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Membership Corporation
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Monday through Friday

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"OWNED BY THOSE WE SERVE"

Nominations for OREMC Board Director

The following bylaw pertains to the nomination of directors:

Article IV, Section 4.05. Nominations. It shall be the duty of the Board of Directors to appoint, not less than one hundred eighty (180) days prior to the date of a meeting of the members at which directors are to be elected, a Committee on Nominations, consisting of not less than five (5) nor more than eleven (11) members of the Cooperative who are not existing Cooperative employees, agents, officers, directors or known candidates for director; who are not close relatives (as hereinafter defined) or members of the same household thereof; and who are so selected as to give equitable representation thereon to the areas served by the Cooperative. The Committee shall prepare and post at the principal office of the Cooperative at least one hundred fifty (150) days before the meeting a list of nominations for directors to be elected. The Committee may include as many nominees for any director to be elected, as it deems desirable. Any fifty (50) or more members of the Cooperative, acting together; may make additional nominations in writing over their signatures, not less than one hundred twenty (120) days prior to the meeting, and the Secretary shall post such nominations at the same place where the list of nominations made by the Committee is posted. The Secretary shall mail to the members with the notice of the meeting, or separately, but at least five (5) days prior to the date of the meeting, a statement of the names and addresses of all nominees, showing clearly those nominated by the Committee and those nominated by petition, if any. At the member meeting, no nominations may be made from the floor except that such nominations may be made and shall be allowed for any directorate to be filled for which there would not otherwise be any eligible nominee. Notwithstanding the provisions contained in this Section, failure to comply with any of such provisions shall not affect in any manner whatsoever the validity of any action taken by the Board of Directors after the election of directors.

Nominations and Election of OREMC Directors

Directors are nominated and elected from three of OREMC's districts each year at the annual meeting of the members to serve for a term of three years. Terms expiring this year are:

- District 2 - Nassau County, Florida
- District 6 - Northwest Camden County, Georgia
- District 8 - Glynn County, Georgia

Okefenokee REMC's Board of Directors, in accordance with Bylaw Article IV, Section 4.05, has appointed the following members to the 2025 Nominating Committee:

Jerri F. Canaday

6066 Harry Rewis Rd.
Macclenny, FL 32063

David Moody

1601 Saddle Club Rd.
Hoboken, GA 31542

Donald R. Morrison

130 Morrison Ln.
Folkston, GA 31537

Dorothy Ruis

4967 Bailey Haddock Ln
Hilliard, FL 32046-6317

James Everett Griffin

857 Russton Dr.
Waycross, GA 31503

Judie Woodcock

110 Denmarks Crossing
Brunswick, GA 31525

Pam Herrin

6643 Browntown Rd.
Waynesville, GA 31566-3201

Dusty Copeland

5397 Dover Bluff Rd.
Waverly, GA 31565-2253

Jacob R. Paulk

133 Paulk Place
Woodbine, GA 31569

If you live in one of the three districts noted above that are up for election this year and wish to be considered for nomination to represent your district, you may contact a committee member. Nominations by petition will also be accepted (see bylaws, Article IV, Section 4.05 for details).

According to OREMC bylaws, if any nominations are made by petition, petitions must be received in the Law Office of J. Patrick Brooks, P.C. at 3794 Main Street, Folkston, GA 31537, no later than Friday, May 16, 2025, at 5 p.m. (See By-law Section 4.05 for details concerning nominations by petition.)

OREMC bylaws are available at any OREMC office and online at oremc.com/about. For suggested forms for nomination by petition contact Patrick Brooks at 912-496-3231.

Results of the Nominating Committee meeting and, if applicable, a listing of nominations made by petition, will be reported in OREMC's July/August 2025 member newsletter. Procedures for voting in the election will also be included in that newsletter.

A tentative date of Wednesday, April 16, 2025, at 4:30 p.m. has been set for the Nominating Committee to meet. The tentative location of the meeting is OREMC's headquarters office in Nahunta, GA. For confirmation of meeting date, time and location, you may contact Kimi Harris at 800-262-5131 ext. 1111.



