

# Rayle Lines

## Member Newsletter



May 2025

The Official Newsletter of Rayle Electric Membership Corporation

# Operation Round Up awards

## \$16,500 in grants to local organizations

The Rayle EMC Foundation has allocated \$16,500 to support four 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:



- **City of Sparta/Community Resource Expo,**

**Sparta:** \$5,000 to ensure the success of the 2025 Expo in Sparta. The mission of the "It Takes a Village" Community Resource Expo is to provide for the underserved members of the Sparta community with accessible health and wellness services, essential resources and engaging activities.

- **Oglethorpe County Sheriff's Office, Lexington:**

\$4,500 to cover the cost of new car seats for those in need or facing financial difficulties in Oglethorpe

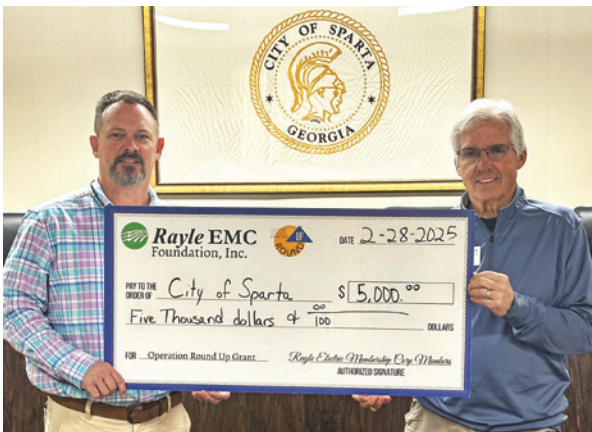
County. Classes are given on proper installation of car seats. After completing the class, parents are given an age-appropriate car seat provided by the Oglethorpe

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**Washington-Wilkes Middle School**

From left, back row: Daeon Gibson, Aniyah Grant, Kendra Payne and Andrea Ferguson; front row: Rayle EMC Director of Member Services Richard Heard, Olivia Tutt, Eighth-Grade Social Studies Teacher DJ Martin and Principal Arstasia Evans.



**City of Sparta**

From left: Rayle EMC Director of Member Services Richard Heard presents a \$5,000 check to Mayor Allen Haywood for the Community Resource Expo to be held on April 19.



**Oglethorpe County Sheriff's Department**

From left: Richard Heard, Rayle EMC Director of Member Services, presents a check for \$4,500 to Courtney Corbin and Shae Peek of the Oglethorpe County Sheriff's Office.

# Operation Round Up awards, *Continued from page 20A*

County Sheriff's Office. Car seats are also provided during traffic stops when a child is found without a car seat or the appropriate seat.

- **Washington Wilkes Middle School, Washington:** \$5,000 to help cover the transportation cost, tour fees and meals for the Eighth-Grade Savannah Trip. This trip will include guided tours of several Savannah attractions, such as the Massie School House, Saint John the Baptist Basilica, Old Fort Jackson and Historic Grayson Stadium, along with visiting Tybee Island Beach and River Street.

- **Sparta Cemetery Association Inc., Sparta:** \$2,000 to help cover the restoration and repair of 10 graves of Revolutionary War soldiers who are buried in the historic Sparta Cemetery.

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.

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



## **Sparta Cemetery Association Inc.**

*From left: Al Butts and Caroline Baker with the Sparta Cemetery Association receive a check for \$2,000 from Richard Heard, Rayle EMC Director of Member Services.*

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 the communities we serve.

## Wilkes-Lincoln 2025 Farm Safety Camp

**T**he agricultural and safety-oriented businesses of Wilkes and Lincoln counties are joining forces once again to sponsor the 2025 Farm Safety Camp. The camp will be held Thursday, May 29, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., at the McGill-Woodruff Agricultural Center in Washington. Drop-off begins at 8:30 a.m. The camp features safety classes for children who have completed kindergarten up to 11 years old, who will learn in a fun, educational environment as they rotate through a series of classes on fire safety, tractor safety, electrical safety, reptile safety, gun



and boat safety, first aid safety, large animal safety and much more!

The \$10 registration fee for the

Farm Safety Camp includes classes, lunch, two snacks, a T-shirt and goody bag. Children may register at the Wilkes County Extension office or the Lincoln County Extension office. Only preregistered campers will be allowed, with a maximum of 150 campers. The deadline for submitting an application is Friday, May 9, by 5 p.m. There will be no applications accepted after the deadline. For more information, or to request a registration form, please call the Wilkes County Extension office at (706) 678-2332 or the Lincoln County Extension office at (706) 359-3233.



