

Rayle Lines

Member Newsletter



August 2026

The Official Newsletter of Rayle Electric Membership Corporation

Rayle EMC holds 91st Annual Meeting

Rayle Electric Membership Corporation held its 91st Annual Meeting on Thursday, June 18, 2026, at the Edward B. Pope Community Center in Washington. Registration opened at 12:30 p.m., with 223 members registering and 10 letters of authorization submitted. Each member received a \$20 credit voucher for their account as this year's attendance appreciation gift.

Community Medical Associates with Wills Memorial Hospital and the Wilkes County Health Department provided free blood pressure checks and gave out bags, health information brochures, candy, pens, note pads and can koozies. Jeff and Sheri Easter of Lincolnton entertained the guests with Southern country and bluegrass gospel music. They were joined for their final song by Rayle EMC linemen and Rayle EMC Meter Technician Justin Huff.



Board President Fred McWhorter welcomed everyone to Rayle EMC's 91st Annual Meeting of Members

members and guests. McWhorter then called on Jay Beeland of Taliaferro 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 2025 Annual Meeting were approved as presented.

Four incumbent directors were re-elected without opposition to serve additional three-year terms. They are Linton Scott of Wilkes County, Herbert Powell of Lincoln County, Jackie Copelan of Morgan County, and Iris Walker of Oglethorpe County. The report of the Nominating Committee was given by Chairman Eric Holton of Wilkes County. He then introduced the members of the Credentials and Election Committee: Judy Hodnett and W.B. "Chip" Merritt Jr., Greene County; Roy McGee and



Jeff and Sheri Easter of Lincolnton entertained members with Southern country and bluegrass gospel music prior to the meeting.



Debra Hardigree, left, and Kelly Powell, right, of Community Medical Associates/Wills Memorial Hospital, provided free blood pressure checks as members arrived for registration.

Thomas Norman, Lincoln County; Kenneth Ingram and David Stevens, Oglethorpe County; Bobby Moore, Taliaferro County; 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 how across the U.S., the demand for power is climbing at one of the fastest rates in decades. As the economy becomes

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more reliant on electricity, electric cooperatives are preparing to meet the challenges that skyrocketing demand brings.

Several key factors are driving increased demand, including economic growth, expanded manufacturing, data center development and increased electrification in transportation. Together, these trends are reshaping how much electricity we consume and how quickly utilities like Rayle EMC must adapt to meet future needs. Through innovation, investment and collaboration, Rayle EMC is

preparing for a more reliable and resilient energy future.

Griffin informed members that Rayle EMC's contract crews, Pike Electric and Helton Electrical Services are currently working to assist in maintaining our infrastructure. They are helping with new construction workload and pole changeouts for fiber attachments. Additionally, he informed members that Rayle EMC is using Townsend/McAllister and Georgia Right of Way to trim and maintain our right of ways on Walker Church Road

in Greene County, on West Lincoln Substation circuits, Smokey Road in Oglethorpe County and the Swords community in Greene and Morgan counties.

Griffin reminded members to check the Rayle EMC website and Facebook page for information and updates. He reminded them that if they experience an outage, not to report it on Facebook. Instead call our outage reporting number at 1 (844) 744-7849 or text your outage by texting #OUT to 85700, or call one of the local numbers.

After addressing the members, Griffin announced the eight scholarship winners who each received \$1,000



Attorney Jim Roberts entertained a motion to close registration and announced that a quorum was present.



Jeff and Sheri Easter were joined on the last song by Rayle EMC Meter Technician Justin Huff and Rayle EMC Linemen.

toward their future education. Kate McWhorter of Lincoln County is one of the statewide Walter Harrison Scholarship winners. Rayle EMC Scholarship winners include Ashley Branan of Taliaferro County; Callie Bridges and Cole Faust of Oglethorpe County; and Jonathan Conard, Sophia Eligio, Amelia Hall and Ethan Hardy of Wilkes County.

Griffin and McWhorter presented 13 employees and one director with service awards for each five years of service. Service awards were presented to Aleta Cantey, Gene Hall, Ryan Hucke, Eli Strother and Stacey Ware, five years; Josh McLeroy and Madeline Callaway, 10 years; Jim Bennett, Director Herbert Powell and Suzie Weaver, 20 years; Joseph Edwards, 25 years; Karen Chafin and Melissa Scott, 35 years; and Tony Griffin, 45 years.

