

GEC Board Member Makes History with KEY LEADERSHIP POSITION AT F.E.C.A.

Shannon Hall, Vice President of the GEC Board of Trustees (District 4), has made history by being elected as the first female President of the Florida Electric Cooperative Association (FECA). The honor was bestowed at the November board meeting, where she was also presented a plaque commemorating her tenth year of service to FECA. This organization, also known as Statewide, was founded in 1950 and is the cooperative members' "voice" in Tallahassee and Washington, D.C. It is FECA's job to effectively represent the members in state legislative and regulatory issues, federal legislative activities, and to assist members and ECAs in other states when disaster strikes. Ms. Hall stated, "I am thrilled at the opportunity to serve as president of FECA. I have learned quite a bit in my ten years of service with the association, while getting to this point. It is truly a benefit for Glades Electric Cooperative to be a part of this statewide association. The people there are terrific and I value their confidence in me."

Ms. Hall has spent seven of her ten years with FECA in key leadership positions including: Secretary, Treasurer, Vice President, and President. She has served on the GEC Board of Trustees for fifteen years, eleven of the years as Vice President. Ms. Hall has attended numerous Trustee training sessions relating to the electric utility industry and has obtained the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) Board Leadership Certification as well as her Credentialed Cooperative Director's Certification. She is a member of the Lakeport Community Association, the Glades County Planning & Zoning Board, the Glades County Economic Development Council, and the South Florida Health Planning Council. She also volunteers at the Glades



SHANNON HALL
Trustee, District 4



LEE HENDERSON
Trustee, District 6

County Health Department. Ms. Hall has resided in Glades County since 1987. Shannon and her husband, Ken, have been married 39 years. They have five children, 11 grandchildren, and 2 great-grandchildren. Glades Electric Cooperative certainly has reason to be proud to have such strong representation with this important organization.

But GEC's participation on the FECA board does not end there. Also representing our members is Mr. Lee Henderson, Trustee (District 6). Mr. Henderson has served on the FECA board for the past three years and currently serves on the Board's Finance Committee. He has lived in Highlands County for 34 years, graduated from Lake Placid High School where he completed courses in outboard motor repair, and currently owns and operates his own mobile repair business, Henderson Services. Lee is married to Catherine and has two daughters, Morgan and Quinci. Mr. Henderson is a member of the Masonic Lodge, Scottish Rite and Shriners. He has served on the GEC Board of Trustees since 1996. Mr. Henderson has successfully completed the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association Director Institute Program and the Board Leadership Certificate training. Mr. Henderson stated, "I am very proud of Shannon. Being elected the first female President of the FECA board is quite an accomplishment. It is a long process of at least eight years of service to become president."

Why does GEC feel FECA is so important? Florida currently has 16 distribution cooperatives and 2 generation and transmission cooperatives which collectively employ more than 2,500 Floridians. Electric cooperatives provide reliable and affordable electricity to more than 1,000,000 members in 58 of Florida's 67 counties. While electric cooperatives only serve 10% of Florida's population, our service territory covers more than 60% of Florida's land mass. It is critical these individual cooperatives be jointly represented before the Legislature and other venues so as to present a unified message.

It is FECA that coordinates lobbying efforts in Tallahassee whenever pending legislation affects cooperative members. FECA is also Florida's voice within the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA). Together, they carry the cooperative message to Capitol Hill and look out for the best interest of our members.

Cooperatives serve the heartland of our nation, and operate on core principles. Our legislators respect the NRECA and FECA because they understand the message is straight from the folks back home, the very people they were elected to represent. It is this mutual understanding and respect that has served our members well when dealing with our lawmakers.

GEC Board President, Jack Coxe congratulates Ms. Shannon Hall on her accomplishment.



Glades Electric members can be proud to know they are well represented and their voices heard with the election of Ms. Shannon Hall as President of FECA! Bill Willingham, the Executive V.P. & General Manager of FECA stated, "Ms. Hall is a proven leader and we look forward to working with her as we fight to keep electric rates affordable." Ms. Hall is a wonderful example of "Neighbors Working for Neighbors."

GEC's Revenue Protection Team Holding the Line Against Power Theft

Marijuana grow houses, and their illegal crop, have long been a scourge to our communities. The devastating effect on our youth, as well as the criminal activity often associated with its production and distribution, is a poison to our society. But, there is also a direct negative economic impact on Glades Electric members. These operations require an enormous amount of electricity to function. As huge power bills would draw unwanted attention to these illegal setups, and because the people operating them are generally unscrupulous criminals, the electricity is stolen. Intricate illegal taps, bypassed meters, and even stolen transformers are often discovered when a grow house is raided by law enforcement.

