

CURRENT COMMENTS

January 2012

The Official Newsletter of **Southern Rivers Energy**[®]
A Touchstone Energy[®] Cooperative 

Youth Programs Available

Washington Youth Tour

Once a year, two high school juniors are selected by Southern Rivers Energy to represent the co-op as delegates on the Washington Youth Tour. In the summer before their senior year, these young people will join hundreds of other students from across the country—all expenses



paid—for one incredible week in our nation's capital. Winners receive \$250 and will be featured on the cover of the September issue of *GEORGIA Magazine!*

The tour is a fast-paced leadership opportunity to see Washington, D.C., in action.



LOUIS TONSMERE / PHOTO ILLUSTRATION STEVE JACOBS

APPLY NOW!

Tour dates: June 14-21, 2012

Applications must be received by Feb. 16, 2012.

Mail to: SRE Washington Youth Tour,
P.O. Box 40, Barnesville, GA 30204

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For more details or to download
an application, visit

www.southernriversenergy.com.

Walter Harrison Scholarship

If you are a student living in the household of a Southern Rivers Energy member, employee or director and have been accepted to or are currently enrolled in an accredited undergraduate degree program in Georgia, you are eligible for consideration.

This statewide scholarship program requires applicants to submit a two-page autobiographical sketch with reference to future plans and goals. Completed applications must be submitted to The Walter Harrison Scholarship at P.O. Box 40, Barnesville, GA 30204, and postmarked by **Feb. 6, 2012**.

The \$1,000 scholarship is awarded to students who excel in the areas of grade-point average, SAT scores, academic standing and scholastic honors, and who demonstrate a financial need. A scholarship committee made up of EMC directors and managers from across Georgia will review the entries. Recipients will be announced in the spring.



Southern Rivers Energy Trust Scholarship

Southern Rivers Energy is accepting applications for the Southern Rivers Energy Trust Scholarship. Applications must be postmarked by **March 17, 2012**. Twenty \$1,000 scholarships will be awarded to students within the nine counties served by SRE: Bibb, Coweta, Crawford, Lamar, Pike, Meriwether,

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Remembering Former Lamar EMC Manager Tom Weldon

Mr. Thomas M. Weldon, who served as Lamar EMC Manager for 27 years, passed away on Nov. 7, 2011, at the age of 83. Weldon was a director at Lamar EMC from 1961 until 1963, when he became General Manager. He was born and raised in Milner, where he ran a successful cattle farm most of his life.

He was a longtime member of Milner Methodist Church, where he held numerous positions. He was also an active and well-respected board member at United Bank. Weldon was past president of the Barnesville Rotary Club and a member of the Chamber of Commerce.

He was married to Betty Weldon of Milner for 57 years, and they have three children, six grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

Weldon served in the U.S. Air Force and was a Korean War veteran. He is remembered as a planner who always prepared for anything and very much a “doer.” He had a quiet sense of control and was a man of his word who believed in doing what was right.



Thomas M. Weldon,
General Manager
of Lamar EMC 1963-1990

He was well respected as General Manager of Lamar EMC and was known for his integrity, determination and honesty. He had a strong work ethic that stemmed from his farming background. He enjoyed auctions and estate sales, loved to tell stories and, judging from his garage, could fix just about anything.

Lynda Brutz, a former Lamar EMC employee, says, “I was 18 when Mr. Weldon hired me for a summer job at Lamar EMC. He had such an immense presence, maybe because he was so tall, that he was a bit intimidating at first. If I wasn’t particularly busy when Mr. Weldon walked by my desk, I would start shuffling papers or find something to make myself look busy! I soon

found out that he was more of a gentle giant who was very kind for giving me such a wonderful opportunity at such a young age.”

Marcia Edwards, head of SRE Patronage Capital, says, “I was hired by Mr. Tom in 1972, when I was 24. Looking back, he may have been a little unsure about that decision at first! I was very insecure in those first years and tried hard to impress.

“He was very hands-on in every department ... in other words, he ran the show. But we knew that he always had our best interests at heart and he took care of us. He was slow to change, and the computer age was not his forte. We still had the old clunky cash register when he retired and I told him it was his retirement gift from me!”