# Washington Youth Tour

**T**hree local high school students will spend a week experiencing the nation's capital. Lexington resident Callie Bridges, Lincolnton resident Kate McWhorter and Winterville resident Jake Huff have been chosen to participate in the 2025 Washington Youth Tour. The tour is an all-expenses-paid leadership experience sponsored by Georgia's electric membership corporations, including Rayle EMC. This year's tour will take place June 13-20. The Washington Youth Tour offers opportunities for students to meet policymakers, tour historic monuments and participate in leadership experiences while making new, long-lasting friendships from across the state and the nation.

Callie, Kate and Jake were chosen as winners to participate in this year's tour.

Callie is the daughter of Phillip and Leigh Anne Bridges of Lexington. Bridges is an 11th-grader at Oglethorpe County High School, where she is an active member of the Oglethorpe County FFA, Beta Club President, student council and a Fellowship of Christian Athletes officer.

Kate is the daughter of Ben and Cathy McWhorter of Lincolnton. McWhorter is an 11th-grader at Lincoln County High School, where she is a member of the soccer team, Varsity Cheer Devils, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, year-book staff, Beta Club and Student Council.

Jake is the son of Ken and Katie Huff

of Winterville. He is a 10th-grader at Oglethorpe County High School, where he is an active member of the Oglethorpe County FFA, football team, golf team, Beta Club and a Fellowship of Christian Athletes officer.

The delegates were selected through an essay contest and will join other Georgia high school students who have been selected by their local EMCs.

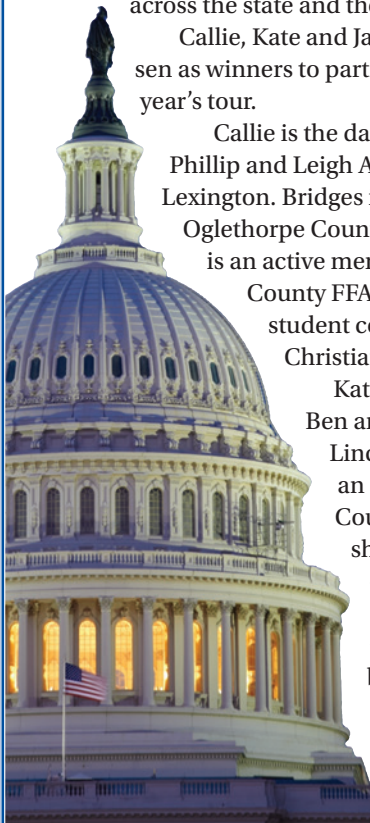
For 60 years, the Youth Tour has helped promising students to

become exceptional young adult leaders. Teens on the tour are challenged to consider the part they play in government to understand the cooperative business model and to learn about careers in public service.

EMC leaders and former student delegates agree the Youth Tour has grown into an invaluable program that gives young Americans an experience they will treasure for the rest of their lives. Meeting delegates from different backgrounds, visiting historic locations in Washington, D.C., and discussing important local and national issues will be a lifetime experience for these high school students. Rayle EMC is proud to support these outstanding young students.



From left: Washington Youth Tour delegates Callie Bridges, Jake Huff and Kate McWhorter.



# Richard Duke retires after 18 years

**R**ichard Duke of Tignall retired on March 6, 2025, after 18 years of service with Rayle EMC. Duke was hired on Feb. 26, 2007, as a Lineman in the Washington district by General Manager Tony Griffin. During his 18 years with Rayle EMC, Duke served in several other capacities: Journeyman Lineman in 2008; Staking Technician Trainee in 2016; Staking Technician in 2018; and Purchasing Agent for the Washington Warehouse in April 2023, the position he held until retirement.

Duke says he enjoyed working at Rayle EMC and will miss seeing everyone. After retiring, Duke plans to travel, hunt a lot and take pleasure in his retirement.



From left: Richard Duke accepts a plaque and monetary gift for his loyal and dedicated years of service to Rayle EMC from General Manager Tony Griffin.

## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Routine maintenance is important to keep your refrigerator running efficiently. Lint and dirt should be cleaned from the refrigerator coils every six months to a year—and more often if there are pets in the home.

When coils are coated with lint, dust or pet hair, your refrigerator works harder than it's designed to, which can prevent the appliance from cooling properly and efficiently. The additional work can increase the energy costs of the refrigerator by as much as 35% and shorten the life of the appliance.

Source: [energy.gov](http://energy.gov)



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