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Membership Corporation
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Michele Hutchins, Editor

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Monday through Friday

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John Middleton

General Manager

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Clyde Mizell

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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 3 - East Brantley & Wayne counties
- District 7 - Charlton County
- District 9 - Southeast Camden County

Okefenokee REMC's Board of Directors, in accordance with Bylaw Article IV, Section 4.05, has appointed the following members to the 2023 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 12, 2023, 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 2023 member newsletter. Procedures for voting in the election will also be included in that newsletter.

A tentative date of Wednesday, April 12, 2023, 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.



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OKEFENOKE REMC

It's All in the Mix Sustaining a Reliable Electric System

We've all heard the phrase, "Don't put all your eggs in one basket." This popular adage is often used when someone is focused on one single best option versus hedging their bets with multiple options.

This strategy best describes Okefenokee REMC's approach to power supply in the current energy market. We know that consumer interest in renewable energy continues to grow.

Recent innovations and advances in renewable energy technologies have led to sharp decreases in costs, making renewables more feasible, accessible and scalable.

Over the last few years OREMC has adjusted its fuel mix by utilizing more renewables provided by Green Power EMC, helping Georgia EMCs lead the way among electric cooperatives for solar energy. We've also seen a growing trend in residential rooftop solar among both Georgia and Florida consumer-members.

Nationally, there is increasing reliance on renewable energy sources at the same time that we're seeing fossil fuel plants taken off-line, often ahead of schedule. Additionally, we're seeing more pressure on the electric grid due to the increasing frequency and intensity of severe weather events and rising electricity demand.

Competing Pressures

So how do we reconcile these challenges of grid pressure and a changing fuel mix? Solar and wind energy are certainly beneficial for the environment, but they are limited resources because the sun does not always shine, and the wind does not always blow. OREMC's primary responsibility is to provide electricity 24/7 to you and our community. To do this, we need reliable

sources of power that will meet all the peaks and valleys of on-demand energy in our connected world.

That's why we have a diverse power supply portfolio. There is great value in maintaining a mix of fuel sources--natural gas, nuclear, hydro, coal, solar--to ensure reliability, resiliency and meet the growing demand for electricity.

Reliability also means repairing and replacing utility equipment to prevent wear-and-tear, ensuring equipment can withstand severe weather. OREMC is laser-focused on providing our consumer-members with reliable, affordable energy. That's why fuel diversity is essential to reliability.

The Bottom Line

Lowering the overall carbon footprint in this country means we're going to electrify more and more of our economy. Solar and wind power are an important part of a broader energy portfolio, but they are not available 24/7. In today's ever-connected world, people need power around the clock.

As our nation increasingly depends on electricity to power the economy, OREMC is working to anticipate, plan and respond to market trends and policy shifts for today and tomorrow.



*Luke 19:10
King James Version*

¹⁰ For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.

"Happiness held is the seed, happiness shared is the flower."

—John Harrigan

In Memoriam

It is with heavy hearts that our OREMC family mourns the loss of two long-time employees—Jason Williams, Crew Foreman in Hilliard, and Chris Crews, General Foreman in Nahunta. Gone too soon, Jason passed on February 8 and Chris on February 10. Jason grew up at OREMC, starting as a junior in high school in the Warehouse at the Hillard office and climbed from there—always a proud “REA man” over his 28-year career. Chris’ 38-year legacy was one he built from the ground up, starting on the right of way crew and doing “a lot of swamping and bogging” as he worked his way to becoming a lineman.

We honor their many years of service to OREMC, their commitment to our consumer-members and will forever carry both of them in our hearts.



Jason Williams



Chris Crews

OREMC Storytime Shares the Magic of Books

Get ready. Get set. Read! Okefenokee REMC is pleased to announce the launch of its virtual OREMC Storytime, in partnership with Ferst Readers. Every Sunday at 1 p.m. a new story will be posted on OREMC’s Facebook page and YouTube channel. Books are read by OREMC employees, board directors/trustees and/or community members targeting the co-op’s littlest members. Use the QR code to link to the entire OREMC Storytime playlist.



