

# IS YOUR TECH PROTECTED?

YOUR EXPENSIVE ELECTRONICS AND APPLIANCES SHOULDN'T HAVE TO FEND FOR THEMSELVES.

Electric surges and spikes are everywhere. You might think they originate outside during lightning storms. But the truth is that most of these damaging episodes begin right inside your home or office.

Anytime a device connected to the electrical system of a building cycles on or off, the potential for a surge or spike exists.

All devices with a microprocessor are ripe for damage from a surge or spike. And almost any electrical device you can think of now has a microprocessor built in.

**GET A SURGE PROTECTOR**

Connecting your devices to a good surge protector is the answer. Here's what you should look for in a quality protector:

- Has the words **"surge suppressor"** or **"surge protector"** on its name tag. "If you see only the words 'power strip,' the device provides no protection," says Walton EMC Member Services Director Jeff Paul.
- Offers a **warranty** and **connected device protection** – both on the protector itself and the item that's connected to it.
- Has an **adequate joule rating**. The protector's joule rating measures how much stray energy the device can absorb. The higher joule ratings for consumer surge protectors are around 5,000 joules. "Get a protector with at least a 1,000-joule rating," says Paul.

- Provides a **good let-through rating**. Let-through is the amount of voltage the protector will let through to the connected equipment after a surge. 330V is the lowest and 600V is the highest, with lower being the better.
- Includes **noise filtering**. Some devices are worse at generating electrical noise than others. Filters help limit that "hash" if different devices are using the same protector.
- Has an **indicator light** to assure users that the unit's protection components are working.

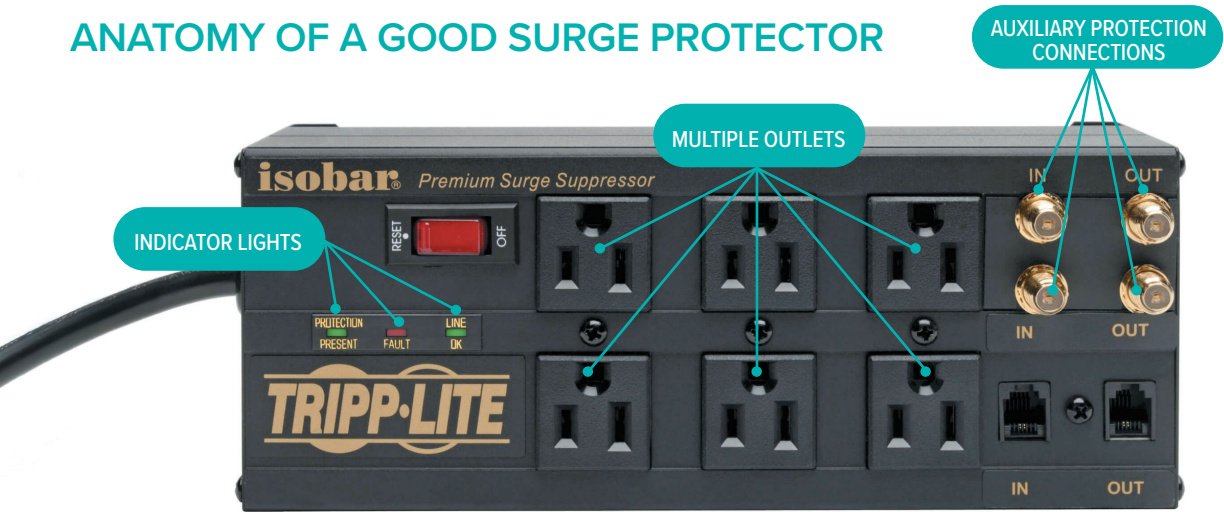
**LET US HELP YOU**

The experts at Walton EMC are eager to help you protect your home and appliances from surges and spikes. We can provide both whole-house and individual device protection.

Scan QR  
code to  
learn more



**ANATOMY OF A GOOD SURGE PROTECTOR**



PLUS!

LIFETIME WARRANTY

\$250K EQUIPMENT PROTECTION

330 VOLTS LET-THROUGH

3,330 JOULE PROTECTION RATING

NOISE FILTERING

MAY 2025

WaltonEMC

realite



RATED #1 BY  
CUSTOMERS FOR  
BRAND APPEAL  
AMONG RESIDENTIAL  
ELECTRIC  
COOPERATIVES

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*quick guide*

IF YOUR POWER IS OUT  
770.267.2505  
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WHEN WE'RE AVAILABLE  
**Power Outages and Emergencies** > 24/7  
**Contact Center** > M-F, 7A-7P  
**Business Offices** > M-F, 8A-5P

