

Rayle Lines

Member Newsletter



August 2024

The Official Newsletter of Rayle Electric Membership Corporation

Rayle EMC holds 89th Annual Meeting

Rayle Electric Membership Corp. held its 89th Annual Meeting on Thursday, June 20, 2024, at the Pope Community Center in Washington. Members were ready and waiting for registration, which began at 12:30 p.m.,

with 224 members registering along with four letters of authorization. Members received a \$20 credit voucher applied to their account as this year's attendance appreciation gift.

Community Medical Associates with Wills Memorial Hospital provided free blood pressure checks and gave out lip balm, pens and bags. The Little Roy and Lizzy Show of Lincolnton

entertained the guests with

Rayle EMC attorney Steve Minor called for approval of the 2023 Minutes.

bluegrass gospel music before the meeting.

Fred McWhorter, Rayle EMC Board President, called the meeting to order at 2 p.m. and welcomed members and



Community Medical Associates with Wills Memorial Hospital provided free blood pressure checks as members arrived for registration.

guests. McWhorter then called on the Rev. Allen Danner of Lincoln County for the invocation. Attorney Steve Minor, meeting moderator, entertained a motion to close registration and announced that a quorum was present. Minor presented the Notice of the Meeting and Proof of

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The Little Roy and Lizzy Show of Lincolnton entertained the guests with bluegrass gospel music before the meeting.



Rayle EMC General Manager Tony Griffin addressed the members.

89th Annual Meeting, *Continued from page 18A*

Mailing. The Minutes of the 2023 Annual Meeting were approved as submitted. Three incumbent directors were reelected without opposition to serve additional three-year terms. They are Kyle Brown of Wilkes County, Wayne Williams of Taliaferro County and James Mathews of Oglethorpe County.

Allen Danner, Chairman of the Credentials and Election Committee, gave a report of the Nominating Committee and then introduced the members of the Credentials and Election Committee: Judy Hodnett and Tom Turner, Greene County; Allen Danner and Roy S. McGee, Lincoln County; Kenneth Ingram and David Stevens, Oglethorpe County; Bobby Moore, Taliaferro County; Eric Holton and Charles D. Rhodes, Wilkes County.

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 factors that impact electricity prices and how inflation has impacted everything recently. Griffin explained

that the elements included in electric bills are a service charge, an energy consumption/kwh charge and a Power Cost Adjustment (PCA). He assured members that Rayle EMC is doing everything possible to keep internal costs down by looking ahead and exploring ways to innovate and utilize new technologies to improve our services.

Griffin explained Rayle EMC does not generate the electricity that keeps the lights on in our service area. Instead, we purchase it from our energy providers. While managing a reliable energy mix, Rayle EMC is using technology to enhance our local grid, limit service disruptions and improve outage response times. Advanced Metering Infrastructure, also known as AMI, enables two-way communication between the co-op and consumers. During a power outage, AMI helps pinpoint the exact location of the outage and can even analyze damaged or tampered meters. Another resource used to limit service disruptions is proactive tree trimming. Scheduled trimming keeps power lines clear from overgrown limbs that are likely to fall. Another helpful practice to limit power outages is using safe distances when planting trees near overhead power lines. Griffin also stated to always call 811 before you begin any project requiring digging to ensure safety.

Griffin mentioned during his address that due to U.S. Postal Service processing delays in our area, Rayle EMC members are experiencing delays in mail delivery, affecting the arrival time of electric bills and payments. As a reminder, he told members that they can avoid delays and penalties by taking advantage of our 24/7 phone payment option, e-billing, bank draft or auto-pay. Finally, Griffin told members, Rayle EMC will continue working to provide the reliable, affordable electricity you expect and deserve for today and tomorrow.

After addressing the members, Griffin announced the seven scholarship winners who each received \$1,000 toward their future education. Rayle EMC scholarship winners include Emma Coleman of Greene County; Aubrey Cox, Nicklaus Harkins, Allyson Hucke and Mason Wheatley of Wilkes County; Abigail Jones of Oglethorpe County; and Kayden Stafford of Lincoln County.

Griffin and McWhorter presented 10 Rayle EMC employees and one director with service awards for each five years of service. Recognized for service awards were Chris Charping, Latrece Jones and Mark Shurley, 10 years; Dustin Bashore, Bill Crawford, Richard Heard and Carol McTier, 15 years; Frank Jackson, 20 years; Greg Armour and Paul Wright, 25 years; and Fred McWhorter, 35 years.

Griffin then called for old business and new business. There being none, the business session was adjourned.



**\$500 grand-prize winner
David Tyler.**



Willie Davenport was the winner of the \$250 cash prize.



Winners of \$100 in cash were, from left: Denise Parks, Connie Zello, Rhonda Keen, Lou Heard and Vickie Mathews.



Rayle EMC President Fred McWhorter was recognized for 35 years of service.



Rayle EMC employees receiving service awards were, front, from left: Carol McTier and Latrece Jones; back row, from left: Bill Crawford, Paul Wright, Greg Armour, Mark Shurley, Richard Heard, Frank Jackson and Dustin Bashore.

Drawings were held for door prizes following the business session. Rayle EMC gave 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 the other door prizes. Door prizes were donated by the following: Altec, F&M Bank, Georgia Right of Way, Gresco, Townsend Tree Service, Pike Electric, Koppers Utility & Industrial, Southeastern Testing Laboratory Inc. and Southeastern Wood Pole Inspectors.

