



Published bi-monthly
and mailed to members of
Okefenoke Rural Electric
Membership Corporation
Nahunta, Georgia 31553

Michele Hutchins, Editor

OFFICE HOURS

8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Monday through Friday

Speak to a Member Service Representative by
phone Monday - Friday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

CO-OP BUSINESS NUMBER

Toll Free 1-800-262-5131

oremc.com

E-MAIL

marketing@oremc.com

John Middleton

General Manager

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

R. Wayne Combs

President

Steve E. Rawl

1st Vice President

Jimmy Woodard

2nd Vice President

Cristi B. Koncz

Secretary/Treasurer

Terrell Brazell

Jamie Giddens

Joe Loomis

Clyde Mizell

Craig Morgan

“OWNED BY THOSE WE SERVE”

Annual Meeting Scheduled for September 13

In accordance with Bylaw Article III, Meetings of the Members, Section 3.01, the Annual Meeting of Okefenoke Rural Electric Membership Corporation, will be held Saturday, September 13, 2025, 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 29, 2025, 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 13 annual meeting of the cooperative. A meeting of the Nominating Committee was held at the headquarters office of the co-op on April 16, 2025. Nominations made by the nominating committee at that time are as follows:

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

Clyde Mizell
Steve E. Rawl Sr.
Joe Loomis

Credentials and Elections Committee Appointed

In accordance with Bylaw Article III, Section 3.06, Okefenoke 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

R. Neil Hampton
P.O. Box 455
Callahan, FL 32011-0455

Eugene L. Drawdy
15901 HWY 32E
Hortense, GA 31543-3731

Jack Wilson
242 Monsie Rd.
Nahunta, GA 31553

Jimmy Crews
1401 Lee Rd.
Waycross, GA 31503-2953

Timothy V. Cheek
211 Hickory Bluff Rd.
Waverly, GA 31565-2606

Patricia Bryant
172 Jim Bryant Road
Folkston, GA 31537-7324

Michael Fairman
821 Pennick Rd.
Brunswick, GA 31525

Thomas C. Shaske
8087 New Post Rd.
Waverly, GA 31565

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, Okefenoke 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 19, 2025 to validate all nominations. Nominations made by the nominating committee are as follows:

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

Clyde Mizell
Steve E. Rawl Sr.
Joe Loomis

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

Elections of Directors

In accordance with bylaws adopted by Okefenoke 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.)



VOLUME 77, NUMBER 3 MAY/JUNE 2025

Community Service in Action OREMC employees volunteer at food bank and build little libraries

Concern for the community is one of the seven cooperative principles in which OREMC was founded. OREMC works to uphold that principle in numerous ways throughout the year—supporting schools, donations to local events and fundraisers, hosting our annual golf tournament, providing grants through the OREMC Foundations. Recently a dozen employees participating in a management development class had a more immersive experience.

Part of the program is to select and execute a community service project. Collectively the employees decided on two projects: construct and install little libraries at each OREMC office and volunteer at The Storehouse in Northeast Florida to assist in one of their food distribution days.

The OREMC Little Libraries are geared toward children’s books and free for any community member to “take a book, leave a book.”

The idea is to share books and pass on the love of reading to aid in promoting childhood literacy. Each little library is located on a walkway near/leading to the front door of the office. The libraries are an extension of OREMC’s other literacy project, OREMC Storytime. OREMC Storytime is a series of videos available on YouTube featuring employees, board members and friends reading a children’s book and posing questions about the story for parents/caregivers to talk about with their child.

The second part of the community service project was assisting with the preparation of food distribution at The Storehouse located in Callahan,

Florida. The Storehouse does two food distributions a month—the first Thursday from 10 a.m. - noon, and the third Thursday from 4:30 - 6:30 p.m.—aiding 300-400 families in need each time. (thestorehousefl.org)

The employees spent the afternoon helping



regular volunteers package the food donations for distribution. This meant sorting and packing bags of dry goods, meat, fresh produce and fruit. Many hands helped lighten the load, but all the employees were enlightened to of the extent of need within the OREMC communities, the amount of work that goes into actually getting the food ready to hand out, and the tireless commitment of The Storehouse’s regular volunteers.

By the community, for the community. That is what the co-op spirit is all about.

Read the full story and view photos online at oremc.com

Matthew 11:28-29 ESV

“Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.” –Jesus

“A great accomplishment shouldn’t be the end of the road,
just the starting point for the next leap forward.”
– Harvey Mackay



OREMC Honors Youth Award Winners

Okefenoke REMC held its 32nd annual Youth Awards Banquet to announce its 2025 OREMC Scholarship winners, Walter Harrison Scholarship recipient and four Youth Tour Delegates. Ten scholarships of \$2,000 each were awarded, bringing OREMC's total scholarships awarded to-date: \$340,250. This is the 33rd year OREMC has sponsored Youth Tour Delegates, selecting four for 2025 bringing the total number of students to 124 students cumulatively. Congratulations to all the winners!

