$9,360 | Joy Community Kitchen**, to provide 12 months of meals for vulnerable seniors through the Duluth Cooperative.

**\$7,500 | Rotary Club of Gainesville**, to fund accessibility ramps for people with disabilities or other mobility challenges.

**\$7,000 | Rachel’s Gift**, an organization providing specialized bereavement care for parents who have lost a child to miscarriage, stillbirth or infant death, for its pregnancy and infant loss grief support program in all Jackson EMC counties.

 FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO APPLY FOR A GRANT, VISIT [JACKSONEMC.COM/FOUNDATION](https://www.jacksonemc.com/foundation).

**COMMUNITY IMPACT: CITY OF REFUGE**

**City of Refuge Athens, formerly called City of Hope Athens, provides food and necessary supplies to families and children in crisis. The Jackson EMC Foundation recently gave City of Refuge Athens a \$15,000 grant to purchase food for its backpack feeding program that serves students in Athens-Clarke County schools. With the help of this grant, 725 children were served weekly.**


“We hear so many stories from schools,” said Geoff Rushing, founder of City of Refuge Athens. “The needs in our communities are at a significant level.”

In addition to providing children with food-filled backpacks, City of Refuge Athens provides beds and bedding for children identified as having no beds by social workers. In the last 12 months, 122 new beds were provided for local children in need.

“Through the generosity of this grant, we can continue to provide for our community. It has helped us move the ball farther down the field,” said Rushing.



Photo provided by City of Refuge Athens

 TO LEARN MORE ABOUT CITY OF REFUGE ATHENS, VISIT [CITYOFREFUGEATHENS.ORG](https://www.cityofrefugeathens.org).

## Shrimp Spread



### INGREDIENTS:

1/2 cup butter or margarine, softened	2 tsp. lemon juice
1 8 oz. package cream cheese, softened	1 small onion, finely chopped
2 tsp. mayonnaise	1/2 cup celery, finely chopped
Dash of garlic salt to taste	2 4 oz. cans small shrimp, drained and thawed (typically found in the canned meat aisle near the tuna or in the frozen food section)
1/8 tsp. pepper	
1/8 tsp. Worcestershire sauce	

### DIRECTIONS:

Combine butter, cream cheese, mayonnaise, garlic salt, pepper, Worcestershire sauce, and lemon juice; mix well. Stir in onion, celery, and shrimp. Serve with crackers or party rye bread.

“ I always clip the recipes from the *JEMCO News* so I thought I'd submit one. My dear Aunt Mary Ann always prepared this favorite for our family gatherings. It can be prepared the day before and refrigerated overnight to allow the flavors to blend together. Set out about an hour before serving for good consistency. ”

- SHIRLEY WHITE, COMMERCE

SEND US YOUR BEST RECIPES: [RECIPES@JACKSONEMC.COM](mailto:RECIPES@JACKSONEMC.COM) OR MAIL TO:  
COOPERATIVE COOKING | JACKSON EMC | PO BOX 38 | JEFFERSON, GA 30549  
FIND MORE RECIPES AT [WWW.JACKSONEMC.COM/RECIPES](http://WWW.JACKSONEMC.COM/RECIPES).

## Jackson EMC Communicators Receive National Awards

**Jackson EMC's communication department recently earned multiple awards from the Cooperative Communicators Association (CCA) for communication pieces developed for members and employees.**

CCA is a trade association of cooperatives across North America, including brands like Sunkist, Land O'Lakes, National Cooperative Bank, Dairy Farmers of America and many electric cooperatives. The organization's annual awards program recognizes excellence in communication projects and programs developed by its cooperative members.

Jackson EMC earned these honors:

- First place among websites for the relaunch of Jackson EMC's website, [jacksonemc.com](http://jacksonemc.com). Judges' comments included, "Site makes a great first impression. Good color, font and photo selections. Also works well on mobile devices."
- First place for a special Jackson EMC-branded coffee tin given to cooperative retirees. The coffee tin included artwork created for Jackson EMC showing a lineman drinking coffee. Judges' comments included, "This is a practical item and very creative! As a fellow coffee lover, if I had received this gift, I'd use the coffee AND save the package. Mission accomplished!"
- Second place for a documentary video about Jackson EMC linemen competing in the International Lineman's Rodeo.
- Second place for a promotional video highlighting innovation at Jackson EMC. The video was shown at the 2021 Annual Meeting, is featured on the website and has been used several commercials.
- Third place in member publications for *JEMCO News*, Jackson EMC's monthly newsletter for members.

In addition, another publication by Jackson EMC was honored in the national Spotlight on Excellence Awards program, sponsored by the Council of Rural Electric Communicators and the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. The cooperative's employee newsletter, *JEMClips*, received a silver award in the best internal news publication category.

"I am so proud of this creative and talented team to be honored at this level. These awards speak to the daily mission of creating engaging communication strategies that enhance understanding of Jackson EMC, its people and its values," said April Sorrow, Jackson EMC's vice president of communication.

Jackson EMC communication team members honored with these awards included: Casey Abernathy, Brooke Blackmon, Taylor Compton, Karen Ewing, Wendy Jones, Dekotah Mathis, Shelby Rumer and Kerri Testament.

YOUR POWER.  
YOUR COMMUNITY.

A PUBLICATION FOR  
JACKSON EMC MEMBERS

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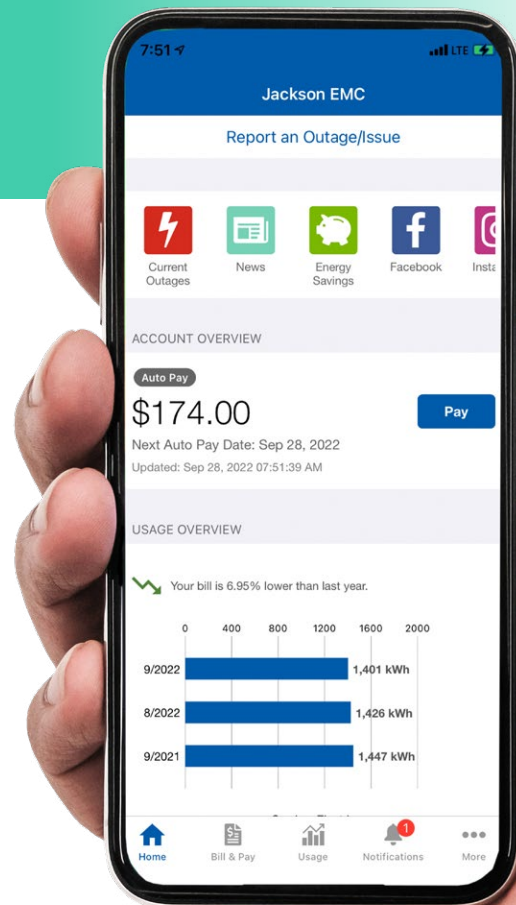
## Download the MyJacksonEMC Mobile App

**The MyJacksonEMC mobile app makes it easier for you to manage your Jackson EMC account.**

With the MyJacksonEMC mobile app, you can access your account information, view your energy use and report an outage. The dashboard gives you a quick view of your recent energy use, account balance and current outages.

Want more detailed information about your energy use? The MyJacksonEMC mobile app shows your energy use by the hour, day, month or specific date range.

The MyJacksonEMC mobile app is free to download in the App Store and Google Play.



TO LEARN MORE, VISIT [MYJACKSONEMC.COM](http://MYJACKSONEMC.COM).