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"OWNED BY THOSE WE SERVE"

# Installing Comfort and Convenience

## OREMC Offers Home Generator Program

Jeff Padilla of Kingsland was on the OREMC website looking at billing options earlier this year, when he noticed the slider promoting the home generator program offered in partnership with GRESCO. When he and his wife built their house back in 2007, it was wired for a generator, but at the time was not included in their budget.

"I grew up in Florida and my wife is from the south, so we've lived through hurricanes before," Jeff noted. "I did end up purchasing a 15-watt construction grade, portable Generac generator that we've used over the years during outages and storms. But I have to keep seven or eight gas cans in the garage. After seeing the ad for the whole house generator, I talked to my wife, and we agreed it was time to pursue a more permanent option. I am close to retirement and don't want to do the heavy lifting anymore."

Back in July, Jeff made the call to GRESCO to get the ball rolling. Within days GRESCO Field Service Technician Walt Warren was meeting with him to discuss generator sizing and location options, given he already had propane coming to the house. **From call to install was two weeks for his new 22 kW whole house generator.** The gas company got their part hooked up right after TS Debby blew through, and his new generator got a test run following a brief outage from a summer thunderstorm.

"It runs everything . . . lights, appliances, air conditioning—have to have air conditioning," insists Jeff. "Once the power goes out there is about a 15 second delay and the generator kicks on automatically. And there is no indication that it has turned off once the power comes back on. I have to look and listen out my window to tell whether or not it is still running. With the 120-gallon gas tank, I can run my whole house up to four continuous days."

*Read the full story online at [oremc.com/news](http://oremc.com/news).*



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## Celebrating Power With A Purpose

During the month of October—National Co-op Month—OREMC will join more than 30,000 electric membership cooperatives across the U.S. celebrating our co-op communities. It's a time to reflect on all the aspects that set cooperatives apart from other types of businesses, but more importantly, it's a time to celebrate the power of co-op membership.

Electric cooperatives are not-for-profit utilities that are built by the communities they serve. From day one when OREMC was incorporated in Nahunta, Georgia, 85 years ago, our mission has always been to provide you with safe, reliable and affordable power. We care about your quality of life, and because we are locally operated, we're uniquely suited to meet our members' evolving energy needs.

Beyond the business of electricity, our employees and directors are equally invested in our local community. Why? Because we live here, too. That's why we work hard to support local economic development projects, youth programs and scholarships, charitable giving initiatives and additional programs that make our community a better place to call home.

All co-ops, including OREMC, are guided by seven cooperative principles that embody the values and spirit of the cooperative movement. These seven

principles are a framework to help all co-ops navigate challenges and opportunities while remaining true to our purpose:

- **Open and Voluntary Membership:** Co-op membership is open to anyone who can use the co-op's services.
- **Democratic Member Control:** Members make decisions that shape the cooperative. Why? Because co-ops are created by the members, for the members.
- **Members' Economic Participation:** Members contribute money to the co-op to make sure it runs smoothly now and in the future. This happens through paying your energy bills. At the end of the year, any margins are divided and assigned among the members of record, reinvested and then paid out at a later date as capital credits.

*Continued on Page 3.*

### 2 Corinthians 4:18 King James Version

<sup>18</sup> While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things that are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things that are not seen are eternal.

“**Go, sit upon the lofty hill,  
And turn your eyes around. Where waving woods  
and waters wild Do hymn an autumn sound. The summer  
sun is faint on them—The summer flowers depart—Sit still—  
as all transform'd to stone, Except your musing heart.**”

—Elizabeth Barrett Browning, *The Autumn*



# OREMC Holds 85th Annual Meeting

OREMC celebrated its 85th Annual Meeting on Saturday, September 14 with 485 registered members in attendance. Members were invited to take refreshments, visit information tables and enjoy entertainment provided by Darowyn Lee. The meeting was called to order at 10 a.m. with presentations by Board President Wayne Combs and General Manager John Middleton.

