

Rayle Lines

Member Newsletter

May 2026

The Official Newsletter of Rayle Electric Membership Corporation



Carol McTier retires after 17 years

Carol McTier of Washington retired on Feb. 27, 2026, after 17 years of service with Rayle EMC. McTier was hired on Jan. 5, 2009, as a customer service representative in the Washington district by General Manager Tony Griffin. McTier is the wife of Troy McTier, and they have two sons: Josh (Brandy) McTier of Thomson and Paden (Madeleine) McTier of Canton; a daughter, Hannah (Ben) McTier Ritchie of Cleveland, Tenn.; and four grandchildren.

On Wednesday evening, McTier's coworkers took her out to enjoy a meal at Washington Tavern. Melissa Scott, Karen Chafin, Jennifer Harwell, Cynthia Patterson, Aleta Cantey, Lacey Fincher, Suzie Weaver, Jenny Dove and Madeline Callaway joined McTier. After the meal, a retirement



General Manager Tony Griffin thanked Carol McTier for her loyal and dedicated years of service to Rayle EMC and presented her with a plaque and monetary gift from Rayle EMC.

very blessed by her friends and family, and that Rayle EMC was wonderful to her.

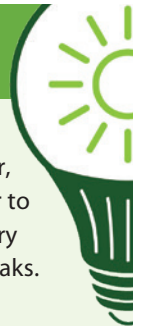
cake with a beach scene was served to celebrate her "permanent vacation."

On Friday morning, McTier was presented with a card, flowers, a plaque and monetary gifts from Rayle EMC and employees. Then on Friday night McTier was treated to a surprise retirement party by her family and friends. The party was held at the Sale Barn at Callaway Farms where the McTier Family Farm holds catered events. Attending the surprise party were out-of-town family, friends and many of her coworkers. Everyone enjoyed a variety of homemade soups with all the trimmings and cake for dessert. McTier said she is

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

As temperatures rise, many homeowners focus on staying cool. Don't forget about the small gaps around windows and doors. While air sealing is often associated with keeping cold air out during winter, it's just as important during summer. Tiny cracks and worn weatherstripping allow cool, conditioned air to escape and hot, humid air to seep indoors. This forces your air conditioner to work harder than necessary and increases energy costs. Take a few minutes to check for drafts, replace weatherstripping and seal leaks. A tighter home keeps you more comfortable and helps manage energy use.

—Source: [energy.gov](https://www.energy.gov)



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 Feb. 18, 2026, the co-op's Foundation Board designated charitable grants to the following local organizations:

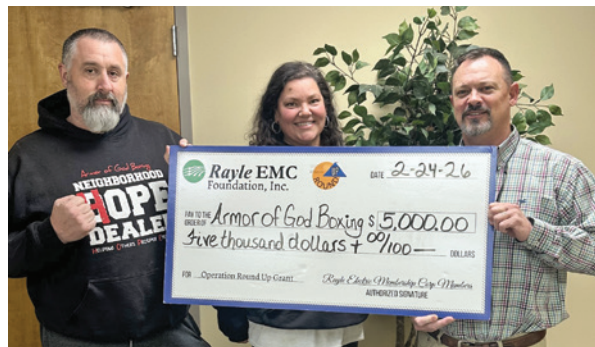


- Lincoln County FFA, Lincoln County:** \$5,000 to purchase essential supplies and equipment for the electrical wiring lab for Lincoln County students. This includes wiring kits, circuit boards, switches, outlets, light fixtures, multimeters, wire strippers and safety gear, such as insulated gloves and safety glasses. These resources will ensure that each student has access to high-quality materials and tools needed for effective hands-on learning.

- Armor of God Boxing, Wilkes County:** \$5,000 to help cover the travel expenses for boxers traveling to boxing matches out of town for them to gain much-needed experience.

- Helping Hands Humane Society, Taliaferro County:** \$3,000 to provide spaying/neutering and rabies shots for pet dogs and cats in Taliaferro County.

