

## OFFICE LOCATIONS

### Jackson Office

1307 College Avenue  
P.O. Box 398  
Jackson, AL 36545  
251-246-9081

### Chatom Office

P. O. Box 453  
Chatom, AL 36518  
251-847-2302

### Toll Free Number

1-800-323-9081

### Office Hours

7 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
Monday-Friday  
(Drive-thru Hours)

[www.cwemc.com](http://www.cwemc.com)

### Payment Methods

Payments can be made at our Chatom and Jackson offices with cash, checks, debit or credit cards

Our Customer Service Representatives can accept payments over the phone using a credit card or debit card

### Local Pages Editor

Anna Wright



# Capital Credits Returned to Members

The nation was in recovery from The Great Depression in 1936. A group of forward thinking citizens, in a grass-roots effort saw the need for electricity to be brought to their rural homes and farms.

With the emotional sting of the Depression still being felt, many rural Alabamians were very hesitant about signing up for electricity.

Hard work and persistence paid off and enough members signed on to form the cooperative.

Under the new Rural Electric Administration Act, the government loaned money to rural cooperatives to build powerlines and to finally energize the rural communities.

In early 1936 the first rural electric cooperative in Alabama was formed as Clarke-Washington Electric Membership Corporation.

Clarke-Washington EMC began under uncertain economic times, yet because of common sense and good management it has thrived for over 70 years. What formed us in the beginning still drives us into the future-supplying reliable electric service to our members.

Management of a cooperative is different from other types of businesses. Clarke-Washington EMC is a not-for-profit business unlike profit driven businesses.

Sound management of a coop-

erative is proved by the return of our members investments through Capital Credit.

Clarke-Washington EMC mailed 9,982 checks totaling \$135,241.52 on Friday, Dec. 12, 2008 to mem-

bers with accounts from the year of 1982.

The return of Capital Credits is similar to dividends paid to stockholders of other corporations. Our members are our stockholders, therefore the

capital not used after operating expenses, is allocated back to you.

Today as in 1936, Clarke-Washington EMC continues to grow and maintain the same standard that we began with-providing our members with reliable electricity at an affordable rate.

Thank you.

*Clarke-Washington EMC mailed 9,982 checks totaling \$135,241.52 on Friday, Dec. 12, 2008 to members with accounts from the year of 1982.*



**Stan Wilson**  
CEO/Manager of  
Clarke-  
Washington  
Electric  
Membership  
Corporation

# Wholesale Power Increase

Clarke-Washington EMC purchases the power delivered to your home or business from our generation and transmission cooperative, PowerSouth (formerly AEC).

The price we pay for this electricity has increased and will be reflected as an increase on bills received in February by 5.07 mills/kwH or \$5.07 per thousand kwH. This is a

4.11 percent increase.

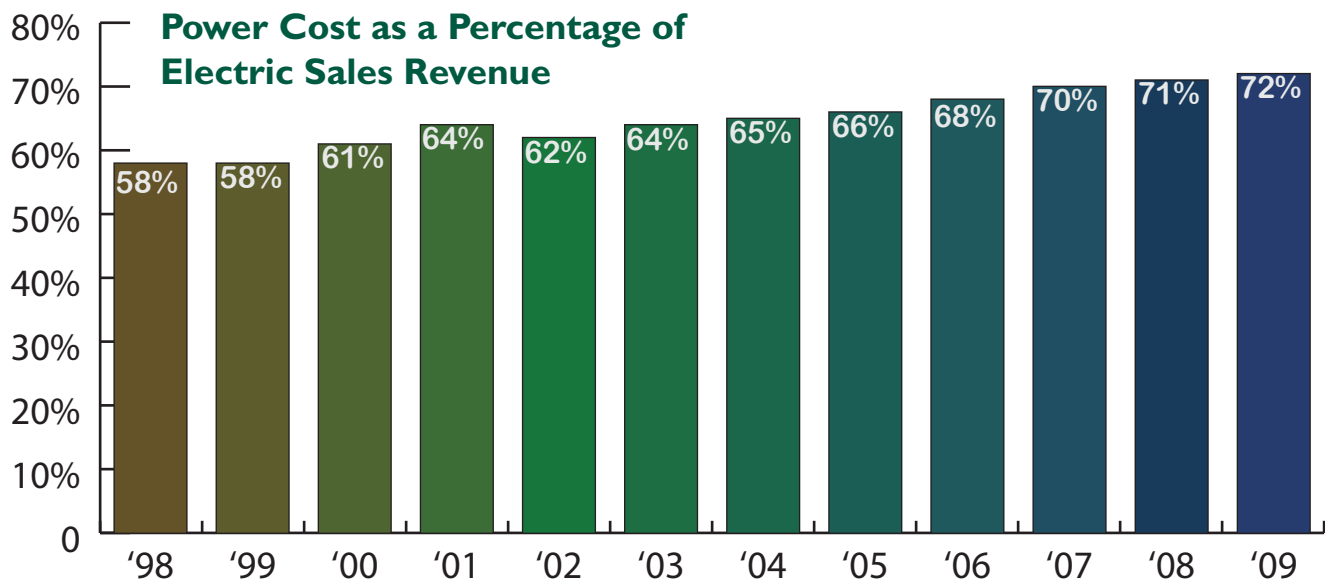
In 2008, every dollar CWEMC took in from electric sales, \$.71 went to wholesale power. This percentage increase has grown over recent years.

