



# Sawnee Electric Membership Foundation



# 2015 Annual Report

## Message from the Chairman

On behalf of the Foundation Board of Directors, I hope that you enjoy reviewing the Sawnee Electric Membership Foundation's 2015 Annual Report. It contains useful information about the Foundation and its operations, an update on the funds contributed in 2015, as well as the grants that were distributed to charitable organizations throughout the year.

Generous Sawnee EMC members, who participated in Operation Round Up during 2015, donated \$116,214.31 to the Foundation. The Foundation also received a donation from unclaimed patronage capital funds totaling \$148,096.98, which was allocated to three (3) areas within the Foundation; \$100,000.00 was contributed specifically for Youth Scholarships, \$20,000.00 was earmarked for our "Bright Ideas" classroom grant program, and the remaining \$28,096.98 was designated for General Grants. Collectively, these actions allowed the Board to distribute \$174,109.17 throughout 2015 back into the communities which Sawnee EMC serves.

Gifts to local charitable organizations in 2015 and to individuals through Policy 204 totaled \$92,899.61, and another \$20,709.56 was contributed to area classrooms through our Bright Ideas program, which allows local teachers the opportunity to implement innovative projects within their classrooms. Many of these great projects would have gone unfunded without this very successful program.

Finally, in April of 2015, the Foundation awarded fifteen (15) scholarships, totaling \$60,000, to exceptional high school seniors who live in Sawnee EMC's service territory. The Foundation also instituted, and made the inaugural award for, our new Brian Johnson Memorial Scholarship which is named in honor of a Sawnee EMC employee who lost his life in the line of duty. The Foundation celebrates the ability to help outstanding individuals further their education.

Please continue reading about the good work that the Sawnee EMC Foundation was able to do last year. Remember, small change can change lives. Thank you all for your continued support.

Sincerely,



**Dennis Anderson**  
**Chairman of the Board**  
**Sawnee EMC Foundation**



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## Overview of the Sawnee Electric

### Membership Foundation

The Sawnee Electric Membership Foundation is a 501 (c) (3) organization, which exists solely to fund charitable endeavors within the communities served by Sawnee EMC. Participating members make their donation by voluntarily allowing Sawnee EMC to “Round Up” their monthly electric bill to the next highest dollar, and give those “extra pennies” to the Foundation. The average donation, for each member, is around \$6.00 per year.

Below are some of the activities supported by the Foundation throughout 2015.



### General Grants

Through the Foundation’s “Operation Round Up” program, local 501 (c) (3) and 501 (c) (4) charitable organizations are able to apply for grants, which are distributed on a quarterly basis. The Foundation Board evaluates these grant requests based on several factors, which includes the organization’s need, their ability to locate funding from alternative sources, other individual or corporate financial support, availability of funds, as well as other factors.

### Bright Ideas

Through the “Bright Ideas” program, funds are granted to assist local teachers in their classrooms. Teachers can apply for a grant, up to \$1,500 per classroom, per year. Grants are awarded to teachers instructing students in grades K-12 within Sawnee EMC’s service territory, and are used by educators to implement innovative projects to further their students’ education and learning opportunities, which might have otherwise not been able to be undertaken.

### Youth Scholarship Program

Each year, the Sawnee EMC Foundation accepts applications from local high school seniors for the “Youth Scholarship Program”. These youth scholarships are made possible by abandoned patronage capital funds that have gone unclaimed. The Foundation is proud to have supported this worthy cause for the past ten (10) years. In 2015, the Foundation awarded fifteen (15) local high school seniors, each with a \$4,000 scholarship to go towards their college education.

### Brian Johnson Memorial Scholarship

This scholarship was established by the Foundation in May of 2015. It was established to honor the legacy of one of Sawnee EMC’s employees, Mr. Brian Johnson, who lost his life in the line of duty. This scholarship sponsors up to two (2) students annually, with a grant of \$1,500 each, to help fund a student’s enrollment in the Technical College System of Georgia’s Electrical Lineworker Program, of which Mr. Johnson was a proud graduate.

## Abbreviated Financial Statement

	2015	2014
<b>Assets</b>		
Cash	\$364,997	\$273,372
Contributions Receivable	\$10,005	\$11,542
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$375,002</b>	<b>\$284,914</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>		
Unrestricted Net Assets	\$223,959	\$174,866
Temporarily Restricted Net Assets	\$151,043	\$110,048
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<b>\$375,002</b>	<b>\$284,914</b>

To view the full 2015 financial statements, contained in the Foundation 2015 financial audit, please visit our Web site at <http://www.sawnee.com/roundup/document-library>.

