



KEFENOKE

RURAL ELECTRIC MEMBERSHIP CORPORATION

"OWNED BY THOSE WE SERVE"

FAMILY FEATURES

**"Don't judge each day
by the harvest your reap
but by the seeds you plant."**

—Robert Louis Stevenson

(Cut Here)

*Published bi-monthly
and mailed to members of
Okefenoke Rural Electric
Membership Corporation
Nahunta, Georgia 31553*

Michele Hutchins, Editor

OFFICE HOURS

8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Monday through Friday

Speak to a Customer Service Representative by
phone Monday - Friday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

CO-OP BUSINESS NUMBER

Toll Free 1-800-262-5131

<https://oremc.com>

E-MAIL

customer.service@oremc.com

John Middleton
General Manager

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

R. Wayne Combs
President

Steve E. Rawl
1st Vice President

Bobby S. Sports
2nd Vice President

Cristi Koncz
Secretary/Treasurer

Jamie Giddens
Clyde Mizell
Craig Morgan
Jimmy Woodard

"OWNED BY THOSE WE SERVE"



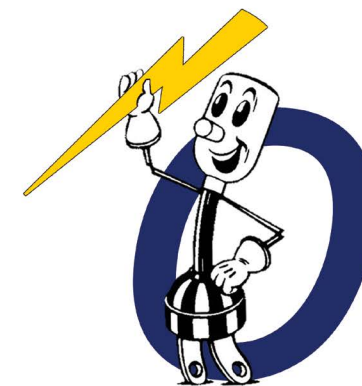
OREMC Makes Check Presentation

Okefenoke REMC made an \$860 donation to the Southeast Cancer Unit, Inc. The funds were proceeds from OREMC's annual golf tournament. Presenting the check to Linda Henderson, team leader for the Branching Out in Brantley chapter of the Southeast Cancer Unit, Inc., was OREMC's Purchasing Coordinator Michael Hickox, who also organized the golf tournament.

Expressing her thanks to OREMC, Mrs. Henderson noted the Southeast Cancer Unit currently has 350 patients it is assisting with gas vouchers, medical supplies and medication costs. For information or an application to the Southeast Cancer Unit, Inc., contact Linda Henderson directly at 912-288-4318, or the main office in Waycross at 912-287-9008.

OREMC Helps Build Lending Library

Inspiring young minds through reading is the goal of the new lending library at the Hoboken Community Center. The free library encourages kids to "take a book, leave a book." A project of Brantley Family Connections, the library was donated by the Brantley Chamber of Commerce thanks to materials donated by Okefenoke REMC and ACE Hardware of Nahunta. OREMC's own Chris Crews, general foreman, along with friend Barney King, built the lending library. Crews' wife, Cindy, painted the library.



KEFENOKE

RURAL ELECTRIC MEMBERSHIP CORPORATION

"OWNED BY THOSE WE SERVE"

KEFENOKE REMC • VOLUME 70, NUMBER 5 • SEPT/OCT 2018



79th Annual Meeting Spotlights the Cooperative Advantage

A large crowd of consumer-members, family and guests turned out for Okefenoke REMC's Annual Meeting on Saturday, Sept. 8, celebrating 79 years of tradition and fellowship that is the cornerstone of the cooperative business model.

Following entertainment by Steven and Melissa Popwell and the presentation of colors for the national anthem by Brantley County High School AFJROTC, Board President Wayne Combs updated members on several cooperative initiatives undertaken over the past year. Most notably he reported, "This time last year we were just beginning the implementation of our new SCADA system. Today, intelligent electronic devices are now installed in each of our 18 substations, connected by an integrated network to our control center and enable our system operators to know there is a problem as it occurs. This allows us to respond to power disruptions more quickly and efficiently."

Mr. Combs also discussed a number of communication initiatives OREMC has launched and detailed the many economic development, school and civic organizations the cooperative partners with.

General Manager John Middleton reviewed the summary annual audit report denoting OREMC is financially sound. He said, "We are optimistic about the future, particularly in light of current growth trends. We will continue to focus on improving reliability and holding the line on costs. We continue to adapt to new challenges and seek new ways to bring value to our members."

