



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

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General Manager

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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“OWNED BY THOSE WE SERVE”

# Annual Meeting Scheduled for September 12

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 12, 2026, 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, 2026, 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 15, 2026. Nominations made by the nominating committee at that time are as follows:

- District 3 - East Brantley and Wayne Counties (Georgia)
- District 7 - Charlton County (Georgia)
- District 9 - Southeast Camden County (Georgia)

Cristi B. Koncz  
Jamie Giddens  
Terrell Brazell

**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  
P.O. Box 960  
Brunswick, GA 31525

Thomas C. Shaske  
8087 New Post Rd.  
Waverly, GA 31565-4185

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 18, 2026 to validate all nominations. Nominations made by the nominating committee are as follows:

- District 3 - East Brantley and Wayne Counties (Georgia)
- District 7 - Charlton County (Georgia)
- District 9 - Southeast Camden County (Georgia)

Cristi B. Koncz  
Jamie Giddens  
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 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](http://oremc.com).)



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## OREMC Celebrates Youth Award Winners

Okefenoke REMC held its 33rd annual Youth Awards Banquet to announce its 2026 OREMC Scholarship winners, Walter Harrison Scholarship recipients, four Youth Tour Delegates and Georgia Cooperative Council Youth Leadership Conference attendee. Ten scholarships of \$2,000 each were awarded, bringing OREMC's total scholarships awarded to-date: \$360,250. This is the 33rd year OREMC has sponsored Youth Tour Delegates, selecting four for 2026 bringing the total number of students to 128 students cumulatively. Congratulations to all the winners!

**Londynn Baker, Camden County High School**

Londynn is a volunteer at the Jacksonville North Veterans Affairs Clinic where she has logged over 200 hours, is a member of the Camden County High School Yearbook, National Honor Society Culture Club, Student Council, Senior BETA Club and DECA. She has served as the Section Editor and Names Editor for the Yearbook, Treasurer of the Culture Club, Public Relations Officer for Student Council, served as Junior Class Treasurer and Executive Board Secretary, and First Vice President of Senior BETA Club. Londynn's honors include: National African American Recognition Program, Superintendent's Honor Roll, Georgia Certificate of Merit, Bronze President's Volunteer Service Award, and Georgia DECA Statesmen Award. She has participated in a guidance internship at the Camden County High School Ninth Grade Center and has a current internship with the Camden Re-Entry program. Londynn plans to attend UGA and major in sports management on a pre-law track.



**Cash Carter, Ware County High School**

Cash is a member of the Ware County High School: DECA, serving as Captain and chapter president twice, Fellowship of Christian Athletes and vice chairman, BETA Club, National Honor Society, Men's Varsity Tennis Team, School Based Enterprise Employee, and Student Advisory Board Speaker. He is also Co-Captain of the Waycross Bank & Trust Junior Board of Directors, serves on Hospice Satilla Junior Board of Directors and the Southern Forest World Junior Board of Directors. Cash has received many honors including: 2025-2026 Ware County High School DAR Good Citizen Award, Ware County High School Platinum Senior, Honors Day Scholar Athlete—three times—Honors Day Perfect Attendance—three times, Ware County High School Marketing Pathway 24-25 Student of the Year, and as a dual enrolled student, South Georgia State College Academic Honors and Coastal Pines Technical College Academic Achievement List. Cash plans to attend UGA to study business with the goal of becoming a real estate broker.



Continued on Page 2.

Hebrews 4:12-13 KJV

“For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account.”

“It is often the small steps, not the giant leaps, that bring about the most lasting change.”  
— Queen Elizabeth II

# Youth Award Winners from front

## Colton Crews, Charlton County High School

Colton is a member of the Charlton County Symphonic Band, Jazz Band and Band of Pride (marching band), Student Body Class Officers, FBLA, Georgia Student Ambassador Program, Okefenokee Wildlife Refuge volunteer program, National Beta Club; Family, Career and Community Leaders of America and Charlton County Student Council. He has been Class President and Vice President, FBLA Present and Vice President; is the Field Captain for the Charlton County Band of Pride; First-Chair Bassoonist, Symphonic Band; and First-Chair Tenor Saxophonist, Jazz Band. Colton's honors include; Georgia Music Educators Association (GEMA) All-State Band Selection; South Georgia Region Honor Band, GEMA District Honor Band First-Chair Selection, Georgia Certificate of Merit Recipient, Patrick S. Gilmore Band Award Recipient and Young Spanish Authors Award Recipient. He is also a Chick-fil-A Peach Bowl Symphonic Band National Grand Champion. Colton plans to attend UGA and pursue a law degree.