KEFENOKE REMC

VOLUME 77, NUMBER 2 MARCH/APRIL 2025

Lineworkers are Wired for Service

#ThankALineworker

In the quiet hours before dawn breaks, while many of us are still nestled in our beds, lineworkers begin their day, clad in flame-resistant clothing, safety goggles, rubber gloves and thick, heavy boots.

They are the individuals who epitomize dedication to service in its purest form. As we celebrate **Lineworker Appreciation Day** this April, it is important to take a moment to reflect on the essential role they play in our daily lives.

Amid towering utility poles and power lines, lineworkers exhibit a strength that goes far beyond the physical. Whether battling inclement weather, troubleshooting technical problems or navigating treacherous heights, lineworkers demonstrate resilience and a quiet determination to keep our lights on, our homes comfortable, and our communities connected.

OREMC crews travel across our eight county service territory, building, maintaining and repairing parts of our local system. Their extraordinary skills ensure our homes remain connected to the grid, businesses stay operational, and emergency services remain accessible—a lifeline that connects us all.

In moments of crisis, when the lights go out and we find ourselves in the dark, lineworkers emerge as beacons of hope. Their swift response

restores normalcy, offering reassurance in times of uncertainty. Whether repairing storm-ravaged power lines or ensuring continuity during emergencies, their unwavering commitment illuminates life when we need it most.

OREMC lineworkers also answer the call beyond the boundaries of home. Our crews travel to fellow co-ops, near or far, when widespread outages occur, and additional support is needed. Cooperation among cooperatives is one of our seven guiding principles, and no one embodies this core commitment better than lineworkers.

This month, as we celebrate the remarkable men and women who ensure reliable power, let's recognize their unwavering dedication to the local communities they serve. The next time you flip a switch, please take a moment to remember those who make it possible—lineworkers, who are wired for service and dedicated to illuminating life.



Ephesians 2:4-5 ESV

But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ by grace you have been saved.

**“May your troubles be less and your blessings be more,
and nothing but happiness come through your door.”**

—Irish Blessing

Be Ready for Storm Season

Preparedness is the Best Defense

Spring is on our doorstep and like many of you, we are looking forward to more opportunities to be outdoors and enjoying warmer weather. Springtime brings many favorite activities like cooking out with family and friends, time spent working in the garden and simply enjoying longer, lingering evenings.

Unfortunately, spring and summer can also create the perfect conditions for severe storms.

OREMC crews are always prepared and standing by to respond should power outages occur in our area. When severe storms cause power disruptions, our line crews take all necessary precautions before they get to work on any downed lines. We encourage you to also practice safety and preparedness to protect your family during storms and outages.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency recommends the following as a starting point for storm and disaster preparedness, but you can visit www.ready.gov for additional resources.

- Stock your pantry with a three-day (seven is better) supply of non-perishable food, including canned goods, energy bars, peanut butter, powdered milk, instant coffee, water and other essentials (i.e., diapers and toiletries).

- Confirm that you have adequate sanitation and hygiene supplies including towelettes, soap and hand sanitizer.

- Ensure your First Aid kit is stocked with pain relievers, bandages and other medical essentials, and make sure your prescriptions are current.

- Set aside basic household items you will need, including flashlights, batteries, a manual can opener and portable, battery-powered radio or TV.

- Organize emergency supplies so they are easily

accessible in one location.

In the event of a prolonged power outage, turn off major appliances, TVs, computers and other sensitive electronics. This will help avert damage from potential power surges and will also help prevent overloading circuits during power restoration. That said, do leave one light on so you will know when power is restored.

- If you plan to use a portable generator, make sure it's rated to handle the amount of power you will need, and always review the manufacturer's instructions to operate it safely.

- Listen to local news or a NOAA Weather Radio for storm and emergency information, and check OREMC's Facebook page for restoration updates.

