



Published bi-monthly  
and mailed to members of  
Okefenokee 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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**oremc.com**

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**John Middleton**

General Manager

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**R. Wayne Combs**

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**Steve E. Rawl**

1st Vice President

**Jimmy Woodard**

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Jamie Giddens

Joe Loomis

Clyde Mizell

Craig Morgan

"OWNED BY THOSE WE SERVE"

# Annual Meeting Scheduled for Sept. 14

In accordance with Bylaw Article III, Meetings of the Members, Section 3.01, the Annual Meeting of Okefenokee Rural Electric Membership Corporation, will be held Saturday, September 14, 2024, 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 30, 2024, 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 14 annual meeting of the cooperative. A meeting of the Nominating Committee was held at the headquarters office of the co-op on April 17, 2024. Nominations made by the nominating committee at that time are as follows:

- District 1 - Baker County (Florida) Wayne Combs
- District 4 - Middle Brantley County (Georgia) Craig Morgan
- District 5 - West Brantley County (Georgia) Jimmy Woodard

**Credentials and Elections Committee Appointed**

In accordance with Bylaw Article III, Section 3.06, Okefenokee 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<br>5612 Lauramore Rd.<br>Macclenny, FL 32063        | R. Neil Hampton<br>P.O. Box 455<br>Callahan, FL 32011-0455 | Eugene L. Drawdy<br>15901 Hwy 32E<br>Hortense, GA 31543-3731         |
| Jack Wilson<br>242 Monsie Rd.<br>Nahunta, GA 31553                | Jimmy Crews<br>1401 Lee Rd.<br>Waycross, GA 31503-2953     | Dusty Copeland<br>23710 GA Highway 110<br>Waverly, GA 31565-2253     |
| Patricia Bryant<br>172 Jim Bryant Road<br>Folkston, GA 31537-7324 | Michael Fairman<br>821 Pennick Rd.<br>Brunswick, GA 31525  | Thomas C. Shaske<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, Okefenokee 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 17, 2024 to validate all nominations. Nominations made by the nominating committee are as follows:

- District 1 - Baker County (Florida) Wayne Combs
- District 4 - Middle Brantley County (Georgia) Craig Morgan
- District 5 - West Brantley County (Georgia) Jimmy Woodard

The validity of all nominees has been determined by the Credentials and Election Committee.

**Elections of Directors**

In accordance with bylaws adopted by Okefenokee 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.)

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## Vogle Unit 4, New EPA Rules and You

OREMC is now receiving safe, reliable, emission-free nuclear energy from Plant Vogtle Unit 4, the final unit to come online at the nuclear expansion project near Waynesboro, Georgia. Unit 4 began commercial operation on April 29, 2024, following Unit 3, which went into service in July 2023. These new units will now help power OREMC consumers with reliable, clean energy for the next 60 to 80 years.

"OREMC strives to meet our members' existing and expanding electricity needs with a diverse portfolio of safe, reliable, affordable and environmentally responsible energy," said John Middleton, OREMC General Manager. "With Plant Vogtle Unit 4 online and operating safely, OREMC homes and businesses will be powered by reliable, emission-free nuclear energy for generations to come."

OREMC receives electricity from Plant Vogtle through its wholesale power contract with Oglethorpe Power Corporation. Oglethorpe Power is a 30 percent co-owner of all four units at Plant Vogtle and two units at Plant Hatch, a nuclear facility in Appling County. Nuclear power is considered one of the most reliable energy sources. Now in service, Unit 4 can generate emission-free electricity at full power 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Just days before, on April 25, 2024, the Environmental Protection Agency announced final rules to limit greenhouse gas emission from new and existing power plants. On the surface, this may seem reasonable. However, the proposal relies on technology—carbon capture and sequestration— that is promising but not

ready for widespread implementation. In general, the rules would require more significant CO2 emissions controls on fossil fuel-fired power plants that plan to operate past 2031.

The problem is, as a nation, we are prematurely retiring always-available generation with renewables that don't have the capacity to offer a 1:1 replacement—the wind doesn't always blow and the sun doesn't always shine. As discussed in other newsletters, renewables are an important part of the energy mix and will play a larger role going forward. However, there needs to be a sensible approach. A smart energy policy focuses on keeping the lights on, while working toward greener solutions. The new rules are unrealistic and unachievable in the designated timeframe, which will force the shut down of always-available generation as more electricity is being demanded to power the American economy.

So why do either of these matter to you? Because both are about reliability and capacity, and knowing you have power when and where you need it at the flip of a switch. Vogtle Unit 4 was supposed to come online in 2019. While we celebrate it being fully operational, a lot has changed in five years in terms of how much electricity is required to power life across Georgia and Northeast Florida.

Continued on Page 3.



