

Rayle Lines

Member Newsletter



October 2024

The Official Newsletter of Rayle Electric Membership Corporation

Operation Round Up awards \$34,858.88 in grants to local organizations

The Rayle EMC Foundation has allocated \$34,858.88 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:



- **Washington-Wilkes Football and Competition Cheerleaders, Wilkes County:** \$4,925 to cover the cost of expenses for athletes to participate in a summer camp with a stunt clinic and for tumbling instructions for the athletes.

- **Devil's Pond Volunteer Fire Department, Oglethorpe County:** \$5,000 to cover the cost of turnout gear for firefighters. The equipment includes turnout coats, turnout pants, helmets, boots, gloves and Nomex hoods. This equipment helps to ensure the safety of these volunteer firefighters.

- **Sandy Cross Volunteer Fire Department, Oglethorpe County:** \$4,971.88 for technical search and rescue equipment. The equipment includes ropes, harnesses, helmets, carabiners and other items used in the act of repelling. The equipment will be used at area quarries to assist with rescue efforts.

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Monica Hardy, Coach of the Washington-Wilkes Football and Competition Cheerleaders, and cheerleaders receive a check from Richard Heard, Rayle EMC Director of Member Services.



Alex Bradford, Coach of the Washington-Wilkes Football Team, and players receive a check from Richard Heard, Rayle EMC Director of Member Services.



RAYLE LINES

Official Publication
Rayle EMC



Tony Griffin, General Manager

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Rayle EMC

Office Locations:

WASHINGTON DISTRICT

Headquarters Office

P.O. Box 1090

616 Lexington Rd.

Washington, GA 30673

(706) 678-2116

GREENSBORO DISTRICT

1461 Highway 15 South

Greensboro, GA 30642

(706) 453-2268

Sparta Exchange (706) 444-5100

Madison Exchange (706) 342-9851

LEXINGTON DISTRICT

786 Athens Rd.

Lexington, GA 30648

(706) 743-8107

24-HOUR PHONE SERVICE AT EACH LOCATION

OFFICE HOURS

8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Monday through Friday

Rayle EMC serves Wilkes, Lincoln, Oglethorpe, Greene, Taliaferro and parts of Hancock, Morgan, Clarke, Madison and Oconee counties.

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• **Washington-Wilkes Football, Wilkes County:** \$5,000 for equipment for student athletes. The equipment includes new helmets, shoulder pads, girdle pads, mouthpieces and cleats. All this equipment is used for the betterment of the football program for both middle and high school.

• **Tignall Fire Department, Wilkes County:** \$4,992 to purchase two updated nozzles, carrying straps, and a 6-inch 90-degree elbow. The two nozzles will help in extinguishing fires while the straps are used to carry the hose while being deployed. The 6-inch 90-degree elbow will help with drafting operations in narrow driveways or roads.

• **Washington Fire Department, Wilkes County:** \$4,985 to help with the purchase of the Roll-N-Rack Hose management system efficiency package. It consists of a power roller, a go-pack to transport and reload the hose, a battery pack with charger to power it for up to 5,000 feet of hose and jaws to load both a 5-inch and 2-1/2-inch hose. This equipment will help with all four departments in Wilkes County.

• **Wilkes County Fire Service, Wilkes County:** \$4,985 to help with the purchase of the Roll-N-Rack Hose management system efficiency package. It consists of a power roller, a go-pack to transport and reload the hose, a battery pack with charger to power it for up to 5,000 feet of hose and jaws to load both a 5-inch and 2-1/2-inch hose. This equipment will help with all four departments in Wilkes County.

Operation Round Up is a charitable program supporting nonprofit organizations that help meet the health, safety, educational or recreational needs of the community. Funding is made possible when members voluntarily "round up" their monthly electric bill to the next whole dollar. Individual members contribute an average of about 50 cents a month.

If you are a Rayle EMC member and participate in Operation Round Up, we thank you for your generosity. Operation Round Up is tax deductible. Additional contributions can be made by calling or visiting your local Rayle EMC office. Operation Round Up's sole purpose is to improve the quality of life for those in our community.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

If you recently made or plan to make energy efficiency improvements to your home, you may be eligible for federal tax credits. The Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) of 2022 empowers homeowners to save money on energy efficiency improvements and upgrades. Homeowners can save up to \$3,000 annually to lower the cost of efficiency upgrades by up to 30%.

A few upgrades covered through the IRA include new exterior doors, windows, insulation, heating/cooling equipment and other major appliances. If you completed an upgrade this year or you are considering one, visit www.energystar.gov/federal-tax-credits to learn if you qualify for a tax credit.

Source: energystar.gov



Rayle EMC services

In order to provide you—our members—the very best in service, Rayle EMC has a number of special services and payment options.

Budget Billing and Levelized Billing

In a continuing effort to provide a service to our residential members to prevent seasonal fluctuations in electricity billing, Rayle EMC offers both Budget Billing and Levelized Billing to qualifying classes of members.