Mr. Middleton reviewed financials, talked about rates and the future of the energy industry. Relative to rates and reliability, he explained the \$16,000,000 growth in electric plant this past year and the increased costs of labor and materials related to those expenses. Referencing the inflation graphic, he pointed to the more than doubling in costs over the past four years. While costs are stabilizing or decreasing slightly, they will never return to pre-pandemic prices.

Despite these cost increases, OREMC rates remain competitive relative to our sister co-ops in the state of Georgia and Georgia Power. Depending on usage and time of year, OREMC rates are 46 percent less than Georgia Power and 3.4 percent less than other electric co-ops. As Mr. Middleton said, "We have a good story to tell on rates." He noted the data was available from the Georgia Public Service Commission website.

A time of transition is how Mr. Middleton described the state of the energy industry. This is due to increased utilization of renewable generation resources and an assault on fossil fuel

generation from a new EPA rule due to climate change concerns. He said if we go to large scale renewables as promoted by the federal government, it will not be a quick or inexpensive transition, and it will impact reliability and affordability. Driving the concerns— which you don't hear about in mainstream media—are:

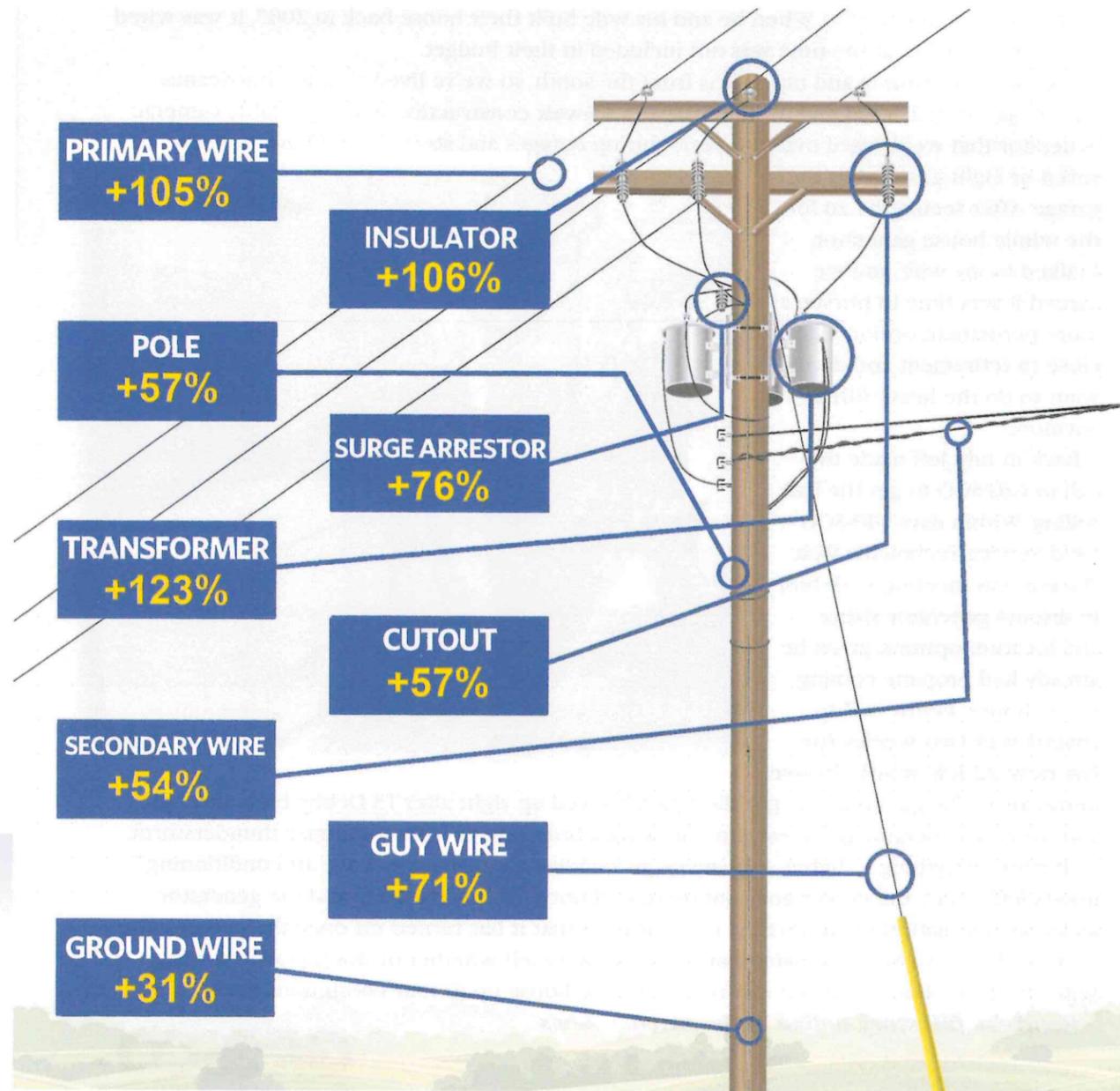
- The cost to capture carbon from fossil fuel plants, build pipeline and transport it to a geologically favorable location to sequester it.
- The use of land in rural areas to build large scale renewable generation and the tens of thousands of miles of transmission lines that would need to be built to transport the power to load centers around the country.
- The electrification of the transportation sector that will add additional demand for power.
- The money for all these initiatives will come from ratepayers' pockets.

