



Walton EMC Honors Its Veterans

We are proud to have current and retired employees and board members who served our country in the armed forces. To show our appreciation, these veterans were honored last month at a special luncheon. The Monroe Area ROTC assisted by presenting our nation's colors.

Pictured are, front row, from left, Airman Harlee Waters and Lt. Col. Christopher Martin, Monroe Area AFJROTC; Eddy Tiller, Terry Jones, David Foster, Anthony Hendricks, Wayne Brown, Lester Shellnutt, Eddie Garrett, Billy Crowe, Billy Ray Allen, Ed Norton, Kenneth Malcom, Hosie Stephens. Back row, Chief Master Sgt. Christopher Banks, Senior Master Sgt. Clay Slaton and Chief Master Sgt. Corbin Callahan, Monroe Area AFJROTC; John Hamm, Ben Powell, David Patrick, Fred Muldrow, Randolph Vinson, Greg Pannell, Stephen Broughton, Wayne Cox, Kent Brown, John Hegwood, Ronnie Lee, Jerry Capes, Larry Thompson, Blaine Pulliam.

DEADLINE JANUARY 31 Walton Electric Trust Scholarship

BASIC QUALIFICATIONS: WE'RE LOOKING FOR:

- High school senior or incoming college freshman
 - 21 years old or younger
 - Your home served by Walton EMC (electricity)
 - Scholarship used at accredited college, university or vo-tech school
 - Community involvement
 - Strong work ethic
 - Success in extracurricular activities
 - Triumph over obstacles and hardships
- Get the application at waltonemc.com

Up to 32
\$4,000
scholarships will be given!

Q: Where does the money for these scholarships come from?
A: From unclaimed capital credit refunds. After all attempts to find the owners are exhausted, the money goes into a fund provided for by Georgia law. No Operation Round Up donations are used for scholarships.



Season's Greetings

The directors and employees of Walton EMC wish you a Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah and Happy New Year.



Walton EMC
Customer-Owned Electric Power

Realite

The news you need to know in 5 minutes!

DEC 2018

Walton EMC
waltonemc.com

DEC 2018 Volume 69, No. 12

THE Rundown

inside: hurricane heroes

on the back: walton electric trust scholarship, honoring veterans

WALTON EMC IS

Refunding \$6,000,000

Most Walton EMC customer-owners will get a nice refund this month!

Your refund is in proportion to the total of your electric bills during the years of 1993, 1994, 1995 and 2017. The more you spent with your co-op during those years, the larger your refund will be.

Q: Why am I getting a refund?

A: You own Walton EMC. Any money we collect over what it takes to operate the company is returned to those who paid it. It doesn't make sense to profit from yourself.

One of the seven cooperative principles we operate by is "member economic participation." That's what belonging to a cooperative, like Walton EMC, is all about.

Q: How will I get my refund?

A: Most customer-owners will receive a credit on their December or January bill. This saves tens of thousands of dollars because we avoid printing checks and paying postage. But, if your refund is \$500 or greater, you'll get a check.

Q: Do customers of other types of power companies, i.e., investor- or government-owned, get capital credit refunds?

A: No

Q: Do you return all the excess at once?

A: No. We use some to pay down debt and some to be ready for unexpected emergencies. But every penny is credited to your account and will eventually be returned.

Q: How much has Walton EMC returned over the years?

A: Our customer-owners have received a total of \$99,571,000 in refunds.

AT A GLANCE

TOTAL 2018 REFUND
\$6 million

WHEN
Early December – early January

HOW
Bill credit (less than \$500) or check (\$500 or greater)

YEARS COVERED
1993, 1994, 1995 and 2017

ALL-TIME TOTAL REFUNDED
\$99,571,000



Look for your share on your electric bill!

QUICK GUIDE



IF YOUR POWER IS OUT

770.267.2505

waltonemc.com > Report an Outage

FIND US

Phone 770.267.2505

In person Monroe – 842 US Hwy. 78

Snellville – 3645 Lenora Church Rd.

