

# Mitchell EMC



The news  
you need to  
know in  
5 minutes!

CAMILLA, GEORGIA  
[www.mitchellemc.com](http://www.mitchellemc.com)

## It's a Matter of (Co-op!) Principles

By **Tony Tucker**, *President/CEO*

ACE Hardware, State Farm, REI, Land O'Lakes and Mitchell EMC all share something in common: we're all cooperatives.

We may be in different industries, but we all share a passion for serving our members and helping our communities to thrive. In fact, all cooperatives adhere to the same set of seven principles that reflect our core values of honesty, transparency, equity, inclusiveness and service to the greater community good. October is National Co-op Month, so this is the perfect time to reflect on these principles that have stood the test

of time but also provide a framework for the future. Let's take a look at the first three cooperative principles.

### **Voluntary and Open Membership**

Just like all co-ops, Mitchell EMC was created out of necessity—to meet a need that would have been otherwise unmet in our community. So in 1937, a group of neighbors banded together and organized our electric co-op so everyone in our community could benefit. For a modest membership fee to the co-op, any farmer could get electricity brought to his farm. Neighbors came together to tackle a problem that they all had but couldn't solve alone. They worked together for the benefit of the whole community, and the newly established electric lines helped power economic opportunity in our community.

While this history may be forgotten, key parts of that heritage remain—the focus on our mission and serving the greater good. In this, we include everyone to improve the quality of life and economic opportunity for the entire community. Membership is open to everyone in our service territory, regardless of race, religion, age, disability, gender identity, language, political perspective or socioeconomic status.

### **Democratic Member Control**

Our co-op is well suited to meet the needs of our members because we are locally governed. Each member gets a voice and a vote in how the co-op is run, and each voice and vote are equal. Mitchell EMC's leadership team and employees live right here in the community. Our board of directors, who helps set long-term priorities for the co-op, also live locally on co-op lines. These board members have been elected by



neighbors just like you. We know our members have a valuable perspective, and that's why we are continually seeking your input and encourage you to weigh in on important co-op issues and participate in co-op elections.

Our close connection to this community ensures we get a first-hand perspective on members' priorities, thereby enabling us to make more informed decisions on long-term investments, such as Cooperative Solar, Viasat, Generlink, and The Generac Home Generator Program.

### **Members' Economic Participation**

As a utility, our mission is to provide safe, reliable and affordable energy to our members. But as a co-op, we are also motivated by service to the community, rather than profits. Members contribute equitably to, and democratically control, the capital of Mitchell EMC. At least part of that capital remains the common property of the cooperative. Members allocate surpluses for co-op programs, initiatives, capital investments and supporting other activities approved by the membership.

Because we are guided by seven cooperative principles, it's not just about dollars—it's about opportunity for all and being fair when engaging with our members. The cooperative way is a values-based business model.

Mitchell EMC is a reflection of our local community and its evolving needs. We view our role as a catalyst for good and making our corner of the world a better place. And by the way, that sums up the seventh co-op principle, "concern for community."

## Get Familiar With Cyber Basics October is Cybersecurity Awareness Month

At a time when we are more connected than ever, being “cyber smart” is of the utmost importance. This year has already seen more than a fair share of cyber attacks and breaches, including the high-profile attacks on the Colonial Pipeline and other critical infrastructure. Furthermore, as has been underlined by these recent breaches, cyber attacks are becoming more sophisticated with more evolved bad actors cropping up each day. Luckily, there are several steps that we can take on a daily basis to mitigate risks and stay one step ahead of malefactors. Here are a few quick tips:

### Enable multi-factor authentication.

Multi-factor authentication (MFA) adds that necessary second check to verify your identity when logging in to

has certainly contributed to more bad actors prowling for accounts to attack. Using long, complex and unique passwords is a good way to stop your account from being hacked, and an easy way of keeping track and remembering your passwords is by using a password manager.

### Perform software updates.

When a device prompts that it's time to update the software, it may be tempting to simply click postpone, and ignore the message. However, having the latest security software, web browser, and operating system on devices is one of the best defenses against online threats. So, don't wait - update.

