

Rayle Lines

Member Newsletter



August 2025

The Official Newsletter of Rayle Electric Membership Corporation

Rayle EMC holds 90th Annual Meeting

Rayle Electric Membership Corporation held its 90th Annual Meeting on Thursday, June 19, 2025, at the Pope Community Center in Washington. Registration began at 12:30 p.m. with 203 members registering along with nine letters of authorization. As they registered, members were given a credit voucher of \$20 for their account as this year's attendance appreciation gift.



Board President Fred McWhorter welcomed everyone to Rayle EMC's 90th Annual Meeting of members.

Community Medical Associates with Wills Memorial Hospital provided free blood pressure checks and gave out lip balm, pens, cups and bags. The Little Roy and Lizzy Show of Lincoln County entertained the guests with 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 guests. McWhorter then called on the Rev. Bill Neely of Greene County for the invocation. Attorney Jim Roberts, meeting moderator, entertained a motion to close registra-



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

tion and announced that a quorum was present. Roberts read the Notice of the Meeting and Proof of Mailing. The minutes of the 2024 Annual Meeting were approved as presented. Two incumbent directors were re-elected without opposition to serve additional three-year terms. They are Fred McWhorter of Lincoln County and Richard Dingler of Greene 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 W.B. "Chip" Merritt Jr, Greene County; Roy S. McGee, Lincoln County; Kenneth Ingram and David Stevens, Oglethorpe County; Bobby Moore,

Continued on page 18B



Little Roy and Lizzy of Lincoln County entertained members with bluegrass gospel music prior to the meeting.



Rayle EMC members checked in during 2025 Annual Meeting Registration.

90th Annual Meeting, *Continued from page 18A*

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 upcoming possibility of severe storms with summertime approaching. He told members to practice safety and preparedness to protect their family during storms and outages while Rayle EMC crews stay on alert and take all necessary precautions to restore power and repair downed lines.

Griffin suggested members listen to local news or a NOAA Weather Radio for storm and emergency information and check Rayle EMC's website and Facebook page for the latest power restoration updates.

He also informed members that in an effort to reduce the chance of outages, our contract right-of-way crews, Townsend/McAllister and Georgia Right of Way are currently trimming in western Wilkes County and western Lincoln County, and soon we will have another Townsend crew working in the Robinson community in Greene and Taliferro counties.

Griffin spoke of the significant damage caused by Hurricane Helene to Rayle EMC's service territory, which included over 300 broken poles. Thanks to your Rayle EMC employees, neighboring EMCs and contract crews, we were able to repair and restore the damages in a remarkable time frame. Finally, Griffin gave a special thanks to our entire community for the support and help we received during this unprecedented storm.

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

toward their future education. Rayle EMC scholarship winners include Reid Davis and Faith Wilson of Greene County, and Jade Fincher, Marvinna Gaye, Kaylee Grimaud, Garrett Hamrick and Janie Marxen of Wilkes County.

Griffin and Fred McWhorter, President of Rayle EMC, presented three Rayle EMC employees and one director with service awards for each five years of service. Recognized for service awards were Kevin Willis, 5 years; J.T. Smith, 10 years; John Echols, 20 years; and Director James Mathews, 25 years.

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

Drawings were held for door prizes following the business session. Rayle EMC gave away a 2013 Ford F-150 as the grand prize and several cash prizes, including one \$500 cash 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, Helton Electric, Koppers Utility & Industrial, Pike Electric, Southeastern Testing Laboratory Inc., Southeastern Wood Pole Inspectors, Townsend Tree Service and Wills Memorial Hospital.

The grand-prize winner was Karmen Moon; the \$500 cash prize winner was Tim Bramlett; the \$250 cash prize winner was Pam Davis; and the members who each won \$100 in cash included Jenny Dove, Danny Heard, Shirley Dunn, Dustin Bashore and Stephen Phillips.

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.



Rayle EMC General Manager Tony Griffin addressed the members



Tim Bramlett was the winner of the \$500 cash prize.



Pam Davis was the winner of the \$250 cash prize.



Winners of \$100 in cash were, from left, Jenny Dove, Danny Heard, Shirley Dunn, Dustin Bashore and Stephen Phillips.



