



December 2024

UPCO news

Upton EMC Linemen restore power after Helene

"It looked like a bomb went off. This is one of the worst storms we've ever seen."

This is how Robbie Davis described what he and four other Upton EMC linemen saw when they arrived in Little Ocmulgee EMC's service territory to repair damages following Hurricane Helene.

The Category 4 hurricane reached winds of up to 140 miles per hour, with more than a 15-foot storm surge and was nearly 500 miles wide when it made landfall in the Big Bend region of Florida on September 26. By the time Helene reached Georgia it was a Category 2 hurricane, but was downgraded to a tropical storm over east central Georgia, then weakened to a tropical depression near the Kentucky-Tennessee border. Helene caused



ANDREW CARROLL

After Hurricane Helene created havoc throughout Georgia, Upton EMC linemen spent 11 days restoring power to Little Ocmulgee EMC's members. Pictured, from left: Stanley Lowe, Robbie Davis, Brandon Mallory, Landen Granger and Dale Brown.

catastrophic rainfall which triggered flooding in Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, Tennessee and Virginia. As of October 18, at least 225 deaths have been attributed to this storm.

Upton EMC's service territory was in the direct path of Helene's projec-

tion, but we were blessed that Helene moved east and spared our area. At the height of the hurricane, we had around 2,000 meters without power. By September 28, all our members' power was restored. Unfortunately,

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ROBBIE DAVIS



Storm restoration in Little Ocmulgee EMC's territory.

ROBBIE DAVIS



The resounding gratitude from Little Ocmulgee EMC's members did not go unnoticed by the linemen.



ROBBIE DAVIS

2024 Annual Meeting recap



Upson EMC employees were ready to register members for the Annual Meeting.

On Tuesday, October 22, 2024, Upson EMC held its 87th Annual Meeting of Members. This year, we gave a locally made appreciation gift to our members in their bucket. We teamed up with Rebekah Creamer, owner of MillTown Bath & Candle Co., who is also an Upson EMC member, to create an amazing, scented wooden wick candle.

After more than 300 members completed the registration process, the business meeting started at 10 a.m. The meeting was led by Ronnie Hendricks, Chairman of

the Board, who called the meeting to order. Kenny Coggins, Secretary/Treasurer of the Board, gave an invocation, and the Upson-Lee High School NJROTC gave a presentation of colors as Chairman Hendricks led attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Vice Chairman of the Board Lorenza Wilder recognized board members, special guests and military personnel. Chairman Hendricks presented retired Director Raphael



A locally crafted member appreciation gift was made by MillTown Bath and Candle Co.

Brumbeloe, with a certificate of appreciation for serving on the board for 46 years.

President/CEO Ken Simmons introduced Upson EMC's 2024 Washington Youth Tour delegate, Lily Baity. Ms. Baity gave a speech about her experience and the positive impact it had on her life. Simmons gave a year-end review



Lily Baity, 2024 Upson EMC's Washington Youth Tour delegate, addressed members at the Annual Meeting.



Lindy Parker won the grand prize, a 55-inch smart TV.



Chanda Hardy was recognized for 30 years of service at Upson EMC. Ms. Hardy is currently battling cancer and would appreciate all your prayers.



Brooke Parrott was recognized for 20 years of service.



Stacey Brannon was recognized for 10 years of service.

highlighting the challenges we faced with inflation and storms.

The meeting then transitioned to Attorney Alan Connell, who provided updates on board elections. Connell announced that the Nominating Committee had renominated Kenny Coggin, District One, Post Two, Upson County, and Ronnie Hendricks, District Five, Talbot and Taylor counties. The membership voted and re-elected both board members to serve additional three-year terms.

Chairman Hendricks adjourned

the Annual Meeting. After the meeting, a prize drawing took place, including the names of registered members. Congratulations to Lindy Parker on winning the grand prize of a 55-inch smart TV. Thank you to all our members for your continued support.

An employee luncheon was held after the meeting. The following employees were presented years of dedicated service awards: Chanda Hardy, 30 years; Brooke Parrott, 20 years; Stacey Brannon, 10 years; and Brandon Salter, 10 years.



Brandon Salter was recognized for 10 years of service.



❖❖ Holiday Office Closings ❖❖

Upson EMC's office will be closed on December 24 and 25
for Christmas. We wish you and your family a
very merry Christmas.

Upson-Lee High School receives Cooperative Spirit Sportsmanship Award

Upson EMC, along with other participating Georgia electric membership cooperatives (EMCs), would like to congratulate Upson-Lee High School on winning the Georgia High School Association (GHSA) Cooperative Spirit Sportsmanship Award.

This award honors schools that demonstrate exemplary sportsmanship during competitive events and is sponsored by Georgia's EMCs. Only one school in each division in each region is chosen to receive the annual award.

We are proud to support a great school, students and staff as they excel in the classroom and in sports!



LUKE HANEY

Upson-Lee High School won the 2023-2024 GHSA Cooperative Sportsmanship Award.

Restoring power after Helene, *Continued from page 20A*

that wasn't the case for other Georgia EMCs who reported approximately 435,000 of their members without power.

Little Ocmulgee EMC had 97% of their members without power. Our hometown heroes, Dale Brown, Robbie Davis, Landen Granger, Stanley Lowe and Brandon Mallory, joined other line-men to help with the storm restoration.

ANDREW CARROLL



Upson EMC's employees and members welcomed their local heroes back home with signs.

GATE Card Exemption Will Expire Soon



GATE
Georgia Agricultural Tax Exemption
GEORGIA DEPT OF AGRICULTURE

If you are currently receiving a Georgia Agricultural Tax Exemption (GATE), your card will expire on December 31, 2024. To continue receiving the exemption, please send copies of your renewed GATE card to:
Upson EMC
P.O. Box 31
Thomaston, GA 30286

Email: customerservice@upsonemc.com