

Rayle Lines

Member Newsletter



December 2024

The Official Newsletter of Rayle Electric Membership Corporation

Rayle EMC adds four new employees



Dylan Dalton



Stephen Garner



Cynthia Patterson



Parker Dowd

Rayle EMC General Manager Tony Griffin announces the addition of four new employees: Dylan Dalton, Stephen Garner, Cynthia Patterson and Parker Dowd. Dalton and Garner will be working out of the Rayle EMC office in the Lexington District. Patterson will be working out of the Washington District, and Dowd will be working out of the office in Greensboro.

Dylan Dalton of Rayle began his career with Rayle EMC on Sept. 3, 2024, as an Apprentice Lineman in the Lexington District. Dalton is a 2019 graduate of Northgate High School in Newnan. He completed the Electrical Lineman Apprentice Program from South Georgia Technical College. He is married to the former Destony Burford of Newnan. Dalton is the son of Derick and Annette Dalton of Newnan and has one sister, Mattie Dalton of Newnan. Before joining Rayle EMC, Dalton worked as a utility pole inspector with Osmose of Peachtree City. Dalton and his family attend First Baptist Church in Washington. Dalton enjoys hunting, fishing and watching the Georgia Bulldogs in his spare time.

Stephen Garner of Monroe began his career with Rayle EMC on Sept. 3, 2024, as an Apprentice Lineman in the Lexington District. Garner is a 2023 graduate of Walnut Grove High School. He completed the Electrical Lineman Apprentice Program at North Georgia Technical College in Clarkesville. He is the son of Jason and Becky Garner of Monroe and has one sister, Emily Garner of Jefferson. Before joining Rayle EMC, Garner worked for Proline Contractors, a contractor for Southern Co.

Garner and his family attend First Baptist Church of Loganville. Garner enjoys hunting whenever possible.

Cynthia Patterson of Tignall began her career with Rayle EMC on Sept. 3, 2024, as a Customer Service Representative in the Washington District. Patterson is a 1997 graduate of Winder-Barrow High School. She is the daughter of the late Thomas and Lissa Jackson of Winder. Patterson and her husband Brandon Patterson have been married for 27 years and they have four sons: Devin Jackson, 26 (wife, Morgan), Jackson Patterson, 24 (wife, Kate), Cole Patterson, 21, and Chance Patterson, 14. Patterson is a grandmother to Stone Lee and Elijah Scott. Before joining Rayle EMC, Patterson worked as a clinic aide for Maysville Elementary School for the last eight years. Prior to that, she owned a flooring and granite countertop business. She enjoys spending time with family, traveling, lake life and reading in her spare time.

Parker Dowd of Madison began his career with Rayle EMC on Sept. 3, 2024, as a Serviceman in the Greensboro District. Dowd is a 2023 graduate of Morgan County High School. He completed the Diesel Electrical/Electronic Systems Technician Program from Athens Technical College and the Electrical Lineman Apprentice Program from South Georgia Technical School in 2019. He is the son of Jamie and Lili Dowd of Madison, and has one brother, Evan Dowd of Madison. Before joining Rayle EMC, Dowd worked as a groundman with Pike Electric. Dowd and his family attend Covenant Park Church in Madison. Dowd enjoys hunting and fishing during his spare time.

Rayle EMC seeks applicants for college scholarship

Rayle EMC is accepting applications for the prestigious Walter Harrison Scholarship, a program sponsored by the member-owned electric cooperatives in Georgia. The \$1,000 scholarship can be used for academic expenses at any accredited two- or four-year university, college or vocational-technical institute in Georgia.

"We're proud to participate in the Walter Harrison Scholarship and to offer financial assistance to students and their families," says Tony Griffin, General Manager of Rayle EMC. "We recognize the growing cost of education, and we're happy to play a part in helping members of our community."

Students applying for the Walter Harrison Scholarship must be accepted or enrolled in an accredited undergraduate degree program, complete a two-page application and write a two-page autobiographical sketch with references to future plans and goals. The scholarship is available to any college-level student of any age.

The Walter Harrison Scholarship is awarded to students who possess exemplary academic records. GPA, SAT scores, academic standing and scholastic honors are all taken into account when determining a student's eligibility. In addition, a student's specific financial needs are also considered by the scholarship committee,

comprised of directors and managers of Georgia EMCs. The committee's goal is to award the scholarship to a remarkable student who may otherwise not be able to afford college.

The Walter Harrison Scholarship was created in 1985 by the board of directors of the Georgia Electric Membership Corp., the trade association for the electric cooperatives of Georgia. The award pays tribute to the late Walter Harrison, a pioneer in the rural electricity movement and a leader at the local, state and national levels in the electric cooperative program.

