

Rayle Lines

Member Newsletter



July 2024

The Official Newsletter of Rayle Electric Membership Corporation

Charles Waller retires after 41 years of service

Charles Waller of Crawfordville retired on March 29, 2024, after 41 years of service with Rayle EMC. Waller was hired by General Manager Buddy White on March 15, 1983, as a Meter Reader in the Washington District. During his 41 years with the company, Waller served in several other capacities: Lineman Trainee in 1984, Lineman in 1986, Lead Lineman in 1989, Journeyman Lead Lineman in 1990, Northern District Foreman in 1994, Journeyman Lineman for the Eastern District in 1996, Journeyman



Lead Lineman in 2000 and Underground Journeyman Lead Lineman in 2006, the position he held until retirement.

A retirement reception was held on March 28 at the Washington office. An arrangement of assorted wildflowers brightened the refreshment table. His retirement cake was decorated with Willie Wirehand, and everyone enjoyed an assortment of party foods and tea.

During the reception, a power point video played with pictures of Waller with family and coworkers.

General Manager Tony Griffin thanked Waller for his loyal and dedicated years of service to Rayle EMC and presented him with a plaque and monetary gift from Rayle. Family members attending the reception included his wife, Charlotte; children Brandon Waller and Mahlory Wood; son-in-law Shane Wood; grandchildren Gage Wood, Nash Wood and Emilee Katie Wood; sister-in-law Belinda Bracewell; and mother-in-law Waistel Thigpen.

Directors attending were Herbert Powell, Linton Scott, James Matthews, Iris Walker, Richard Dingler and Wayne Williams. Retirees attending were David Armour, Rickey Mills, Mary Glidewell, Ann Walker, Melanie Wells, Barry Walker, Keith Dawson, Johnny Patton, Boyce Hall, Gene Hopkins and Pee wee Armour. Other guests attending were Cliff Sticher with Gresco, Lou Echols, Cissy Smith and Benji and Sherry McAvoy.

Rayle
EMC

Rayle EMC awards scholarships to seven local students

Rayle EMC takes pride in giving back to its members in various ways throughout the year. One of the methods of giving in 2024 is by awarding scholarships to students in its service area. General Manager Tony Griffin is proud to announce that Rayle EMC awarded seven students in Rayle EMC's service area each a \$1,000 scholarship. Students receiving the scholarships were: Emma Coleman, Greene County; Aubrey Cox, Wilkes County; Nicklaus Harkins, Wilkes County; Allyson Hucke, Wilkes County; Abigail Jones, Oglethorpe County; Kayden Stafford, Lincoln County; and Mason Wheatley, Wilkes County.



Emma Coleman,
of Lake Oconee
Academy

Emma Coleman

Emma Coleman is the daughter of James and Amy Coleman of White Plains. She is a graduate of Lake Oconee Academy, where she was on the Greene County 4-H Shotgun Team and Lake Oconee Shotgun Team. She received high honors throughout high school. Miss Coleman will be attending Georgia College & State

University in the fall to study accounting.

Aubrey Cox

Aubrey Cox is the daughter of Shaun and Ashely Cox of Washington. She is a graduate of Washington-Wilkes Comprehensive High School, where she was a member of Fellowship of Christian Athletes, National Honor Society, a varsity softball player, a varsity tennis player and an active member of First Baptist Church youth group. In 2023, Ms. Cox was Miss Tiger and Best Infield Softball Player, Best Offensive Player in 2021, Best Newcomer in



Aubrey Cox,
Washington-Wilkes
Comprehensive
High School

2020 and All-Region Player for softball for four years. Miss Cox will be attending Georgia Southern University in the fall to study sports management.



Nicklaus Harkins,
Washington-Wilkes
Comprehensive
High School

Nicklaus Harkins

Nick Harkins is the son of Jimmy and Amy Harkins of Washington. He is a graduate of Washington-Wilkes Comprehensive High School, where he was a member of Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Interact, Future Business Leaders of America, Future Farmers of America, HOSA-Future Health Professionals and National Honor Society. Harkins served as Interact President one year and Interact Vice President one year. Some of his honors include Lincoln-Wilkes Retired Educator Award, High Points Leadership Leader for the football team, Student Athlete Scholar, Future Business Achievement Award, Community Service Award for donating over 100 hours to community service, First Team All-Region Football for three years, Baseball All-Region Honorable Mention, Central Savannah River Area (CSRA) All-Star Nominee for football and CSRA Border Bowl Honoree football player. Mr. Harkins will be attending the University of Georgia in the fall to study kinesiology and then attend medical school to become a physical therapist.



