



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**

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**John Middleton**

General Manager

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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**Jimmy Woodard**

2nd Vice President

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Secretary/Treasurer

**Terrell Brazell**

**Jamie Giddens**

**Joe Loomis**

**Clyde Mizell**

**Craig Morgan**

"OWNED BY THOSE WE SERVE"

# Annual Meeting Scheduled for September 9

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 9, 2023, 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 25, 2023 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 9 annual meeting of the cooperative. A meeting of the Nominating Committee was held at the headquarters office of the co-op on April 12, 2023. Nominations made by the nominating committee at that time are as follows:

- **District 3 – East Brantley & Wayne counties (Georgia)** **Cristi B. Koncz**
- **District 7 – Charlton County (Georgia)** **Jamie Giddens**
- **District 9 – Southeast Camden County (Georgia)** **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:

- |  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| <b>Bobby Griffin</b><br>5612 Lauramore Rd.<br>Macclenny, FL 32063        | <b>R. Neil Hampton</b><br>P.O. Box 455<br>Callahan, FL 32011-0455 | <b>Eugene L. Drawdy</b><br>15901 HWY 32E<br>Hortense, GA 31543-3731         |
| <b>Jack Wilson</b><br>242 Monsie Rd.<br>Nahunta, GA 31553                | <b>Jimmy Crews</b><br>1401 Lee Rd.<br>Waycross, GA 31503-2953     | <b>Dusty Copeland</b><br>23710 GA Highway 110<br>Waverly, GA 31565-2253     |
| <b>Patricia Bryant</b><br>172 Jim Bryant Road<br>Folkston, GA 31537-7324 | <b>Michael Fairman</b><br>821 Pennick Rd.<br>Brunswick, GA 31525  | <b>Thomas C. Shaske</b><br>721 Providence Church Rd.<br>White Oak, GA 31568 |

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 15, 2023 to validate all nominations. Nominations made by the nominating committee are as follows:

- **District 3 – East Brantley & Wayne counties (Georgia)** **Cristi B. Koncz**
- **District 7 – Charlton County (Georgia)** **Jamie Giddens**
- **District 9 – Southeast Camden County (Georgia)** **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.)*

*Proverbs 10:5  
King James Version*

<sup>5</sup> He that gathereth in summer is a wise son: but he that sleepeth in harvest is a son that causeth shame.

**“What you get by achieving your goals is not as important as what you become by achieving your goals.”**  
–Zig Ziglar



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# OKEFENOKE REMC

## Load Management: Balancing Supply and Demand

While warm afternoons and seasonal thunderstorms make December 2022 a distant memory, there is a good chance you remember it being quite chilly across OREMC's service area. In fact, it was the coldest Christmas in Jacksonville in 13 years, according to Meteorologist John Caughan. Combined with the lows in the 20s in the three days that followed, it was one of the top 10 coldest stretches of weather in 151 years of recorded weather history in Jacksonville.

For friends and family living further north, not only was it cold, but they were also dealing with power outages due to weather. Because of the extreme cold, heating demand skyrocketed straining the electric grid and led to rolling blackouts until all power could be restored. The rolling blackouts were instituted to help minimize the strain on the grid as the demand for power was greater than system capacity. This is an example of load management.

Load management is the practice of actively managing the amount of electricity being used at certain times of day, referred to as peak demand. During periods of high demand—typically a hot summer day in the OREMC service area when everyone is running air conditioning—the electric grid can become overloaded and lead to blackouts or brownouts. It is also when the cost of power is most expensive.

To keep that from happening, utilities work with large commercial/industrial consumers to “shed load” or reduce their demand for electricity, typically between 2 - 7 p.m. Sometimes that is not enough, and utilities have to ask their consumers to help beat the peak.