Matthew 24:32

King James Version

<sup>32</sup> Now learn a parable of the fig tree; When his branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer is nigh:

“**Summer afternoon—summer afternoon; to me those have always been the two most beautiful words in the English language.**”

—Henry James

# OREMC Honors Youth Award Winners

Congratulations to our 2024 Youth Award winners. Ten students were awarded scholarships of \$2,000 each, bringing OREMC's cumulative total over 31 years to more than \$300,000. Four students were selected as Youth Tour Delegates to join delegates from Georgia's 38 other electric membership cooperatives for an all-expenses paid trip to Washington, D.C., in June for the Youth Tour Leadership Experience.

## Youth Tour Delegates

### Chase Grantham

Chase is the son of Karri and Craig Grantham and is a junior at Wayne County High. He is a member of the Marching Band, Symphonic Band, and a part time FFA member. He also participates in his church's puppet ministry. Honors include percussion captain, Silent Leader, and DAR citizenship award.



### Owen Hopkins

Owen is a junior at Ware County High and the son of Brent and Lindsay Hopkins. He is a member of Satilla Hospice Jr. Board, BETA, National Honor Society and FBLA. Owen also volunteers as a YMCA Youth Soccer Coach, he is Youth Group Leader at First United Methodist and works at Rollins & Hopkins Appraisal Office. Attending the University of Georgia and becoming a lawyer is Owen's future plan.



### Brittany Reyez

Brittany is the daughter of Baltazar and Elena Berta Antonio. She is a junior at Glynn Academy where she serves as Sergeant of the Marching Band, President of GA Debate Club, a club that she founded. She is also the founder and CEO of "Education without Borders." She is a member of BETA, DECA, Environmental Club, Ethnology Club, FBLA, Hope Club, Interact, NSDA, Student Council, Terror Buddies, and World Culture Club. Brittany plans to attend college and become an Immigration Lawyer.



### Karis Richardson

Karis is the daughter of Bryan and Melissa Richardson. She attends Baker County High where she serves as Junior Class President. Karis is a member of the softball team, volleyball team, Mu Alpha Theta, History Club and National Honor Society. Her honors include Scholar Athlete and Presidential Award. Karis plans to attend college and become a lawyer and maybe even a politician.



## Scholarship Winners

### Connor Chapman

Connor is a senior at Ware County High and the son of Amber Chapman. He is co-captain of the Robotics Team, member of National Honor Society and Chapter President for the Technology Student Association. Honors include AP Scholar with Honors, College Board National & Rural Small Town Recognition Award, Questbridge Summer Scholar, VEX Robotics World Championship Qualifier and UGA Certificate of Merit. Connor ranked number one in his senior class. Connor will be attending Georgia Tech and majoring in Aerospace Engineering.



### Baylie Cruce

Baylie is the daughter of John and Tracy and is a senior at West Nassau High School. Baylie is the founder and president of Totty's Totes a non-profit LLC. She is a member of Key Club, BETA, Chick-Fil-A Leadership Club, National Honor Society, Women of Influence, FCA, and Volleyball team. Baylie has served as her Jr. and Sr. Class president, and President of both National Honor Society and FCA. A few of Baylie's honors include National Rural & Small-Town Recognition Scholar, AP Scholar, and Florida St. College President's list through dual enrollment. Baylie will be attending the University of Alabama for her undergraduate degree.



### Amiyah Elam

Amiyah, the daughter of Ambi and Wally Bess is a senior at Ware County High School where she is a member of 4-H and the Volleyball team. Amiyah has served as 4-H Board of Directors SE District, SE District 4-H Sr. Board Member, and YMCA camp counselor. Honors she has received include GHSA Literacy Dramatic Oral Interpretation State Champion in 2022 & 2023, McCutchen Award, Georgia Youth Assembly, Rookie of the Year Chorus. Amiyah has collaborated with the City of Waycross to provide "Bridge to Success" scholarship and is the founder of IAM, a non-profit. Amiyah will be attending the University of Georgia majoring in Honors Interdisciplinary Studies.



### Merritt Hornbuckle

Merritt is a senior at Glynn Academy and the daughter of Ashley and Jamie Hornbuckle. Merritt is a member of GA Cheer, National Honor Society, PTSA, Model UN, Environmental Club, YELP, Governors Honors Society, HiSTORY Retold. She serves in a leadership role in each of the organizations she participates in. Merritt is co-founder of Can Collection Extravaganza. Honors include Governor Honors program finalist, Georgia Southern High School Model UN Conference Outstanding Delegate, AP Scholar with Distinction, AP Capstone diploma. Merritt will be attending Georgia Tech this fall.



### Isaac Hunter

Isaac is the son of Richard Hunter and a senior at Hilliard Middle and Sr. High School where he is a member of BETA, National Honor Society, and the Baseball Team. Isaac serves as Senior Class President and President of National Honor Society. Isaac works at Hilliard Pharmacy, runs sound at his church and participates in a surgery internship with Dr. Greg Smith. Isaac plans to attend either Jacksonville University or University of Florida to pursue a degree in microbiology on his way to becoming an orthopedic surgeon.