*find us*

**Monroe** 842 US Hwy. 78  
**Snellville** 3645 Lenora Church Rd.  
**Watkinsville** 2061-D Hog Mountain Rd.  
**Web** [waltonemc.com](https://www.waltonemc.com)  
**Facebook** [facebook.com/waltonemc](https://www.facebook.com/waltonemc)  
**Youtube** [youtube.com/emctv](https://www.youtube.com/emctv)

*our leaders*

**President and CEO** Ron Marshall  
**Senior VP Corporate Services** Russell DeLong  
**Senior VP Walton Energy and External Affairs** Jim Bottone  
**VP Engineering and Operations** Tim Morris  
**VP Power Supply** Hudson Kingery  
**VP Finance** Darlene Butler  
**Board Chair** Michael Lowder  
**Board Vice Chair** Jason Sidwell  
**Board Secretary/Treasurer** Stan Pitts  
**Board Members** Tommy Adcock, Billy Ray Allen, Dan Chelko, Wayne Lester, Sam Simonton, Dawn Taylor  
**Public Relations** Savannah Chandler, Morgan Barfield  
**Design** mPrint Design Studio

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©2025 Walton EMC is a customer-owned power company. That means our cooperative focuses on service, not profit. We serve more than 135,000 accounts in Athens-Clarke, Barrow, DeKalb, Greene, Gwinnett, Morgan, Newton, Oconee, Rockdale and Walton Counties.

Our subsidiaries supply natural gas and security services.

# THREE GOOD REASONS TO ATTEND YOUR annual meeting

Walton EMC's Annual Meeting is right around the corner. Wondering why you should attend?

- 1

**Take part in running your co-op.**  
Part of being a co-op member is the privilege of electing your representatives on the board of directors and voting on other important matters.
- 2

**Bucket of gifts.**  
The bucket of gifts is tradition at the Walton EMC Annual Meeting. Besides energy-efficient light bulbs, you'll also get a set of paring knives.
- 3

**You may win a retired pickup truck or one of many \$50 bill credits.**  
Everyone who registers will be in the drawing to be held after the meeting.



SATURDAY  
**June 21**  
**8-11 a.m.**

Walton EMC Headquarters  
842 US HWY 78  
Monroe

Be sure to bring the official notice and scannable registration found inside your May electric bill. Members who receive e-bills will be mailed a hard copy. **This year's meeting will be drive-through only.**

Ice  
cream!

Bonus  
reason

You'll also find a Dairy Queen gift card in the bucket of gifts.





# Board candidates announced

Walton EMC customer-owners will elect three representatives to the Walton EMC Board of Directors during the co-op's Annual Meeting on Saturday, June 21. Directors will be elected for the **Mountain Park, Five Forks-North Snellville** and **Southwest Walton** districts.

“Three incumbents have been nominated for reelection,” said **Jason Kolb**, chair of the nominating committee. The nominations were announced following the committee's meeting on March 20.

## SELECTED BY NOMINATING COMMITTEE



**BILLY RAY ALLEN**  
District 7, of Lilburn who joined the board in 2015.



**DAWN TAYLOR**  
District 9, a Snellville resident who has represented the district since 2015.



**DAN CHELKO**  
District 11, of Loganville, a member of the Board since 1993.

## NOMINATED BY PETITION



**JARED CARITHERS**  
District 11, of Jersey.

Nine directors represent different geographical regions throughout the co-op's 10-county service area. They set policies and general direction for Walton EMC. Directors are elected to three-year terms.

See the official Annual Meeting notice distributed with this newsletter for ballot and instructions. Full Annual Meeting details can also be found at [waltonemc.com/annualmeeting](http://waltonemc.com/annualmeeting).



# WALTON EMC AWARDS

# \$156,000 in scholarships

Thirty-two high school seniors from Walton EMC customer-owner families are receiving \$4,000 post-high school scholarships awarded by the co-op. Another 28 students are each receiving a \$1,000 finalist scholarship to continue their education.

The students were eligible for consideration because their primary residence is served by Walton EMC.

“These scholarships reflect Walton EMC's strong commitment to advancing educational opportunities among our youth,” said Jim Bottone, senior vice president of Walton Energy and External Affairs. “We commend these outstanding students from the Class of 2025, knowing they represent a future generation of leaders in our local communities.”

Student applicants were evaluated on work ethic, triumph over obstacles, community service and extracurricular activities. The scholarship committee also reviewed recommendations from teachers and other adults involved in the students' lives.

“We're extremely proud to be able to help these deserving young people continue their education, whether at a college or in learning a trade,” said Connie Bentley, a Walton EMC financial analyst who has reviewed scholarship applications for 15 years.

