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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
Toll Free 1-800-262-5131

<https://oremc.com>

E-MAIL
marketing@oremc.com

John Middleton
General Manager

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Bobby S. Sports
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Cristi Koncz
Secretary/Treasurer

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Jamie Giddens
Clyde Mizell
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Jimmy Woodard

"OWNED BY THOSE WE SERVE"

Creamy Cole Slaw

provided by Swamp Fire Backwoods Bistro
(Adapted from Bobby Flay's Creamy Cole Slaw)

Preparation Time 10-15 minutes Serves 8

- INGREDIENTS
16 oz bag of cole slaw mix
3/4 cup Hellman's mayonnaise
2 tablespoons of sour cream
1-2 teaspoons onion powder
2 tablespoons white vinegar (may substitute apple cider vinegar)
2 tablespoons powdered sugar
2 teaspoons dry mustard
2 teaspoons celery salt
1/4 teaspoon freshly ground pepper
1/2 teaspoon sea salt

DIRECTIONS
Place the salad mix in a large bowl. In a separate bowl, combine all other ingredients and add to the slaw mix. Blend well. Adjust salt, pepper, onion powder & sugar to taste. Cover and place in refrigerator until ready to serve. Use within 2 days.

Note: This is a recipe used in our catering business as a side to pulled-pork. Cole slaw is also a great side dish with fried fish or heaped on a chili dog.

Located on the grounds of Newell Lodge & Resort in Folkston, Swamp Fire Backwoods Bistro is South Georgia's sizzling new culinary experience, offering an intimate, rustic setting with seating framed by the 300-year-old oak grove for which the lodge is known. The restaurant serves a freshly prepared "steak and seafood" menu every Friday and Saturday night 5:30-9 p.m. Owned by the Harvin Carter family and operated by Kay Carter and Ashley Carter-Gowen, Newell Lodge and the Swamp Fire Backwoods Bistro is a favored hospitality destination. 912-390-9454

Iosbua 1:9 (NKJV)

Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.



Church of the Month

Oak Hill Baptist Church

- Sunday School 9:45 a.m.
Sunday Praise & Worship 11 a.m.
Bible Study 5 p.m.
Evening Praise & Worship 6 p.m.
Wednesday Prayer Meeting 7 p.m.

10812 Central Ave. • Waycross, GA 31503

Pastor: Rev. Ray McMillan

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

Annual Meeting Scheduled for September 12

In accordance with Bylaw Article III, Meetings of the Members, Section 3.01, the Annual Meeting of Okefenokee Rural Electric Membership Corporation, will be held Saturday, September 12, 2020, at the Brantley County High School in Nahunta, Georgia.

Prior Notice Required to Gain Floor for more than Five Minutes at Annual Meeting

In accordance with Bylaw Article III, Section 3.08, the deadline is August 28, 2020 at 5 p.m. to submit requests to gain the floor at the Co-op's annual meeting. Requests may be made by contacting Kimi Harris at OREMC's headquarters office in Nahunta, Georgia, (800) 262-5131, extension 1111.

OREMC Nominating Committee Report

In accordance with Bylaw Article IV, Section 4.05, a Nominating Committee was appointed by the Board of Directors to prepare a list of nominations for directors to serve the districts that are due for re-election at the September 12 annual meeting of the cooperative. A meeting of the Nominating Committee was held at the headquarters office of the co-op on April 14, 2020. Nominations made by the nominating committee at that time are as follows:

- District 3 - East Brantley County and Wayne County (Georgia) Cristi B. Koncz
District 7 - Charlton County (Georgia) Jamie Giddens
District 9 - Southeast Camden County (Georgia) Terrell Brazell

Credentials and Elections Committee Appointed

In accordance with Bylaw Article III, Section 3.06, Okefenokee REMC's Board of Directors has appointed a Credentials and Elections Committee to establish the validity of petition of nomination and to verify qualifications of the candidates. Members of the appointed Committee are:

- Bobby Griffin 5612 Lauramore Rd. Macclenny, FL 32063
Jack Wilson 242 Monsie Rd. Nahunta, GA 31553
Patricia Bryant 172 Jim Bryant Road Folkston, GA 31537-7324
R. Neil Hampton P.O. Box 455 Callahan, FL 32011-0455
Jimmy Crews 1401 Lee Rd. Waycross, GA 31503-2953
Ouida H. Fry 7372 New Jesup Hwy Brunswick, GA 31523
Eugene L. Drawdy 15901 Hwy 32E Hortense, GA 31543-3731
Craig C. Brack 863 Hickory Bluff Drive Waverly, GA 31565-2600
Walter E. Josselyn, III P.O. Box 5793 St. Marys, GA 31558-5793

In addition to establishing the validity and qualification of nominees, the committee will establish and oversee voting procedures.

