

Rayle Lines

Member Newsletter



August 2023

The Official Newsletter of Rayle Electric Membership Corporation

Rayle EMC holds 88th Annual Meeting

Rayle Electric Membership Corp. held its 88th Annual Meeting on Thursday, June 15, at the Pope Community Center in Washington. Members were ready and waiting for registration that began at 12:30 p.m., with 246 members registering along with nine letters

of authorization. As they registered, members were given a credit voucher of \$20 for their account as this year's attendance appreciation gift.

The Wilkes County Health Department and CSRA Home Health Agency provided free blood pressure checks. The New Apostles of the Crawfordville area entertained the guests with classic Southern gospel music.



Rayle EMC President Fred McWhorter called the meeting to order.

Fred McWhorter, Rayle EMC Board President, called the meeting to order at



Rayle EMC members enjoyed gospel music performed by The New Apostles.

2 p.m. and welcomed members and guests. McWhorter then called on the Rev. Allen Danner of Lincoln County for the invocation. Attorney Jim Roberts, meeting moderator, entertained a motion to close registration and announced that a quorum was present. Roberts read the Notice of the Meeting and Proof of Mailing. The minutes of the 2022 Annual Meeting were approved as presented. Three incumbent directors were reelected without opposition to serve additional three-year terms. They are Linton Scott of Wilkes County, Herbert Powell of Lincoln County and Jackie Copelan of Morgan County. Iris Walker of Oglethorpe County ran unopposed for the open seat in District Five and was elected by the membership to serve a three-year term. Allen Danner, Chairman of the Credentials and Election Committee, gave a report of the Nominating



Rayle EMC General Manager Tony Griffin addressed the members.



General Manager Tony Griffin presented the 2011 Ford F-150 truck to Brandy and Baylee Phillips.

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Committee and then introduced the members of the Credentials and Election Committee.

General Manager Tony Griffin thanked the members for their attendance and introduced guests and directors. In his address to the members, Griffin spoke about the demand for more electricity during “peak hours” of energy use and the fact that electric utilities typically pay more for electricity during those morning and evening “energy rush hours.” Griffin also explained how vegetation management improves power reliability and is an essential tool in minimizing the risk of outages. While Rayle EMC’s primary function is to provide reliable and affordable energy to its members, its mission is to enrich the lives of its members and to serve the long-term interests of the communities it serves.

After addressing the members, Griffin announced the 12 scholarship winners, who each received \$1,000 toward their future education. Rayle EMC scholarship winners included Claire Gabriel, Cayla Gibson, Harley Hayes, Kyle Frankel and Luke McGarity of Oglethorpe County; Emily



Rayle EMC employees receiving service awards were, front, from left, Jennifer Harwell, Jenny Dove and Brenda Smith; back row, from left, Keith Moody, Ryan Taylor, Wade Hall, Greg Norman, Charles Waller and Tommy Wilson.

Hardy, Ella Jackson, Marissa Lynch and Phillip Villagorda of Wilkes County; and Braylon Johnson of Greene County. Walter Harrison Scholarship winners included Aiden Abrams of Oglethorpe County and Charles Brewer of Oglethorpe County.

Griffin and McWhorter presented nine Rayle EMC employees and four directors with service awards for each five years of service. Recognized for service awards were Jenny Dove, Kyle Brown, Ryan Taylor and Greg Norman, five years of service; Wayne Williams and Brenda Smith, 15 years; Jennifer Harwell, 20 years; Wade Hall, 25 years; Maurice Mathews and Linton Scott, 30 years; Tommy Wilson and Keith Moody, 35 years; and Charles Waller, 40 years.

Griffin then called for old business and new business.

There being none, the business session was adjourned.

Drawings were held for door prizes following the business session. Rayle EMC gave a 2011 Ford F-150 as the grand prize and several cash prizes, including one \$500 cash grand prize, one \$250 cash prize, five \$100 bills, five \$50 credit vouchers and five \$25 credit vouchers, along with other door prizes. Donations were made by the following: Altec, F&M Bank, Georgia Right of Way, GRESCO, Marshfield Forest Service, Pike



Vivian Hulin was the winner of the \$500 cash prize.



Rachael Thurmond was the winner of the \$250 cash prize.



Winners of \$100 in cash were, from left, Leola Dunn, Jacqueline Easley, Lamar Nix, Tommy Norman and Doug Mathews



Director Wayne Williams received a service award for 15 years.



Director Kyle Brown received a service award for five years.



Directors receiving service awards for 30 years were Maurice Mathews and Linton Scott.