"I want you to be aware of these initiatives and their implications if we fail to take a sensible approach," Mr. Middleton stated. "And to know that we will continue to advocate on your behalf to ensure reliable and affordable power."

The official business meeting wrapped up with the election of the following board directors to a three-year term: Wayne Combs, Baker County; Craig Morgan, Middle Brantley County; and Jimmy Woodard, West Brantley and Ware counties.

# Four-Year Inflation Affects Material Prices

January 2020 to June 2024



# Celebrating Power Continued From Front

• **Autonomy and Independence:** Co-ops are independent and can operate on their own, which ultimately benefits the members.

• **Education, Training and Information:** Co-ops continuously focus on education to ensure employees have the training and information they need to make the co-op successful.

• **Cooperation Among Cooperatives:** Co-ops share with and learn from other cooperatives. We help each other out in times of need because we want other co-ops to thrive.

• **Concern for Community:** All cooperatives work for the greater good of the local communities they serve. Co-ops give back to their communities to help them thrive and grow.

This October, as we celebrate National Co-op Month and the power of membership, we hope you will recognize the many aspects that set electric cooperatives apart. Our mission is reliable power. Our purpose is people—the local communities we're proud to serve.



## Church of the Month

**Mt. Calvary Baptist Church**

2378 Mt. Calvary Church Rd. Hoboken, GA 31542  
Pastor: Austin Lane [www.mtcalvaryonline.org](http://www.mtcalvaryonline.org)

Sunday School	9:15 a.m.
Sunday Worship	10:30 a.m.
Evening Worship	5:00 p.m.
Wednesday Children/ Youth Services	6:00 p.m.
Wednesday Prayer Meeting	6:30 p.m.

NEW Home of Lighthouse Christian Academy  
[www.lcawaycross.com](http://www.lcawaycross.com)

# Quilt Raffle to Benefit Pinky Promise

OREMC is holding a quilt raffle through the month of October. All proceeds from the raffle will benefit the Pinky Promise Foundation in Callahan, Florida, a cancer resource center for women. Raffle tickets are \$5 each for the Cozy Cottage quilted wall hanging. Tickets are available at each of OREMC's offices in Nahunta, Kingsland and Hilliard, Florida, as well as Westside Journal and Pinky Promise Foundation, housed in Harper Rose Cottage, both in Callahan.



The quilt was handmade and donated by Joanne Pooler, a friend of OREMC. Winner will be drawn on November 1.



## Plugged In Podcast: Character, Education and Service Through Anointed Boxing

In our current episode of *Plugged In* OREMC's Michele Hutchins speaks with Bobby Davis of Anointed Boxing Fitness Outreach in Folkston, Georgia. Their goal is to provide a place and framework for kids to channel their energy productively—be physically active with a purpose— while also supporting their academic success and promoting community service, all in an effort to keep them off the street. Use the QR code to access the playlist on YouTube.

