



MemberNews

May 2009

The Official Publication for Members of Habersham EMC

Can't Make the Meeting?

Online Registration Available for Annual Meeting

After more than 350 members successfully registered online last year, Habersham EMC will again offer members an opportunity to register online if they cannot attend the Annual Meeting on June 23. Members can participate by enrolling online at the Habersham EMC Web site, www.habershamemc.com. As a special incentive, your name will also be entered into a drawing along with other members who choose to enroll online for a **\$250 cash prize!**

Many times Habersham EMC hears from members who are unable to attend the annual meeting because of their work schedule, their children's activities or other conflicting appointments. "It is the goal of the cooperative to provide an avenue for participation in the annual meeting process for these members too," explains Todd Pealock, HEMC President/CEO.

There will be a one-month online enrollment period beginning May 1 that will run through May 31.

The process is easy:

- On your computer go to the



Habersham EMC Web site, www.habershamemc.com.

- Click on the **"Annual Meeting Registration"** link located at the bottom of the front page. You will then be taken to a secure site.
- When the page appears, fill in the required information as shown on your **HEMC power bill** that includes the membership name, account number and phone number, plus the last four digits of your Social Security number. Most importantly, a valid e-mail address is required. After making sure all the information is correct,
- click the **"Submit"** button.
- You will be asked to verify that your information is correct. If so, click **"Yes."**
- Within 10 minutes, you should receive a confirmation e-mail from Habersham EMC. You must open this e-mail and click the link contained within the e-mail that will register you immediately as an online participant. If you do not receive an e-mail, please call the Habersham EMC office for assistance.
- Remember—only one registration per membership. The member listed

on the bill or a spouse are the only ones who are eligible to participate.

- The \$250 cash drawing will be held during the annual meeting. The winner will be notified by e-mail, and a check will be mailed to the address as it appears on the bill.

If there is a contested election for one of the three director positions open this year, then an official ballot will be mailed out through the post office.

IMPORTANT:

If you plan on attending the annual meeting, please do not register online. You cannot register online and then register again at the annual meeting. Online participants will not be eligible for gifts or prizes at the annual meeting.



Sellers Awarded Scholarship

Habersham Central High School senior Alyssa Sellers has been awarded the 2009 Walter Harrison Scholarship by Habersham EMC.

The \$1,000 scholarship is designed to recognize students who demonstrate academic merit and talent and a

commitment to community service.

"The Walter Harrison Scholarship financially helps our most deserving students and offers them encouragement to pursue their academic goals and dreams," says Susan Baker with HEMC.

HEMC sponsors and awards the prestigious scholarship annually to deserving high school students and college undergraduates who are involved in their community. These students must possess exceptional



Alyssa Sellers

academic ability and potential demonstrated by their high school performance, grade point average, SAT score and scholastic honors.

After graduating, Alyssa will be attending North Georgia College and State University in Dahlonega. She is the daughter Joe and Teresa Sellers of Mt. Airy.

HEMC — THE POWER OF 34,000 MEMBER-OWNERS AND THEIR FAMILIES

Members: Many Need Help in the Community

Operation Round Up Could Use Your Capital Credits

Since beginning in 2004, the Habersham EMC Operation Round Up® program has successfully granted more than \$800,000 to individuals, families and nonprofit organizations in our six-county service area. This is all thanks to the HEMC members who voluntarily allow HEMC to round their bill up to the next nearest dollar. This just illustrates how a small amount of change added together can impact a community.

However, through this economic downturn, our neighbors need our help the most! Because of this, many requests have been tabled until enough funds become available.

What can you do?

Please continue your Operation Round Up

contribution on your power bill or sign up if you haven't done so. Another way we suggest for the future is to direct your **capital credit returns** to Operation Round Up. Even if it is not a significant amount, it could mean a big difference when added with other member contributions.

If you've been blessed and are financially stable, please consider this when you receive your next capital credit check. To save postage and paper, we're asking members to please call HEMC prior to receiving your capital credit check so we can direct it to Operation Round Up. You can also decide later when you receive the check. Just send the endorsed check to HEMC and let us know

to direct it to Operation Round Up.

These checks could mean the difference in someone receiving help at a key time in their life.