Since 2008, the Walton Electric Trust has awarded 836 scholarships totaling over \$3.7 million to aspiring students. Trust scholarships are funded by unclaimed capital credit refunds that are placed into a special endowment.



## \$4,000 scholarship recipients

- Archer High School**  
Marin Pittman
- Bethlehem Christian Academy**  
Issac Mollett, Jayci Palmer, Weston Haney, Anna Adolphson, Aubrey Meadows, Shelby Craft
- Brookwood High School**  
Max Rothman
- Cedar Shoals High School**  
Alyssa Weiszer, Tumelo Johnson
- George Walton Academy**  
Emerson Sheldon
- Georgia Cyber Academy**  
Hannah Lang
- Gwinnett School of Math, Science & Technology**  
Andrew Hong
- Loganville Christian Academy**  
Emery Loyless, Catherine Bruno
- Loganville High School**  
Madison Mitchell, Parker-Grace Bridges
- Monroe Area High School**  
Cooper Torbush
- Morgan County High School**  
Jordan Moon, Jaden Shumate, Leyton Morris
- North Oconee High School**  
Addison Butler, Henry Shepherd
- Oconee County High School**  
Luke Squier, Briggs Stoll, Katherine Walker, Lauren Myers

**Walnut Grove High School**  
Caileigh Goldstein, Maggie Shumate, Ashlyn Chafin, Ella Stover, Blakely Stewart

## \$1,000 finalist scholarship recipients

- Bethlehem Christian Academy**  
Gloria Fort, Landon Bonner
- Brookwood High School**  
Cole Van Hassel, Michael Howard, Chloe Johnson
- Grayson High School**  
Chase Blake, Hailey Spinks
- Hebron Christian Academy**  
Elizabeth Jacobs
- Loganville High School**  
Maggie McGaughey, Laurel Eby, Lisa Destine
- Monroe Area High School**  
Jazlyn Atkinson
- North Oconee High School**  
Elliott Storer, Deeya Mepani, Carson Rollins
- Oconee County High School**  
Edward Huang, McCall Woodruff, Kinley Hagood, Andrew Zhang, Damian Rothrock
- Paul Duke STEM High School**  
Nicholas Evans
- Prince Avenue Christian School**  
Kinsley Bowen
- Scholars Guild Academy**  
Elizabeth Popa
- South Gwinnett High School**  
Kamilah Turner, Daniela Otiura
- Walnut Grove High School**  
Jalen Willis, Saniyah Cantrell
- Westminster Christian Academy**  
William Greene



## GET THE REALITE ONLINE

- Step 1** Point your phone camera at the QR code.
- Step 2** Tap the screen to access Walton EMC news online.

# Empowering the next generation

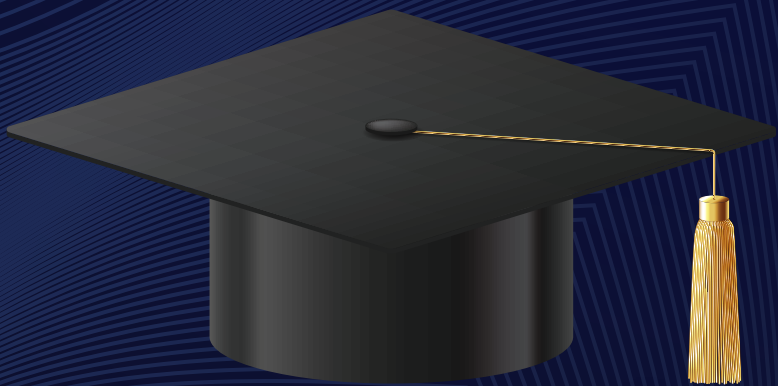
Throughout May, Walton EMC joins with our customer-owners in celebrating the Class of 2025. A toss of the mortarboard to all high school and college graduates within the co-op's service area.

“As a cooperative, it's our responsibility to distribute safe, reliable, affordable and responsible electricity,” said Ron Marshall, Walton EMC CEO. “But our commitment to improve the quality of life in our communities also involves playing a role in the education of youth living along our power lines.”

Most students in our service area have connected with the co-op at one time or another. This may have happened when a Walton EMC lineman performed an electrical safety demonstration at their school. Or perhaps it was when a Walton EMC School EmPOWERment grant brought new equipment, supplies and learning opportunities to their classroom. Supporting youth leadership and citizenship development programs and underwriting scholarships are more ways the co-op empowers students.

Whether the next step is college, a career, the armed forces or another venture, we hope local graduates will take the knowledge and skills acquired through our connection to power your future.

Congratulations to the Class of 2025. Wherever the future takes you, we're cheering you on!



# Congrats TO THE CLASS OF 2025