To that point, he noted: total equity was up \$1,224,000 to \$55,611,000; long-term debt decreased by \$4,342,000; \$1,793,000 was returned to members in 2017, marking the 52nd consecutive year capital credits were refunded and totaling \$23,623,000; and that as of June 30, OREMC had 37,099 consumer-members, which is 1,277 more than last year representing a growth rate of 3.6 percent.

Following his report, the election results for the Board of Directors was announced. Craig Morgan was elected to represent District 4-Middle Brantley County, and re-elected were R. Wayne Combs, District 1-Baker County, and Jimmy Woodard, District 5-West Brantley County and Ware County.

The meeting closed with the distribution of door prizes, honoring the oldest members in attendance—Barbara Johns, 92, and Jonathan Carter, 97—and awarding the grand prizes of \$500 each to John Oliver and John V. Smith Jr., both from Brantley County.



All OREMC offices will be closed on Thursday, Nov. 22 and Friday, Nov. 23.

Automated account information and outage reporting systems are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week at 800-262-5131 or 912-462-5131.



We wish you a happy and safe Thanksgiving holiday.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Turn off kitchen, bath and other exhaust fans within 20 minutes after you're done cooking or bathing. When replacing exhaust fans, consider installing high-efficiency, low-noise models.

Source: energy.gov



Statement of Nondiscrimination

Okefenoke Rural Electric Membership Corporation is an equal opportunity provider and employer. 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.

Submit your favorite recipe to Jen Shuman at recipes@oremc.com. Bi-monthly one recipe will be selected for publication and that person will receive a \$25.00 credit on their next month's bill.



* * * * *

Isaiah 12:2 King James Version

"Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and not be afraid: for the LORD JEHOVAH is my strength and my song; he also is become my salvation."

* * * * *

To nominate your church, contact Dewayne Johns at 1-800-262-5131 Ext. 1143 or email dewayne.johns@oremc.com.

Church of the Month



St. George Church of God

Sunday School 9:45 A.M.
Morning Worship Service 10:45 A.M.
Evening Worship Service 5:00 P.M.
Wednesday Evening Service 7:30 P.M.

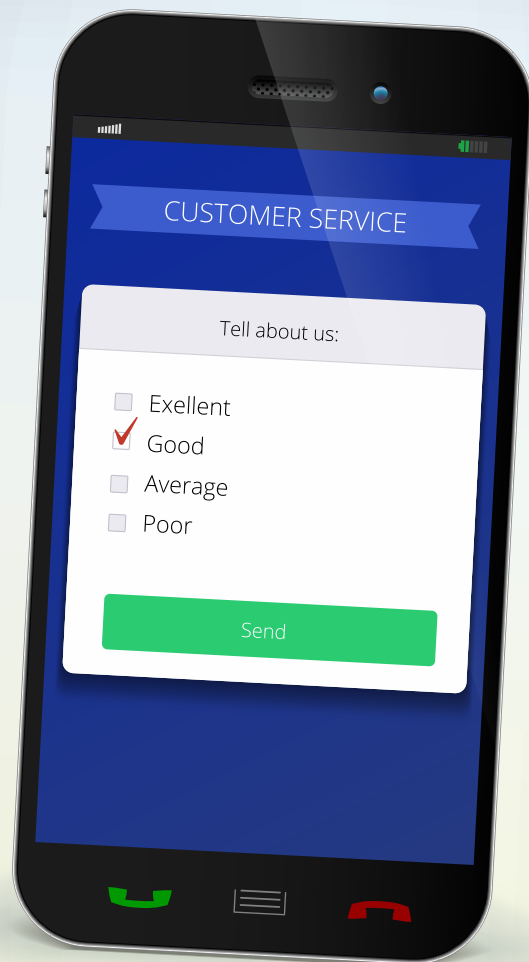
Pastor: Grady Albritton

11912 Johnson St. • St. George, GA 31562
912.843.2285

Member Services Survey: Your Participation is Key!

During the month of October, you may be randomly selected to participate in the member services survey we will be conducting. This survey helps Okefenoke REMC to better understand how we are doing from a customer service perspective, get input from you on our various programs and services, communication preferences and interest in new energy products and/or programs.

If selected, you will receive a post card in the mail inviting you to complete the survey online using the access code provided. Those who choose not to complete the survey online may receive a call asking them to complete the approximately seven-minute survey over the phone. Members selected who complete the survey will be entered in a drawing for account credit or cash prizes.



