

THE CURRENT

March 2018

ANNUAL MEETING



WIN PRIZES

\$500 Bill Credit

50" LED TV


iPad

Gift Cards

\$250 Bill Credit

Coolers

And More!!



Each Member to register receives a

\$10
bill credit!



TALQUIN
ELECTRIC COÖPERATIVE, INC.
WATER & WASTEWATER, INC.

"The Current"**March 2018 Vol. MMXVIII No. 3****USPS #356-710**

"The Current" is the official newsletter of Talquin Electric Cooperative, Inc., published monthly as an informational and educational service to the members of the Cooperative. Periodical postage paid at Tallahassee, Florida.

SUBSCRIPTION RATE

Cooperative Member \$1.50 per year.
Talquin Electric Cooperative, Inc. is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

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PRINTED BY:

Graphic Press Corporation, Tallahassee, Florida

POSTMASTER

In using Form 3579 please give key letter and mail to "The Current,"
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The TECI and TWWI Board regularly schedule their workshops on the 1st Monday of each month and meetings on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at the Headquarters' Office in Quincy, FL at 6:30 p.m.

Notice of any changes will be listed on the website.

Capital Credits Help Keep Rates **Low**

Patronage capital is the difference in the amount of money Talquin takes in each year less operating and maintenance expenses. Each year, Members receive credit for their capital contributions based on the amount of money they paid into the Cooperative. This credit is allocated and maintained in each Member's capital credit account. One of the ways Talquin Electric Cooperative maintains a not-for-profit status is through the return of these capital credits over time.

Capital credits are put to work for the cooperative by allowing Talquin to finance projects that help with the reliability of service to Members and provide increased capacity, such

as substation upgrades, distribution and transmission line upgrades, and other significant projects. These contributions reduce the amount of money Talquin has to borrow. By limiting borrowing, the Cooperative is able to keep rates affordable. This money is returned in later years on a regular and sound business basis.

Because the return cycle of capital credits can impact rates significantly, careful consideration is given to managing the return of capital credits and the return cycle's effect on Members' monthly bills. Talquin currently operates on a 20 year return cycle of capital credits.

Recently, we performed a cost analysis on converting to a 10 year return cycle. Based on the cost analysis, Talquin would have to borrow millions of dollars to achieve this type of conversion to have the cash on hand to pay out the additional annual capital credits. Doing so would increase Members' rates in order to cover the interest expense costs on these types of loans.

Furthermore, Talquin is required by its lending partners to maintain certain financial requirements. By shortening the time of capital credit returns, annual capital credit returns would increase and Talquin would risk not meeting or maintaining those financial requirements. If we do not meet these requirements, the Rural Utilities Service (RUS) and Talquin's other lenders could dictate how we run our day-to-day operations. These impacts would result in higher interest costs or

burdensome lending restrictions due to being a high risk borrower, which would further increase rates to Talquin Members.

How would changing the return cycle of capital credits from 20 years to 10 years affect you? On average, a residential Member's bill would increase by about \$84 each year (\$7 per month) while the average capital credit check would only increase by about \$8.40 each year. Also, borrowing additional money to return capital credits on a shorter cycle could limit the amount of money the cooperative can borrow for the capital projects listed above, which would have a negative impact on the service reliability to Talquin Members.

If you have any questions regarding how Talquin determines the return cycle of capital credits, or for any other inquiries, please contact us at 850-627-7651.



Carrie Durden
Board President



Tracy Bensley
General Manager



Pictured above; Front row, left to right: Abigail Stejskal, Madison Rumenik, Grace Andrews, Kelsey Mead, Haley Hooker, Lauren Lucas, Hannah Dempsey, and Aulora Whatley; Back row, left to right: Tanner Pafford, EC Presnell, Chandler Drucker, Miles Nelson, Caroline-Grace Brantley, Nataki Close, Kelsey Nobles, Gabriel Keith, Christine Oh, Lauren Harger, Shelby Walker, Elizabeth Hughes, Hannah Timmons, Dhenu Patel, Malina Murray, and Helen Bradshaw

Twenty-four high school juniors from Gadsden, Leon, Liberty, and Wakulla Counties were selected to participate in the Talquin Electric Cooperative Youth Tour at the state capitol in February. Students were chosen from Talquin's Membership to participate in the Youth Tour based on academics, leadership, communication skills, and volunteer service in their schools and communities.

From this outstanding group of leaders, four students and two alternates were selected to represent Talquin at the NRECA National Youth Tour in Washington, D.C. this summer. The national delegates are Elizabeth Hughes, Wakulla High School; Malina Murray, Gadsden County High School, EC Presnell, St. John Paul II Catholic High School; and Christine Oh, Lawton Chiles High School. The alternates are Abigail Stejskal, Maclay and Nataki Close, Lincoln High School. These delegates will travel to Washington, D.C. in June where they will meet with approximately 1,800 students from all over the United States. They will visit historic landmarks and continue to learn about cooperatives and government during the tour.