- Severe storms can bring down power lines. If you see a downed line, always assume it's energized and never approach it. If flooding occurs, never walk through areas where power lines could be submerged.

Advance planning for severe storms or other emergencies can reduce stress and anxiety caused by the weather event and lessen the impact of the storm's effects. ***If you experience an outage, please don't report it on Facebook. Call our outage reporting number at 800-262-5131. And make sure the number you are calling from is listed on your account—this is the fastest way to let us know if your power is out.***

While we hope we don't experience severe storms over the spring and summer months, we can never predict Mother Nature's plans. So make a plan today—because storm preparedness is always our best defense.



ARE YOU STORM READY?

Follow these safety and preparation tips during spring and summer storm season.

Be Prepared.

- Create an emergency kit with power outage essentials: batteries, power banks, flashlights, non-perishable foods, water, medical supplies and prescriptions.
- Develop an emergency family plan with meeting points, communication methods and evacuation routes. Share your plan with all family members.
- Monitor weather for important updates that could impact your emergency plan.

Stay Safe.

- Ensure a safe shelter. Stay away from windows and doors. In tornadoes, move to a basement or an interior room without windows.
- Use portable generators safely: operate outdoors in well-ventilated areas, place on a flat, dry surface, do not overload and always read the operating manual before use.
- Severe storms can bring down tree limbs and power lines. If you encounter a downed line, stay back. Always assume a downed line is live and dangerous.



Switching to Backup Power: Portable Generator Safety Tips

Having had two hurricanes and an ice storm in the past six months, it is understandable that more members are considering or using generators. Interest in the OREMC Generator Program offered in partnership with GRESCO has been steady with many members investing in the installation of whole home backup generators. Information about that program can be found at oremc.com/generator-program.

We have also become aware of the increased use of portable generators. OREMC Engineer James Allen and Marketing & Member Service Representative Royce Proctor spoke about portable generator safety in a recent episode of our OREMC's *Plugged In* podcast. Things to keep in mind when operating a portable generator:

- First and foremost, know what you want your generator to power (refrigerator, freezer, television, lights, microwave or window AC unit), sum up the wattage and purchase a generator with

enough capacity to meet your needs.

- Connect to the generator directly from the appliance, and only use only one extension cord per appliance, making sure the cord is in good condition—no frays—and just long enough (you don't need a 100-foot cord if a 50 ft. will make the connection). Extension cords should be heavy-duty, outdoor-rated extension cords with a grounding pin.
- The generator must be placed outside, at least 15 to 20 feet away from your home. And don't place near doors, windows or vents to avoid carbon monoxide poisoning.
- Exhaust from generators is very hot. Keep the generator away from anything flammable.
- Safely store fuel away from living areas and fuel burning appliance.
- Read the instruction manual.
- Generators are heavy . . . be cautious when moving your generator.

Plugged In Podcast: Church Girls, Inc.



Check out our latest episode of *Plugged In* featuring Deondra Lightfoot from Church Girls, Inc. She discusses how her vision has evolved from a prayer line, to a Resource Center, Blessing Room and now a transitional housing in the form of the Church Girls Community in Folkston, Georgia. She has six of the 26 units completed and is building on the power of by the community, for the community. Deondra talks about the help along the way that gives her the drive and inspiration to reach out and help others in need.



TIPS TO AVOID ENERGY SCAMS

If you suspect you're dealing with a utility scam, it's crucial to slow down and take your time before taking any action. Scammers will often pressure you to make quick decisions or immediate payments. Instead, take the time to verify the legitimacy of the communication by contacting your utility directly. Use a phone number from a reliable source, such as your bill or the utility's website. Taking this simple step can help protect you from falling victim to utility scams.

Source: *Utilities United Against Scams*



Church of the Month

Mt. Zion Church

14670 North SR 121 • P.O. Box 297
Macclenny, FL 32063 • 904-259-4461
Pastor Shane Conner

Sunday School	10 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship	11 a.m.
Sunday Evening Worship	6 p.m.
Wednesday Worship Service	7 p.m.