Your OREMC: More Than Just Electricity

October is National Co-op Month and the perfect time to highlight what sets electric cooperatives, including Okefenoke REMC, apart.

OREMC is community born, community led and focused on you, our consumer-members. While our original mission was to help light up our corner of rural America, the electric utility industry, and our dependence on electricity, has changed dramatically over the past 79 years. The focus of our business is powering your life every day, however, it is also about doing so reliably, embracing and promoting renewable energy resources and being a catalyst for good in our communities.

For these reasons we continually reinvest in and update our distribution system with new technologies. It is why we installed three solar arrays and offer subscriptions to our Cooperative Solar program, giving you the opportunity to use solar energy and offset our carbon footprint. And it is why we partner with our local communities to foster education and economic development — the role that is often the most valuable strength of our co-op.

Right here in our eight-county service area, we partner with churches, schools and civic organizations to help spark young minds, shape the leaders of tomorrow, encourage team work on and off the playing field, and to assist those who are in need. Some specific examples include:

- The Ferst Foundation, childhood literacy program
- Georgia High School Association
- Southeast Cancer Unit, Inc.
- Awarding ten \$2,000 scholarships annually
- Washington Youth Tour, sponsor four students annually
- Active in our local Chambers of Commerce
- Active in Regional Development Authorities

The co-op business model is unique in that we put people first. We strive to be a trusted voice in our communities. At OREMC, we always have our consumer-members' best interest at heart, because we live and work here too.

Anne Price contributed to this article. She writes on cooperative issues for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the Arlington, Virginia based service arm of the nation's 900-plus consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives.

Winter Rates Go into Effect October 1

Winter billing rates will go into effect on October 1, equalizing the cost per kilowatt hour regardless of usage. This is an offset to the two-tier rates in effect during the summer months, which saw an increase in per kWh cost to 11.77 when monthly usage was over 1,000 kWh. The two-tier rates were established to encourage energy conservation during peak demand times. A higher demand for electricity during the summer months can result in higher energy bills year-round.

In addition to the cost per kilowatt hour, all bills carry a flat, monthly basic facilities charge — the cost for maintaining our distribution system and service facilities — plus applicable power cost adjustments and sales tax. The residential basic facilities charge through October 31 is \$25. Beginning November 1 it will be \$30.

Winter Rates	
Effective October 1-31, 2018	
0-1000 kWh	9.77 cents per kWh
Over 1000 kWh	9.77 cents per kWh
Effective November 1, 2018 - May 31, 2019	
0-1000 kWh	9.58 cents per kWh
Over 1000 kWh	9.58 cents per kWh

Want to make sure you are using energy efficiently? You can visit the Home Energy Suite at oremc.com to access various energy calculators and information, or call a member services representative at 800-262-5131 to schedule an in-home energy analysis.

Capital Credits Assigned for 2017

One of the benefits of being a consumer-member of a not-for-profit electric cooperative is you are an owner who has a stake in the financial success of Okefenoke REMC through capital credits. Capital credits are calculated by taking OREMC's previous year's annual margins (revenue minus expenses) and allocated to each member of record based on their total billing that year.

Capital credits are retained by OREMC for operating capital before being retired and paid back to our consumer-members. The money is used instead of borrowing capital, which reduces the co-op's interest expense, ultimately saving you money.

Margins are also assigned to OREMC by other cooperatives we are a member of, such as our power suppliers. These margins are also assigned as capital credits to members based on their total annual billing.

OREMC's margins for 2017 totaled \$2,767,119.64 (4.1612%), plus an additional \$385,915.27 (.5803%) in margins from our power suppliers resulting in a total annual margin of \$3,153,034.91 (4.7416%). To calculate your capital credit assignment for 2017, multiply the total amount you were billed in 2017, minus taxes, by .0474 percent. For example:

Total 2017 billing (less taxes)	Multiplied by percentage	Equals your capital credit assignment
\$750	.0474	\$35.55

Congratulations!



Congratulations to John Oliver (left) and John V. Smith (right), both of Brantley County. Each was awarded the grand prize of \$500 at the 79th Annual Meeting.

OCTOBER IS NATIONAL CO-OP MONTH

Your electric co-op is community born,
community led and focused on you.

Then. Now. Always.

