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Monday through Friday

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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“OWNED BY THOSE WE SERVE”

Nominations for OREMC Board Directors

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)

Okefenoke REMC's Board of Directors, in accordance with Bylaw Article IV, Section 4.05, has appointed the following members to the 2022 Nominating Committee:

Jerri F. Canaday

6066 Harry Rewis Rd.
Macclenny, FL 32063

Dorothy Ruis

4967 Bailey Haddock Ln.
Hilliard, FL 32046-6317

Robert Edward Lee, Jr.

127 Bluffs Landing
Waverly, GA 31565-2979

David Moody

1601 Saddle Club Rd.
Hoboken, GA 31542

James Everett Griffin

857 Russton Dr.
Waycross, GA 31503

Timothy V. Cheek

211 Hickory Bluff Rd.
Waverly, GA 31565-2606

Donald R. Morrison

130 Morrison Ln.
Folkston, GA 31537

Judie Woodcock

110 Denmarks Crossing
Brunswick, GA 31525

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 3773 2nd Street S, Suite 103, Folkston, GA 31537, no later than Friday, May 13, 2022, 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 2022 member newsletter. Procedures for voting in the election will also be included in that newsletter.

A tentative date of Wednesday, April 13, 2022, 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.



Enhancing OREMC's System Capacity and Security

Two years ago, just as the pandemic was starting to set in, the March/April 2020 issue of our newsletter came out. The cover story was *Keeping the Lights On: System Integrity, Capacity and Reliability*. We talked about simultaneous maintenance and improvement projects focused on system hardening, reconductoring, multi-phasing and sectionalizing of lines with enhanced distribution automation. Little did we know at the time, how significant those efforts were in ensuring the functionality of critical infrastructure as the nation shut down, dining rooms became offices, kitchen counters became classrooms and being at home 24/7 became the norm.

Since then, the pandemic has amplified the importance of our nationwide power grid. It has also revealed the expanded role electricity plays in our new normal; as well as the call for increased capacity with the rise in demand from electric vehicles—from personal to over-the-road transport—due to the focus on renewable energy and reducing carbon emissions.

Recently national media has called into question the security and reliability of the nation's electrical system. Extreme weather events intensifies those concerns as restoration takes time and is a manual process in a world where we have come to expect instantaneous results and overnight delivery.

So what does this all mean for OREMC? First and foremost, the work we were undertaking two years ago has continued and expanded to new projects as our consumer-member numbers are growing.

Recent completion of the Nahunta substation capacity increase and rebuild project now provides additional distribution support and system redundancy in the northern area. A new dedicated circuit was also added to

serve the Brantley County Industrial Park.

• As a continuation of the recent Nahunta substation rebuild, a new 10-mile 115kV transmission line will soon be under construction to network redundancy between the Hoboken and Nahunta substations.

• A new three-phase tie-line is nearing completion along HWY 82 in Georgia connecting our Waynesville and Brookman substations. This not only enhances reliability but also increases load capacity as new construction of homes and housing developments in our service area are experiencing significant growth.

• Along U.S. 1 in Florida, a five-mile section of line is being relocated and rebuilt so it is more accessible for maintenance, less prone to right of way power disturbances and enables increased load capacity.

• PLUG Power is building a green hydrogen production plant in Camden County. Once it comes online later this year it will become our largest industrial load. In order to provide them service that meets their projected power needs long-term, we have built a new 25 kV feeder from our Hi Hat substation and will have constructed a new 115 kV substation exclusively for the new PLUG plant.

• A capacity increase and a complete rebuild of the existing Hi Hat substation is being planned that will mimic the project recently completed at our Nahunta substation. The Hi Hat project will

Continued on Page 3.



“There is no glory in star or blossom till looked upon by a loving eye; there is no fragrance in April breezes till breathed with joy as they wander by.”

—William Cullen Bryant

Statement of Nondiscrimination

Okefenoke Rural Electric Membership Corporation is an equal opportunity provider and employer. If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at U. S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S. W., Washington, D. C. 20250-9410, by fax (202) 690-7442 or email at program.intake@usda.gov.

Over and Out at OREMC: *Linda Vaughn signs off for retirement*

If you call Okefenoke REMC, her voice is the first one you hear helping guide you through the prompts in order to connect you with the person/department you are seeking. If you are an OREMC employee, one of your first encounters with Linda Vaughn was likely in the kitchen where she was often found cooking up mass quantities of food to feed an army of linemen during a major storm, a holiday meal fit for royalty or a big batch of brownies just because.



While not officially part of her job, they got added in with the other balls in the air she juggled on a day-to-day basis as OREMC's collection and meter dispatcher. Working with the meter technicians out in the field, Linda orchestrated the daily rundown of meter connections, disconnections, collections, inspections, tampering and alerts. She also was the connection between assistance agencies and member accounts, reconciling payments with the appropriate account to be credited, and following up on returned checks.

"There was a lot of multitasking going on," chuckled Linda. "I had a lot of balls in the air at once and often had to switch them around depending on a call that came in or a request over the radio from one of the guys in the field. There was a lot of daily repetition, but then you got one of the situations that arises that had to be investigated."

She continued, "Each day can bring new challenges and each situation is a puzzle to be pieced together. Good working relationships with the meter techs, customer service, construction and the member service representatives is what helps make sure it all comes together, and that we achieve our main goal of confirming the correct meter is at the correct location and working properly."

However, on 2-2-22 Linda signed off one final time and passed the radio to her successor. After nearly 21 years of service Linda has retired from OREMC so she can give her full attention to being a full-time wife, mother, grandmother, sister, mother-in-law, daughter and friend.

Read more of Linda's story online using the QR code.