Director James Mathews received a service award for 25 years.



Kevin Willis was recognized for 5 years of service.



J.T. Smith was recognized for 10 years of service.



John Echols was recognized for 20 years of service.



From left: General Manager Tony Griffin, Karmen Moon, winner of the 2013 Ford F-150, and Moon's daughters Charlie Mae and Lilly Katherine.

Paul Wilson joins Rayle EMC staff in the Washington District

Paul Wilson of Tignall is the newest addition to Rayle EMC, according to General Manager Tony Griffin. He began working as a Warehouseman/ Groundskeeper on May 5, 2025, in the Washington District. Wilson is a 1979 graduate of Zion-Benton Township High School in Zion, Ill. Prior to joining Rayle EMC, Wilson worked for Deceased Pet Care Funeral Home and Crematory in Chamblee for 15 years and at Kelly Springfield Warehouse in Stockbridge for 26 years as a Lead Warehouseman.

Wilson grew up in Libertyville, Ill. He is the son of Erma Wilson and the late Ray Wilson of Senoia. He is married to the former Judy Mendrala of Twin Lakes, Wis. Wilson has two brothers, Steve Wilson of Hiram, Tom Wilson of Jackson; and one sister, Joan Wilson of Winthrop Harbor, Ill. Wilson and his wife attend Tignall Baptist Church, and his hobbies include music, gardening and watching the National Ice Hockey League.



Paul Wilson

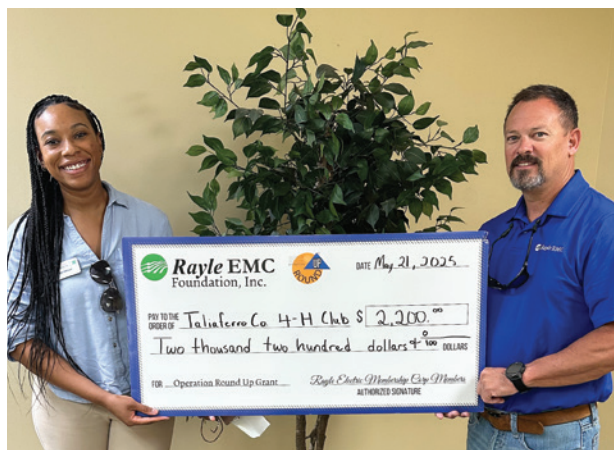
Operation Round Up awards \$39,700 in grants to local organizations at the latest quarterly meeting

The Rayle EMC Foundation has allocated \$39,700 to support nine 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:



- **American Legion Post 194, Lincolnton:** \$5,000 to purchase new windows for the Community Hall.
- **City of Lincolnton, Lincolnton:** \$5,000 to purchase new weapon systems for five officers.
- **Washington-Wilkes Tiger Club, Washington:** \$5,000 to purchase essential equipment for various sports.
- **Lincoln County Community Partnership Inc, Lincolnton:** \$5,000 to provide free, age-appropriate books each month to children from birth to age five through the Dolly Parton Imagination Library.
- **Operation Appreciation Inc, Georgia:** \$2,500 to support the military humanitarian initiative, which provides emergency assistance to military members and veterans during times of hardship.
- **Lincoln County Sheriff's Office, Lincolnton:** \$5,000 to purchase ballistic vests for all deputies.
- **Taliaferro County 4-H Club, Crawfordville:** \$2,200 to defray the cost of youth Summer Camp and 4-H State Council.
- **Washington-Wilkes Wrestling Team, Washington:** \$5,000 to purchase wrestling uniforms and equipment for the team.
- **Washington Little Theater Company, Washington:** \$5,000 to help with funding the replacement of the facility's roof.

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, Rayle EMC Foundation Board has awarded \$420,794.61. Funding is made possible when members voluntarily "round up" their monthly electric bill to the next whole dollar. Individual members contribute, on average, about 50 cents a month.



Natalie Stanley with Taliaferro County 4-H Club, left, receives a \$2,200 check from Rayle EMC Director of Member Services Richard Heard.



Lincoln County Sheriff Clay Smith, left, receives a \$5,000 check from Rayle EMC Director of Member Services Richard Heard.

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 so other 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.