Jaedyn Bropleh is a senior at Camden County High School where she is a member of FIRST Robotics; Environmental Club which she founded and serves as president; Marching Band and is the Drum Major; Jazz Band, Orchestra, Girls Scouts, National Honor Society, Tri-M Honor Society and Science National Honor Society. Among her many honors are: serving as Georgia Music Educators Association (GEMA) All-State Chair, GEMA District 8 Honor Band Chair, GEMA District 9 Jazz Band, GEMA Southeastern Region Band Chair. She has also been named to the Superintendent's Honor Roll and the Principal's Honor Role. Jaedyn plans to major in biology or biomedical engineering, then attend veterinary school and specialize in wildlife medicine.



Lainey Kate Harris is a senior at Charlton County High School. She is a member of FFA where she has served as Sentinel, Secretary and now Vice President. She has received her State FFA Degree and recognized on Honor Court. Additionally she is 1st Chair Clarinet in the Symphonic Band and Section Leader in the Marching Band. As a member of BETA Club, Lainey Kate has participated in community services projects to assist people impacted by Hurricane Helene, donating toys to families in need at Christmas and making Christmas cards for nursing home residents. After graduation Lainey Kate plans to major in animal science at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College. Her dream is to attend veterinary school, then return to her hometown to care for livestock.



Owen Hopkins is a senior at Ware County High School. Owen has played Varsity Soccer all four years of high school and currently serves as team captain. He is a member of BETA Club, National Honor Society, FBLA and FCA, is a Scholar Athlete, been



Exchange Club Student of the Month and served on Principal's Advisory Council.

Outside of school he is a YMC Youth Soccer Coach, Hospice Satilla Junior Board Member, Waycross Bank & Trust Junior Board Member and a member of the Waycross United Methodist Church and Youth Group. Owen was selected as a 2024 OREMC Youth Tour Delegate, has been awarded a UGA Certificate of Merit, a Presbyterian College Fellows Award and Named a Platinum Senior. Owen plans to study pre-law at the University of Georgia with the goal of becoming a lawyer.

Inaaya Raouf is a senior at Camden County High School. She is a member of: the Georgia Governor's Honors Program, Key Club National Honor Society and current vice president, National Honor Society, Science Honor Society, Cultural Diversity Club and team captain, Science Bowl and serves as vice present, Coding Club Secretary and EcoCATS Treasurer and Executive Board. She has been named a PAGE Star Student, received a National Math & Science Initiative Star STEM Award, Exchange Club Student of the Month, National Merit Scholarship Program Commended Scholar, AP Scholar with Distinction and Valedictorian. Inaaya plans to pursue a degree in biomedical engineering and is interested in addressing the problem of antibiotic resistance.



Karis Richardson is a senior at Baker County High School. She is a member of: Mu Alpha Theta—a mathematics honor society—and serves as Chaplin; History Club; Fellowship of Christian Athletes and on the leadership team; Travel Club; Beta Club and National Honor Society. She has proudly served as class president all four years of high school, as well as played varsity softball all four years, serving as captain for two years. She is actively involved in her church volunteering with the sound team and the children's ministry. Karis has received the Coach's Choice award the past two years for softball. She was selected as an OREMC Youth Tour Delegate in 2024. Currently a dual-enrolled student at Florida Gateway College, she plans to finish her associates of arts degree, then pursue a bachelor's in pre-law/political science with the ultimate goal of becoming an attorney.



Cooper Sands is a senior at Baker County High School. He is a member of Baker Community Theater, the Baker County Fencing Club and has earned his first rating, and also a cast member and tech crew with Baker County Drama, where he has won several Thespis awards. He is also a member of Varsity Hi-Q, Mensa, Beta Club, Phi Theta Kappa and Mu Alpha Theta. Having played piano since age five, and is classically trained, Cooper is a music counselor at Baker County Drama Camp and Emmanuel Baptist Church Vacation Bible School.



Cooper looks to earn a degree in biology and then go on to medical school to become a physician and possibly specialize in cardiology.

Brody Singley is a senior at West Nassau High School. He has been a competitive swimmer for nine years including his high school swim team the past four and has served as team captain. He is a member of the Beta Club, National Honor Society, Fellowship of Christian Athletes and the audio/video team at Exchange Church. He has also participated in Key Club, FBLA and National Spanish Society. Brody has won several awards including Scholastic All American, Florida High School Athletic Association State Champion, 2023 Florida Dairy Farmers Swimmer of the Year, 2023 Florida Athlete Representative for swimming and 1st Team News4Jax Swim Team. After graduation he plans to pursue a medical degree and become a radiologist or orthopedic surgeon.



