

Members Make Glades Electric Cooperative's 66TH ANNUAL MEETING A SUCCESS

A beautiful, sunny day at Clewiston Middle School provided the setting for the 66th Annual Meeting of Glades Electric Cooperative. Members made the trip from around the service area to elect trustees, learn of the state of the cooperative, and have a chance at winning awesome door prizes. This year's attendees were also treated to an appearance by a United States Congressman, who took the time to provide a legislative update on the political climate in Washington.

One of the many benefits of being a cooperative member is exercising democratic control of the organization. The election of the Trustees, from the membership BY the membership, is one of the principles that set cooperatives apart from investor-owned utilities (I.O.U.'s). Each year, a third of the Board of Trustees are elected, or re-elected, to serve a three year term. The Trustee candidates are nominated by committee or petition from the membership and are voted on at the Annual Meeting. It is the Board of Trustees that establishes the policies by which the cooperative conducts business.

Elected this year were Mr. Ladd Bass, incumbent in District 5 (Venus & Hicoria), Mr. Jim Aul, incumbent in District 7 (Lorida), and Ms. Irene Lofton, incumbent in

District 9 (Okeechobee). These trustees are experienced and dedicated individuals who understand the wants and needs of the members, and make decisions accordingly.

In addition to the election, Members were treated to donuts, beverages, and the musical entertainment of Joni and Buddy Canova. They perused educational displays, such as GEC's Steps of Restoration display, map of Trustee districts, and Director of Safety, Christy Timmons's Safety City. Additionally several exhibitors set up booths displaying things such as: MeterTreater (meter-based surge protection), Glades Electric Charitable Trust (the organization which distributes the funds raised through Operation Round Up), Lewis Tree Service (the subcontractor who trims GEC's right-of-ways), Seminole Electric (GEC's power provider), and many others!

Tommy Todd, General Manager and CEO led off the meeting by welcoming the members. He then introduced the Trustees and Senior Staff. Mr. Todd asked for a moment of silence to acknowledge the passing of both Wally Birge, Trustee for District 5, and John Eisinger, Manager of Engineering Services. Both gentlemen faithfully served the members of Glades Electric and will be missed. Additionally, he recognized several representatives from

Left to Right: Board Trustee Jim Aul,
Board Trustee Barney Goodman and
General Manager & CEO Tommy Todd



Left to Right: Business Development Manager Paul McGehee,
Board Trustee Ladd Bass and his daughter Mattie Bass



Seminole Electric in attendance as well as various area officials. Of course, Mr. Todd's favorite group to recognize is the veterans. He begins by asking any WWII veterans to stand and be recognized, followed by veterans of the Korean War, Vietnam, Desert Storm, Iraq/Afghanistan, etc. Needless to say, these men and women receive a very grateful and generous ovation!

This year, Tommy Todd was honored to introduce United States Congressman Tom Rooney (Rep. District 16). Mr. Todd proudly pointed to the Congressman's spearheading the effort to eliminate wasteful spending on a second engine manufacturer for the F-35 fighter, the military's next generation war plane set to begin production. When General Electric lost the bid to manufacture the engine of this plane, they lobbied Washington to allow them to construct an engine anyway as a "second alternative." This would have cost American taxpayers over \$1 billion of wasteful spending. Congressman Rooney, in only his second term, led the charge to end the "business as usual" approach to this wasteful mentality and got the second engine stopped!

The Congressman took the stage and gave a stirring report on Congress's efforts to control spending, balance the budget, and make prudent decisions to help our area survive the sluggish economy. His speech highlighted his support in defunding the EPA, whose restrictive regulations could stifle Florida's efforts to attract businesses and lower unemployment. Congressman Rooney pointed to the EPA's unrealistic Numeric Nutrient Criteria regulations, which target Florida alone, and could cost Florida taxpayers up to \$2 billion. The Florida agricultural community has asked the EPA to meet with the Florida Farm Bureau and Florida Chamber to establish workable criteria based on the years of data already accumulated. The EPA refused and is instead attempting to force Florida into a costly venture to try and meet unnecessary and unrealistic guidelines. The EPA is also attempting to classify CO₂ as hazardous after the last Congress failed to force Cap and Trade on the American people. Fortunately for the members of Glades Electric, there are legislators with the common sense and courage to stand up for the welfare of folks in our area.

