



# POWERLINES

August 2021

The Official Newsletter of Tri-State Electric Membership Corporation



## 2021 TSEMC Operation Round Up Scholarship Recipient

The Tri-State EMC Operation Round Up Board recently awarded a \$500 scholarship to Michaelia Rhodes, a 2021 graduate from Mountain Education Charter High School in Fannin County. The scholarship award funds come from TSEMC members who round up their bill to the next dollar through a program called Operation Round Up.



Mark your calendars for Saturday, September 18, 2021. After deciding to hold a virtual meeting for the 2020 Annual Meeting of Members due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Tri-State EMC (TSEMC) plans to hold an in-person Annual Meeting of Members this year. The 2021 Annual Meeting of Members will be held at the Fannin County High School Performing Arts Center to act on the following:

1. Report of officers, directors and committees;
2. The election of two cooperative directors and;
3. Other business that may come before the meeting or any adjournment thereof.

Note to members: Bring this issue of *Georgia Magazine* and receive a special gift at registration. Registered members (account holders) will also be entered in a door prize drawing after the business meeting.



*This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.*

# WHAT'S ON THAT POLE?

This illustration shows the basic equipment found on electric utility poles. The equipment varies according to the location and service they provide.

## PRIMARY WIRES

Primary wires carry 7,200 volts of electricity from a substation. That voltage is 60 times higher than the voltage that runs through your home's electrical outlets.

## SURGE ARRESTORS

These protect the transformer from lightning strikes.

## NEUTRAL WIRE

The neutral wire acts as a line back to the substation and is tied to the ground, balancing the electricity on the system.

## SECONDARY SERVICE DROP

The secondary service drop carries 120 to 240 volts of electricity to consumers' homes. It has two "hot" wires from the transformer and a bare "neutral" wire that's connected to the ground wire on the pole.

## GROUND WIRE

The ground wire connects to the neutral wire to complete the circuit inside the transformer. It also directs electricity from lightning safely into the earth.

## INSULATORS

Insulators prevent energized wires from contacting each other or the pole.

## TELEPHONE, CABLE TV AND FIBER WIRES

These are typically the lowest wires on the pole.



NEVER NAIL POSTERS OR OTHER ITEMS TO UTILITY POLES. THESE CREATE A SAFETY HAZARD FOR LINEMEN.