Watkinsville – 2061-D Hog Mountain Rd.

Web waltonemc.com

Facebook facebook.com/waltonemc

YouTube youtube.com/emctv

WHEN WE'RE AVAILABLE

Power Outages and Emergencies > 24/7

Contact Center > M–F, 7A–7P

Business Offices > M–F, 8A–5P



EMC LEADERS

CEO Ronnie Lee

Sr. VP Corporate Services

Russell DeLong

Sr. VP Engineering & Operations Ron Marshall

Sr. VP Power Supply Robert Rentfrow

Sr. VP Finance Marsha Shumate

VP Walton Energy & External Affairs Jim Bottone

Board Chair Sam Simonton

Board Vice Chair Dawn Taylor

Board Sec./Treas. Dan Chelko

Board Members

Tommy Adcock, Billy Ray Allen, Johnny Allgood,

Michael Lowder, Jason Sidwell, Jim Whitley

Community and Public Relations Director

Greg Brooks, MCC

Communications Coordinator

Savannah Chandler, MCC

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NEED NATURAL GAS SERVICE?

770.GAS.HEAT > waltongas.com



NEED SECURITY SERVICE?

770.963.0305 > emcsecurity.com



©2018. Walton EMC is a customer-owned power company. That means our cooperative focuses on service, not profit. We serve more than 125,000 accounts in Athens-Clarke, Barrow, DeKalb, Greene, Gwinnett, Morgan, Newton, Oconee, Rockdale and Walton Counties. Our subsidiaries supply natural gas and security services.

hurricane heroes

WALTON EMC RESPONDS TO CALLS FOR HELP

Only 73 hours elapsed from the time Hurricane Michael was named until it came ashore. But in the warm Gulf water and favorable upper atmosphere, that proved to be enough time for it to become a strong Category 4 storm – and almost a Category 5 – before making landfall.

Once on shore, the storm made a beeline to Southwest Georgia. It was still a strong Category 3 hurricane packing winds of 111 to 129 miles per hour as it pummeled the countryside.

In the aftermath, several EMCs in a swath from that corner to the central part of the state were in the dark.

As the massive job of getting the lights back on got underway, some EMCs predicted outages of five to six weeks. More than 210,000 EMC customer-owners were out of power across the region. The call went out for help and Walton EMC answered.

By the time the relief effort was over, Walton EMC had assisted Colquitt EMC in Moultrie; Grady EMC in Cairo; Mitchell EMC in Camilla; Oconee EMC in Dudley; Sumter EMC in Americus; and Three Notch EMC in Donalsonville.

The damage rivaled other hurricanes Walton EMC linemen had fought with one major difference; Michael's damage was much further inland than what they had experienced with other storms.

At Three Notch EMC, besides every customer-owner being without power, the utility's office was also uninhabitable after the roof blew off.

"One storm I worked before was Katrina, and this rivals it pretty well," said Walton EMC Right-of-Way Coordinator Greg Pannell, who is also a journeyman line technician. "It's pretty much the same scene again."

Line Superintendent Kevin Underwood concurred. "The damage reminded me of Hugo minus all the standing water," he said.

"For every 15 to 20 spans of line, there was at least one to two broken poles and five to six spans of wire down," said Pannell.