The grand-prize winner was David Tyler; the \$250 cash prize winner was Willie Davenport; and the members who each won \$100 in cash included Lou Heard, Connie Zello, Vickie Mathews, Denise Parks and Rhonda Keen.

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.

Ken Arnold retires after 25 years of service

Kenneth Arnold of Lexington retired on June 13, 2024, after 25 years of service with Rayle EMC. Ken Arnold was hired on July 22, 1991, as a Groundman and was rehired on Sept. 3, 1999, as a Lineman in the Lexington District. During his 25 years with the company, Arnold served in several other capacities: Apprentice Lineman in 1992; Lineman in 1999; Journeyman Lineman in 2001; Journeyman Lead Lineman in 2009; Staking Technician Trainee in 2011; Journeyman Lineman 2013; Journeyman Lead Lineman in 2014; and Lexington District Foreman in 2016, the position he held until retirement.

A retirement luncheon was held at the Lexington office on June 13 honoring Arnold. In attendance were co-workers and special guests, including Arnold's wife Sheila Arnold, daughter Mandy Smith, grandson Walker Young, Barry Walker, Iris Walker, Johnny Patton, Adam Nation, Jeff Norman, Tim Coulter and Dale Coker. Arnold was presented with a plaque and monetary gift from Rayle EMC.



Operation Round Up awards \$24,650 in grants to local organizations at the latest quarterly meeting

The Rayle EMC Foundation has allocated \$24,650 to support seven community initiatives as part of its Operation Round Up program. At its recent quarterly meeting, the co-op's Foundation Board designated charitable grants to the following local organizations:



- **Clark's Station Baptist Church/Wilkes**

County Ramp Ministry, Wilkes: \$5,000 to cover building supply expenses for handicap ramps being built for the disabled and elderly in Wilkes County.

- **Oglethorpe County 4-H, Oglethorpe:** \$850 to cover the cost of Northeast District Junior/Senior Project Achievement that was held at Rock Eagle 4-H Center for nine students.

- **Oglethorpe County Family Connection, Oglethorpe:** \$4,500 to provide meals for Oglethorpe County High School sports teams and band members before each sporting event.

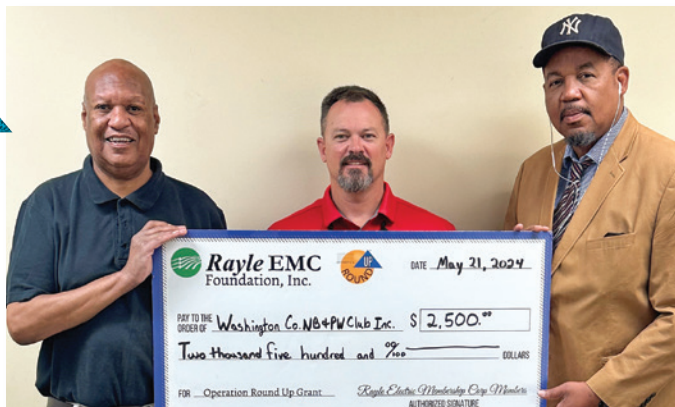
- **Washington County NB & PW Club Head Start/Pre-K Program, Wilkes:** \$2,500 to purchase new laptops and desks for adult caregivers of the Head Start/Pre-K program in Wilkes County.

- **The Victory Train of Greene County, Greene:** \$5,000 to provide age-related educational packets to homes of families each week that include books, crayons and educational toys to children at risk of not being ready for kindergarten.

- **Greene County Master Gardeners, Greene:** \$2,500 to remodel the existing teaching garden that shows community members how to use plants and gardening to improve their environment, personal health and quality of life.

- **Arnoldsville Volunteer Fire Department, Oglethorpe:** \$4,300 to purchase hose and nozzles for a new fire truck.

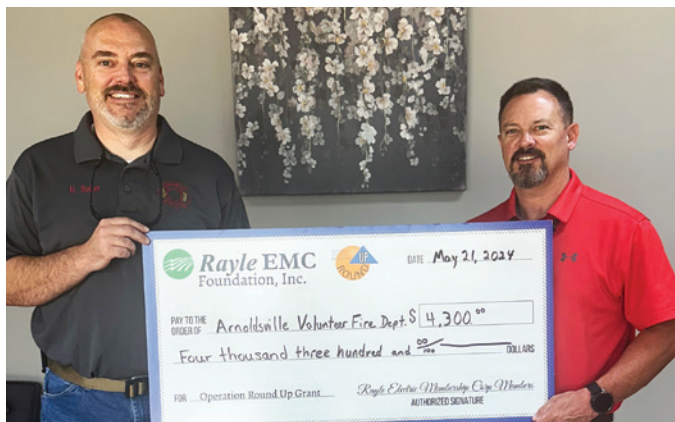
Operation Round Up is a charitable program supporting nonprofit organizations that serve to meet the health, safety, educational or recreational needs of the community. To date, the Rayle EMC Foundation Board has awarded \$311,069.83.



Grant Rainey, left, of the Washington County NB & PW Club Inc. Head Start/Pre-K program, and Program Director Ron McNair, right, receive a \$2,500 check from Rayle EMC Director of Member Services Richard Heard.



On behalf of the Rayle EMC Foundation, Richard Heard presents a \$5,000 check to Joan Revson and Debbie Kemp of The Victory Train of Greene County.



Arnoldsville Volunteer Fire Department Chief Heath Baker, left, receives a grant check for \$4,300 from Richard Heard of Rayle EMC.