Donation Helps Expand Access to Healthcare

Okefenoke REMC Board Directors Jimmy Woodard and Craig Morgan were pleased to present a \$2,500 donation to Kingdom Care, Inc., to assist their operations in providing healthcare to the working uninsured. Case Manager Lisa Mathis, APRN, and Dr. George Thomas gratefully accepted the donation, noting it would help as they ramp up services to new patients now that COVID infection rates were on the decline.

"Every penny goes to meeting the needs of our patients," noted Dr. Thomas. "All of our nurses, doctors and specialists are volunteers . . . they do not get paid for the care they provide."

Mathis said COVID did pose some challenges over the past couple of years as they had to shift operations to protect their volunteer providers. While

they maintained their existing patient load throughout the pandemic—about half of their annual 3,600 patient visit capacity—it is only recently the clinic has begun to accept new patients again.

"It is gratifying to be able to see patients in-person again," stated Mathis as she ran down some of the care specialties that have been added including orthopedics, surgical and neurological. They have also welcomed a new pharmacist overseeing the pharmaceutical assistance program.

Kingdom Care, Inc., assists patients who are income qualified and without health insurance living in Atkinson, Bacon, Brantley, Charlton, Clinch, Pierce, Ware and Wayne counties. Patients are seen by appointment only. For more information visit www.kingdomcare.info or call 912-287-4434



Save the Date!

Saturday, September 24, 2022

31st Annual Golf Tournament

OREMC Foundation Grant Awards



A total of \$52,987 in grant awards was presented to 12 organizations by the Okefenoke REMC Foundation in the first quarter of 2022. Recipients included:

- action pact, Inc.
- Bring Your Brokenness, Inc.
- Brunswick-Golden Isles Chamber Foundation
- Church Girls, Inc.
- Forward Brunswick, Inc.
- Georgia Foundation for Agriculture, Inc.
- Georgia Lions Camp, Inc.
- Hope 1312 Collective
- Keep Golden Isles Beautiful
- Macclenney Moose Lodge 2412
- Prevent Blindness Georgia

St. Marys Middle School
FFA/Camden County FFA Alumni
The OREMC Foundation is a launchpad for community development supporting education, community health and economic development in the six Georgia and two Florida counties the co-op serves. Currently, OREMC unclaimed capital credits are the primary funding source. The Foundation Trustees meet quarterly to review applications and make grant awards based on funds available. The next grant application deadline will be in July 2022. Visit oremc.com/foundation for specific date, application and additional information on organizations eligible to apply.

Enhancing OREMC's System *continued from front*

enable us to better serve a high growth area along Laurel Island Parkway by feeding from multiple substations.

- In addition to the Hi Hat substation expansion, a three-phase distribution upgrade project will soon be under construction along Old Still Road near the Kingsland office. This project is designed to provide improved capacity and service to the nearby industrial park as well as create an alternate tie line between the Harriet's Bluff Circuit and Hi Hat substation

These projects all address capacity and reliability needs, but what of system integrity? Much is also being talked about in the media about cybersecurity and threats to the electrical grid. At the national level, the industry—including electric cooperatives—are working together with government partners to strengthen the security of the electric grid. This requires vigilance, innovation and information sharing to stay ahead of the evolving threats.

At OREMC specifically, our cybersecurity efforts involve continuous real-time monitoring of our communication and data systems by our Information Technology Department. Enhanced security and accessibility measures are in place co-op-wide, and employees have undergone cybersecurity training to understand the threats, how to spot them and timely reporting of suspicious texts and emails.

In short, it takes all of us at all levels to ensure the delivery of safe, reliable power. Technology is rapidly driving our increased dependency on electricity; enabling OREMC's ability to more quickly identify, respond and restore power disruptions; but it is also requiring enhanced vigilance to ensure system security and resilience.

Then and now, keeping the lights on is the mission. As our world has changed over these last two years, we understand our role in maintaining system integrity is paramount. All of us at OREMC take our jobs as first responders on the front lines of critical infrastructure to heart as we power your life every day.



Blueberry Cobbler

(From our July 1987 newsletter)

Ingredients

Filling:	Biscuit Dough:
1 quart fresh blueberries	1 cup all-purpose flour
½ cup sugar	1 Tbsp. sugar
1 Tbsp. corn starch	1 ½ tsp baking powder
dissolved in 2 Tbsp. cold	2 tsp. orange zest
water	¼ tsp. salt
½ tsp. lemon zest	3 Tbsp. shortening
1 tsp. lemon juice	1/3 cup milk
¼ tsp. cinnamon	1 egg

Directions

In a medium saucepan combine blueberries, sugar, corn starch, lemon zest, lemon juice and cinnamon. Cook over medium heat, stirring constantly until mixture starts to bubble. Lower heat and simmer about 5 minutes or until mixture has thickened, stirring frequently. In mixing bowl thoroughly combine flour, sugar, baking powder, orange zest and salt. Cut in shortening until mixture resembles coarse crumbs. In small bowl combine milk and egg. Beat slightly to combine then pour all at once into flour mixture and stir until flour is moistened. Transfer hot blueberries to a 2-quart baking dish. Drop biscuit dough by heaping tablespoons onto fruit. Bake at 400° for 20 to 25 minutes or until biscuits are browned. Serve with whipped cream or ice cream. Yield: 4-6 servings.

Matthew 6:31-33 *King James Version*

³¹ Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? ³² (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. ³³ But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.



Church of the Month

Gateway to Life Ministries

Sunday Service 10:30 a.m.
Wednesday Service 7:00 p.m.

37837 Eastwood Rd. • Hilliard, FL 32046-6705
Senior Pastor Bruce Cubbedge

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