



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

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8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Monday through Friday

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“OWNED BY THOSE WE SERVE”

# OREMC Welcomes New Linemen

OREMC is pleased to welcome two new linemen working out of the Kingsland district office: Andrew Scott from Hoboken and Ian Smith from Kingsland.

Scott grew up in Camden County. After graduating from Camden County High School he got his lineworker certification from Coastal Pines Technical College and then worked for electrical contractor Sumter Utilities for 10 years. When asked what motivated him to become a lineman, he explained, “My dad worked for the railroad, and I was encouraged not to do that.” As for coming to work for OREMC, Scott said he was ready to turn the lights on where he grew up—OREMC is home for him, his wife and four children.



Andrew Scott and Ian Smith

Smith also graduated from Camden County High School, and worked as an electrician for a while—his dad works at a power plant for JEA. Then he went to South Georgia State College to play baseball and studied electrical engineering for a year and a half. Ultimately, he went into linework and worked for Sumter Utilities before coming to OREMC. Similar to Scott, he too was ready to work with, and for, people he is close to.

When they aren't working, Scott stays busy with kids' baseball games and they enjoy fishing. Smith also likes boating and fishing, as well as traveling, whether it be across the U.S. or internationally.

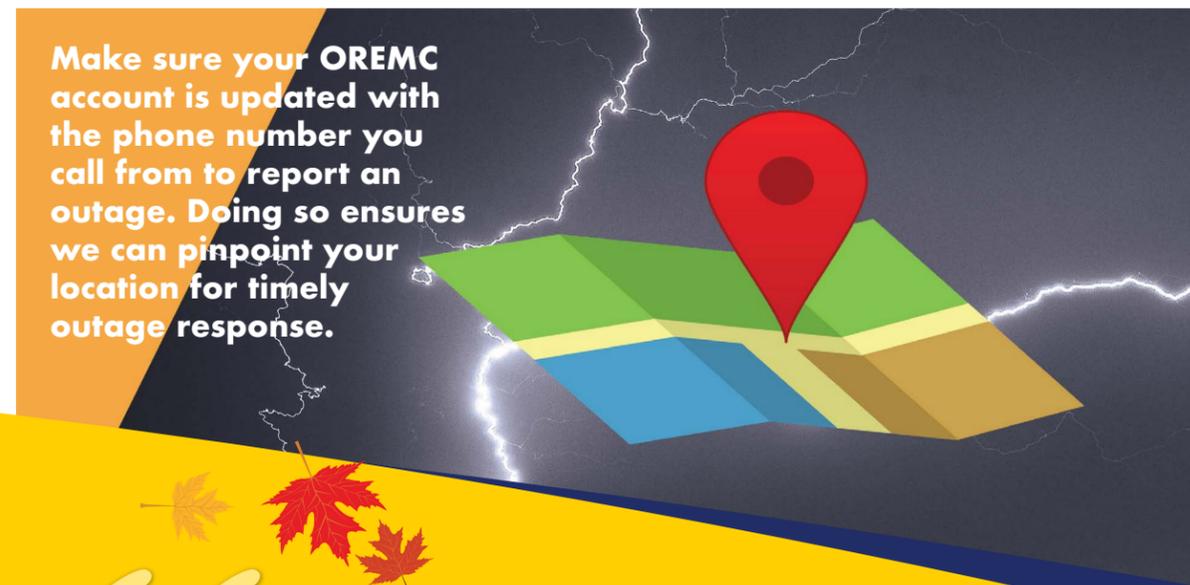
# Pinpointing Your Outage Location

Help us help you when calling to report an outage:

- It is important that the phone you are calling from is tied to your OREMC account so that the automated system can easily connect to your account and pinpoint your location. This is particularly crucial during widespread, storm related outages.
- Calling and reporting an outage on a phone not associated with your OREMC account makes it

impossible to identify the outage location you are calling about.

- To ensure we can best serve you, please update your OREMC account through the Member Portal at oremc.com with the phone number(s) you would call in on to report your outage.
- If you prefer not to include a phone number on your account, then you must enter your OREMC account number when reporting your outage.



*1 Samuel 16:7*  
*King James Version*

7 But the Lord said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for the Lord seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh on the heart.

“Autumn leaves don't fall, they fly. They take their time and wander on this their only chance to soar.”

—Delia Owens



# Rooted In Service, Growing In Innovation

That was the message delivered at OREMC's 84th Annual Meeting held on Saturday, September 9. A bright, sun shiny day was on tap, giving OREMC members a chance to see old friends, have a donut and a smile, check their blood pressure with Southeast Georgia Health System, get a free book for children/grandchildren from Ferst Readers of Nassau County and visit with trustees from our OREMC Foundation. Green Power EMC was also on hand with a Tesla and rooftop solar demonstration, encouraging members to ask questions about solar options and learn more about electric vehicles.

During the business meeting OREMC Board President Wayne Combs and General Manager John Middleton spoke about the growth and financial health of the cooperative.

They addressed system improvements and new construction to enhance reliability, and the focus on affordability despite increased wholesale power costs, supply chain issues and increasing equipment costs. They also both applauded the dedication of OREMC lineman and administrative staff, along with mutual aid crews, who worked diligently to restore power to 26,000 members in the wake of Hurricane Idalia, just 48 hours after blowing through OREMC's service area the week before.