Allyson Hucke,
Washington-Wilkes
Comprehensive
High School

Allyson Hucke

Ally Hucke is the daughter of Chris Hucke of Washington and Jeri Pounds of Lincolnton. She is a graduate of Washington-Wilkes Comprehensive High School, where she was a member of the varsity softball team, tennis team, National Honor Society and Interact Club. Hucke was the treasurer of Interact Club, Georgia Certificate of Merit recipient, Region Pitcher of the Year for two years, 2023 Player of the Year, First Team All-Region for two

years, Second Team All-Region for one year, WJBF Scholar Athlete of the Week and Softball Factory Pre-Season All-American for two years. Miss Hucke will be attending Young Harris College in the fall to play softball and study elementary education so she can become a teacher.

Kayden Stafford

Kayden Stafford is the daughter of Jay and Jamie Stafford of Lincolnton. She is a graduate of Lincoln County High School, where she was a member of Future Farmers of America, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, National Beta Club, Journalism Club and Prom Committee. She served as an FFA officer for three years and has earned her State FFA Degree, highest academic honors and East Georgia College Leadership Award. Miss Stafford will be attending the University of Georgia to study agriculture education.



Kayden Stafford,
Lincoln County
High School

Mason Wheatley

Mason Wheatley is the son of Bruce and Sheila Wheatley of Washington. He is a graduate of Washington-Wilkes Comprehensive High School, where he was a member of Future Farmers of America, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, National Honors Society, Future Business Leaders of America and the varsity baseball team for four years. Wheatley's honors include Honor Roll for the past four years by maintaining a 95 or above average throughout high school and being in the top 10 of his class. Mr. Wheatley will be attending Georgia Southern University in the fall to study construction management.



Mason Wheatley,
Washington-Wilkes
Comprehensive
High School

Abigail Jones

Abby Jones is the daughter of Cal and Stephanie Jones of Carlton. She is a graduate of Oglethorpe County High School, where she was involved in National Honor Society, Beta Club and Fellowship of Christian Athletes. She was a member of varsity softball, varsity basketball and varsity track. Her honors include being named 2021 Varsity Softball Patriot, 2022 Varsity Basketball Patriot, 2023 Varsity Softball Defensive Player of the Year, four years Principal's List and Georgia Merit Award. Miss Jones will be attending Georgia Southern University in the fall to study sports management with a minor in accounting.



Abby Jones,
Oglethorpe County
High School



Rayle EMC adds two new employees

Rayle EMC General Manager Tony Griffin announces the addition of two new employees: Aubrey Flanigan and Scott Kennedy who both work out of the Rayle EMC office in the Washington District.



Aubrey Flanigan

Aubrey Flanigan of Lincolnton began his career with Rayle EMC on March 25, 2024, as an Apprentice Lineman in the Washington District. Flanigan is a 2023 graduate of Lincolnton County High School. He completed the Electrical Lineman Apprentice Program at North Georgia Technical College in February 2024. He is the son of John and Renee Flanigan of Lincolnton and has one sister, Jewel Flanigan of Lincolnton. Before joining Rayle EMC, Flanigan worked for Clear Choice Pool and Spa owned by Cory Greenwood of Evans. Flanigan and his family attend Faith Community Church in Lincolnton. Flanigan enjoys hunting and fishing in his spare time.



Scott Kennedy

Scott Kennedy of Washington began his career with Rayle EMC on April 1, 2024, as a Meter Technician in the Washington District. Kennedy is the son of BC and Debra Kennedy of Washington. He has one brother, Tray Kennedy (Jade) of Washington and is engaged to Laney Thornton of Tignall. Kennedy has two sons, Cooper and Cannon Kennedy. Kennedy is a 2003 graduate of Washington-Wilkes Comprehensive High School and has an associate degree in applied science for turf management from Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College. Prior to joining Rayle EMC, he was a machine operator for Berry Global in Washington. Kennedy and his family attend Mallorysville Baptist Church in Tignall. He enjoys hunting, fishing, traveling and being outdoors.



Rayle EMC employees Josh McLeroy, left, and Richard Heard, right, participated in Oglethorpe County's Farm Day on May 3 and had a great time showing the kids ways to be safe around electricity.