



August/September 2026

UPCO news

What does it mean to be a member of Upson EMC?

When people think of an electric company, it's easy to view it as a simple transaction: energy is delivered, a bill is paid and the cycle repeats. But at Upson EMC, we are built on something far more meaningful than a basic exchange of services. We are a member-owned cooperative, created by the communities we serve and guided by the needs, values and voices of the people who call this area home.

Unlike traditional, investor-owned utility companies that answer to outside shareholders, Upson EMC operates under a fundamentally different model. Every customer we serve is also a member-owner, which means our priorities are shaped locally by the people who depend on us every day.

Decisions are made with our members in mind, focusing on reliability, affordability and long-term community well-being rather than maximizing profits. Our leaders and employees are not just representatives of a company; they are neighbors, friends and fellow community members who share a commitment to serving this area well.

A strong example of our community-first approach is Operation Round Up. Through the generosity of members who choose to round up their monthly bills to the nearest dollar, we can create meaningful change right here at home.

Those small contributions add up to significant impact, allowing our foundation board to provide financial assistance to local charities and community needs. Every dollar stays



in our community, helping neighbors support neighbors when it matters most.

Being a member of a cooperative distinguishes you from other electric utility consumers, as well as other business relationships, in important ways:

1. Co-op leaders are members of our local community. Our seven board members live right here in our local area and are elected by co-op members just like you. Board members serve three-year terms, and elections are held at our Annual Meeting each October.

2. We belong to the communities we serve. Because we are a

cooperative, any excess revenue is shared with members over time instead of being paid to outside investors.

3. We follow the same seven cooperative principles that guide cooperative businesses everywhere. These principles include democratic member control, members' economic participation and concern for community, all of which help ensure the cooperative remains focused on serving members first.

At Upson EMC, we don't just power homes, we empower communities. Because serving you isn't just a job: it's our purpose.



**Upson Electric
Membership Corporation**
607 East Main Street
Thomaston, GA 30286

WEBSITE
upsonemc.com

CALL US
(706) 647-5475

REPORT AN OUTAGE
Use Upson EMC's mobile app
or call (706) 647-5475

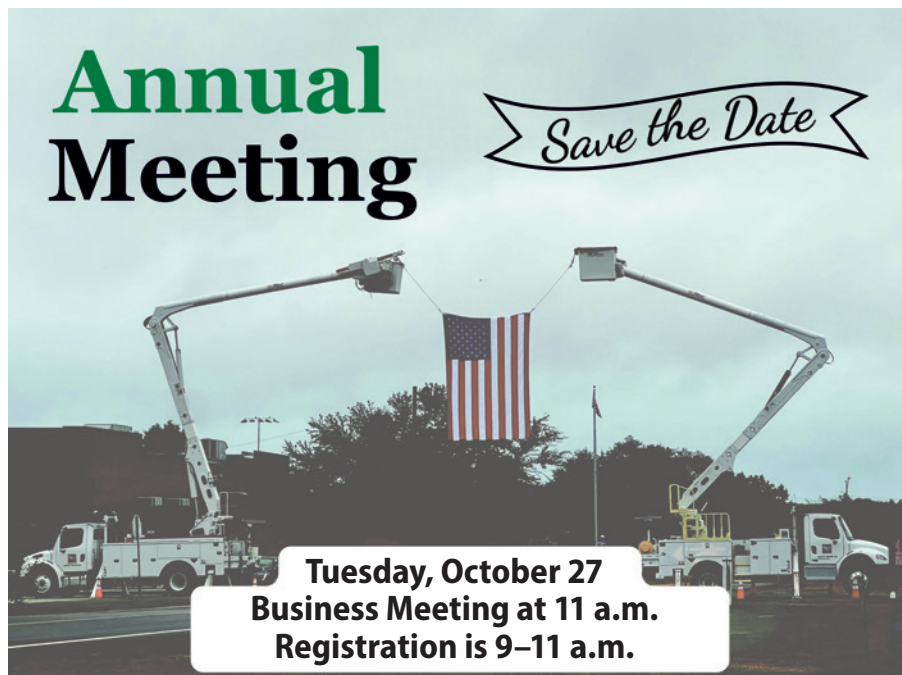
OFFICE HOURS
Monday through Friday 8 a.m.
to 5 p.m. Closed Saturdays,
Sundays and holidays

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Ronnie Hendricks, *Chairman*
Lorenza Wilder, *Vice Chairman*
Kenny Coggins, *Secretary/Treasurer*
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**UPCO NEWS IS THE OFFICIAL
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*Upson EMC is an equal opportunity
provider and employer.*



Important Annual Meeting information

In order to facilitate the orderly transaction of business at the Annual Meeting of the cooperative, any members desiring to address the members at the Annual Meeting, or to ask questions of management of the cooperative at the Annual Meeting should contact Brooke Parrott at the office of the cooperative seven (7) days prior to the Annual Meeting to secure a place on the agenda. Comments and questions should be limited to subjects directly affecting the affairs of the cooperative and are subject to a

maximum time limit of three (3) minutes.