OREMC Credentials and Elections Committee Report

In accordance with the bylaws of Article III, Section 3.06, Okefenokee REMC's Board of Directors has appointed a Credentials and Elections Committee to establish the validity of petition of nominations and to verify qualifications of the candidates. A meeting of the Committee was held at the headquarters office of the co-op on May 18, 2020 to validate all nominations. Nominations made by the nominating committee are as follows:

- District 3 - East Brantley County and Wayne County (Georgia) Cristi B. Koncz
District 7 - Charlton County (Georgia) Jamie Giddens
District 9 - Southeast Camden County (Georgia) Terrell Brazell

The validity of all nominees has been determined by the Credentials and Election Committee.

Elections of Directors - In accordance with bylaws adopted by Okefenokee REMC members, any contested election held to fill the positions of directors with expiring terms will be made through mail-in balloting. The procedure of mail voting is described in Article IV, Section 4.03 Manner of Voting and Election of Directors, Section 4.06 Ballots, Section 4.07 Distribution of Ballots, and Section 4.08 Conduct of Election. (For complete copy of OREMC Corporate Bylaws go to our website: oremc.com.)

Annual Meeting Advisory

As the newsletter went to press, OREMC was preceding with plans for the 81st Annual Meeting as scheduled for September 12. However, the COVID-19 global pandemic is a continually evolving situation. Just as we have throughout the spring, we will monitor the virus' spread over the summer and respond accordingly. Any confirmation or change in plans for the Annual Meeting will be communicated in August. Updates can be found on our website at oremc.com, Facebook and Instagram.



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Conner's A-Maize-Ing Acres Farm

#ThankALineworker: The Power Behind Your Power

April showers indeed! Several systems rolled through OREMC's service during the month of April; the worst of which rumbled from late afternoon of April 23 into the early morning hours of April 24. While the number of outages and members affected may not have set any records, the damage was significant, as was the backdrop in which our linemen were working: COVID-19 (coronavirus).

As the first responders to critical infrastructure amid the global pandemic OREMC linemen have continued to do their jobs building, maintaining, upgrading and restoring power. They have not wavered in their commitment to heed the call when storms roll in and the lights go out, to quickly and safely work to restore power. They, as do all of us at OREMC, understand there is comfort in knowing we'll be there when you need us most. That is why we take time every April to recognize our lineman as part of National Lineworker Appreciation for the work they do every day. Check out our Lineman Appreciation 2020 video on the Okefenokee REMC YouTube channel.

Braving stormy weather and other challenging conditions next to high voltage power lines, lineworkers often must climb 40 or more feet in the air, carrying heavy equipment to restore power. To help keep them safe, lineworkers wear specialized protective

clothing and equipment at all times when on the job. This includes special fire-resistant clothing that will self-extinguish, limiting potential injuries from burns and sparks. Insulated and rubber gloves are worn in tandem to protect them from electrical shock. While the gear performs a critical function, it also adds additional weight and bulk, making the job more complex. See our Ask a Lineman video on our YouTube channel.

In our OREMC communities lineworkers are responsible for keeping 3,5000 miles of lines across eight counties in two states powered up. They respond 24/7, regardless of the weather, holidays or personal considerations, to get the lights back on. During hurricanes, wildfires or storms, crews often work around the clock. So the next time you see an OREMC lineman, remember they are the power behind your power and #thankalinerworker.



TO OUR HEROES IN HARD HATS, WE THANK YOU.

#ThankALineworker

OREMC Youth Awards Winners Announced

Okefenoke REMC has announced its 2020 OREMC Scholarship winners and the four students selected as delegates for the annual Youth Tour Leadership Experience.

This is the 27th year OREMC has awarded scholarships to students residing in one of the eight counties it serves—Brantley, Camden, Charlton, Glynn, Ware and Wayne counties in Georgia, and Baker and Nassau counties in Florida. Ten scholarships of \$2,000 each were awarded. The Youth Tour delegates typically join those from Georgia's 40 other electric membership cooperatives for an all-expenses paid trip to Washington, D.C. However due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this year's Youth Tour was cancelled. In lieu of the trip each of the four students will receive a \$2,000 scholarship.

Youth Tour Winners

Bryce Morris

Bryce, Brunswick High School, is the son of Robert and Saroyi Chandler Morris. He is a member of the Pirates football and basketball teams, BETA Club, FCLA and the Boys and Girls Club of SE Georgia. Bryce serves on several advisory boards and has participated in many leadership conferences through the Boys and Girls Club and his employment with the Gathering Place.

