

Rayle Lines

Member Newsletter

February 2026

The Official Newsletter of Rayle Electric Membership Corporation



Operation Round Up awards \$41,539 in grants to local organizations



The Rayle EMC Foundation has allocated \$41,539 to support 10 community initiatives as part of its Operation Round Up program. At its recent quarterly meeting on Nov. 19, 2025, the co-op's Foundation Board designated charitable grants to the following local organizations:

- **Purification Heritage Center Inc., Taliaferro County:** \$5,000 to cover some of the expenses to restore the historic cemetery by replacing the chain-link fence, the wrought-iron gate and overarch.
- **Wilkes County EMS, Washington:** \$4,939 to improve field diagnostic and IV access capabilities with the purchase of a portable ultrasound scanner and monitor.
- **Pleasant Hill Volunteer Fire Department, Lexington:** \$5,000 to purchase personal protective equipment for firefighters and a generator to power scene lighting during emergency operations.
- **Washington-Wilkes Animal Shelter, Washington:** \$5,000 to spay and neuter animals before they are adopted.
- **Angel House of Georgia, All of Georgia:** \$1,700 to provide entry scholarships for women struggling with substance abuse treatment at Angel House of Georgia.
- **Special Olympics of Georgia, All of Georgia:** \$2,500 to cover all expenses for approximately 23 athletes to



From left: Wilkes County EMS Paramedic Heather Bowman and Wilkes EMS Director Dan Wright receive a check from Rayle EMC Director of Member Services Richard Heard.



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RAYLE LINES

Official Publication
Rayle EMC



Tony Griffin, General Manager

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Rayle EMC

Office Locations:

WASHINGTON DISTRICT

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(706) 678-2116

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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.

Operation Round Up,

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participate in a weekend-long state competition and receive free health care screenings and wellness education.



- **Taliaferro County Family Connection, Inc., Taliaferro County:** \$4,900 to support the Training Taliaferro Project, which will include sessions for forklift training, OSHA training, CPR/first aid/AED training and Serve Safe Manager training.
- **Washington-Wilkes Comprehensive High School AP program, Wilkes County:** \$5,000 to offset the cost of AP exams for high school students.
- **Make-A-Wish Georgia, All of Georgia:** \$2,500 for the Wish-Granting Program for local children with critical illnesses.
- **City of Lexington Volunteer Fire Department, Lexington:** \$5,000 to help purchase the tools necessary for cutting and spreading vehicle components to access and remove victims trapped in vehicles.

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 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: Mary Eubanks with the Taliaferro County Family Connection receives a check from Richard Heard of Rayle EMC.

Rayle EMC adds four new employees

Rayle EMC General Manager Tony Griffin announces the addition of four new employees: Keller McCord and Luke Lamb in the Washington District; and Charles Esparza and Lawson Owen in the Lexington District.



Keller McCord

Keller McCord of Thomson began his career with Rayle EMC on Nov. 3, 2025, as an Apprentice Lineman in the Washington District. McCord grew up in Thomson and is a 2023 graduate of Briarwood Academy. He is the son of Richard McCord and the late Stephanie McCord of Thomson and has a brother, Colby McCord of Thomson.

McCord received his certificate of completion from Elite Lineman Training Institute in Tunnel Hill. Before joining Rayle EMC, McCord worked for Lee Electrical Company of Aberdeen, N.C., as an Apprentice Lineman. His hobbies include hunting and fishing during his spare time.

Luke Lamb of Lincolnnton began his career with Rayle EMC on Nov. 4, 2025, as an Apprentice Lineman in the Washington District. Lamb grew up in Appling and is a 2016 graduate of Greenbrier High School. He is the son of Mary Lamb of Appling and has a brother, Chad Lamb of Grovetown, and a sister, Addie Lamb of North Carolina. Lamb is married to the former Morgan Corley of North Augusta, S.C.

Before joining Rayle EMC, Lamb worked for Aiken Electric as an Apprentice Lineman. His hobbies include hunting, fishing and shooting.



Luke Lamb



Charles Esparza

Charles Esparza of Athens began his career with Rayle EMC on Nov. 4, 2025, as an Apprentice Lineman in the Lexington District. Esparza is a 2014 graduate of Newton High School in Covington. He is the son of Robert Ramazotti and Eliabeth Esparza of Lake Elsinora, Calif., and has a brother, Jesse Esparza, and a sister, Julliette Esparza, both of Lake Elsinora. Charles is engaged to Ivy Collins of Athens, and they attend Cornerstone Church in Athens.

Before joining Rayle EMC, Esparza worked for University of Georgia Facilities Management Division as a tree crew operator. His hobbies include grilling on his Blackstone, fishing and shooting at the shooting range.

Lawson Owen of Washington began his career with Rayle EMC on Dec. 1, 2025, as an Apprentice Lineman in the Lexington District. Lawson grew up in Washington, is a 2023 graduate of Harlem High School and received his Electrical Lineworker Certificate from North Georgia Technical College in Oct. 2025. He is the son of John and Renee Owen of Washington and has two brothers, Addison Owen and Garrison Owen, both of Washington.

Before joining Rayle EMC, Owen worked for Relyant Communications in Washington as a fiber construction installer. His hobbies include boating, hunting, fishing and hiking.



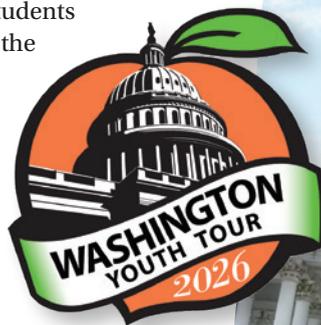
Lawson Owen

Feb. 13 deadline approaches for 2026 Washington Youth Tour

Rayle EMC reminds local high school students that the Feb. 13 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 12-19, 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 postmarked by Feb. 13, 2026, 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 a month 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 non-payment 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.