If you wish to receive a printed copy of the 2015 financial audit, please contact Ms. Cindy Badgett, Director of External Affairs, at 770-887-2363, extension 7399, or via email at [cindy.badgett@sawnee.com](mailto:cindy.badgett@sawnee.com), or via U.S. Mail at Sawnee Electric Membership Foundation, P.O. Box 1174, Cumming, GA 30028.

*"I have been honored to be a judge for the Foundation Youth Scholarship Program for several years. It is a demanding task, but one that brings me much joy. It is such a pleasure to be able to interact with so many of these wonderful high school seniors. Many of them would be unable to continue their secondary education without the boost that the Scholarship Program gives them. I am grateful for the commitment that Sawnee has to education."*

**Robin Bowling, Retired Educator and Scholarship Judge**

## Board of Directors

The Foundation Board consists of Sawnee EMC members from various walks of life... with various backgrounds. These individuals donate their time and efforts to the mission of the Foundation and do not receive any form of compensation for their services. We thank them for their service to the Foundation's mission.

DENNIS ANDERSON  
CHAIRMAN  
DISTRICT #7



JERRY BURUM  
VICE CHAIRMAN  
DISTRICT #8



MEHELLE NEEDHAM  
SECRETARY  
DISTRICT #9



LACELLE DOSS  
DISTRICT #1



EVONDA MATHIS  
DISTRICT #2



ED LEDBETTER  
DISTRICT #3



DEBORAH PELFREY  
DISTRICT #4



RUBY COLEMAN  
DISTRICT #5



HENRY ZUCKERMAN  
DISTRICT #6



*"...This fine group of individuals honor the Foundation with their time, efforts and dedication; all of which are voluntary. We are very grateful to have our Foundation Board of Directors..."*

**Cindy Badgett, Director of External Affairs, Sawnee EMC**

## Mission Statement

The mission of the Sawnee Electric Membership Foundation is to assist in strengthening the communities served by Sawnee EMC. The Foundation will accomplish this mission by providing financial assistance to selected charitable organizations through the Foundation's Operation Round Up program. This program affords SEMC members the opportunity to "Round-Up" their monthly energy bills to the next highest dollar. These funds, along with monies from other sources, allow donations to students, schools and various 501 (c) (3) and 501 (c) (4) organizations located generally in Sawnee EMC's service territory, which includes parts of Cherokee, Dawson, Forsyth, Fulton, Gwinnett, Hall and Lumpkin counties.

## How to give

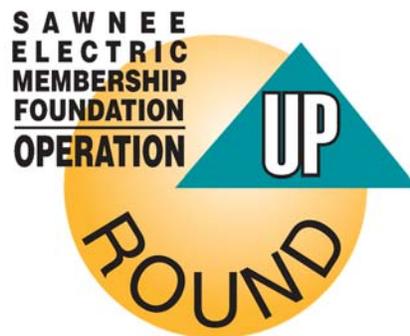
The Sawnee EMC Foundation provides charitable donations, back into the communities that Sawnee serves, with voluntary donations from members. Sawnee EMC encourages those that currently are not participating in Operation Round-Up, to please consider doing so. The pennies that are collected allow the Foundation to provide donations to many needy organizations.

- **Sign up online at [www.sawnee.com/round\\_up/SignUp.aspx](http://www.sawnee.com/round_up/SignUp.aspx). With this sign up method, Sawnee EMC will automatically "Round-Up" your Sawnee bill each month.**
- **Contact Sawnee EMC's Customer Call Center at 770-887-2363, [customerservice@sawnee.com](mailto:customerservice@sawnee.com) or "chat" online at [www.sawnee.com](http://www.sawnee.com)**
- **"Round Up" at your leisure. You do not have to be enrolled in Operation Round Up to participate. Anytime you "Round-Up" your Sawnee EMC electric bill to the next highest dollar, the "extra pennies" will automatically go to the Foundation.**

*"...Implemented in 2003, the Sawnee Electric Membership Foundation has returned over \$1.8 million in general grants, scholarships and classroom programs. Supporting those in need in our communities, and helping charitable organizations is a key part of the Foundation's core mission..."*

**Michael A. Goodroe, President and CEO, Sawnee EMC**





**Sawnee Electric Membership Foundation**  
P.O. Box 1174  
Cumming, GA 30028  
<http://www.sawnee.com/roundup/about>