The 2009 budget projection indicates power cost will be 72 percent of the 2009 cost, at current rates.

Ten years ago the percentage of power cost to revenue was 58 per-

cent. Five years ago the percentage was 64 percent. A graph on this page shows how this percentage has related to revenue over the last ten years.

This increase is a pass-through from PowerSouth and all proceeds of the costs will go directly for purchase of wholesale power.



## Scholarship Opportunity for Graduating Seniors

Are you a high school senior who is graduating this spring? Are you a dependent of a member of Clarke-Washington EMC?

If so, you are eligible to apply for a scholarship from the Electric Cooperative Foundation.

Clarke-Washington EMC has joined other cooperatives throughout the state of Alabama to create the Electric Cooperative Foundation. This spring the foundation will be awarding scholarships across Alabama for students to continue their education at post-secondary and vocational schools.

For more details about these scholarships, obtain a copy of an Electric Cooperative scholarship application from your high school guidance counselor or call:

**Anna Wright**  
**Clarke-Washington EMC**  
**1-800-323-9081**

Applications are due March 13, 2009.



# Our Employees Give Back

*Keeping with the Spirit of Christmas, Clarke-Washington EMC's employees donated toys during the month of December to provide some Christmas cheer to local foster children.*

Employees at the Chatom branch of Clarke-Washington EMC donated toys to give to two foster children through the Washington County Department of Human Resources for Christmas.



CHATOM: Clarke-Washington EMC linemen Jack Miller, Jason Dixon, Haron Smith, Carolyn Carpenter with the Washington County DHR and CWEMC cashiers Polly Odom and Denise Carpenter.

Clarke-Washington EMC's employees at the Jackson office gave gifts to help with foster children at Christmas. Items were donated to children through the Regional Children's Advocacy Center of Clarke County.



JACKSON: Bottom Row- Caleb Alday, Jason Pipken and Lester Brown. Second Row- Terry Hooper, Dwight Pugh and Mary English with the Regional Children's Advocacy Center of Clarke County.

## Linemen help restore power to Louisiana co-ops

Art Dees and Wayne McCart of Clarke-Washington EMC's Franklin Service Center in Monroe County, spent several days restoring power to areas of Louisiana that received a rare snowfall on Dec. 11, 2008.

Dees and McCart traveled to Dixie Electric Membership Corporation (DEMCO) in Greensburg, La., to assist in restoring power to their members in the 7-parish area that is located North and Northeast of Baton Rouge.

The Associated Press stated that one town, Amite, La., which is served by DEMCO, had a peak record of 8 inches of snow to fall. The snow soon turned into slush making for abnormal working conditions.

Clarke-Washington EMC is part of a nationwide system of cooperatives. Our partnership with other cooperatives provides a network of qualified assistance during emergency situations.



Art Dees and Wayne McCart of CWEMC helped Louisiana co-op Dixie Electric Membership Cooperative restore power to its members after a rare snowfall on Dec. 11.

# Employees Recognized for Years of Service

Clarke-Washington Electric Membership Corporation awarded 17 employees for their years of service to the electric co-op. Individuals were recognized during the annual Awards Dinner on Thursday, Dec. 11th at the Community Center in Chatom.

Dedicated to serving our customers with affordable and convenient electricity is the job of Clarke-Washington EMC. Without dedicated and professional employees that goal

could not be obtained.

Those being recognized were James McDonald-30, Bobby Pritchard-20, Jacklyn McDonald-20, Susan Dunn-15, Jimmy Brewer-20, Billy Hudson-25, Wayne McCart-10, Graham Wilson-30, Kenny Harrell-25, Charles Brooks-20, Cathy Jackson-15, Dwight Pugh-20, Joe Hoffman-20, Bobby Farish-30, Lester Brown-25, Arthur McBride-20 and Steve Brannan-20.