But grow houses are not the only source of stolen electricity. Hard economic times have led to an increase in simple power diversion to avoid having to pay for electricity. Unfortunately, this creates an even greater hardship on honest members! Remember, these criminals are stealing YOUR power. When any electric company fails to collect for electricity used on their lines (legally or illegally) the burden falls on the consumer. As cooperatives are not-for-profit, member owned companies; the lost revenue is divided among all of our honest paying members.

But GEC members can rest assured that we are aggressively addressing this issue. The Glades Electric Revenue Protection Team is tasked with investigating, calculating, and recovering the revenue stolen by both marijuana grow houses and cases of simple power diversion. In fact, due to the hard work of this select group, the dollar amount of stolen power in 2010 is significantly lower than 2009's total. Grow houses combined with simple power theft totaled nearly \$526,000.00 in 2009. Thus far in 2010, this figure is just over \$186,000.00. The number of grow houses has fallen from 20 in 2009, to 6 in 2010. This is in large part due to the hard work and determination of the Revenue Protection Team to fully prosecute and secure restitution whenever possible. Unfortunately, the number of simple power thefts has remained the same over the same time frame.

GEC pays a \$500 reward to individuals providing information which directly leads to the discovery of a marijuana grow house. Please report any suspicious activity by calling 800-226-4024. Help your cooperative keep electricity affordable by holding these thieves accountable.

Power thieves be warned! Glades Electric has a zero-tolerance policy regarding diversion. If you have tampered with your meter in any way, the Revenue Protection Team will find you. You are also subject to arrest and will be held fully liable for every penny you stole from the honest members of GEC!



GEC pays a \$500 reward to individuals providing information which directly leads to the discovery of a marijuana grow house.

Glades Electric

is wishing you, the members, a

Merry
Christmas
and a
Happy
New Year!

Our offices will be closed December 24th
and December 31st

Together We Save EVEN MORE

Looking for information on how to lower your energy bills this winter? Glades Electric Cooperative has you covered.

GEC is part of a nationwide energy efficiency campaign known as Together We Save. The campaign's mission is to motivate co-op members like you to make small changes in behavior that add up to big savings. And at GEC, we're always looking for ways to bring value to our members. Together We Save offers an unprecedented collection of resources and advice on simple energy efficiency steps you can take in your home.

We've recently recharged the Together We Save campaign with even more tips and ideas to help you save on your energy bills. Where can you go to access this money-saving information? Log on to **TogetherWeSave.com**, the online epicenter of the campaign. Once you arrive, enter your ZIP code to be redirected to Glades Electric Cooperative's customized site, personalized to reflect our rates and region. Now you're ready to start saving!

TogetherWeSave.com offers everything from videos and interactive applications to an energy savings forum. Use the navigation bar across the top of the landing page to explore the site.

Touchstone Energy® Web TV (found under the "Watch and Learn" tab) is a compilation of more than 50 short how-to videos on topics such as lighting, heating/cooling, insulation, and many other energy efficiency topics. The library recently added dozens of new videos.

Got an old refrigerator in your basement or garage? It's probably costing you more than you think. Click on the "Energy Savings Applications" tab and scroll down to find out how much you could save by saying goodbye



Touchstone Energy[®]
Cooperatives

TOGETHER WE SAVE

to that old refrigerator. Another new application demonstrates how to save even more with ENERGY STAR® qualified appliances.

Take the Energy Savings Home Tour ("Add Up Your Savings" tab) and discover how all of these small changes add up in a big way. The Home Tour guides you through each room in a typical home and recommends several energy-savings tips in each room. Areas highlighted in yellow prompt you to take various interactive energy-saving steps, demonstrating how these changes can translate to real savings on your utility bill.

Live in a manufactured home? A new feature points out more than a dozen ways you can cut energy costs throughout your home.

Helping our members save money during tough times is important to us. It's just one more way Glades Electric Cooperative is looking out for you.



Over 71% of our Members continue to participate in this very worthwhile program. Operation Round Up® assists people in our service area who have exhausted the normal avenues of financial assistance. Sign up today! And your electric bill will be rounded to the nearest dollar and placed into the Roundup fund for deserving individuals and organizations.