The graph shows how a typical household uses electricity. Cooling, water heating, laundry,

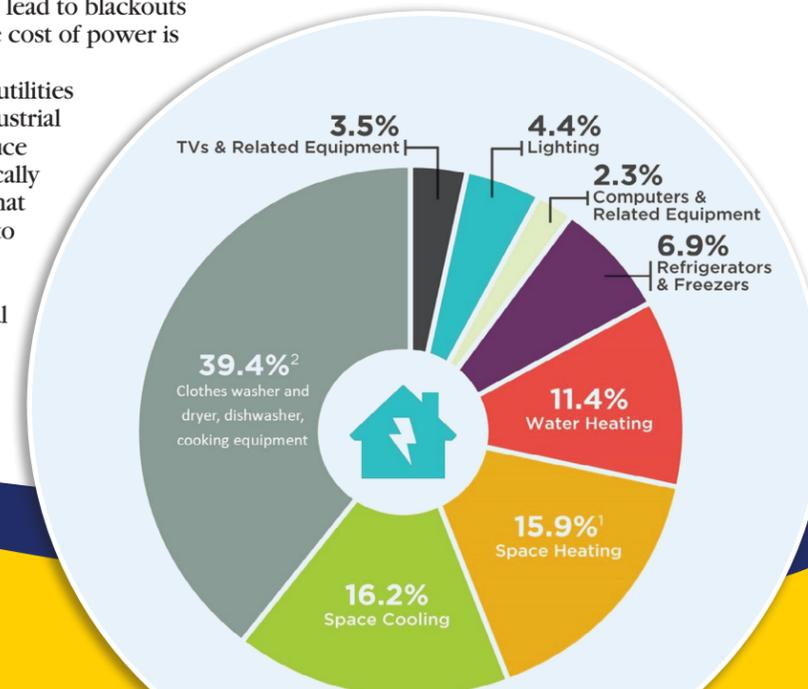
cooking and dishwashing combined account for 67 percent of the average household's electric usage. As a residential consumer, you can help “beat the peak” by: postponing chores such as laundry and using the oven; raising your thermostat two-five degrees (set at 78°) and use fans; and putting off significant hot water usage (dishwashing, bathing) until after peak demand times.

Historically, OREMC has not issued a Peak Alert to our residential consumer-members. However, as the demand for electricity continues to increase with smart homes, more people working from home, electric vehicles, etc., it is reasonable think there might be a day when we do need your help with load management. By practicing load management, consumer-members can help to reduce the strain on the grid, which can ultimately lead to more stable energy prices and maintain a reliable electricity supply.

Source: Energy Information Administration 2022

<sup>1</sup>Includes consumption for heat and operating furnace fans and boiler pumps.

<sup>2</sup>Includes miscellaneous electronics, clothes washers and dryers, cooking equipment, dishwashers, heating elements, and motors.



# OREMC Announces 2023 Youth Award Winners

Congratulations to our 2023 Youth Award Winners. Ten students were awarded scholarships of \$2,000 each, bringing OREMC's cumulative total over 30 years to more than \$300,000. Two students were selected as Youth Tour OREMC Scholarship Winners:

**Alexis Alberson** graduated from Glynn Academy and is the daughter of Wendy and Garrow Alberson. Alexis was active in National Honors Society, Spirt Club, Cross Country, and Track team, FCA, and Pirates of the Spanish Main. Alexis held offices in many of those organizations. A few of Alexis's honors include Award of Excellence, FCA Champion of Character, CASE Mercer Award, UGA Certificate of Merit, Heisman Trophy Scholarship Finalist, Exchange Club Student of the Month, and 2022 Presbyterian College Fellow Award. She also completed 150 hours of community service. Alexis plans to attend Auburn University and major in criminal justice. Her goal is to work in federal law enforcement.



**Gannon Kassab** is the daughter of Stacy Allen-Kassab and a graduate of Hilliard Middle-Senior High school. Gannon was a member of the National Honors Society, FBLA, BETA, E-Sports, Senior Class Committee, Soccer, Tennis, Flag Football, FBCH youth. She held offices as president of E-Sports, vice president of the National Honor Society, Parliamentary FBLA and many others. A few of Gannon's honors include FBLA 1st Place District 10th, 11th and 12th grade, Homecoming Court 10th grade and princess 11th grade, 3rd place winner Amelia Island Book Writing Festival Short Story Contest, Most Photogenic, Miss Hilliard High School, and FBLA State Representative. Gannon will attend Florida State College at Jacksonville to obtain her bachelor's in nursing with a goal of becoming a nurse anesthetist.