"The success of Clarke-Wash-

ington EMC is based primarily on the professionalism of our employees," said Stan Wilson manager of CWEMC. "I appreciate the work that they do to ensure customer service and satisfaction for the benefit of our entire service area.

Clarke-Washington EMC is a rural electric cooperative serving over 20,000 meters in Clarke and Washington County and portions of Monroe and Wilcox counties.



Front Row: James McDonald-30, Bobby Pritchard-20, Jacklyn McDonald-20, Susan Dunn-15 and Jimmy Brewer-20; Second Row: Billy Hudson-25, Wayne McCart-10, Graham Wilson-30, Kenny Harrell-25, Charles Brooks-20, Cathy Jackson-15, Dwight Pugh-20, Joe Hoffman-20 and Bobby Farish-30; 3rd Row: Lester Brown-25, Arthur McBride-20 and Steve Brannan-20.

# Blast winter energy hogs

As harsh winter weather sets in, now is the time to send your home's energy hogs out the door.

Rid your home of these common winter culprits:

- Drafty doors and windows. *Caulk and weatherstripping are easy to apply around windows and doors, especially those leading to a basement or attic. And you'll see a difference on your energy bill.*
- Dirty air filters. *They make your heating system work harder to keep the air comfortable. Change the filter every three to six months.*
- Leaky ducts. *A contractor can test your ducts for leakage and repair any problems.*
- Chilly water heater. *If your water heater is in the basement or garage, it's spending some of its energy trying to keep itself warm—instead of*

*devoting all of its energy to heating water. Pick up an insulating jacket at a hardware or home store and wrap it up.*

- Wood fireplace. *Traditional fireplaces suck heated air into the chimney and release it outdoors. Retire yours, close off the damper and add an electric fireplace insert, which doesn't put much heat to a room but looks nice in the hearth.*

## Tune Up Your Home Office

Tune up your workspace to save energy—and maybe a little money on your electric bill, too.

It's tempting to leave your computer on all the time for quick access, but shut it down overnight. Like burning a light in an empty room, an operating computer wastes energy if you won't use it for more than two hours.

Enable your computer's power-management features. These are the features that automatically put your computer into a more-efficient "standby" mode when it's not in use.

Shut off printers, copiers, scanners and fax machines when you leave your home office. If you plug them into one power strip, you can

turn them off with the flick of a single switch. Some power strips come with timers that you can set to automatically turn equipment off each evening.

Buying new home-office equipment? Look for the Energy Star label on computers, printers, copiers and fax machines. Energy Star appliances use less energy in standby mode.

If you spend most of the day in your home office, lower the thermostat so you're not keeping all of your other rooms unnecessarily warm. Keep your office comfortable by using a space heater.

Replace your halogen torchiere lamp with a compact fluorescent torchiere. It's safer, uses less energy and costs less to operate.



## Give Space Heaters Space

Electric space heaters can efficiently warm a small space. Use them safely so they don't turn your comfortable room into a fire hazard.

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission estimates that space heaters cause more than 25,000 house fires and 300 deaths every year.

Here's how to use your space heater safely:

1. Choose heaters that are rated as safe by Under-

writers Laboratories.

2. Keep all bedding, drapes, pets and people at least three feet away from a space heater that's turned on.
3. Buy a heater with a thermostat to avoid overheating the room.
4. Get a heater that's the right size for the room. Oversized heaters waste energy.

*Get the Facts from CWEMC*

## Tankless Electric Water Heaters

**T**ankless electric water heaters are just what the name implies—water heaters with no holding tanks. Water circulates through a large coil and is heated only on demand using electricity. Like the more common water heaters, there is not a storage tank where water is kept hot and ready for use at all times.

Tankless electric water heaters heat water on demand rather than storing hot water for later use.

The major limitation of tankless electric water heaters is that they may not supply enough hot water at average temperatures (120-125 degrees) for normal daily activities like showering, dish washing and laundry. That can mean major inconveniences in a typical household.

Tankless electric water

heaters are very expensive. Models that supply five gallons per minute can cost \$1,000 or more.

If you consider the initial cost of the unit, not considering the additional installation cost, it could take about 34 years to recover your investment. Since the average life of a water heater is approximately 20 years, it's unlikely those dollars will ever be regained.

The wiring requirements of these units can draw as much as 36,000 watts. Tankless electric water heaters require a significant amount of electricity to operate, so they cost consumers more, but provide less hot water per minute. With such a load used to operate, these water heaters can cause the lights in your home to start flickering and dimming unless electrical service has been upgraded.

For more information on the pros and cons of tankless electric water heaters, call the Member Services Department at Clarke-Washington EMC or visit our Web site at [www.cwemc.com](http://www.cwemc.com) or the Energy Star program at [www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov).