### Do your research.

Common sense is a crucial part of maintaining good online hygiene, and an intuitive step to stay safe online is to do some research before downloading anything new you are downloading to your device, such as apps. Before downloading any new learning app on your device, make sure that it's a by checking who created the app, what the user reviews say, and if there are any articles published online about the app's privacy and security features.

### Check your settings.

Be diligent to double check your privacy and security settings and be aware who can access your documents. This extends from Google docs, to Zoom calls, and beyond. For meetings on Zoom, for example, create passwords so only those invited to the session can attend, and restrict who can share their screen or files with the rest of the attendees.

Being cyber smart and maintaining stellar online hygiene is the best way to protect yourself and others from cyber attacks. No single tip is foolproof but taken together they can make a real difference for taking control of your online presence. Following these tips is also easy, and free. By taking preventive measures and making a habit of practicing online safety, you can decrease your odds of being hacked exponentially - and prevent lost time and money, as well as annoyance.

### PASSWORD DOS AND DON'TS

A strong password can make all the difference in protecting your personal information. Follow these tips for stronger passwords.



#### DO:

- Change the manufacturer's Wi-Fi password on your router.
- Use two-factor authentication.
- Use unique phrases (like lyrics to your favorite song) to remember passwords.

#### DON'T:

- Don't use common words or numbers like "password" or "1234".
- Don't use personal details like your date of birth in a password.
- Don't use the same password for multiple accounts.

### October is Cybersecurity Awareness Month.

Do Your Part. #BeCyberSmart

one of your accounts. By requiring multiple methods of authentication, your account is further protected from being compromised, even if a bad actor hijacks your password. In this way, MFAs make it more difficult for password cracking tools to enable attackers to break into accounts.

### Use strong passphrases/password manager.

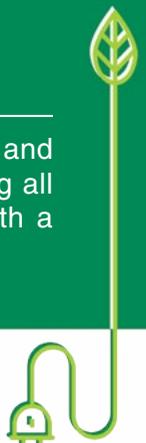
This may seem obvious, but all too often securing strong passphrases/password managers is overlooked. People spending more time online during the pandemic

## Energy Efficiency

### Tip of the Month

Old, uninsulated and improperly installed exterior doors can waste energy and money. Shut the door on wasted energy by weather stripping and sealing all exterior doors. If you have an old exterior door, consider replacing it with a newer, energy efficient model.

Source: [www.energy.gov](http://www.energy.gov)



## Equipment Auction

Mitchell EMC has the following vehicles/equipment for sale 'as is' to the highest bidder. You can view the items at our Camilla Office Monday - Friday, 8am until 5pm. For more information, contact Keith Gilliard, Shop Mechanic, at (229)336-5221 or (800)479-6034. Please submit your bid in a sealed envelope no later than 5pm, Friday, November 5th, 2021, to the Camilla Office location, PO Box 409, Camilla, GA 31730. The winners will be contacted by Friday, November 12th. Pickup and payment of vehicles/equipment no later than Tuesday, November 30th.

Item #	MEMC#	Year	Make	Model	Description	Mileage	VIN
1	5056	2011	DODGE	5500	SERVICE BUCKET RAM 4X4 - 5500 CA	276,662	3D6WU7ELXBG627565
2	6066	2008	INTERNATIONAL	4400	BUCKET TRUCK 4400 SBA 4X2	105,330	1HTMKAAN99H101373



## Georgia Agricultural Tax Exemption Expires December 31

If you're an agricultural producer and receive the Georgia Agricultural Tax Exemption (GATE) on electricity, you must renew it beginning this October.

GATE is an agricultural sales and use tax exemption certificate issued by the Georgia Department of Agriculture. The document identifies its user as a qualified farmer or producer who is exempt from sales tax on the inputs used in the production of their commodity.

Mitchell EMC member-owners who receive a GATE certificate should send us a copy along with the account numbers that apply to the GATE certificate, so we can apply the exemption to their account. We must receive a copy of the new certificate by December 31 for the exemption to continue.