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

Drawings were held for more than 50 door prizes following the business session. Rayle EMC gave \$500 cash as a grand prize and several cash prizes, including 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 Industries, F&M Bank, Gresco, Georgia Right of Way, Helton Electric Services, Townsend Tree Service, Southeastern Transformer Company, Pike Electric, United Scrap, Southeastern Wood Pole Inspectors and Koppers Utility & Industrial Products Inc.



Karmen Moon was the winner of the \$500 cash prize.



Josephine Billingsley was the winner of the \$250 cash prize.



Winners of \$100 in cash were, from left, James Saxon, Udia Foster, Brenda Smith, Lola Parks and Floyd Higgins.

The \$500 grand-prize winner was Karmen Moon; the winner of \$250 in cash was Josephine Billingsley; and the members who each won \$100 in cash included James Saxon, Udia Foster, Brenda Smith, Lola Parks and Floyd Higgins.

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.



General Manager Tony Griffin was recognized for 45 years of service.



Karen Chafin and Melissa Scott were recognized for 35 years of service.



Suzie Weaver and Jim Bennett were recognized for 20 years of service.



Director Herbert Powell received a service award for 20 years and was congratulated by General Manager Tony Griffin.



Madeline Callaway and Josh McLeroy were recognized for 10 years of service.



Joseph Edwards was recognized for 25 years of service.



Stacey Ware, Gene Hall, Aleta Cante, Ryan Hucke and Eli Strother were recognized for five years of service.

Rayle EMC adds new employee

Rayle EMC General Manager Tony Griffin announces the addition of a new employee: Logan Gentry, who will be working in the Lexington District.

Gentry of Union Point began his career with Rayle EMC on June 1, 2026, as an Apprentice Lineman. Gentry is the son of Jason and Stacie Gentry of Crawfordville and has two brothers, Josh Gentry and Bailey Gentry, both of Crawfordville.

Gentry graduated from Nathanael Greene Academy in 2020. He is married to the former Brandi Bashore of Greene County, and they have two children: a son, Braxton, who is 3, and daughter Brynleigh who was born earlier this year. Before joining Rayle EMC, Gentry worked as a self-employed construction worker. During his spare time, he enjoys hunting, fishing and farming.



Logan Gentry

Operation Round Up awards \$18,000 in grants to local organizations

The Rayle EMC Foundation has allocated \$18,000 to support four community initiatives as part of its Operation Round Up program. At its recent quarterly meeting on May 20, 2026, the co-op's Foundation Board designated charitable grants to the following local organizations:



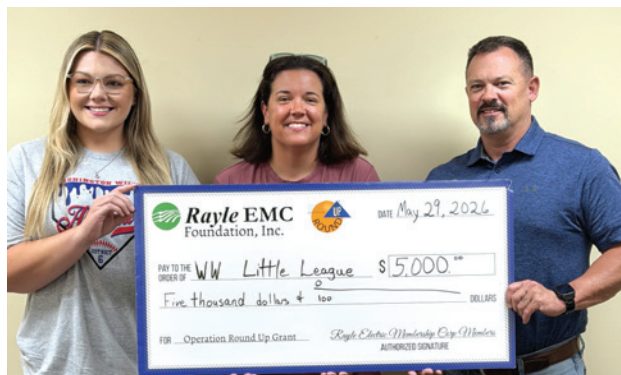
- **Oglethorpe County EMS, Oglethorpe County:** \$3,000 to purchase a cricoid stick trainer and pneumothorax trainer to enhance clinical training capabilities for personnel.
- **Lincoln County 4-H, Lincoln County:** \$5,000 to help offset the cost and reduce the financial burden for students to participate in cooking club, competitive events, camp and team activities.
- **Washington-Wilkes Little League, Wilkes County:** \$5,000 to install a hitting facility, upgrade minor field infrastructure and field maintenance.
- **WW Freedom Fireworks LLC, Wilkes County:** \$5,000 to help with the cost of providing activities, entertainment and a firework display for the citizens of Washington and surrounding areas.

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, but no more than \$12 a year.

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, and 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.



From left: Maddie Welch of Lincoln County 4-H, along with 4-H students, receives a check from Rayle EMC Director of Member Services Richard Heard, center.



From left: Libby Saggus and Ashton Hardy of the Washington-Wilkes Little League receive a \$5,000 check from Rayle EMC Director of Member Services Richard Heard.



Oglethorpe County EMS receives \$3,000 from Operation Round Up. From left: Dennis Weaver, Heath Baker, Richard Heard, EMS Director Josh Rodinson, Kelly Huff.