

# KEFENOKE

RURAL ELECTRIC MEMBERSHIP CORPORATION

"OWNED BY THOSE WE SERVE"

OKEFENOKE REMC • VOLUME 70, NUMBER 6 • NOV/DEC 2018



Pictured are (l-r): Houston Dowling, Roger Sloan, Steven Wynn, Marcus Skelton, Will Teston, Ryan Carter, Jody Miller and Todd Gay. They were the first of 23 linemen to be deployed to assist our fellow cooperatives in middle and southwest Georgia, and northwest Florida, with power restoration efforts.

## Lending a Hand in the Wake of Hurricane Michael

The eastern edge of Hurricane Michael grazed our service area as it barreled across the Florida Panhandle and through Georgia on October 10 and 11. Thankfully, only 2,500 OREMC members were impacted with outages, and crews worked through the night to restore power, getting everyone back on by midday on October 11. That is when eight OREMC linemen headed out to assist Colquitt EMC in Valdosta and Oconee EMC in Dudley with their restoration efforts.

Their systems were destroyed, and their members were among the 210,000 at Georgia EMC's without power in the wake of Hurricane Michael. From there our crews moved to Grady EMC in Cairo, then Gulf Coast Electric Cooperative in Wewahatchka, Florida. All told we had 23 linemen that put in nearly 5,000 man-hours of work over a four-week period.

"Devasted, destroyed and the worst damage seen since Hurricane Hugo," were among the comments from our linemen as they talked about their experiences. Before they could pick up lines they had to cut their way through roads and rights-of-way made impassable due to the sheer number of downed trees, poles and debris. Even then, picking up lines came about only after new poles were set—often times the entire phase had to be rebuilt. The last of OREMC's deployed crews returned home on November 7.



# Welcome New Board Directors

Okefenoke REMC's consumer-members elected **Mr. Craig Morgan** from Nahunta, Georgia, as their District 4-Middle Brantley County representative on the board of directors. He will serve a three-year term.



A life-long resident of Brantley County, Morgan currently works as the maintenance and facilities director for the Brantley County School System.

"I grew up hearing stories about the REA as my grandfather, Horace Morgan, worked and retired from Okefenoke REMC," notes Morgan. "I bring a different generational perspective and am humbled by the support I received. Knowing the people who work at Okefenoke and their commitment to our members

and communities, I am equally invested in them and the organization."

Also new to the board is **Mr. Terrell Brazell** from St. Mary's, Georgia, representing District 9-Southeast



Camden County. Brazell was appointed by the Board of Directors due to a vacancy from an unfulfilled term. He is a broker with Mossy Oak Properties in St. Marys, and feels he can advocate for both the cooperative and its consumer-members with his unique perspective, while also gaining

a greater understanding of the process of delivering, maintaining and restoring power.

## Member Benefit: Capital Credit Checks Issued

For the 58th consecutive year, Okefenoke REMC will be issuing capital credits to our consumer-members. OREMC's Board of Directors have authorized the refund of patronage capital from 1990 and 1991 totaling \$1,165,134, as well as an estate allocation of \$238,600. Checks will be mailed to members in December.

Capital credits are calculated by taking OREMC's annual margins (revenue minus expenses) and allocating a portion to each member of record based on their total billing that year. Margins are also assigned to OREMC by other cooperatives we are a member of, such as our power suppliers. OREMC retains capital credits for operating capital before being retired and returned to our consumer-members.

Note: not all current members will receive capital credit checks in December.

- Refunds are only to consumer-members who received electric service from OREMC in 1990/91.

- Refunds of less than \$5 will be made as an account credit instead of by check.

- Refunds of less than \$1 will be held and refunded at such time the total refund is more than \$1.

Checks issued to deceased members should be forwarded to heirs or an estate administrator. They can work with our

customer service department to determine eligibility for a lump-sum payment of all accrued capital credits based on OREMC's Estate Refund policy. Call 800-262-5131 for more information.

## Did You Know?

OREMC has retired \$24 million to members since 1960 - \$1.4 million in 2018 alone. Because electric co-ops operate at cost, any excess revenues (called margins) are allocated and retired to our members in the form of capital credits.





## Camden County High School Presented GHSA Cooperative Spirit Sportsmanship Award

Helping to shape future citizens of the community is something close to the heart of each electric membership cooperative (EMC) throughout the state. When engaged in athletic competition, high school students have one goal in mind: victory. But beyond wins and losses, one of the greatest lessons learned from competing in high school athletics is the ability to compete with class and sportsmanship. That is why Okefenoke REMC is proud to announce Camden County High School in Kingsland as a winner of a 2017-2018 Georgia High School Association (GHSA) Cooperative Spirit Sportsmanship Award.

Camden County High School, along with the other GHSA-member schools honored with this award, saw their representatives demonstrate a high-level of honorable behavior across all sports throughout the school year and among many different groups, ranging from students, coaches, parents, spectators and officials. With the award serving as a compliment to anyone involved with the school's athletic events, this is an award not just for the school, but for the entire community. *Read more online at <https://oremc.com/news>.*

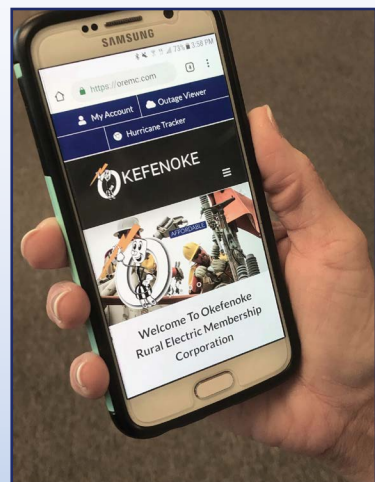
## OREMC Offering College Scholarships

Okefenoke REMC is now accepting applications for the OREMC and Walter Harrison Scholarship. Detailed information and applications can be found online at [oremc.com/our-community](https://oremc.com/our-community). Applicants may be a high school senior or an undergraduate or vocational/technical student. Nontraditional students are also invited to apply. The **deadline** for all applications is **5 p.m. on Tuesday, January 23, 2019**.