HABERSHAM
ELECTRIC
MEMBERSHIP
CORPORATION
OPERATION



The Habersham EMC Foundation Board met in March and awarded the following Operation Round Up grants:

Hall County family	\$3,766	— Installation of water meter (well failure)
Habersham County individual	\$662.33	— Lift chair (elderly)
Habersham County individual	\$1,500	— Walk-in shower for disabled lady
Rabun County individual	\$906.92	— Lift chair and bed rails (elderly)
Assisting Needs for the Disabled	\$2,500	— Multi-county organization (wheelchair ramps)
North Habersham Middle School	\$1,680	— Bobcat Tech. (after-school tutoring program)
Boy Scouts, Northeast GA Council	\$1,000	— Scholarships for needy children
Habersham County individual	\$2,535.20	— Generator installation for disabled man

TOTAL ALLOCATIONS \$14,550.45



Holiday Closing

The HEMC office in Clarkesville and Cleveland will be closed on Monday, May 25, in observance of Memorial Day.

In the event of a power outage, we have personnel on duty. Please call (706) 754-2114.

Member News

Official Monthly Publication of Habersham EMC

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Vice-Chairman, Dan Thurmond;
Sec.-Treas., Frank McCrackin;
Herman Barrett, George Fry,
Ray Meaders, Hugh Rucker,
Carl Tallent and Rick Wood.

STAFF: President/CEO, Todd Pealock;
Editor, Susan Baker, Marketing and
Communication Specialist.

EMERGENCY SERVICE: Call (706) 754-2114 or (800) 640-6812. There is a dispatcher on call 24 hours a day.

OFFICE HOURS: Monday through Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Closed Saturday and Sunday and Holidays.

TELEPHONE: Clarkesville Headquarters, (706) 754-2114 or (800) 640-6812; Cleveland Branch Office, (706) 865-4362 or (800) 640-6812.

MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. Box 25,
Clarkesville, GA 30523

SHIPPING ADDRESS: 6135 State Hwy.
115 West, Clarkesville, GA 30523

SERVICE AREA: Serving members in

Habersham, Hall, Lumpkin, Rabun,
Stephens and White counties.

WEB SITE: www.habershamemc.com

E-MAIL: forinfo@hemc.net

Habersham EMC is an equal opportunity employer, M/F/V/H, and a drug-free workplace.

HEMC — THE POWER OF 34,000 MEMBER-OWNERS AND THEIR FAMILIES

Eyes and Ears Needed to Curb Thefts



Habersham EMC Operations Manager Terry Ward, left, and Safety Coordinator Chris Chapman will be working with Habersham County Sheriff Joey Terrell, center, and other area law enforcement to place reward posters in different regions of Northeast Georgia.

Even soccer fields and churches aren't immune to the growing problem of metals theft.

Recreation leagues have been forced to cancel soccer and basketball practices for hundreds of young athletes throughout the state when copper was ripped from poles that light soccer fields and basketball courts. In other instances, churches have cancelled services after copper was taken from plumbing and air-conditioning units.

To combat the growing problem, the EMCs in Georgia, including Habersham EMC, have joined other affected utilities to offer a \$500 reward for information leading to the arrest and

conviction of anyone involved in stealing copper or other metals from a utility structure in Georgia.

"Our employees and the public are in danger of electrocution hazards in the wake of these crimes," says Terry Ward with Habersham EMC. "In the end consumers foot the bill for the damage left by a wire thief."

Anyone who observes suspicious activity around an electric substation or other utility facility is asked to call 911 if a theft is in progress, then contact a statewide copper theft hotline at (877) 732-8717 with details such as a tag number and physical description of any suspicious person(s).

Washington Youth Tour Winners Savage and Shirley on Their Way to D.C.

Habersham Central High School students **Kathryn Shirley** and **Ethan Savage** will begin their summer attending the 44th annual Washington Youth Tour, an all-expense-paid leadership experience sponsored by HEMC.

Selected through a contest held at HEMC, Kathryn and Ethan will be among more than 100 high school juniors at the weeklong leadership event set for June 11-18



Kathryn Shirley



Ethan Savage

with stops in Atlanta and Washington, D.C.

Kathryn is the daughter of Tim and Teresa Shirley of Clarkesville, and Ethan is the son of Tommy Savage and Steven and Kim Willard of Cornelia.