As of October 31st, 2010 your Charitable Trust Board of Directors has approved **\$630,441.37 in disbursements**. These funds have provided assistance with food, emergency lodging, disaster relief, and specific emergency needs for **420 individuals** and or families and **87 community organizations**. The Trust **does not** fund utility bills (electric, phone, water and gas) or budgets of organizations. Organizations who are involved in our service counties may apply for funding for a specific need or project. The Board of Directors meets monthly to review applications for funding. If you know of a needy individual who deserves some assistance and lives within our service area, please help them complete an application or encourage them to fill one out themselves. Applications can be picked up at each of our three offices: Moore Haven, Lake Placid and Okeechobee.

DECEMBER REGULAR MEETING: DECEMBER 15, 2010

The Charitable Trust Board of Directors:

Barbara Hughes.....District 1Moore Haven
 Beverly EavesDistrict 2Hendry County
 Jim HerringtonDistrict 3Ortona & Palmdale
 Doris EvansDistrict 4Lakeport
 Lewis Dixson.....District 5Venus & Hicoria

Lee AndrusDistrict 6Highlands Park
 Audrey Vickers.....District 7Lorida
 David Mc Cadam...District 8Lake Josephine
 Josephine Glenn.....District 9Okeechobee



CHURCH OF THE MONTH

Hi – Haven Baptist Church

200 County Road 720
 Clewiston, FL 33440

THIS MONTH'S WINNERS OF THE \$25.00 CREDIT ARE...

Jennifer Urich #18142-01
 Robert Van Steam #77790948-01

Winners only: Just sign your name to this page mail it to FLM \$25.00 Credit
 Glades Electric Cooperative
 P. O. Box 519, Moore Haven, FL 33471.
 or give us a call at 1-800-226-4024

Co-op News

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

John "Jack" Coxe, President, District 8
Lake Josephine, (863) 655-3056

Shannon Hall, Vice-President, District 4
Lakeport & Brighton, (863) 946-3242

Wallace "Wally" Birge, Secretary/Treasurer,
District 5
Venus & Hicoria, (863) 465-6829

Donnie Lundy, Trustee, District 1
Moore Haven, (863) 946-0402

Barney Goodman, Trustee, District 2
Hendry County, (863) 983-7324

Lee Henderson, Trustee, District 6
Highlands Park, (863) 699-1859

James "Jim" Aul, Trustee, District 7
Lorida, (863) 655-2565

Russell Henderson, Trustee, District 3
Ortona & Palmdale, (863) 946-0865

Irene Lofton, Trustee, District 9
Okeechobee, (863) 467-1219

SENIOR STAFF

Tommy Todd	General Manager and CEO
Jeff Brewington	Chief Financial Officer
Paul McGehee	Business Development Manager
Jody Dotson	Power Supply Manager
Gwen Valentine	Executive Assistant
John Eisinger	Engineering Services Manager
Yvonne Bradley	Manager of Human Resources

MONTHLY MEETING

Glades Electric's Board normally meets the 4th Thursday of each month at 9:00 a.m. at the Co-op offices in Moore Haven, Lake Placid or Okeechobee. The December board meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 22, 2010 at 9:00 a.m. in the Moore Haven office. If the meeting date or location is changed, a notice will be posted in all co-op offices.

TELEPHONE NUMBERS TO CALL IN CASE OF POWER INTERRUPTION

1 (800) 226-4024	Moore Haven
1 (800) 226-4025	Lake Placid
1 (800) 226-4023	Okeechobee

GEC's telephones are answered 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, including weekends and holidays.

Please have your Location Number or Account Number handy when you call.

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW

GLADES
Electric Cooperative, Inc.



**I PULLED THE PLUG ON
MY ENERGY COSTS JUST
BY PULLING A FEW PLUGS.**

TVs, gaming consoles, DVRs, cable boxes and almost anything that has a plug uses energy even when it's off. I'm saving \$222 a year by pulling plugs and turning off power strips. What can you do? Find out how the little changes add up at TogetherWeSave.com.

GLADES
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TOGETHERWESAVE.COM



Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

When decorating, remember that outdoor "icicle" lights use more energy because they have more bulbs per linear foot than regular light strands. Consider using regular strands of energy-saving LED (Light Emitting Diode) lights. They use less electricity and last up to 100,000 hours.

Source: Alliance to Save Energy