Healthcare is Bryce's major interest with a goal of becoming a pediatrician or athletic trainer.



Caroline Lokey

Caroline, Glynn Academy, is the daughter of John and Shannon Lokey. She is a volunteer at Southeast Georgia Health System and also volunteers with daycare at Chapel Methodist Church, as a Jr. League Cotillion Assistant, Pre-Cotillion Assistant, and local Elementary School Aid. Caroline participated in Glynn Youth Leadership 2019, is a member of BETA Club, Model UN where she will serve as secretary next year, Speech and Debate clubs. She plans to attend the University of North Georgia, major in international affairs with a minor in Russian, and wants to work for the U.S. Government.



Faith Crews

Faith, Brantley County High School, is the daughter of Erik and Ashley Crews. She is Junior Class President, FFA officer, and AFJROTC Director of Operations. Faith also is a member of National Honor Society, 2019 Congress of Future Medical Leaders of America Delegate, a Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership recipient, AFJROTC National American Veteran Award and the winner of several other ROTC and FFA awards. Faith planned, organized and emceed the 2019 Salute to Veterans Day Program at Brantley County High School. Her goal is to attend the U.S. Naval Academy and study STEM or naval aviation and become a pilot for the U.S. Navy.



Tessa Dixon

Tessa, Brantley County High School, is the daughter of Brandy Willis Dixon and Alvin Dixon. She is Junior Class officer, FBLA officer, and Chaplain for the FFA. Tessa is also a BETA club member, 2019 winner of RESA Young Georgia Authors, HOBY Nominee, Governor Honors Program Nominee and is an active member in her church youth group. She also placed 2nd in the nation in Environmental Natural Resources representing Brantley County High School FFA. Tessa also writes poetry and enjoys spending time with her dog. She is undecided about her future plans at this time.



Scholarship Winners

Seth Crawford

Seth, Baker County High School, is the son of Michael and Shelly Crawford. He has been awarded the Principal List Award for having straight A's two years in a row and is a semi-finalist for the National Merit Scholarship. Seth is a member of the History Club, BETA Club, Mu Alpha Theta and Student Government. In addition to his academic achievements he also is a member of Swim Team and a member of Episcopal AmberJax Swim Team. He is also an active volunteer in his community. Seth goals are to attend the University of Central Florida, major in engineering, participate in Disney's College program and follow his dream to become a Disney Imagineer.



Mady Kate Bullard

Mady Kate, Brantley County High School, is the daughter of Frank and Dodi Bullard. She is a member of FBLA, FCA, BETA Club and Herons in Harmony, as well as preforms in her local theatre. She is also an active member in Southside Baptist Church youth group where she serves in the kitchen and several other programs at the church. She was a 2019 OREMC Youth Tour delegate. Mady Kate plans to pursue a degree in history and then either get her master's in history or enroll in medical school and become a surgeon. Mady Kate hopes to inspire others the way her heroes and heroines have inspired her.



William Gibson

Will, Brantley County High School, is the son of Tony and Donna Gibson. He is active in FFA, FBLA, Principal Advisory Board and a member of Southside Baptist Church youth. He was named Mr. BCHS, Homecoming King, Georgia Merit Scholar, HOBY Nominee and Scholar Athlete. Will was a captain on the football and basketball teams and named 1st Team All Region Football his junior and senior season. Will volunteers at church and school serving as a youth coach and mentor. He has been accepted to the University of Georgia and will major in pre-med with the goal of becoming a pediatric orthopedist.



Elizabeth Howell

Elizabeth, Brantley County High School, is the daughter of Eddie and Lisa Howell. She is active in FBLA and has held offices at the national, state and local level, FCA, CTAE General Advisory Board, CTAE Business Advisory Board, Principal Advisory Board, BETA Club, Math Team, and Southside Baptist Church Choir and Impact Youth Group. Some of Elizabeth's awards include STAR Student, CTSO Student of the Year, FBLA National Winner, FBLA National Champion and Okefenoke REMC Walter Harrison Scholarship Finalist. Elizabeth will be attending the University of Georgia majoring in international affairs. Her goal is to become an intelligence analyst for the National Security Agency.



Nathan Bryan

Nathan, Camden County High School, is the son of Jesse and Kathleen Bryan. He is a member of FCA, Medical Explorers, FFA, BETA Club and National Honor Society, as well as a member of Soccer and Cross Country teams. Nathan is a member of First Baptist Kingsland Youth Worship team and Leadership training team. He has volunteered locally with the Tim Tebow Foundation and Hurricane Relief. Nathan plans are to attend the University of North Florida his first year and then transfer to the University of Florida to major in wildlife ecology and conservation with a minor in community outreach. His goal is to become a veterinarian.