Local civic nonprofit organizations shall be allowed to place an exhibit booth at the Annual Meeting and distribute or offer items (other than food or inappropriate items) for sale prior to the beginning or after adjournment of the Annual Meeting. Such organizations should contact Brooke Parrott at the cooperative's office prior to the day of the Annual Meeting. Upson EMC reserves the right to limit the number, size and content of exhibit booths.



How your 2025 patronage capital was assigned

As a not-for-profit electric cooperative, Upson EMC operates differently than traditional utility companies. Instead of earning profits for shareholders, any money left over after expenses is returned to our members over time through a program called patronage capital, also known as capital credits.

When you become a member of Upson EMC, a capital credits account is created in your name. Throughout the year, we track how much electricity you use and how much you pay for electric service (excluding sales tax).

At the end of the year, after all operating expenses and financial obligations have been paid, any remaining revenue (called margins) is allocated to members based on their share of electricity purchases during that year.

These allocations are added to your capital credits account. Even if you move or no longer receive service from Upson EMC, your capital credits remain in your account.

Your capital credits help Upson EMC maintain and improve the electric system, invest in equipment and infrastructure and continue providing reliable service while keeping rates as affordable as possible.

Each year, the Board of Directors reviews the cooperative's financial condition to determine whether a portion of previously allocated capital

$$\frac{\begin{array}{l} 2025 \text{ total operating margins } (\$1,489,120.22) + \\ 2025 \text{ total associated organizations } (\$842,168.52) \end{array}}{2025 \text{ total sales of electric energy } \$19,562,100.18} = \frac{\$2,331,288.74}{\$19,562,100.18} = 0.119174$$

2025 Patronage Capital Assignment Factors

		Example if your total bills were: (excluding taxes)		
	Allocation Factor	\$500	\$1,000	\$2,000
Patronage capital assigned for Upson EMC	0.076123	\$38.06	\$76.12	\$152.25
Patronage capital assigned from associated organizations	0.043051	\$21.53	\$43.05	\$86.10
Total patronage capital assigned	0.119174	\$59.59	\$119.17	\$238.35

credits can be retired, or paid back, to members.

In addition to margins earned directly by Upson EMC, we also receive margins from organizations we partner with, including the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation, GRESCO, Federated Rural Electric Insurance Exchange, Meridian Coop-

erative and Cooperative Response Center. Those margins are also allocated to members using the same process.

This is part of the cooperative difference. You're more than a customer; you're a member-owner. Your membership means you share in the success of the cooperative you help support.



Understanding your electric bill

August is typically one of the warmest months of the year, and that means air conditioners across our community are working overtime to keep homes comfortable. During periods of extreme heat, many members may see an increase in their electric bill and wonder what factors contribute to the cost of electricity.

At Upson EMC, we believe understanding your electric bill is an important part of being an informed member. While the total amount due may seem like a single number, it actually reflects several different costs associated with delivering reliable electricity to your home or business.

The largest factor is often the amount of energy you use. Electricity is measured in kilowatt-hours (kWh), and the more energy your household consumes, the higher your bill will be. During the summer, air conditioning is typically the largest driver of increased energy use. When temperatures climb into the 90s or higher, our cooling systems run longer and more frequently, consuming significantly more electricity than they do during milder weather.

Another major factor is the cost of generating or purchasing electricity. Like many cooperatives, Upson EMC purchases power from Oglethorpe Power Corp. and Cooperative Energy Incorporated. The cost of producing



electricity fluctuates based on fuel prices, including natural gas, coal and other energy resources used to generate power. Changes in wholesale power costs influence the price of electricity delivered to members.

Transmission costs also play a role. Before electricity reaches your home, it must travel across a network of high-voltage transmission lines that connect power plants to local distribution systems. Transmission equipment requires ongoing maintenance and upgrades to ensure reliability, especially as electricity demand continues to grow.

Closer to home, Upson EMC maintains the local electric distribution system—utility poles, power lines,

transformers, substations and other essential equipment that safely delivers power to members. Maintaining this equipment is covered through the monthly service availability charge. This is a flat monthly fee all members pay, regardless of how much electricity they use. This fixed fee ensures all members pay a fair share of the basic, operational costs required to keep the power grid reliable and ready to serve your home or business. Whether a member uses a little electricity or a lot, we must maintain infrastructure and have crews, equipment and resources available to provide electricity around the clock.

Summer temperatures can also influence costs in less obvious ways. When the demand for electricity is high across a region, wholesale power prices can increase. Utilities and grid operators must ensure enough generation is available to meet peak demand, and those costs can be reflected throughout the electric system.

The good news is that simple steps to lower energy use can make a meaningful difference. Setting your thermostat a few degrees higher when you're away, replacing dirty HVAC filters, using ceiling fans, sealing air leaks and avoiding the use of major appliances during the hottest parts of the day can help reduce energy consumption, lower your bill and reduce strain on the local grid during peak demand.

Upson EMC's mission is to provide safe, reliable and affordable electricity while being transparent about the factors that impact energy costs. We understand every dollar matters, and we are committed to making smart investments that keep the lights on and support the communities we serve.

If you ever have questions about your electric bill, please reach out. We're here to help.

Thank you for allowing Upson EMC to serve you.