- Washington-Wilkes Baseball Program and Softball Program:** \$5,000 to partially enclose its existing hitting facility for the high school and middle school student athletes, thereby improving safety,



From left: Josh and Dana Owen of Armor of God Boxing receive a \$5,000 check from Rayle EMC Director of Member Services Richard Heard.



Mary Jones, left, President of Helping Hands Humane Society, receives a \$3,000 check from Rayle EMC Director of Member Services Richard Heard.



From left: Lincoln County FFA Co-President Banks Griffith, Secretary Chase Elam, Co-President Amelia Hall, Rayle EMC Director of Member Services Richard Heard and Lincoln County FFA Advisor Chase McGill celebrate receiving a check from Rayle EMC.

functionality and year-round usability for the student-athletes.

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.

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.

Washington Youth Tour delegates

Three local high school students will spend a week experiencing the nation's capital. Lexington resident Allison Kitchen, Rayle resident Landon Howard and Washington resident Emerson Carter have been chosen to participate in the 2026 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 12-19, beginning with a kickoff banquet for students and their parents in Atlanta. That will be followed by a day full of activities for the Georgia students before they fly to Washington, D.C.

Allison, Landon and Emerson were chosen as



From left: Allison Kitchen, Landon Howard and Emerson Carter, Rayle EMC's 2026 Youth Tour delegates.

winners of an essay contest to participate in this year's tour.

Allison is the daughter of Andrew and Kelli Kitchen of Lexington. She is a 10th grader at Oglethorpe County High School, where she is a member of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA), Interact Club, Beta Club, Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) and National Honor Society.

Landon is the son of Adam Howard and Brittany Arnold of Rayle. He is an 11th grader at

Oglethorpe County High School, where he is an active member of FFA, serving as the reporter.

Emerson is the daughter of Casey and Stacey Carter of Washington. She is an 11th grader at Washington-Wilkes Comprehensive High School, where she participates in cross-country, softball, soccer, track, FFA and 4-H. Carter was recently named Miss Wilkes County in the local pageant.

The Washington Youth Tour will give these students the opportunity to meet state and national leaders and gain a better understanding of how our government works. Delegates will also be involved in leadership-building activities and will have the opportunity to interact with students from across Georgia and the United States. Youth Tour highlights typically include visiting the U.S. Capitol, Holocaust Museum, Smithsonian Institution, U.S. Supreme Court, and whenever possible, the White House. Other stops could include the National Cathedral and Arlington Cemetery, as well as the World War II, Korean War and Vietnam War memorials and the Lincoln, Jefferson and FDR memorials.

EMC leaders and former student delegates agree that the Youth Tour has grown into an invaluable program that gives young Americans an experience they will treasure for the rest of their lives. Rayle EMC is proud to support these outstanding young students.



Wilkes-Lincoln 2026 Farm Safety Camp

The agricultural and safety-oriented business of Wilkes and Lincoln counties are joining forces once again to sponsor the 2026 Farm Safety Camp. The camp will be held Thursday, May 28, 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. Students will learn in a fun, educational environment as they rotate through a series of classes on fire safety, lawn-mower safety, electrical safety, reptile safety, gun safety, boat safety, first-aid safety, large animal safety and much



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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 applying is Friday, May 8, 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.

Rayle EMC adds new employee

Rayle EMC General Manager Tony Griffin announces the addition of a new employee: Lacey Pullen Fincher, who will work out of the Washington District.

Lacey Fincher of Tignall began her career with Rayle EMC on Jan. 26, 2026, as a Customer Service Representative. She is the wife of Josh Fincher and they have one daughter, Jade Fincher. Her parents, Larry and Pam Pullen, and her brother Jeremy (Laura) Pullen also live in Tignall. Fincher graduated from Washington-Wilkes Comprehensive High School in 1997. Before joining Rayle EMC, Fincher worked for Tena's Fine Diamonds and Jewelry as a Sales Manager in Elberton for 27 years, then recently for F&M Bank as a Relationship Banker for two years. Fincher and her family are active members of Tignall Baptist Church. During her spare time, she enjoys spending time with her family and friends and going to the beach.