## Abigail Fiske, West Nassau High School

Abigail recently completed her Certification as a Nursing Assistant, is participating in a VyStar Student Internship working as a bank customer service representative and Dual Enrolled at Florida Community College of Jacksonville. She is a member of National Honor Society, National Honor Society High School Scholars, the American Sign Language Honor Society and Student Council. Abigail is the Marching Band/Color Guard/Winter Guard Captain, the Key Club Vice President, a member of FBLA and has received the University of the U.S. Student Ambassador and Leadership Award. Additionally, she participates in BETA Club, Chick-fil-A Club, Youth Emergency Response Team and the Bowling Team. She has logged 1,300 hours of community service, including with a dental mission, Great Shape, Inc, 1,000 Smiles. She plans to attend the University of Alabama and pursue a degree in nursing.



## Alexander Eddy, Camden County High School

Alexander is an active member of Boy Scouts of America, FIRST Robotics Team 3329 at Camden County High School, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Senior BETA Club, National Hispanic Honor Society, National Honor Society, Coding Club, Environmental Club, National Science Bowl, Chess Club, Skills USA, as well as the Catholic Youth Ministry. In Boy Scouts he has served as Assistant Scoutmaster, Junior Assistant Scoutmaster, Assistant Senior Patrol Leader and Patrol Leader. He is also the FIRST Robotics Team Captain and Chess Club President. Alexander's honors include: Eagle Scout, National Merit Scholar Semifinalist, Bausch and Lomb Honorary Science Award, Governor's Honors Nominee for Engineering, Junior Marshal, and GA Certificate of Merit. Alexander has volunteered 200+ hours at various Catholic parishes, food banks, and other local organizations. He plans to attend Georgia Tech and major in mechanical engineering, with a minor in computer science.



## Juan (JV) Manabat, Ware County High School

JV is a member of the Ware County High School FBLA, DECA, BETA Club, Principal's Advisory Council, National Honor Society and Co-Captain of the Men's Varsity Tennis team. He works part time at Batten's Prescription Shoppe while also serving on the Hospice Satilla Junior Board and is an Ambassador, Waycross Bank & Trust Junior Board of Directors and is the chairman/president, Chick-Fil-A Leadership Academy and volunteering at the Waycross-Ware County Public Library. Through FBLA, JV has served as the Georgia FBLA State Secretary and Region 2 President. He has also been the DECA Vice President for Finance, the BETA Club Secretary and Community Service Coordinator. Among JV's many academic honors are: Academic Honors List at South Georgia State College, Elks Most Valuable Student Scholarship Quarter Finalist, Georgia FBLA December Youth of the Month, Georgia DECA National Rural & Small Town Recognition Award, Presbyterian College Junior Fellow Scholar and UGA Certificate of Merit. JV plans to earn a bachelor of science degree in pharmaceutical and biomedical sciences at Vanderbilt University.



## Ali Palmer, Frederica Academy

Ali is a member of the Frederica Academy Varsity Cheer, Varsity Soccer, Student Council, Pre-Medical Club, Environmental Club, as well as South Coast Junior Bank Board, Spirit Club, and Pirates of the Spanish Main, an all-girls community service club. She is vice president and co-founder of Pre-Medical Club, vice president of the Environmental Club, Special Events Director of Student Council, and president of the Spirit Club. Ali has been inducted into the National Honor Society, is an AP Scholar with Distinction, received the AP Precalculus Teacher's Award, and named to the Head of School's List all four years at Frederica Academy. Ali plans on majoring in biochemistry on the pre-med track at Georgia Tech where she hopes scientific training, combined with her compassion to serve others, will help improve the quality of many lives.