Jack Coxe, President of the Board of Trustees, gave a report on the state of the cooperative. He thanked the members for their continued support, evidenced by the large attendance at Annual Meetings. Mr. Coxe reiterated, with a cooperative it is the duty of the Trustees to look out for the interest of the members, and not a far away group of shareholders as with an investor-owned utility. Mr. Coxe also took pleasure in pointing out the employees of Glades Electric have worked more than 1052 days



Left to Right: Board President Jack Coxe, Board Trustee Lee Henderson and Board Trustee Jim Aul



General Manager and CEO, Tommy Todd, makes a point of personally greeting every member as they arrive



United States Congressman, Tom Rooney, addresses the crowd



Information Services and Operations Director, Bradley Hill, serves refreshments to the members



Joni and Buddy Canova provide musical entertainment



Members enjoy, Director of Safety, Christy Timmons presentation.

without a loss-time accident! He highlighted the year's accomplishments with the energizing of the Taylor Creek substation and transmission line in Okeechobee County and how this has led to fewer outages and blinks for our members in the Okeechobee area. He ended by recognizing the good job the management team has done in managing costs and cutting expenses in these tough budget years.

Retaking the podium, Tommy Todd, General Manager & CEO recognized the cooperative's workforce for a job well done in 2010. Glades Electric is fortunate to have employees who work with the best interest of the members in mind. The cooperative, and its employees, has worked hard to find cost savings and efficiencies in an effort to keep members' bills as low as possible. The members humbled the employees by acknowledging their appreciation with an enthusiastic ovation. Mr. Todd then asked the members to vote on whether they wanted him to make a speech, or proceed directly to the prize drawing. Prize drawing won by the narrowest of margins.

With the business meeting concluded, Jeff Brewington, Chief Financial Officer and Master of Ceremonies took the stage for the prize drawing. Lucky members won HD televisions, trip certificates, power tools, gift cards and much more including the Grand Prize; a 2000 Chevrolet K1500 Extended Cab 4x4 pickup!

It is our sincere hope that the members enjoyed attending the Annual Meeting as much as the Trustees, management, and employees enjoyed hosting! It is truly our honor to be "Neighbors Working for Neighbors."



Members' kids play in the bounce house



Chief Financial Officer, Jeff Brewington, congratulates Lorraine Russell on winning the Grand Prize, a 2000 Chevrolet Cheyenne 1/2 ton 4x4 Pickup

GREAT WEATHER GREETSS FLORIDA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES AT THE ANNUAL LEGISLATIVE COOKOUT

Electric cooperatives from all around the state gathered in Tallahassee on March 16, 2011 to meet with legislators and discuss their concerns for the future of electrical generation, transmission and distribution, as well as any potential implications any current or proposed legislation may have on the cooperatives' members. Instead of individually scheduled meetings, which are costly and time-consuming, the cooperatives gather in a central location and invite the legislators to come to them. How do we entice our lawmakers to come to us? With great food!

Clay Electric Cooperative annually hosts this outdoor event where participating cooperatives prepare foods that are reflective of their service area. In addition to the great variety of food available, family-style entertainment is provided by a bluegrass quartet.

Glades Electric Cooperative offers delicious fried gator tail, gator ribs, catfish, and batter-fried banana peppers. The legislators and their staff have come to look forward to this unique fare and make a point to bring their family and friends. The relaxed atmosphere offers a perfect opportunity to discuss issues "back home." The neighborhood feel, and beautiful setting, create a relaxed atmosphere in which to speak "shoulder-to-shoulder" with our lawmakers and convey the ideas, comments and concerns of our members. This setting is a far cry from meeting in their offices, where they are constantly pressed for time, awaiting phone calls, or have their next appointment waiting in the next room. At the Cookout, the legislators and staff can sit and visit with the folks from their district and enjoy an uninterrupted conversation.

The event is also a terrific way for cooperative employees and trustees to mix and mingle with colleagues from other cooperatives and share ideas and roadblocks. There are meetings scheduled, via the Florida Electric Cooperative Association, to report the status of pending legislation affecting cooperatives and develop materials designed to consolidate and clarify communications on upcoming issues of importance. This is critical to assure cooperatives are well informed and communicating a consistent message to Tallahassee. Rural electric cooperatives enjoy a good reputation among lawmakers due to the integrity, openness, and clarity of how they communicate the needs of their members.

The Cookout, as it has come to be called, is a great example of the Cooperative Principle; "Concern for Community." Glades Electric is pleased to have this opportunity to represent our members and the communities we serve, and carry their message to Tallahassee. We promise to always have our members' best interest in mind and continue working hard to communicate their wants and needs to our legislators!