“I never worked for him and didn’t know him very well, but he always made a point to say, ‘hello’ and remind me who he was whenever he stopped by the office or came to our annual meetings ... and he always had a smile on his face,” says Erin Cook, Communications Specialist.

“I met Mr. Tom early on in 1984, not
Continued on page 18C



Mr. Weldon presents an award to retired Warehouse Manager and Purchasing Agent Billy Weaver, who passed away in May 2011.

Southern Rivers Energy Trust Scholarship

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Monroe, Spalding and Upson. Applicants' primary residence must be within one of these counties but is not limited to those who receive electric service from SRE.

The program is open to high school seniors (public and private), as well as currently enrolled college or technical school students, but is not available for graduate work.

Based on the core values that guide Touchstone Energy Cooperatives like Southern Rivers Energy, this local scholarship program requires applicants to write four essays explaining how they demonstrate these values in their lives: commitment to community, accountability, innovation and integrity. These traits, along with academics and school and community involvement, will be used to determine the recipients.

Applications are available online at www.southernriversenergy.com. They must be submitted to: SRE Trust Scholarship, P.O. Box 40, Barnesville, GA 30204. Contact Erin Cook for more information about both scholarship programs: erin@sriver.net, 770-358-1383, ext. 332, or toll free, 877-358-1383.



STATEMENT OF NONDISCRIMINATION

Southern Rivers Energy is the recipient of federal financial assistance from the Rural Utilities Service Administration, an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and is subject to the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended; the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended; and the rules and regulations of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, which provide that no person in the United States on the basis of race, color, national origin, age or handicap shall be excluded from participation in, admission or access to, denied the benefits of, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination under any of this organization's programs or activities.

The person responsible for coordinating this organization's nondiscrimination compliance efforts is Raleigh Henry, President/CEO. Any individual, or specific class of individuals, who feels that this organization has subjected them to discrimination may obtain further information about the statutes and regulations listed above from and/or file a written complaint with this organization; or the Secretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, DC 20250; or the Administrator, Rural Utilities Service, Washington, DC 20250. Complaints must be filed within 180 days after the alleged discrimination. Confidentiality will be maintained to the extent possible.

Tom Weldon, *Continued from page 18B*

long after moving from Pennsylvania," says Rob Hall, SRE Senior Staking Engineer. "I rented a room from his son, Tommy, and lived out 'on the farm' for several years. He hired me at the co-op in 1985. I also worked with him on the farm as a farmhand while I lived there, and for some time after I moved off the farm.

"Mr. Tom was a hard man, but fair at the same time," adds Hall. "When he made a decision, he stuck with it. He accepted me and made me feel welcome."

Says Southern Rivers President/CEO Raleigh Henry,

"He knew every piece of equipment that went out on the line trucks every day. He was at the office by 7:30 a.m. and would stand out on the dock checking every tool, every piece of wire to make sure it was done right. He was a great man, a fair boss and a good friend, and he will be missed at the co-op and in the community."

From everyone at Southern Rivers Energy, thank you, Mr. Weldon, for your many contributions to the cooperative and its employees.



Dates to Remember

Jan. 1.....New Year's Day; SRE's office will be closed on Monday, January 2

To report an outage, call 770-358-1383 or 877-358-1383.

Jan. 7.....State EMC/FFA Wiring Contest at the FFA Camp in Covington

Jan. 16.....Martin Luther King Jr. Day (Office will be open)

Feb. 6.....Deadline to postmark Walter Harrison Scholarship applications

Feb. 16...Washington Youth Tour applications due

Happy New Year from everyone at Southern Rivers Energy!



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P.O. Box 40
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www.southernriversenergy.com

Erin Cook
Editor

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Join other smart homeowners in your community who are saving money and energy by making energy-efficient home improvements* with a 0% interest HomePlus loan.

Southern Rivers Energy
has partnered with Georgia
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homeplus

offer the HomePlus loan program for SRE members. Call Josh Hendricks at 770-358-1383, ext. 349, for more information, or apply online at southernriversenergy.com.

Eligible SRE Members can finance up to \$5,500 at 0% interest through June 2012. Don't miss this opportunity to make energy-efficient improvements that will save you money for years to come!

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