## Kaela Weaver, Weaver Family Home Education

Kaela is dual-enrolled at FSCH and has been involved in many things including: music with the First Coast Suzuki Players, theatre arts with Artist Connection Theatre, Forest Ecology Competitions with 4-H, art with the Art Loft and Awaken Charlotte Mason Community, and in speech competitions with Florida Farm Bureau and Duval Soil and Water Conservation District. She is a cello player, a farmer, an actor and an orator. Among her many honors are: 1st and 3rd Place Team Awards at the State Forest Ecology Competition, a Young Farmers and Ranchers Student of the Month Award and has placed at both the County and District level in the Florida Farm Bureau Contest and 1st place at the Duval Soil and Water Conservation District Competition. Kaela has completed over 300 community service hours at various local organizations. She has been accepted at the University of North Florida where she will study nursing and plans to become a Certified Nurse Midwife.



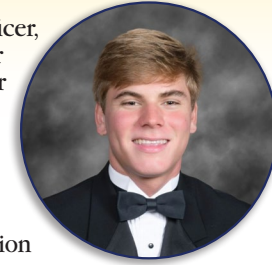
## OREMC and Walter Harrison Scholarship Winners

In addition to receiving an OREMC Scholarship, two students are also winners of a Walter Harrison Scholarship presented by Georgia Electric Membership Corporation. They are two of 19 winners selected from 86 finalists statewide for the scholarship that honors Walter Harrison as a rural electrification pioneer and leader.



### Jayce Chapman, Brantley County High School

Jayce is a member of Future Business Leaders of America, BETA Club, Student Council/Class Officer, Varsity Tennis, the BETA Club Quiz Bowl Team and Wrestling team. He is a member at Bay Harbour Church of God, a business owner of J&P Pressure washing and yard maintenance, on the Chamber of Commerce Junior Board, a Called to Care volunteer, and Food Bank volunteer through his church. He has been a Chamber of Commerce Student Ambassador, BETA Club Vice President, Student Council Vice President, Captain of Varsity Tennis team, Wrestling Team Manager and FBLA Chapter Officer. Jayce's honors include: SAR Award Winner, State Champion in tennis, Exchange Club Student of the Month, State Qualifier for BETA Quiz Bowl, Outstanding Performance in Finance award, Honor Roll, 2026 UGA Certificate of Merit Winner, Final Four Finalist in tennis, Region Champion in tennis, BETA Club Leadership of Excellence Award and Outstanding Performance in Science award. He plans to attend UGA and major in engineering.



### Zachary Smith, Camden County High School

Zachary is an Eagle Scout from Troop 8385, and member of Order of the Arrow. He is a four-sport athlete having played Varsity Football for four years, tennis three years, goalie for soccer club and one year on the Varsity Dive Team. He has been inducted into National Honor Society and Senior BETA Club. Is a member of HOSA and was a Youth Volunteer for Southeast Georgia Health System (SGHS), Camden County. He has attended the SGHS Nurse Camp and Student Athletic Trainer Camp. As a Boy Scout he has held elected positions of Assistant Senior Patrol Leader, Patrol Leader, Historian, Librarian, Quartermaster, and Troop Guide. In JROTC, he was Squad Leader for his platoon. And each year he is a "buddy" for Tim Tebow's Night to Shine Event. Zachary's honors include the UGA Certificate of Merit, Superintendent's Honor Roll and Delegate representing Camden County High School and the State of Georgia at the Congress of Future Medical Leaders. He plans to pursue a bachelor's degree in biology from UGA, continue on to medical school and become a radiologist.



## Youth Tour Delegates

### Leo Barak, Brunswick High School

Leo is a member of the Civil Air Patrol where he has served as Deputy Commander and Aerospace Officer in Charge and has been honored as the Cadet of the Quarter. He is also part of 4-H and been designated Most Active Junior 4-H'er (twice) and was the Southeast District Project Achievement First Place Winner in Physical, Biological, and Earth Sciences category. Additionally, he has served as 2025-2026 Southeast District Senior Board President, 2023-2024 Southeast District Junior Board Member and the Glynn County Council President. Leo is also a member of the BHS Chess Club, Cross Country team, Beta Club, National Honors Society, Science Olympiad, Student Council and the National Association of Rocketry from which he has a Junior Level 1 High Powered Rocketry Certification. Most notably he is a member of the Brunswick High Pyro Pirates Rocketry Club, of which he is the founder and president. Other honors include 2025 Governor's Honors Program Finalist in Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering and BHS October 2025 Student of the Month. Leo is also an active volunteer in several area organizations.