GEC is proud to prepare Fried Hot Peppers, Gator Tail and Fried Catfish



Cooperative General Managers discuss legislative issues



Group performs blue grass music



We are proud to remain "Neighbors Working for Neighbors."

HELP ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES BATTLE COPPER CRIME

Soaring metal prices have been blamed for an increase in thefts of copper and aluminum, primary components of electric distribution lines. Recent thefts of copper wire and equipment from electric utilities have been responsible for power outages, additional maintenance and expenses, diminished service reliability, and, in some cases, serious injury or death.

Copper in wire is appealing to thieves who want to sell the metal for scrap. Burglars will often climb power poles, scale fences, and break into buildings to steal the precious metal. Needless to say, a 542 percent increase in the price of copper since 2001 has prompted thieves to become bolder and more inventive.

In Oklahoma, members of one electric co-op are facing an estimated \$1 million repair bill because copper thieves wrecked a substation for just \$100 worth of the metal last year. In New Mexico, a man was found dead beneath a power pole, electrocuted while trying to cut copper wiring from a live transformer. A Texas man lost his life when he cut into a live power line while trying to steal copper. Similar accidents have been reported across the country.

“To a would-be thief, stealing copper may seem like a quick way to make a buck,” says Paul McGehee, Business Development Manager at GEC. “But it’s illegal, it’s costly, and it’s not worth a life. Working with any metal and electricity is a dangerous combination, even for trained employees using proper equipment.”

Some electric cooperatives stamp copper and aluminum wire with an ID number to deter theft. Stolen wire is commonly brought to recycling centers and traded for cash. Although many state laws require recycling centers to keep records of transactions, enforcement can be difficult. Without identifying marks, stolen wire is hard to track and is rarely recovered.

Thieves may not understand that they are risking their lives by taking copper from substations, where high transmission voltage is stepped down to a lower

current for distribution lines. All power lines carry a potentially deadly charge.

Glades Electric Cooperative urges you to follow the following guidelines to guard against electrical dangers and prevent copper theft.

- Never enter or touch equipment inside a substation; stay away from power lines and anything touching a power line.
- If you notice anything unusual with electric facilities, such as an open substation gate, open equipment, or hanging wire, contact your electric co-op immediately.
- If you see anyone around electric substations or electric facilities other than co-op personnel or contractors, call the police.
- Install motion-sensor lights on the outside of your house and business to deter possible thieves.
- Store tools and wire cutters in a secure location, and never leave them out while you are away.
- If you work in construction, do not leave any wires or plumbing unattended or leave loose wire at the job site, especially overnight.
- Help spread the word about the deadly consequences that can result from trying to steal copper or aluminum.

Please help us prevent these thefts. If you notice anything unusual, call Glades Electric Cooperative immediately at 1-800-226-4024. If you see anyone other than co-op personnel or contractors around substations or other electric facilities, call the police.



Over 72% 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 March 31st, 2011 your Charitable Trust Board of Directors has approved **\$646,792.20 in disbursements**. These funds have provided assistance with food, emergency lodging, disaster relief, and specific emergency needs for **435 individuals** and or families and **90 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.

MAY REGULAR MEETING: MAY 25, 2011

The Charitable Trust Board of Directors:

Barbara Hughes.....District 1Moore Haven
 Beverly EavesDistrict 2Hendry County
 Kelly Brantley.....District 3Ortona & Palmdale
 Doris EvansDistrict 4Lakeport
 Lewis Dixon.....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

Venus United Methodist Church

962 CR 731
 Venus, FL 33960

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

Dolores Folk #101778-01
 Jason Egger #101110-01

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

Russell Henderson,
Secretary/Treasurer, District 3
Ortona & Palmdale, (863) 946-0865

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

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

Ladd Bass, Trustee, District 5
Venus & Hicoria, (863) 441-2227

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

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

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
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 May board meeting will be held on Thursday, May 26, 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 LIKE TO TAKE IT EASY
ON VACATION. SO DOES
MY ENERGY BILL.**

And while my energy bill can't go camping or fishing, there are some things I can do to lighten its load. Like adjusting my thermostat and turning off the water heater before I leave. I'm saving money even while I'm on vacation. What can you do? Find out how the little changes add up at TogetherWeSave.com.

GLADES
Electric Cooperative, Inc.
TOGETHERWESAVE.COM



Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

Electronics account for 8.1 percent of your home's energy use. Cut costs by plugging items into a power strip, and turning the strip off when not in use. "Smart" power strips are another good option—when one master device like a TV is turned off, it cuts power to other selected items (DVD players, gaming consoles, stereos, etc.).

Source: U.S. Department of Energy