Both Budget Billing and Levelized Billing are initially based on your average energy use for the most recent 12 months; therefore, members who have been with Rayle EMC for at least 12 months and have a zero balance are eligible to participate in either program upon written request.

Budget Billing is a fixed amount each month, which does not vary. At the end of the year, the difference between the actual bills and the budget bill amounts will be applied to the following year's budget bill amount when it is calculated.

Levelized Billing is re-averaged each month, using the past 12 months; therefore, the amount varies each month. Accounts may be removed from Budget Billing or Levelized Billing if not paid in full by the due date of each month.

Payment of electric statements

Electricity statements may be paid in several different ways:

ONLINE—Open your Internet browser and navigate to our home page at www.rayleemc.com, and click on **Pay Your Bill Online**. You will then be directed to the Customer Services Portal site, where you will be prompted to type in your account number and password. The first time you log in, click **forgot password** to receive a password reset link that will be sent to your email. If you do not have an active email account on file, please contact your local office to update your account. Then simply follow the prompts to make your payment by E-check or credit card.

CREDIT CARD—Rayle EMC also accepts payments of electric statements by credit card. You may come into one of our offices in person, call us and pay over the phone or pay online. We accept VISA, MasterCard or Discover.

AUTOMATIC DRAFT—Paying by automatic draft offers several benefits. You save time, travel and postage, and



you never have to worry about your bill being paid late and being assessed a penalty. Drafts can be on your checking/savings account or your credit card.

Take advantage of this convenient method to pay monthly electric bills and eliminate those monthly trips to the Rayle EMC office. After a written request from the member, Rayle EMC will draft your bank account or credit card and continue sending a billing statement each month. Your account will be drafted each month, according to your due date.

Senior Citizens Billing Service

Rayle EMC recognizes the special needs of its older members who may be on fixed incomes and receiving retirement or Social Security checks each month. We want to make payment of electric statements for this group as convenient as possible. The Senior Citizens Billing Service places participating accounts in a special billing cycle that can make paying electric statements more convenient.

To qualify for the Senior Citizens Billing Service, a member must be 62 years of age or disabled and provide written documentation that they are receiving a Social Security or retirement check.

E-bills

Members have a choice of receiving their electric statements by email or E-bills, as they are called. The

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Rayle EMC services, *Continued from page 20C*

day after your meter is read, an E-bill is emailed to you with a link that lets you view the bill and also gives you the option of paying it electronically. This eliminates the hassle of writing and mailing checks and saves you postage.

Prepaid metering

Members now have the option to pay for electricity before it is used, then use the electricity until the credit expires. Members who have a single-phase, non-demand residential account with a service that accepts a 200-amp-rated meter are eligible.

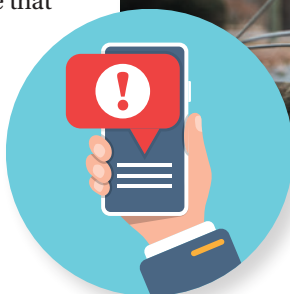
Prepay electric service uses the same rate as post-pay service. The only additional cost to signing up for prepay is an additional \$5 per month to cover the additional meter cost.

Unlike traditional post-pay accounts, prepay electric service does not require a member deposit and prepay accounts are not penalized for disconnects and reconnects.

Outage text notifications

Rayle EMC's new outage text alert program—Text Power—provides a convenient way to stay connected during a power outage.

Receiving text notifications from Rayle EMC puts information about power outages in the palm of your hand. Using the everyday convenience of text messaging, you can quickly and easily text us to report an outage. Once we've assessed the situation, we'll text



you to let you know when your power has been restored.

To set up text alerts, use your mobile phone to text RAYLE to 85700. Follow the on-screen steps, and you will be registered in no time. Or you can sign up online at www.rayleemc.com, or contact your local office. This program is available without charge to all consumers. Please note that standard message and data rates may apply through your carrier.

If you are interested in any of the services mentioned above and would like more information, call your nearest Rayle EMC office: Washington, (706) 678-2116; Greensboro, (706) 453-2268; or Lexington, (706) 743-8107.

Rayle EMC new employee

Rayle EMC General Manager Tony Griffin announces the addition of a new employee, Brayden Dickerson, who will be working out of the Rayle EMC office in the Greensboro District.

Brayden Dickerson of Madison began his career with Rayle EMC on July 16, 2024, as an Apprentice Lineman in the Greensboro District. He is a graduate of Morgan County High School and is the son of Bodie and Lori Dickerson of Madison. Dickerson has a brother, Bryson, and a sister, Brynlee, both of

Madison. Dickerson and his family attend Covenant Park Church of Madison.

Dickerson received his Electrical Lineworker Certificate from South Georgia Technical College in Americus and a Diesel Mechanic Certificate from Athens Technical College. Prior to joining Rayle EMC, Dickerson worked for UTEC Construction as an underground electrical apprentice. In his spare time, Dickerson enjoys hunting and fishing.



Brayden Dickerson