

## 2023 made for Coastal Electric's biggest Member Appreciation Week ever

**M**ore Coastal Electric Cooperative members participated in this year's Member Appreciation Week than ever before, with 2,477 members registering in person during the three days preceding the co-op's 2023 Annual Meeting.

A big draw this year, in addition to a chance to win a \$1,000 grand prize, was the member registration gift—a 10.25-inch Lodge Cast Iron Skillet branded with the Coastal Electric logo and Lodge Silicone Hot Handle Holder.

During Member Appreciation Days, May 22-24, members could stop by the Coastal Electric offices in Midway or Richmond Hill to register for the Annual Meeting, vote to elect directors and pick up a skillet. The response was so positive, Coastal



**Congratulations to the winner of the \$1,000 Member Appreciation grand prize, Charles Tilton of Midway! When Charles and his wife, Barbara, stopped by to register May 24, they went home with a "rain check" for a Lodge Cast Iron Skillet. Little did they know that they'd be back the very next day to claim a \$1,000 cash prize.**

Electric handed out more than 2,000 skillets by Wednesday morning and began giving "rain checks" in lieu of skillets.

On Thursday, May 25, members tuned in to the Annual Meeting, which was livestreamed on Facebook and Coastal Electric's website.

Charles Tilton of Midway won the \$1,000 grand prize before CEO Chris Fettes gave a year-in-review, which included:

- Coastal Fiber update.
- Discussion about electric vehicles and their growing impact on our area.
- How Coastal Electric is playing a part in local schools' science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) programs.
- Bringing a historic square back to life in Darien.

*Continued on page 18B*



Scan here with your smartphone camera to view the 2023 Coastal Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting of Members, which took place May 25.

# Gill to fill unexpired term on co-op board

There's a new face on the Coastal Electric Cooperative Board of Directors—Joseph Fillmore Gill IV of Fleming.

A director search committee selected Gill in April to complete the unexpired term of the late Jack Waters, who passed away in December. Gill attended his first board meeting in May.

A lifelong resident of Liberty County, Gill has deep-rooted family ties with the co-op, as his great-grandfather also served on the board.

"I have always admired, respected and witnessed firsthand the values of Coastal Electric," Gill says. "Even as a child attending Annual Meetings with my father, Coastal Electric's commitment to the community was evident to me by the professional performance in our community and the generosity given back by its members. ... The electric cooperative has built a sustainable and remarkable culture in



Joseph Fillmore Gill IV

our community, and one that I hope to continue and be a part of with my leadership abilities."

In his career, Gill serves as senior vice president of Envirovac Holdings LLC, where his commitment to safety

resulted in the company earning an Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) Star rating and deemed the safest industrial cleaning contractor for more than 10 years.

He earned a Bachelor of Science in construction from Georgia Southern University and is involved in the American Angus Association, Mount Olivet Church, Outdoor Dream Foundation and Waterjet Technology Association.

He and his wife, Tyre, have two daughters, Grier and Mae.

"We are a cooperative with core values of integrity, accountability, innovation and commitment to community," says Coastal Electric CEO Chris Fettes. "Many of you know Mr. Joe Gill and will understand that he also upholds these same values. He is excited and humbled to help guide Coastal Electric into the future."

## Member Appreciation Week, *Continued from page 18A*

Following the year-in-review, members could watch the business portion of the Annual Meeting held at the co-op's headquarters in Midway. Members reelected incumbent directors Laura McGee (Bryan County), John Woods (Liberty County) and Reagan Odom (McIntosh/Long counties) to new three-year terms on the co-op board.

Members who submitted their email addresses were put into a drawing for \$250. The winner was Tajana Jones of Midway.

You can find the 2023 Annual Meeting video on Coastal Electric's YouTube channel, Facebook page or online at [www.CoastalElectric.Coop/live](http://www.CoastalElectric.Coop/live).



Almost 2,500 members registered during this year's Member Appreciation Days—more than ever before. These three neighbors from Liberty County stopped by the Richmond Hill office as they were out on a girls day out.

# Dreaming of a technical career?

**W**e'd love to help you get there. The Coastal Electric Cooperative Foundation Technical College Scholarship could put money into your pocket to help you achieve your dreams. Apply by July 15 for the fall of 2023. For more info, scan the QR Code or visit [www.CoastalElectric.Coop/scholarships](http://www.CoastalElectric.Coop/scholarships).



## Holiday office closing

Coastal Electric Cooperative offices will be closed Tuesday, July 4.  
We wish our members a safe and happy Independence Day!

# Coastal Electric members fund \$30,000 in scholarships to local students

Coastal Electric Cooperative members are helping six local students pursue their dreams by way of \$30,000 in scholarships.

Recent graduates Emma Beasley (Liberty County High School), Madeline Ike (First Preparatory Christian Academy), Austin Rowe (McIntosh County Academy), Samuel Montone (home-schooled), and Jolie Claudio and Ella Snider (Richmond Hill High School) each earned \$5,000 Coastal Electric Cooperative Foundation scholarships for their first semester of college. Each scholarship is renewable for up to four years for a total of \$20,000.



**Madeline Ike**



**Ella Snider**

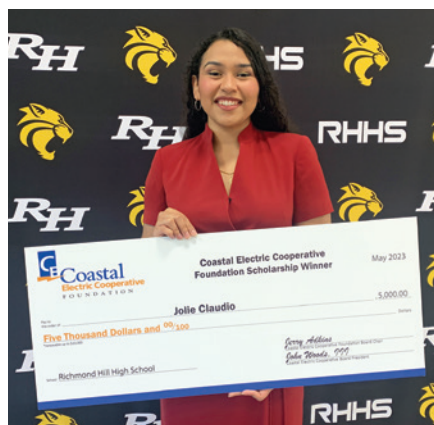
Primary funding for Coastal Electric Cooperative Foundation scholarships comes from Operation Round Up, a voluntary program in which Coastal Electric members allow their electric bills to be rounded up to the next whole dollar each month. That spare change is invested back into the community through the foundation to help meet food, health, safety, education and shelter needs of citizens in Bryan, Liberty, Long and McIntosh counties.

In addition, Richmond Hill High graduate Hayes Valentine competed with students across Georgia to win a \$1,000 Walter Harrison Scholarship, named for the late Walter Harrison of Millen, who was known for his



**Emma Beasley**

pioneering efforts in the electric cooperative industry and lifelong dedication to improving life in rural areas.



**Jolie Claudio**



**Austin Rowe**



**Samuel Montone**



**Hayes Valentine**