**OREMC Scholarships:** OREMC will award 10 scholarships, each in the amount of \$2,000. Applicants must reside in one of the eight counties OREMC serves — Brantley, Camden, Charlton, Glynn, Ware and Wayne counties in Georgia and Baker and Nassau counties in Florida. These funds can be used at any accredited college, university or technical school in the United States.

**Walter Harrison Scholarship:** Funded by Georgia's electric cooperatives, OREMC will submit two applications to the Georgia Electric Membership Corporation to be judged alongside those submitted by other cooperatives from across the state. Applicants' primary residence must be an OREMC member or employee household and scholarship winners must use these funds at a college, university or technical school located in Georgia. Eleven (11) scholarships will be awarded in 2019.

If you have questions or need more information, contact Member Service Representative Dewayne Johns at 800-262-5131 ext. 1143 or via email at [dewayne.johns@oremc.com](mailto:dewayne.johns@oremc.com).



### Want to better manage your OREMC account?

Alerts put the power in your hands and include daily usage and payment due date notifications. To sign up or learn more, log in to your account at [oremc.com](https://oremc.com) or call customer service at 800-262-5131.

## OREMC Hosts FFA Wiring Competition Practice Session

At the end of October, Okefenoke REMC held a practice session in advance of the South Region FFA Wiring Competition that was held at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College (ABAC) in Tifton on November 15. The statewide competition is scheduled for January 2019. Nine students from six surrounding counties participated in OREMC's practice session that took place at Brantley Country High School.



Open to high school students in grades nine through 12, the wiring competition is an Agricultural Electrification Career Development Event sponsored jointly by the Georgia FFA Association and the Georgia Electric Membership Corporation who represents the state's 41 electric membership cooperatives.

*Read more online at <https://oremc.com/news>.*



## OREMC Goes Pink for Breast Cancer Awareness

OREMC employees participated in the #PinkOut2018 campaign by wearing pink to work on Friday, October 12, to help elevate breast cancer awareness. For some it was an opportunity to participate in the overall effort to call attention to breast cancer and the importance of early detection. For others their pink was more personal as they honored family and friends who are survivors.



# Win a Trip to Washington, D.C.

## Youth Tour Leadership Experience Open to High School Juniors



From monuments and museums, to history in the making, the 2019 National Washington Youth Tour is a leadership experience that will immerse young people from across the country in a historical and cultural trip of a lifetime promoting awareness and understanding of our nation's past, present and future.

"I did not know I needed the people I met on the trip in my life until they were in it," reflects 2018 Youth Tour Delegate Grant Bennett of Nahunta. "Today I could not picture my life without them. I met my future college roommate on the Washington Youth Tour."

Kaden Grantham of Jesup, and fellow 2018 Youth Tour Delegate, feels similarly, "Now I have friends across Georgia who I shared this experience with. My most important takeaway is being open to new things, and that young people need to represent something greater than themselves."



Kaden and his fellow OREMC delegates in front of the Marine Corps War Memorial.

OREMC sponsors four students to participate in the Washington Youth Tour and invites all high school juniors living in the eight counties it serves — Brantley, Camden, Charlton, Glynn, Ware and Wayne counties in Georgia and Baker and Nassau counties in Florida — to apply to become a delegate. Youth Tour information and the application are available online at [oremc.com/our-community](http://oremc.com/our-community), at each of our offices in Nahunta, Kingsland and Hilliard, or from your high school guidance counselor. Completed applications must be received in one of our OREMC offices by Monday, February 25, 2019.



Grant shares his photo of the Georgia delegates on the private terrace of the Speaker of the House at the Capitol.

## Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

All OREMC offices will be closed on Monday, Dec. 24, and Tuesday, Dec. 25, as well as Tuesday, Jan. 1, 2019.

From all of us at OREMC we wish you a joyful holiday season and a happy, healthy new year.

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

### 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](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](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).



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## FAMILY FEATURES

**"As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them."**

*—John F. Kennedy*

(Cut Here) ✂

This month's featured recipe was submitted by Mrs. Wanda Cleland of Nahunta, Ga. She has been given a \$25 credit on her account.

### **Caramel Dump Cake**

- 2 cans apple pie filling
- 1 box yellow cake mix
- 2 sticks melted butter
- 1/2 cup caramel sauce (like used for ice cream topping)
- 1/2 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1/2 cup chopped pecans

Grease a 9 x 13 baking dish. Mix pie filling, caramel sauce and cinnamon. Spread evenly in dish. Sprinkle dry cake mix on top of pie filling mixture. Drizzle butter on top and then sprinkle with pecans. Bake at 350° for 45-50 minutes. Serve with Cool Whip or ice cream, if desired. You can use cherry pie filling instead of apple. It is just as good.

Submit your favorite recipe to Jen Shuman at [recipes@oremc.com](mailto: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 9:6 King James Version

*For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder; and his name shall be called Wonderful Counsellor, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.*

\* \* \* \* \*

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**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**

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

## **Church of the Month**



### **Jerusalem Missionary Baptist Church**

**Sunday School 10:30 A.M.**

**Morning Worship Service 11:30 A.M.**

**Pastor: Debbie E. Travis**

**916 Pennick Rd.  
Brunswick, GA 31525  
912-510-6256**