**Julianna Pittman** is the daughter of Rodney and Jeannie Pittman and a graduate of Brantley County High School. She was a member of BETA, HOSA, FCA, Sources of Strength, captain of Varsity Basketball and Varsity Soccer, as well as a member of FCA Leadership Team. Some of Julianna's honors include Brantley County Chamber of Commerce Student of the Month, UGA Certificate of Merit, and 2022 Washington Youth Tour Delegate for Okefenoke REMC. Julianna will be attending College of Coastal Georgia and majoring in early childhood education with a goal of returning to her hometown and teaching history and coaching.



**Morgan Ruis** graduated from Baker County High and is the son of Joseph and Donna Ruis. Morgan was a class officer, member of Student Government, CFC, History Club, Mu Alpha Theta, BETA, Phi Theta Kappa, TSA, FBLA, his church praise and worship team and volunteers in his community. Morgan's honors include being ranked second in his class, perfect score on state assessments level 5, and Dean's List at Florida Gateway Community College. Morgan's plans are to attend the University of North Florida and obtain a degree in IT with a primary emphasis on cybersecurity.



**Emmalyn Siclare** graduated from Camden County High School and is the daughter of Maureen and Bennett Siclare. Emmalyn was a member of National Honors Society, Vice President of Senior BETA club, National Society of High School Scholars, Council Member, Connections Club Ambassador, HERO Club, FCA, Bible Alive Club, Science National Honors Society, CCHS Chorus, along with taking dance at Coastal



Dance Studio. A few of Emmalyn honors include Daughter of the American Revolution, Advance Placement Scholar, Superintendent Honor Roll, UGA Certificate of Merit, International Winner Go Green Club, earned an Academic Letter and Junior Marshal. She plans to attend Georgia Southern University and major in exercise science and then attend graduate school to obtain her doctorate in physical therapy.

**Alexis Staklinski** daughter of Kelly and Stephen Staklinski and a graduate of Camden County High School. Alexis was a member of Senior BETA, National Honors Society, Art Club, Spanish Club, HERO Club, Varsity Gymnastics where she served as captain, co-captain of Varsity Cheerleading, and Basketball team. Just a few of Alexis's honors include honor roll, AP Scholar with Distinction, Junior Marshall, UGA Certificate of Merit. Alexis is also an active volunteer at Camden Miracle League Field and the Southeast Georgia Health System. Alexis will attend the University of Central Florida in the fall to become a pediatric physical therapist.



**Bailey Thomas** resides in Glen St. Mary, Florida, and is the daughter of Elizabeth Thomas. Bailey graduated from the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind. Bailey was a member of Book Club, Yearbook Council 11th and 12th grade, Art Club, founding member of Leadership Council, Student Council, Young Life, Creative Writing Club, National Honor Society, and served as class president in 10th, 11th, and 12th grade, as well as accumulated over 180 hours of community service. Bailey has a love for animals, especially dogs, and will be attending Florida State University to obtain a master's in social work and complete an online certification in animal assisted therapy to help her community.



**Kathleen Walsh** is the daughter of Pat and Melissa Walsh and is a student at the College of William & Mary in Williamsburg, Virginia where

she is active with Brunton Parish Childcare and Barksdale Treble Chorus. While at Glynn Academy she was a member of Choir, Terror Buddies, Penguin Project, National Honors Society, and worked at Chic-Fil-A. A few of Kathleen's honors included AP Scholar, Rotary Youth Leadership Award, GEMA All State Chorus. Kathleen served her community through Glynn County Animal Control, Blessing in Backpacks, Salvation Army, and Sparrows Nest. Kathleen plans to get her master's in neuroscience and possibly work toward her doctorate, or pursue a career in the music industry.

**Ryan Walsh** is the son of Pat and Melissa Walsh and a graduate of Glynn Academy. Ryan is active in the Boy Scouts and became an Eagle Scout in 2021. He is also a member of St. William Catholic Youth Group. At Glynn Academy he was active in the Governors Honors Program and Model UN. Ryan's plans are to attend the University of Notre Dame and become a criminal lawyer or serve as a member of JAG in the armed forces.