### Avery Crews, Brantley County High School

Avery is a multi-sport student athlete participating in track, cross country, soccer and golf and is Captain of the Girls Golf Team. She has been voted to serve on Student Council, is active in FCA and is the BETA Club Community Chair. She serves on the Satilla Hospice Junior Board and plays clarinet with Brantley County High School's Symphonic Band as well as the praise band at Southside Baptist Church. Avery has many honors, including Scholar Athlete, Breakout Athlete, female mile record holder, First Team All-Region Goalie and First Team All-Region Golf. She has been a Teen Miss Brantley County High School and a FFA Sweetheart Teen Miss, as well as FFA Sweetheart Public Speaking Winner and a HOBY Youth Leader School Representative. Avery has been an active community volunteer with Magnolia House, Fair Haven Women's Shelter Drive, Southside Baptist Youth Group, Satilla Hospice, through the recreation department and many BETA Club volunteer hours.



### Jaiden Elmore, West Nassau High School

Jaiden is a member of the University of U.S. where she is also a Student Ambassador, BETA Club, National Honors Society, Key Club, Podcast Club, Great Decisions and an Athletic Score Keeper for WNHS basketball. She is a former VyStar Student Council Intern, is head of the Podcast Club, and a past president of the Junior National Honors Society. Additionally, Jaiden is an Honor Roll student, has earned all Level 5's on standardized tests, is an early college student, dual-enrolled and made the FSC-J President's List at age 16. She has been invited to Emory's STEM program, and is a Big Future Ambassador. Outside of school she is co-chair for Church Community Outreach, President of Greater Mount Pleasant Missionary Baptist Church Youth, and a tutor.



### Jade Richardson, Baker County High School

Jade is a dual-enrolled student while staying involved with Student Government, having proudly served as the 2027 Class President throughout high school. She is a member of FFA, History Club, Mu Alpha Theta, serving as chaplain, Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA), Beta Club and the Travel Club. Jade is also sideline cheerleader and competitive cheerleader on the traditional and gameday competition teams. She has been named a UCA All-American Cheerleader and granted a Pride Cheer Camps Peak-Performer award. On her competitive cheer team she has been a FHSAA state finalist twice and UCA national's finalist twice. Jade is an active volunteer, including with a local women's club, the Baker County Middle School Cheer team, serves at her church's children ministry, nursery, Vacation Bible School and at many youth church events.



## Georgia Cooperative Council Youth Leadership Conference Attendee

### Kimblee Gowen, Charlton County High School

Kimblee is a Major-ette in the Charlton County High School Band, a member of the Women's Golf Team, Student Council where she has served as president freshman, sophomore and junior year, Beta Club, FCA, and Family Career and Community Leaders of America. She has also participated in cheer, symphonic band and softball. Kimblee has been the 2027 Class Secretary throughout high school, serves as BETA Club Secretary, is an FCA leader and is the Youth Praise Band Leader at Folkston Methodist Church. Among her many honors are: Excellence in Science- Environmental Science, Sophomore Year Highest Average in Geometry and Spanish I, serving as a PAGE at the Georgia State Capitol for the House of Representatives, being named 2025 GRPA Golf State Champion and Golf District Champion, as well as 2025 GHSA Area Group Champion. Kimblee has also been a volunteer with Hunger Fight Organization in Jacksonville, School of Autism, Night to Shine, Folkston Elementary School and the Folkston Methodist Church Vacation Bible School.



## Church of the Month

### Camp Pinckney Baptist Church

72 Camp Pinckney Dr.

Folkston, GA 31537

912-496-2676

Senior Pastor Timothy Hall

Sunday School	9:30 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship	10:45 a.m.
Sunday Evening	6 p.m.
Wednesday Evening	7 p.m.