At their meeting following the Annual Meeting, the Board of Directors elected the following officers for the coming year: Fred McWhorter, President; Linton Scott, Vice President; and Richard Dingler, Secretary-Treasurer.

Electric, Koppers Utility & Industrial, Southeastern Testing Laboratory Inc. and Southeastern Wood Pole Inspectors.

The 2011 Ford F-150 grand-prize winner was Brandy Phillips. The winner of \$500 in cash was Vivian Hulin; the \$250 cash prize winner was Rachel Thurmond; and the members who each won \$100 in cash included Tommy Norman, Leola Dunn, Lamar Nix, Jacqueline Easley and Doug Mathews.

Maurice Mathews honored with retirement reception

Maurice Mathews of Carlton was honored June 15, 2023, with a retirement reception at the Rayle EMC office in Washington.

Mathews retired June 2023 following 30 years of service on the Rayle EMC Board of Directors.

His service to Rayle EMC began in 1993 when he was elected to the Rayle EMC Board of Directors to represent District Five, which includes Oglethorpe, Oconee, Clarke and Madison counties.

During his career, Mathews has seen the number of Rayle EMC's meters go from 14,000 to over 19,500 and the miles of line served increase from 2,593 to 3,457.

General Manager Tony Griffin presented Mathews a plaque expressing Rayle EMC's grateful appreciation of his 30 years of continuous, loyal and dedicated service. Griffin



Maurice Mathews received a retirement plaque from General Manager Tony Griffin and Board President Fred McWhorter.

also said that his experience and input will be greatly missed.

His retirement cake was decorated with the Rayle EMC logo and Willie Wiredhand and everyone enjoyed an assortment of party foods and tea.

Attending the reception with Mathews was his son Wendall Mathews. Directors attending were Fred McWhorter, Richard Dingler, Linton Scott, Kyle Brown, Jackie Copelan, James Mathews, Herbert Powell, Iris Walker and Wayne Williams.

Mathews said he has enjoyed his service to the cooperative and especially the opportunity to become acquainted with all of the dedicated employees and board members of such an outstanding organization. He extended his very best wishes to everyone at Rayle EMC for continued success in the years to come.

Iris Walker elected to Rayle EMC board

Iris Walker of Lexington was elected to the Rayle Electric Membership Corp. Board of Directors, by the membership at the Annual Meeting on June 15, 2023. She will represent Directorate District Five: Oglethorpe, Oconee, Clarke and Madison counties.

Walker was born in Oglethorpe County and graduated from Nathanael Greene Academy. She is the daughter of the late Ralph and Margaret Bridges of Lexington and is married to Barry Walker of Lexington. They have three children: Lee Walker (Christy), Brandon Walker (Carolene) and

Katie Dudas (Larry); and they have six grandchildren.

Walker is an active member of Salem Baptist Church in Lexington where she sings in the choir. She began her real estate career in 2004 as an appraiser and then created her own company, Iris Inc., an appraisal service in Lexington. The next year, she started selling real estate with Byram Realty. In 2012, she purchased Byram Realty and formed her own company, Iris Inc. Realty, where she was the broker until Jan. 1, 2023. She is currently serving as associate broker for Iris Inc. Realty.



Rayle EMC Director Iris Walker

Recipe of the Month

Quick Georgia Broccoli and Pecan Salad With Soy-Ginger Dressing

Courtesy of Georgia Grown

This crunchy salad is made with fresh, Georgia Grown broccoli. It's perfect for a weeknight side dish.

Ingredients

- 1 large bunch (about 1 pound) broccoli
- 3 tablespoons rice vinegar
- 2 tablespoons soy sauce
- 3 tablespoons pecan or peanut oil
- 1 tablespoon sesame oil
- 1 teaspoon minced garlic
- 1 teaspoon grated ginger
- Sriracha sauce, to taste
- Salt and pepper, to taste
- ½ cup sliced scallions
- ½ cup coarsely chopped Georgia pecans

Directions

Bring a pot of salted water to a boil. Cut broccoli into florets. Using a vegetable peeler, peel the tough outside off broccoli stems then cut the stems into 1/4-inch slices. Add broccoli stems to boiling water. Blanch stems for 1½ minutes, then add florets and cook an additional minute. Drain broccoli, then plunge it into a bowl of ice water to stop cooking and retain bright green color. Drain and reserve broccoli when cooled.

In a bowl, mix together rice vinegar, soy sauce, pecan oil (or peanut oil), sesame oil, garlic, ginger and Sriracha sauce. Add broccoli to dressing mixture, tossing to coat. Adjust seasoning with salt and pepper. Refrigerate about 30 minutes, or until chilled. When ready to serve, garnish with scallions and pecans. *Serves 4-6.*



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