



KEFENOKE
RURAL ELECTRIC MEMBERSHIP CORPORATION
"OWNED BY THOSE WE SERVE"

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Membership Corporation
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Michele Hutchins, Editor

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Monday through Friday

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"OWNED BY THOSE WE SERVE"

OREMC Foundation of Giving



The OREMC Foundation is celebrating the 112 grants it has awarded over the past two years totaling over \$400,000. The OREMC Foundation was launched in 2021 as a community development initiative to support education, economic development, community needs and disaster recovery in the communities across the eight county Okefenoke REMC service area. Qualified organizations can apply for grants on a quarterly basis that support programs and initiatives approved by the OREMC Foundation trustees in accordance with the Foundation's charter. Closing out 2023, nine organizations received grants in the fourth quarter totaling \$37,700. Read more at oremc.com/news. The next OREMC Foundation grant application deadline is Friday, April 5, 2024. Applications are available, and can be downloaded, at oremc.com/foundation.



New! Home Standby Generator Program

Providing reliable power is our standard of service at OREMC, but sometimes Mother Nature has other plans. Summer thunderstorms, hurricanes/tropical storms—even ice storms—can lead to power outages lasting hours or days. Now members can have peace of mind by being prepared for power outages with a Generac automatic standby generator.

OREMC has partnered with our supply cooperative, GRESKO, based in Smarr, Georgia, and Generac preferred-installer AMSCO Incorporated, to make the purchase and installation of a home standby generator easy for our co-op members. Additionally, qualified OREMC members are eligible for HomePlus Loans starting at 9.9% available through GoEnergy Financial to finance their generator purchase.



So how does a standby generator work? A home standby generator is permanently installed outside the home, similar to a heat pump or air conditioning unit, and runs on natural gas or propane. It continuously scans for power, and when an outage is detected, it automatically turns on. Upon activation, the generator cuts off the home's connection to OREMC's electrical system until power is restored, at which point it seamlessly switches back.

Typical installation for a 2,500 square-foot-home is a Generac 22KW generator, which can power everything in the home including air conditioning/heat pumps, well pumps, security systems and large appliances. The average cost for the generator itself and installation is \$12,000 at homes with existing natural gas service. Additional costs would apply for the installation of propane fuel.

"Our members are increasingly being presented with ways to invest in energy products/services such as rooftop solar or electric vehicles that come with significant price tags," notes OREMC Manager of Member Services Dewayne Johns. "For the money, a Generac generator is going to give you the best return on investment right now. Don't get me wrong, OREMC works diligently to upgrade, maintain and restore our distribution system to have outages affect the fewest number of people for the shortest amount of time. But as we regularly hear in the media, storms are getting bigger, stronger and causing more damage. We have been very blessed to have been minimally impacted by tropical storms/hurricanes that last few years, but preparation is the best protection."

Call 478-315-0817 and press option 1 to schedule a free, no-obligation site survey. A professional from AMSCO will survey the home, review members' power needs and provide an estimate for a Generac generator and installation.



33rd Annual Golf Tournament

Save the Date!

Saturday, April 27, 2024



Philippians 2:3-4
King James Version

³ Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves. ⁴ Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others.

"The beauty of love is that in giving it away, you are left with more than you had before."

-David Simon



Pictured are (l-r) Grayson McPhaul, Lance Dawson and Jaycob Lee.

Practice Makes Perfect: FFA Wiring Contest

OREMC's annual FFA Wiring Contest practice session, in conjunction with Brantley County High School, was held in early January ahead of the regional competition. It was a come back for Lance Dawson from Wayne County. Last year he came in fourth, and wasn't happy with his performance. Now a senior, Lance was pleased with his first place finish, and winning \$100, at this year's practice session. Rounding out the top three were Jaycob Lee from Charlton County in second and Grayson McPhaul from Ware County finishing third.

For their FFA advisors the annual OREMC wiring contest practice session offers valuable, real-world application ahead of the regional and state competitions. Ag Mechanics Teacher and FFA Advisor for Wayne County Nick Hodges notes, "Lance's disappointment in himself at last year's fourth place finish in the OREMC practice session was so motivating he ended up finishing first in the regional competition with a perfect score. The

practice makes a difference."

Audrey Pickren, FFA Advisor for Charlton County, agrees, "The practice session is valuable because of the feedback they receive on each part of the contest that they can use to improve their performance. These aren't just wiring skills, but life skills."

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 representing the state's 41 electric membership cooperatives. The event is divided into three sections: a presentation/demonstration speech, problem solving questions and a wiring problem. Each section is timed and scored based on work completed and competency demonstrated. The top two winners from each of the six regions advance to the statewide competition.



OREMC Named Best of Camden County!

The votes are in and OREMC is *Tribune & Georgian* readers' choice for best utility provider in Camden County. We are pleased and honored to be selected and thank our OREMC members for their votes. It is a testament to the member service we strive to provide in powering your lives every day.



Building Out OREMC's Distribution System

As our nation increasingly relies on electricity to power the economy, keeping the lights on has never been more important. OREMC is committed to powering—and empowering—our community at a cost local families and business can afford.

One critical component of reliable power is the mix of energy resources used to generate the electricity we purchase and deliver to homes and businesses across our two-state service area. Our current energy mix from Oglethorpe Power is 60% natural gas, 18% nuclear, 12% coal and 10% hydro and solar. While renewable energy sources continue to grow, we still depend on a diverse energy mix to ensure reliable power is available when our members need it.

One of the other key components to managing reliability is the increasing use of technology to enhance our OREMC distribution system. In the latest episode of our *Plugged In* podcast, OREMC's Manager of Engineering Darren Crews discusses the multitude of projects OREMC has in the works to enhance reliability and resiliency, and the role technology will take outage response times to the next level. This means fewer outages affecting the least number of members for the shortest amount of time.

Listen to OREMC's *Plugged In* podcast on Amazon, Apple, Google or Spotify. You can also watch the podcast on YouTube. Use the QR code to access our playlist.



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**New Year.
New Goals.**

CO-OPS VOTE



Church of the Month
Bay Harbour-Brantley Church
 9979 Hwy. 110 W. • Hortense, GA 31543-3461
 Pastor Tommy Gill

Sunday School	10:00 a.m.
Sunday Worship	11:00 a.m.
Sunday Evening	6:00 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Study	7:00 p.m.

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