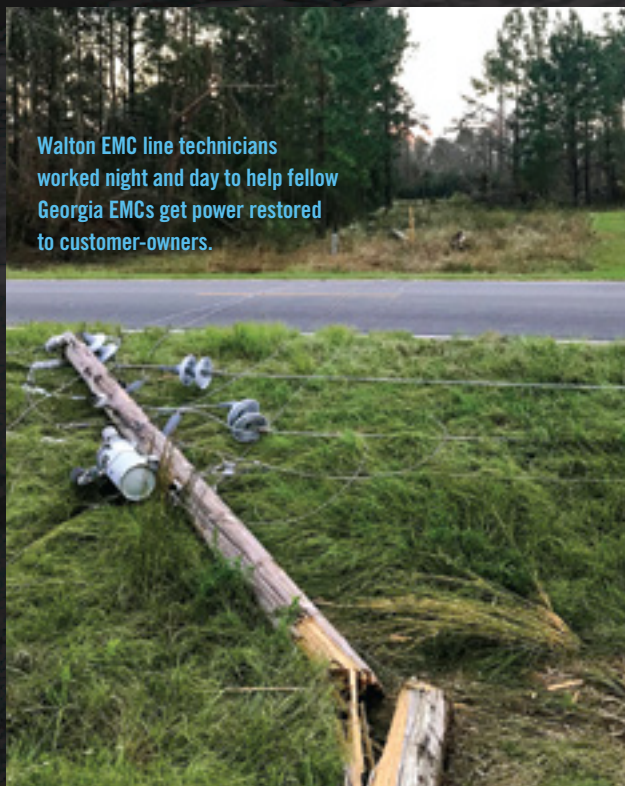
A span is the area between two poles in a power line.

Underwood also spoke of massive destruction. "Some damage was so bad, we just abandoned what was already there and ran new wire. It would have taken too long to fish it out of all the debris."

Not only did your co-op assist with rebuilding power lines, it also helped reestablish lines of communication. Community and Public Relations Director Greg Brooks aided three EMCs in getting information to their customer-owners.

"When something like this hits, it's good to have someone who can focus solely on keeping customer-owners informed," said Brooks. "I was able to go out and document damage and crews working and tell those stories. It's something a small EMC may not have staff or time for during a disaster."

Walton EMC line technicians worked night and day to help fellow Georgia EMCs get power restored to customer-owners.



When the job was finished, initial estimates of outage durations proved to be wrong. Instead of five to six weeks, EMCs generally had most customer-owners' power restored in just two to three weeks.

The only customers-owners now without power are those whose homes are still too damaged to be reconnected to the grid.

"For a lineman, that's what you're striving for, to get the lights back on," said Pannell. "When one person comes up and says thanks, and you see how grateful they are, that's what makes it worthwhile."

Monroe employees who worked to rebuild the electric grid after Hurricane Michael are, from left, Ryan West, Matthew Bradford, Derrick Hendricks, Adam Simmons, Reed Gogan and Ben Powell



Monroe and Snellville employees who assisted EMCs in recovering from Hurricane Michael are, front row from left, John Spence, Jason Higgins, Bradley McCallister, Josh Fuller, James Daniel and Phil Matthews. Back row, Greg Pannell, Josh Wolvaver.

Difficult conditions coupled with massive debris slowed the task of restoring electricity.



Besides having every customer-owner without power, Three Notch EMC's office was also heavily damaged by Hurricane Michael.



A RECORD SETTING HURRICANE MICHAEL

category 4 storm – missing Category 5 by only 2 miles per hour wind speed

strongest hurricane to ever hit the florida panhandle

strongest hurricane to ever make landfall in october

3rd strongest hurricane ever measured by barometric pressure

4th strongest hurricane ever measured by wind speed

strongest storm to hit Georgia since 1898, even though it didn't make landfall on our coast

These Walton EMC employees from our Snellville office assisted Georgia EMCs recover from Hurricane Michael. Front row, from left, Kevin Underwood, Paul Nichols, Tommy Ledford, Ronnie Browning, Michael Conner, Tyler Gray, Jason Wright, Jonathan Brooks. Back row, Luke Davis, Dustin Richardson, Josh Fuller, Jared Smith, Blaine Pulliam, James Daniel, Matthew Boone Not pictured, Phil Matthews and Wesley Payton.



Monroe and Watkinsville employees who helped restore power after Hurricane Michael are, from left, Jacob Mitchell, Kelvin Smith, Keith Kirk, Brandon Brooks, Matt Britt, Preston Roberts, Mike Beck, Blaine Ogle, Chad Wilkes, Scott Cole, Brandon Waters, Robert Walters, Ryan Glossan, Luke Davis and Jacob McNary.

Not pictured: James Childs, Wesley Payton