Drew Nash

Drew, Camden County High School, is the daughter of Chris and Evangeline Nash. She is a member of the Military Connections Club, BETA Club, HOSA, Key Club, National Honors Society, National Society of High School Scholars, Spanish National Honors Society, the National Science Bowl, and Science Honors Society. Some of her awards include 2019 Georgia Certificate of Merit, 2020 Scholar Program Nominee, 2020 U.S. Presidential Scholar Nominee, and 2020 Walter Harrison Scholarship winner. Drew is also a member of Camden County High School Volleyball Team where she was named Most Valuable Player and 1st Team All Region. She has been accepted to Emory University where she will be majoring in neuroscience and behavioral biology.



Grayson Carter

Grayson, Charlton County High School, is the son of Rick and Traci Carter. He is a member of Georgia Secretary of State Student Ambassadors, Student Government, BETA Club, FFA, FCA and a member the Football and Tennis teams. Grayson was selected 1st Team All Region in football and was selected to receive the President Award for Academic Excellence. Grayson plans are to attend the University of Georgia and major in finance. He wants to work for a brokerage firm with the goal of retiring to start a non-profit that will work to help rural, lower economic areas have access to technology and educate students to their fullest degree.



Michelle Liu

Michelle, Brunswick High School, is the daughter of Yun Chen and Qiang Chen. She is a member of Student Council, FBLA, United Community Junior Board of Directors, BETA Club and National Honors Society. Her honors and awards include Community Service Award, National AP Scholar, Georgia Certificate of Merit. Michelle is an active volunteer at the Humane Society, Salvation Army and Keeping Golden Isles Beautiful. Harvard University is where Michelle will be pursuing her degree in economics. Her goal is to manage a microfinance organization to help low-income individuals and small businesses with a primary focus on immigrants and non-native English speakers.



Cole Tilley

Cole, Hilliard Middle Senior High School, is the son of Brent and Rhonda Tilley. Basketball, Track, and Cross Country are some of the activities Cole participates in along with being a member of BETA Club, National Honor Society, Senior Class Committee, Chick-fil-A Leader Academy, and Youth Leadership Nassau. Cole volunteers with Relay for Life, town clean-up projects, the local elementary school and serving with the children's ministry at his church. He plans are to attend either the University of Florida or Florida State.



Travis "Ray" Lantrip Jr.

Ray, Wayne County High School, is the son of Travis and Terri Lantrip. He is a member of Drama Club, Key Club, FBLA, Literary Team, Students Against Destructive Decisions, Literary Magazine-Poetry Contributor, Swim Team, and the Youth Band at church. He has several awards for his accomplishments in drama, as well as academic and Swim Team awards. Ray is an active volunteer in his community and church where he helps with Vacation Bible School, children church and the Christmas play. Middle Georgia State University is where Ray will be attending college pursuing his degree in psychology with a goal of becoming a counseling psychologist.



OREMC initiated its first steps toward resuming regular operations on April 30 with the reopening of drive through services at each of its office locations—Nahunta, Kingsland and Hilliard, Florida—8 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday through Friday. That being said, consumer-members can expect a systematic phased-in approach to staffing up operations, just as it did to modify operations in response to COVID-19. Suspension of disconnects, including PrePay, and late fees were extended to Friday, May 29.

"We understand these are unprecedented times and the last several weeks have taken a financial toll on many of our consumer-members," says John Middleton, OREMC general manager. "By suspending disconnects and late fees we have tried to help ease the burden and assure members they have power when they need it most. However, it is important for members to realize they were still being charged for their usage. While we understand members may not be able to pay their bill all at once, we encourage them to contact us so we can work with them to establish payment arrangements."

To discuss payment options, OREMC consumer-members should contact Customer Service at 800-262-5131. Representatives are available Monday through Friday from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. In addition to setting up payment arrangements, they can connect consumer-members with agencies in their area that offer financial assistance with utility bills.

OREMC Honors Local Healthcare Heroes

OREMC honored local healthcare heroes by cooking and delivering a complete summer cookout to the 83 employees at BayView Nursing Home in Nahunta on Wednesday, May 6. The lunch was presented in recognition of and appreciation for their dedication and care to their patients during these unprecedented times. Employees from BayView paused for a photo with OREMC staff: Roger Sloan, right of way coordinator; Darren Crews, engineering manager; and John Middleton, general manager.