“Ferst Readers is a program our General Manager John Middleton heard about and thought it fit very well with our founding principles of supporting and promoting education in our communities,” explains OREMC Members Services Manager Dewayne Johns. “Working with Michelle Maddox at Ferst Readers, the co-op has been instrumental in helping to launch several Ferst Readers chapters in its service area.”

Learn more about Ferst Readers and OREMC’s partnership at oremc.com/news.

Listen In: *Plugged In* Podcast

Connecting Our Co-op, Our Community and Shared Connections

Have you *Plugged In* with our OREMC podcast? You can listen in on Amazon, Apple, Google or Spotify. Our most recent episodes discuss fostering love at the Isaiah 117 House under construction in Baker County, Florida, how OREMC gives back to the community through the OREMC Foundation and our partnership with Ferst Readers. Scan the QR code to view the *Plugged In* playlist on YouTube.



New Rooftop Solar Assessment Tool

Considering a rooftop solar system for your home? Rooftop solar can be a significant financial investment, and one you should consider carefully. The solar installer you choose is as important as the system design and size. Unfortunately, there has been a significant increase in reports of consumers being misinformed by some solar installers. Be aware of solar installers that make big promises, like eliminating your electric bill. In most scenarios, that’s simply not true.

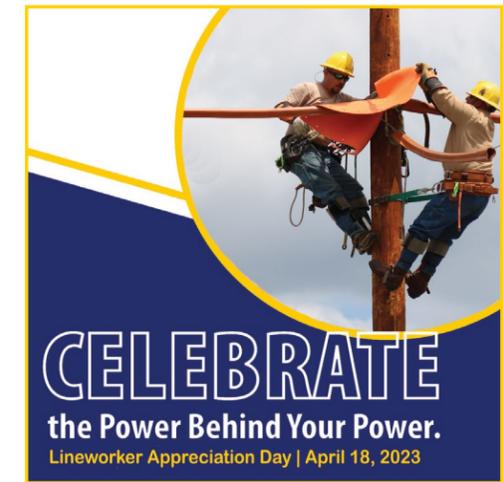
To help you make a smart energy investment, OREMC offers a FREE solar assessment tool. The step-by-step prompts will help you right size a rooftop solar installation to best meet your needs, goals and financial objectives. We can also help you understand your current electricity use, the many important factors to consider with a rooftop solar installation and what you can expect to gain from your investment.

Visit oremc.com/rooftop-solar or call 800-262-5131 to speak with one of our experienced energy advisors.

Welcome Rodney Harris

Rodney Harris debated being a truck driver or an electrical lineworker. His father was a lineman, and his grandfather a foreman, both of whom worked for Sumter Utilities. They wanted Harris to go into the military, but he instead decided to follow in their footsteps and is Okefenokee REMC’s newest lineman working out of the Hilliard, Florida, office.

Read more about Rodney at oremc.com/news.



OREMC 32nd Annual Golf Tournament

Save the Date!

Saturday, October 14, 2023



Church of the Month

Hopewell Baptist Church
4890 Post Rd. • Hortense, GA 31543
Pastor Shawn Knudson

Sunday School 10 a.m.
Sunday Service 11 a.m.
Sunday Evening 6 p.m.

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

NEW!

Estimated Results* Revise previous Answers

These results are estimates based on your answers to the questionnaire and include various assumptions. Your new electric bill and estimated savings may vary. You can also experiment with different system sizes to see how your results may change. Estimated system prices can also be adjusted to incorporate quotes you may have received from solar installers.

2 kW	3 kW	4 kW	5 kW	6 kW	7 kW	8 kW	9 kW	10 kW	NONE
\$10,000	\$11,000	\$12,000	\$15,000	\$18,000	\$21,000	\$24,000	\$27,000	\$30,000	Est. Cost Show Details

Estimated annual electric bill without solar:	\$1,800	Estimated payback time:	
Estimated new annual electric bill with solar:	\$1,259	Cash	20.3 years
Estimated annual electric bill savings:	\$542	Loan	21.6 years

Electricity Production and Usage Overview

A kilowatt-hour (kWh) is a measurement of your electricity usage. Note: While the electricity you purchase from your electric cooperative may decrease, you will still be provided with electricity at night and on cloudy days.