# Serving in 14 Southwest Georgia Counties...

## Margin Assignment for 2020

Margins accrued by Mitchell EMC (revenue after all expenses have been paid) have been assigned to Member's patronage credit records. This assignment is made by applying the percentage of the Cooperative's margins to each Member's annual bill, before taxes. The percentage from Mitchell's margins for 2020 is 7.95%.

The table below shows examples of how you may figure your assignment. Simply multiply the percentage figures shown below times your total billing, less sales taxes, for the year.

Percentage	If annual bills (less taxes) were:	\$500	\$750	\$1,000
7.95%	Credits assigned from Mitchell's operating margins	\$39.77	\$59.66	\$79.54

Remember to keep us informed of your correct mailing address, especially if you should move out of Mitchell EMC's service area. If you have any questions about your assignments, please call us at 229-336-5221 or 800-479-6034.

## Attention Farmers Just a reminder...

Time Of Use (TOU) rates for irrigation systems began on June 1. The TOU kWh cost is based on the time of day in which it is used. The rate will distinguish between ON-PEAK and OFF-PEAK usage. \*TOU rates apply from June 1 through September 30. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at 229-336-5221 or 1-800-479-6034.

# TIME OF USE

## Patronage Capital Refund

The Board of Directors of Mitchell Electric Membership Corporation is pleased to announce the refund of patronage capital for the year 1990. Members who received electric service from Mitchell EMC during 1990 may be eligible to receive patronage capital. Members will start receiving these allocations in late November to early December.

As a member of Mitchell EMC, you are also an owner of the cooperative. The patronage capital (also called margins) represents equity or working capital and your ownership interest. The margins are utilized in place of borrowed money for a period of time to insure the financial stability of the cooperative and then returned to you in the form of a patronage capital refund. By borrowing less money and incurring less interest, Mitchell EMC saves money for its membership. The margins remaining after operating expenses are assigned to your account annually as patronage capital.

The retirement of patronage capital is just one of the unique benefits of being a member. As a member, you are a vital part of your cooperative and Mitchell EMC is proud to serve you.

**Note:** If you move or no longer have electric service with Mitchell EMC, it is important that members keep their address current, so that future disbursements can be properly mailed. Capital credits are reserved for members even if they move out of the Mitchell EMC service area. Mitchell EMC will make a diligent effort to send a check by mail.

## Statement of Equal Employment Opportunity

All applicants for employment shall be considered and hired on the basis of merit, without regard to race, color, religion, sex (including pregnancy), age, national origin, disability, genetic information, or past or present military status. The employment practices shall ensure equal treatment of all employees, without discrimination as to promotion, discharge, rates of pay, fringe benefits, job training, classification, referral, and other aspects of employment, on the basis of race, color, religion, sex (including pregnancy), national origin, disability, age, genetic information, or past or present military status. M/F/V/DV/D



# WATT'S COOKING



## Aunt Jackie's Apple Dumpling

### Ingredients:

- 1 Apple cut into eighths
- 1 can Pillsbury crescent rolls
- 1 tablespoon sugar mixed with 1  
tablespoon cinnamon
- 1 cup orange juice
- 1 stick margarine
- 1 cup sugar

### Directions:

Put one apple slice in each crescent roll along with a small amount of sugar mixed with cinnamon and roll up. Spray casserole dish very lightly with pam. Place rolls in dish and sprinkle with sugar and cinnamon mix (around each roll, not on top) Heat orange juice, margarine, and sugar just to a boil. Pour this mixture around rolls and bake at 350° until brown (approx. 20 minutes). Serve hot out of the oven with a scoop of ice cream or cool whip. Enjoy!

Submitted By: Dottie Fallin,  
Dougherty County

## *Share & Win!*

Send us your favorite quick and easy dinner recipes. If your recipe is chosen for print, you can win a

**\$25 credit**

on your next Mitchell EMC bill.

Send recipes to: Heather Greene, P.O.  
Box 409, Camilla, GA 31730 or email to  
heather.greene@mitchellemc.com.