### Aidan Jones

Aidan is the son of Melony and Greg Jones and a senior at Wayne County High. Aidan is a member of Georgia School Board Youth Advisory Council, Wayne County Chamber Jr. Board, Youth Leadership Wayne, First Southern Bank Jr. Board, Anchored in Wellness Jr. Board, WCHS Student Council, WCHS student advisory board, FCA, golf team, and FFA. A few of Aidan's honors include: UGA Certificate of Merit, Hugh O'Brian Leadership Ambassador, Student of the Month and many more. Aidan will be attending the University of Georgia majoring in engineering.



### Peyton Passieu

Peyton is the daughter of C.J. and Susan Passieu and a senior at Charlton County High. She is a member of BETA, National Honors Society, FBLA, CCHS Marching Band, and Center Stage Dance Company where she is a competition dancer and twirler. Peyton served as class officer her sophomore year and Treasurer for FBLA. Honors include UGA Certificate of Merit, Honor Roll her entire school career and she will graduate in the top 5% of her class. Peyton will be attending Georgia Southern University majoring in Early Childhood Education.



### Chance Salter

Chance is a senior at Brantley County High and the son of Terry and Sandra Salter. Chance is a member of the BCHS marching band where he serves as Co-Drum Major. He is also a member of the Concert Band, Jazz Band, and Solo Brass Quintet. His honors include Superior Drum Major, Best Brass Marcher, and Soloist. Chance will be attending the University of Georgia to obtain a degree in Music Education and a minor in Music Performance & Theory.

### Breanna Taylor

Breanna is the daughter of Kyla and James Taylor and is a senior at Baker County High School. She is a member of Volleyball team, Flag Football, BETA, Mu Alpha Theta, History Club, Interact Club, FCA, Health Academy, Homecoming Committee, and serves as Chapter President for FFA. A few of Breanna's honors include Medallion Award, Blue and Gold Award, Eagle Award, Leadership Award, Workman Award, Kim Brannan Horizon Award, Academic Achievement Award and several others. Breanna is also active in her local church. She plans to attend the University of Florida and become a pharmacist.



### Ethan Tuttle

Ethan is a senior at Camden County High School and the son of Danielle Tuttle. He is a member of First Robotics where he is programming lead, Coding Club, National Honor Society, BETA, National Tech Honor Society, and National Science Honor Society. Several of Ethan's honors include Superintendent Honor Roll, Governor Nominee for Computer Engineering, Semifinalist for mathematics, College Board Rural & Small-Town Recognition, AP Scholar with honor, AP Honor with distinction and GA Certificate of Merit. Ethan will be attending the University of Georgia to pursue degree in Computer Science.

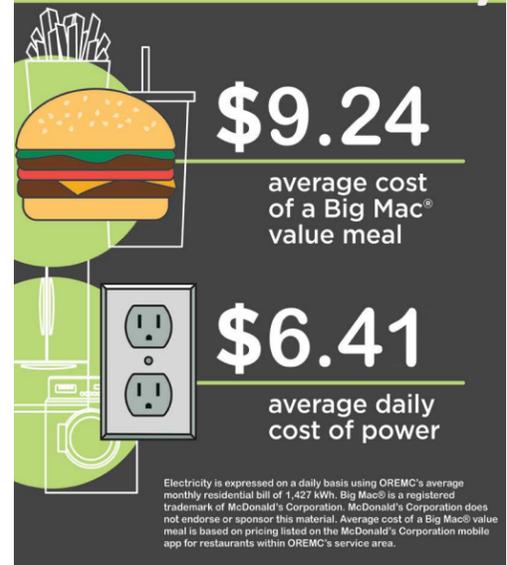
## Vogle Unit 4 Continued from Front Page

Combined with new rules that impact new and or existing gas plants, it poses a threat to the future of the grid. National grid planners forecast peak demand nationwide will grow by 38 gigawatts through 2028—that is the equivalent of adding another California to the grid.

While it might seem like a critical issue elsewhere, it is important to be aware of the issues.

OREMC, in tandem with EMCs across the country through the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, work on your behalf to ensure safe, reliable and affordable power. It was the foundation we were built on 85 years ago and remains the heart of our mission today.

## The Value of Electricity



## #Thank A Lineworker

Every day is a good day thank a lineman! Use the QR code to watch our Lineman Appreciation video. OREMC crews talk about their "day in the life" experience and why they are motivated to roll out when the bad weather rolls in. They are guardians of the grid, emergency first responders to critical infrastructure and the people behind your power.

#ThankALineworker



## Church of the Month

Waynesville Trinity Church of Nazarene

11721 Old Post Rd. • Hortense, GA 31543  
912-778-4569

Visit them on Facebook at

facebook.com/  
WaynesvilleTrinity/ChurchoftheNazarene

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

## OREMC Foundation: Grant Request Deadline is July 12

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 \$400,000 to over 100 organizations. Complete details and application online at [oremc.com/foundation](http://oremc.com/foundation). Next deadline for grant requests is July 12.