Since 1985, Georgia's electric cooperatives, the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association and the Georgia Rural Electric Supply Corp. have awarded \$301,500 to 292 students through the Walter Harrison Scholarship program.

Of the applicants last year, 16 students attending Georgia schools were awarded scholarships. This next year, scholarships will support 17 students from Georgia.

To receive a scholarship application, contact Rayle EMC at (706) 678-2116 or visit www.rayleemc.com. Completed applications are due to the EMC by Jan. 24, 2025.

Rayle EMC, based in Washington, is a consumer-owned cooperative providing electricity services to more than 15,400 members in Wilkes, Lincoln, Greene, Morgan, Taliaferro, Hancock, Oglethorpe, Clarke, Madison and Oconee counties.



Project SHARE

Rayle EMC is proud to continue its participation in the Salvation Army's Project SHARE.

Project SHARE is a program that was established by the Salvation Army in cooperation with the electric utilities of Georgia. This program provides emergency assistance to Georgians who need help with basic necessities such as housing, food, medical care and utility services. The program assists the elderly, the disabled, the unemployed, the sick and others who are experiencing financial hardship.



Since its inception, Project SHARE has helped more than 1 million people throughout Georgia. It is an award-winning program that has become the model for many other utility assistance programs.

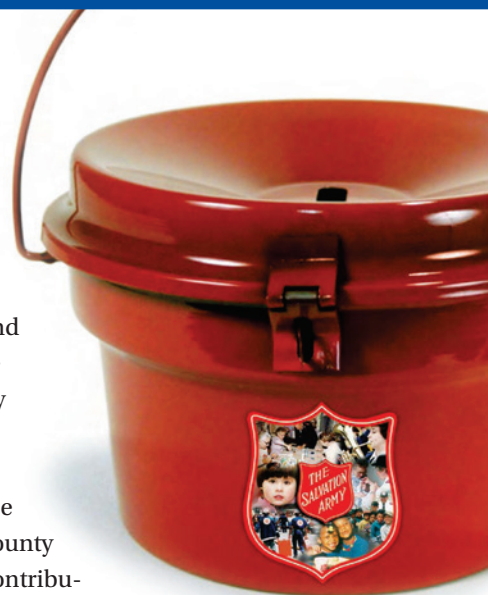
Project SHARE is a year-round program. To participate in and sustain this program, Rayle EMC members may make donations by checking the desired dollar amount pledge on the form below and returning the form with their bill payment. The amount checked will be added to the member's

monthly bill and remitted to the Salvation Army each month.

Funds will be used to help the needy in the county in which the contributions are given. If, at any time, you would like to cancel your SHARE pledge, you may do so by calling Rayle EMC at (706) 678-2116.

If you would like to make a larger individual donation or a one-time contribution to Project SHARE, please send a check with your contact information to: **The Salvation Army, 1000 Center Place NW, Norcross, GA 30093, or you can make your donation by credit card by calling 1-800-SAL-ARMY (1-800-725-2769).**

Project SHARE is administered through the Salvation Army's designated agencies. Those seeking assistance through this program should contact their county's Department of Family and Children Services.



I understand this is a direct, tax-deductible contribution to the Project SHARE program. Please add the pledge amount to my monthly Rayle EMC bill.

I pledge: ☐ \$1 ☐ \$3 ☐ \$5

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Rayle EMC Account Number: _____

Clip and return coupon to Rayle EMC with your bill payment.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

★ ★ ★

During the holiday season more than ever, our thoughts turn gratefully to those who have made our progress possible. From everyone at Rayle EMC, we wish you a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Our offices will be closed on Tuesday, Dec. 24, and Wednesday, Dec. 25, for the Christmas holidays; and Wednesday, Jan. 1, in observance of New Year's Day.

★ ★ ★



Georgia Agricultural Tax Exemption expires Dec. 31

The Georgia Department of Agriculture offers exemptions to qualified producers for agriculture equipment and production inputs, including an exemption for certain uses of electricity. All members who are eligible and currently have a Georgia Agricultural Tax Exemption (GATE) card must renew their certification annually.

To continue having the qualifying agricultural exemption status applied to Rayle EMC electric accounts, members should submit their 2025 GATE card and the addendum listing all accounts requiring exemption to Rayle EMC by Dec. 31, 2024.

Any accounts that do not have a 2025 card on file at the time of their January billing cycle will be charged sales tax. **This sales tax is refundable only from the Georgia Department of Revenue.**

GATE
Georgia Agricultural Tax Exemption
GEORGIA DEPT of AGRICULTURE