Following the business meeting the oldest man, 102-year-old Jonathan Carter, and oldest woman, 96-year-old Dorothy Johns Thomas, in attendance were recognized, several raffle prizes were drawn and grand prize winners Vickie Lewis from Waverly and Johnny Griffin from Hoboken, each received \$500.





**VISIT OUR  
ROOFTOP SOLAR  
RESOURCE CENTER**



We recently updated our online solar resource page with new tip/information sheets, a link to our online solar assessment tool and our Interconnection Agreement information packet and application. You can also listen to our *Plugged In* podcast "Straight Talk on Solar." Use the QR code to link directly to the webpage at [oremc.com/solar-info-guide](http://oremc.com/solar-info-guide).

### Giving Back Continued

The OREMC Foundation was formed as a community development initiative to support qualified organizations in the six Georgia and two Florida counties OREMC serves. Currently the Foundation is funded by unclaimed capital credits. If these funds weren't reinvested into our local communities, they would have to be returned to the State of Georgia. Awarding grants to organizations through the Foundation ensures direct investment in our OREMC communities.



### **Church of the Month** **Jerusalem No. 1 Missionary Baptist Church**

300 Bailey Mill Rd., White Oak, GA 912-552-7665  
Bishop Anthony Domacase, Pastor

**Sunday School** 10 a.m.  
**Morning Service** 11 a.m.  
**Wednesday Prayer & Bible Study** 7 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)

# Celebrating Co-op Month & The Cooperative Advantage

What makes electric co-ops different? It is a question that offers the opportunity to explain the cooperative advantage.

Because we're a co-op, we operate a little differently than other utilities. OREMC's decisions are made locally, by directors who also live right here in our community. Everyone who pays to receive electricity from the co-op is a member. When you pay your electric bill each month, your money stays here - to pay for the electricity used, or to make improvements to our local system to strengthen service reliability. The money you pay the co-op doesn't line the pockets of shareholders. Any margins are reinvested and subsequently returned to members as capital credits. As a co-op, we solely exist to provide a service to you, our local members, that improves and grows our communities.

You may notice that throughout the year, we schedule opportunities for you to attend co-op events, like our annual meeting in September and our Wings & Watts member engagement events at other times during the year. These events enable you to learn more

about your co-op and OREMC leadership to hear directly from you.

We also conduct a member survey to gather your feedback on co-op programs and services so that we can plan and adjust for the future. Our success lies in your satisfaction, which is why we offer these opportunities to engage and listen.

Because you're part of an electric cooperative, you can count on our team to maintain local jobs, at-cost electricity and first-class service, no matter what the economy—and supply chain issues—throw at us. We work in partnership with local businesses and organizations to support education, economic development and community needs. This is where our youth programs come into play with scholarships and the Youth Tour, and community development grants through our OREMC Foundation.

We invite you to stay connected with us throughout the year. You can follow us on Facebook and Instagram. Provide an email so you receive our e-newsletters. Access our print newsletter online through the publications tab on our website and stay *Plugged In* through our podcast available on Amazon, Apple, Google and Spotify—just search OREMC *Plugged In*.

OREMC exists to serve you—you are the heart of everything we do. That is the cooperative advantage. While we've grown over the years, we're still driven by the same founding principles to serve our community, and our mission to provide safe, reliable and affordable power every day.

## Cooperative Advantage: 2022 Capital Credits Assigned

A benefit of being a consumer-member of a not-for-profit electric cooperative is you are an owner who has a stake in the financial success of OREMC through capital credits. Capital credits are calculated by taking OREMC's previous year's annual margins (revenue minus expenses) and allocated to each member of record based on their total billing that year.

Capital credits are retained by OREMC for operating capital before being retired and paid back to our members. The money is used instead of borrowing capital, which reduces the co-op's interest expense, ultimately saving you money.

Margins are also assigned to OREMC by other cooperatives we are a member of, such as our power suppliers. These margins are also assigned as capital credits to members based on their total annual billing.

OREMC's margins for 2022 totaled \$2,163,929.34 plus an additional \$1,074,847.76 in margins from our power suppliers resulting in a total annual margin of \$3,238,777.10. To calculate your capital credit assignment for 2022, multiply the total amount you were billed in 2022, minus taxes, by .03938 percent. For example:

<b>Total 2022 billing (less taxes)</b>	<b>Multiplied by percentage</b>	<b>Equals your capital credit assignment</b>
\$1,000	.03938	\$39.38

## OREMC Foundation Giving Back, Grants Awarded

The OREMC Foundation awarded a dozen grants in the third quarter of 2023 supporting education, economic development and community health needs totaling \$45,000 to

the following organizations:  
*Action pact, Inc.*  
*Agape Unlimited, Inc.*  
*American Red Cross*  
*Angel House of Georgia*  
*Anointed Boxing Fitness*

*Baker County Historical Society*  
*Blue Fire Theatre*  
*Called to Care, Inc.*  
*Georgia Lions Club*  
*Gratitude America, Inc.*  
*Love One, Inc.*  
*MASA Take by Force Ministries, Inc.*

The next grant application deadline is October 6. Information about the OREMC Foundation and application can be found online at [oremc.com/foundation](http://oremc.com/foundation).  
(Continued at right.)