Braydon Smith is a senior at Camden County High School. He has been involved in several activities including Boy Scouts of America, and is an Eagle Scout, Marching Band, Concert Band, tennis, HOSA Future Health Professional, Beta Club, Tri-M Music Honor Society, National Honor Society, Medical Explorers and Navy Junior ROTC. Braydon was named 2023 VFW Scout of the Year for the State of Georgia, earned Grand Champion of the Sound of Gold Champion Marching Competition, has received a UGA Certificate of Merit, named an AP Scholar and received the Congress of Future Medical Leaders Award of Excellence. His goal is to become an oncologist. He will be attending UGA in the fall to pursue a double major in biochemistry and molecular biology and bio medical physiology.



Andrew Walden is a senior at Glynn Academy. He has been an active member of DECA, Beta Club and National Honor Society. Andrew has also served on the Charter Board for the South Coast Bank Junior Board of Directors, volunteered with the RSM Classic, Keep Golden Isles Beautiful Beach Sweep and Relay for Life. He has been awarded a UGA Certificate of Merit, AP Scholar and AP Scholar with Distinction, National Merit Commended Scholar, received first place DECA Regionals in Business Services Marketing and named Glynn Academy DECA Philanthropist of the Month. Having started his own lawn care business, Andrew wants to become a successful entrepreneur. He plans to attend Mercer University and major in finance.



Iyana Nobles is a senior at Brunswick High School. Among Iyana's many activities, she is: Beta Club President, on the Student Council Executive Board and Junior Class Secretary, National Honon Society Representative/ Team Leader, a member of the Social Justice Club, a South Coast Bank Junior Director and a member of Jack and Jill of America Inc./ Golden Isles Chapter editor and social media chair. She is a graduate of the Brunswick Golden Isles Chamber of Commerce Youth Leadership Glynn, has been named the Rotary Club's Student of the Month, received a Georgia Certificate of Merit and United Nations Association of the United States of America Merit Award. She was presented the 2025 Presidential Award and Coaches Award for Brunswick High Volleyball, as well as the 2025 Players Choice Award overall for Brunswick High.



In addition to receiving an OREMC Scholarship, Iyana is also the winner of a Walter Harrison Scholarship presented by Georgia's Electric Membership Cooperatives. She is one of 17 winners selected from 78 finalists statewide for the scholarship that honors Walter Harrison as a rural electrification pioneer and leader. Iyana will be attending the University of Georgia in the fall.

Youth Tour Delegates

Emma Dillard is a junior at Hilliard Middle Senior High School where she is: a member of, and served as, team captain for the varsity swim team and varsity tennis team; Chapter President and District 4 President of Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA); as well as a member of Fellowship of Christian Athletes; Beta Club, National Honor Society and Little Women, affiliated with Fernandina Beach Womens Club, where she serves a publicity chair. Additionally, she is an active volunteer at her high school and a member of Fusion Youth Ministries at The Anchor Church. Emma has been named an FBLA State Champion three times.



Troy Medcalf is a junior at Brantley County High School where he is a member of the Air Force Junior ROTC program and the Beta Club. As second in command for JROTC he is the Director of Operations. Troy has been bestowed with numerous honors including: Military Order of the Purple Heart, Tuskegee Airman Award, Celebration Freedom Foundations Award and Air Commando Associations Award. Throughout his cadet career, Troy has logged over 400 hours of community service and participated in over 300 JROTC events.



Emory Popham is a junior at Charlton County High School where she has consistently ranked in the top 10 percent of her class. She is a member of BETA club, FFA, the Symphonic Band, Captain of the Marching Band, a Student Ambassador and serves on Student Council. In 2024 she was selected as a Hugh O'Brien Youth Leadership Delegate. Additionally Emory has volunteered at several organizations including the Southeast Georgia Health System's Camden Campus, the Okefenokee Wildlife Refuge, Department of Family and Children Services and the Folkston Chamber of Commerce.



Micaela Vazquez is a junior at Brunswick High School where she is a member of Future Business Leaders of America, National Honor Society and SkillsUSA. She is also a library volunteer at Marshes of Glynn Library, a Gulfstream Family Day volunteer and a volunteer at the Gullah Geechee Sea & Me Days. Micaela is the recipient of the Student Council Award for Leadership, The President Award for Educational Achievement and multiple A-Honor Roll awards.



Church of the Month Philadelphia Wesleyan Church

1139 Sawgrass Rd. • Hortense, GA
912-473-2414

Sunday School	9:45 a.m.
Worship	11 a.m.
Sunday Evening	6 p.m.
Wednesday Night	7 p.m.
Saturday Night Prayer	7 p.m.