**Emilee Zetmeir** is the daughter of Brady and Nancy Zetmeir and a graduate of Charlton County High School. Emilee was a member of the Symphonic Band, Jazz Band, Marching Band, Student Council, BETA, Student Ambassador, and served as class president 10th, 11th and 12th grade. She was also a member of the Varsity Wrestling team and her church Youth Group. Some of Emilee's honors include Presidents Education Award, UGA Certificate of Merit, Presidential Youth Fitness Award, Young GA Authors Award, CCHS Band Performance Award. In athletics: the Maiden Award, Region 2 A Academic Award, 2nd Team All Region Softball, and the Coach's Award in Golf. She was also named Miss Shilofohaw by her peers. Emilee will attend ABAC where she has committed to play softball and will obtain her degree in English.



## Helping to Raise Mental Health Awareness

OREMC's most recent *Plugged In* podcast is hoping to shed light on mental health awareness. Based on the sudden loss of two long-term employees within two days of one another back in February—one after a brief illness and the other who struggled with mental health issues of his own—OREMC wanted to take the opportunity to help elevate the conversation around mental health and help people better understand what mental health—our emotional, social and psychological needs—is and how to better assist those around us who might be struggling. You can listen to the podcast on Amazon, Apple, Google or Spotify. Use the QR code to watch on our YouTube playlist.



## OREMC Foundation: Grant Request Deadline is July 7

Are you a nonprofit 501(c)3 organization providing educational, health/safety, economic or disaster response services to meet community needs in the OREMC service area? Your organization could be eligible for an OREMC Foundation grant. To-date the Foundation has awarded over \$300,000 to 91 organizations. Complete details and application online at [oremc.com/foundation](http://oremc.com/foundation). Next deadline for grant requests is July 7.



## Church of the Month

### Blest Community Church

1098 Old Post Rd. • White Oak, GA 31568  
Pastor Tommy Sikes

Sunday Service	11 a.m.
Sunday Evening	6 p.m.
Wednesday	6 p.m.

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

## OREMC's Wholesale Power Cost Decreases

Effective May 1, OREMC's wholesale power cost rate **decreased** by \$.012416 per kWh. Based on 1,000 kWh per month, for example, your OREMC bill will decrease by \$12.41.

- You will recall OREMC announced two wholesale power cost adjustments in 2022—July and September—due to the unprecedented increases in the cost of natural gas, which in turn drove up the cost of power generation.
- This time last year natural gas prices had nearly tripled. As

explained before, OREMC does not generate its own power, we buy it.

- Since OREMC is a consumer-member owned cooperative and doesn't have stockholders, we don't mark up these costs for a profit. The cost of power is simply a pass-through expense to our members.
- Like supply and demand of any product, the price of power can go up or down based on market prices. If there are significant cost increases OREMC adjusts for those by increasing the wholesale power cost.
- If the cost of power decreases, OREMC adjusts the wholesale power cost down.

Given natural gas prices have come down from historical highs and market confidence is for them to stabilize, the Board of Directors voted to reduce the wholesale power cost rate by half, from \$.024832 per kWh to the \$.012416 kWh.

## Youth Tour Delegates

**Taryn Fenwick** is the daughter of Sharonda Boggs and a member of Glynn Academy's junior class where she serves as vice president. She is a member of Knitty Witty, Terror Buddies, FBLA, Youth United and BETA. Taryn volunteers at Keep Golden Isles Beautiful and Sparrows Nest. She also works part-time at Striplings General Store. Taryn plans to attend college but has not yet decided what to study.



**Jayden Harris** is the daughter of Billy Ray & April Harris. She attends Georgia Connection Academy, she also attended Brantley County High before enrolling in online school. While at BCHS Jadyn was involved in HOSA, BETA, and participated in the athletic program. Since starting online school her part-time job at a pharmacy has now become a full-time job. Jadyn plans to attend college and become a business owner or a travel nurse.