

Rayle Lines

Member Newsletter



February 2025

The Official Newsletter of Rayle Electric Membership Corporation

Rayle EMC adds two new employees

Rayle EMC General Manager Tony Griffin announces the addition of two new employees: Heath Creswell who works out of the Washington District and Bryson Scott who works out of the Lexington District.



Heath Creswell

Heath Creswell of Lincolnton began his career with Rayle EMC on Nov. 4, 2024, as an Apprentice Lineman in the Washington District. Creswell is a 2023 graduate of Lincoln County High School. He completed the Electrical Lineman Apprentice Program at North Georgia Technical College in October 2024. He is the son of Ricky and Deedee Creswell of Lincolnton and has two brothers, Cody Creswell and Hunter Creswell of Augusta. Before joining Rayle EMC, Creswell worked for A-Lert Construction of Augusta as a welder. Creswell and his family attend First Assembly of God in Lincolnton. Creswell enjoys hunting and watching sports in his spare time.



Bryson Scott

Bryson Scott of Nevis began his career with Rayle EMC on Nov. 11, 2024, as a Serviceman Trainee in the Lexington District. Scott is the son of Brian and Erika Scott of Statesboro and has a sister, Alayna Grace Scott of Statesboro. He is a 2023 graduate of Bulloch Academy in Statesboro. Scott completed the Electrical Lineman Apprentice Program at South Georgia Technical College. Prior to joining Rayle EMC, he was a groundman for Pike Electric. Scott and his family attend Connection Church of Statesboro. He enjoys hunting and fishing during his spare time.

Operation Round Up awards \$18,665.90 in grants to local organizations



The Rayle EMC Foundation has allocated \$18,665.90 to support four community initiatives as part of its Operation Round Up program. At its recent quarterly meeting on Nov. 20, 2024, the co-op's Foundation Board designated charitable grants to the following local organizations:

- **Oglethorpe County High School FFA, Lexington:** \$5,000 to cover expenses for the Learning to Lead Program. This program includes Summer Officer Training, National FFA Convention and State FFA Convention expenses for the students.
- **Community Emergency Response Team (C. E. R. T.), Crawford:** \$3,865.90 to purchase high visibility outerwear and automated external defibrillators (AEDs) for the volunteer team members.
- **Taliaferro County Fire Department, Crawfordville:** \$4,800 for funds to obtain a Grain Bin Rescue System which includes a rescue auger, panels, steps and platforms. This equipment will be used during emergencies involving grain bins.
- **Oglethorpe County High School PTO Inc. Lexington:** \$5,000 to assist with the purchase of new library furniture for the high school.

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From left: Richard Heard, Rayle EMC Director of Member Services, presents a check to Sim Hogan, Deputy Chair-person for C.E.R.T., and Alice Williamson, Chairperson for C.E.R.T. of Oglethorpe County.



From left: Oglethorpe High School Principal Bill Sampson, 10th-grader Madison Carter, Assistant Principal Lauren Carlson, Media Specialist Julie Sartor, Richard Heard, PTO Co-President Lisa Thomas, PTO Co-President Alicia Bullock and PTO Secretary Teresa Ross.

Operation Round Up is a charitable program supporting nonprofit organizations that serve to 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, on average, about 50 cents a month. To apply for a grant for your organization, please contact your local Rayle EMC office.

If you are a Rayle EMC member who participates in Operation Round Up, we thank you for your generosity. Operation Round Up is tax-deductible, so 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: Richard Heard presents a check to Oglethorpe FFA officers Andee Dellinger, Callie Bridges, Luke Huff, Zoe Freeman and FFA Advisor Travis Sertich.



Andrew Foot, Chief of Taliferro County Fire Department, left, receives 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.

Feb. 21 deadline approaches for 2025 Washington Youth Tour

Rayle EMC reminds local high school students that the Feb. 21 deadline to apply for the Washington Youth Tour is approaching. We will be selecting three high school students between the ages of 16 and 18 for an all-expenses-paid trip to our nation's capital. Students will join dozens of their peers from around the state and country, June 13-20, as delegates on the Washington Youth Tour, a fast-paced, once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to visit Washington, D.C.

This great opportunity only costs the time it takes to write an essay of 500 to 1,000 words about the factors that make an electric cooperative different from other electric utilities and how it benefits the community. A panel of judges will select a group of

finalists, and three winners will be chosen according to biographical information and ability to communicate both orally and in writing.

All essays should be post-marked by Feb. 21, 2025, and mailed to: Richard Heard, Rayle EMC, P.O. Box 1090, Washington, GA 30673.



Delinquent electricity utility accounts

Delinquent electric utility accounts occur when full payment is not made by the due date on your bill.

Sometimes extenuating circumstances beyond your control cause you to have trouble making your payments by the due date. The best way to prevent disconnection of your electrical service is to stay in contact with your electricity provider to explain these circumstances and see if you qualify for a payment arrangement.

It is important to understand the consequences and additional charges associated with delinquent accounts.

Rayle EMC members with power

bills over two months past due are eligible for their services to be disconnected due to nonpayment. If disconnected, the balance due, a collection fee, a reconnection fee, plus an additional security deposit must be paid before service can be restored.

Other factors that cause your power to be disconnected for nonpayment include broken payment arrangements, returned payments (checks and credit cards) and fraud.

Rayle EMC conducts monthly checks to review the status on all delinquent accounts at the end of each month. Those accounts that were eligible for disconnection during the month but were not physically turned off are reviewed and if still



delinquent will be disconnected at this time without further notification.

All Rayle EMC members should try to maintain a one-month status on their power bill to avoid power interruption. Contact your local office if you have any questions regarding your electric utility bill.