2009 Credentials and Election Committee

In compliance with the cooperative's bylaws, the following Habersham EMC members have been named to serve on the Credentials and Election Committee for the 2009 Annual Meeting:

Jerry T. Elrod
451 Elrod Drive
Clarkesville, GA 30523

Brad Moore
695 Northridge Drive
Demorest, GA 30535

Sylvia Poole
3257 Hwy. 115 West
Demorest, GA 30535

Charles English
4355 Highway 115 West
Demorest, GA 30535

Joe Nichols
963 Plum Orchard Rd.
Clayton, GA 30525

Jennifer Swain
445 Timber Ct.
Clarkesville, GA 30523

Raynell Long
P.O. Box 1264
Clayton, GA 30525

Lisa Nicholson
1100 Hardman Rd.
Clarkesville, GA 30523

Cathy Ward
3379 Hollywood Church Rd.
Clarkesville, GA 30523



HEMC Connects Members to Stimulus Savings

It's all over the news. With the passage of the federal stimulus bill, there's money available to help many Americans weatherize homes and make energy-efficiency improvements. But how can residents in northeast Georgia connect with these resources? Habersham EMC is ready to help as the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 goes into effect. "The state of our economy has left many HEMC members searching for ways to make ends meet," explains Todd Pealock, President/CEO of HEMC. "Making the most of each energy dollar is high on everyone's list of concerns."

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) says

weatherization—the process of sealing air leaks and properly insulating a home—can reduce heating bills by up to 32 percent, resulting in an average energy savings of \$358 per year.

As a result of the stimulus package, the DOE's Weatherization Assistance Program is expanding with a goal of weatherizing 1 million homes per year. The stimulus bill extends eligibility to those with incomes below 200 percent of the national poverty level. For a family of four, that's an income limit of \$44,100 gross income per year.

Program participants receive a professional whole-house energy audit,

energy consultation with an analysis of energy bills, a blower-door test to locate air leaks and advice on how to be more efficient. Workers then arrive to make energy upgrades like insulating walls, attics and roofs, sealing air leaks and installing more efficient heating and cooling systems. The stimulus bill allows up to \$6,500 to be spent on each home.

For members not eligible for federally funded programs, the stimulus plan provides a homeowner efficiency tax credit of up to \$1,500, or 30 percent, of the cost for

new energy upgrades, including weatherization activities as well as installation of efficient heating, ventilation and air-conditioning systems.

Tax credits directly lower a member's federal income taxes and are generally more valuable than tax deductions because they reduce taxes owed dollar-for-dollar. In contrast, a tax deduction, like a home mortgage or charitable gift, lowers taxable income and may only offer small savings. For example, a \$1,500 tax deduction for someone in the 25 percent tax bracket would lower taxes owed by \$350; a \$1,500 tax credit for energy efficiency efforts will lower taxes owed by \$1,500!

In Northeast Georgia, eligible members should contact their local Ninth District Opportunity, Community Action Agency in their county:

- Habersham** (706) 778-0075
- Hall** (770) 534-8826
- Lumpkin** (706) 864-4637
- Rabun** (706) 782-3704
- Stephens** (706) 886-0211
- White** (706) 865-6220

For additional information, contact Mary Nell Gooch, Ninth District Opportunity Inc., 308 Spring Street, Post Office Drawer L, Gainesville, GA 30503, or call her at (770) 535-2458.



Spring Improvements = Stimulus Benefit How\$mart Is Your Home?

Habersham EMC is offering members an opportunity to upgrade their home to be more energy efficient through the new **How\$mart** Program. Some 265 members have already asked for a free consultation to find ways their can reduce their energy costs.

HEMC pays the initial costs for energy-saving measures such as replacing heating systems and water heaters, and adding insulation, new windows and doors, and

even new appliances. Then over time, the member repays the amount through a charge on their monthly power bill—all while enjoying lower power bills because of the energy-saving measures that were made.

For a consultation, contact Habersham EMC at (706) 754-2114, (706) 865-4362 or (800) 640-6812, or visit our Web site at www.habershamemc.com.

How\$mart—raise your home's IQ, lower energy costs!



When his 20-year old heat pump failed, HEMC member Dean Dyer took advantage of the How\$mart program and had a new, high-efficiency Trane 15-SEER heat pump installed by Peak Performance Heating & Air of Cleveland.