Talquin would also like to congratulate the following: Madison Rumenik, Leon High School; Lauren Harger and Kelsey Nobles, Liberty County High School; Helen Bradshaw and Dhenu Patel, Maclay; Hannah Timmons, North Florida Christian; Grace Andrews, Chandler Drucker, Haley Hooker,



Pictured above are the national delegates and alternates, left to right: Elizabeth Hughes, EC Presnell, Malina Murray, Christine Oh, Abigail Stejskal, and Nataki Close

Gabriel Keith, Miles Nelson, and Tanner Pafford from Wakulla High School; Caroline-Grace Brantley, homeschool; Lauren Lucas and Kelsey Mead, Lawton Chiles High School; Hannah Dempsey, Shelby Walker, and Aulora Whatley from Wakulla Christian, who were all selected to represent their schools in the 2018 Tallahassee Youth Tour.

Congratulations to each student who was chosen and participated in the competition. These future leaders are truly amazing and are all great representatives of their schools, Talquin and the state of Florida!

Employee Spotlight



Many Talquin employees give back to our community in their spare time, and this month we would like to recognize one in particular – Terrance Roberts. Terrance is an engineer and has been with Talquin for two years. He is from the Havana area but lived for a few years in Louisiana. During his time there, he came to love one tradition:

each year at Christmastime the local fire department would go around town on their trucks waving and talking to the community. After Terrance and his wife moved back to Havana, they thought it would be a great addition to their community. They partnered with the Sherriff's department, collected some toys, and went around town as



Mr. and Mrs. Claus spreading joy to kids in Havana. He also recently restarted Boy Scout Troop #254 that meets at Havana Magnet School every other week during their after school program. His mission, like the Boy Scouts, is to serve others by helping to instill values in young people and to prepare them to make ethical choices during their lifetime in achieving their full potential. If you have a student at Havana Magnet School that would be interested in joining the Troop, you can contact Terrance directly at 850-868-0665. We are so proud of him and everything he does for the youth in our community. Thank you, Terrance, for everything you do both on and off the clock!!

Bug of the Month

Not generally known, there is a butterfly common to north Florida which will migrate at the same time as the more publicized Monarchs. The Cloudless Sulphur, *Phoebis sennae*, is one of the most common native butterflies and is particularly prominent during its migration southward. Cloudless Sulphur caterpillars use various species in the pea family as host plants. The larvae live exposed and feed on foliage, buds and flowers of their plant host. Upon reaching adulthood, the Cloudless Sulphurs then change their diet to nectar and pollen.

Homeowners wishing to attract Cloudless Sulphur butterflies can include host plants and red bloomers in their landscape.



To learn more about native butterflies, contact the UF/IFAS Extension Wakulla County Office at 850-926-3931 or <http://sfyl.ifas.ufl.edu/wakulla/>

By Les Harrison, UF/IFAS Extension Wakulla County Director

Energy Tip

The best and simplest tip, that we could never repeat enough, is regularly changing your air filter. So how often is "regularly"? Well, that depends on a few things. If you suffer from allergies or have a pet — particularly a dog that sheds a lot — it's smart to check your air filter once a month. (Make it simple on yourself — set a monthly reminder on your phone!) If it is dirty, change it. For the rest of you, most experts recommend changing your filter once every three months during non-peak months and once a month during summer and winter.



Safety tip

Electric padmount transformers, better known as “big green boxes,” scattered throughout your neighborhood, deserve more attention than you might expect. The purpose of a transformer is to change high voltage electricity to a lower voltage needed for supplying power to the lights and appliances in your home.

Children, however, can view padmount transformers as playground equipment and not understand their dangers. Parents need to explain that transformers are not meant for playing, climbing or touching. Transformers are safe but can be a potential danger if they become damaged, such as when they fall prey to vandals or landscaping equipment. Warn your children not to put their fingers, sticks or other objects through cracks under a transformer, and teach your child about the electrical hazard stickers located on the boxes. Children



should never play in areas where they see these hazard stickers, and you should report broken locks on transformer boxes to Talquin immediately.

Here are a few landscaping and yard maintenance tips to use if you have a “big green box” in your yard:

Develop landscaping plans and take them to your local nursery for advice on plant selection and planting procedures. You do not want to plant vegetation that will become a transformer obstruction when full-grown.

We need room to work safely on transformers. Keep shrubs and structures 10 feet away from doors and 4 feet away from the other sides.

Make sure plant roots do not interfere with wires and buried cables.

Keeping the area around the transformer in your yard or your neighbor’s yard unobstructed can speed up power restoration during outages and routine maintenance checks.

Remember to always call 8-1-1, Call Before You Dig, before you start any landscaping project.



State Road 65, by Eleanor Deitrich

Florida Panhandle Wildflower Alliance

The Florida Panhandle Wildflower Alliance, founded by Florida Wildflower Foundation, is an informal group of regional wildflower enthusiasts that advocates for conservation of wildflowers in the state’s Eastern

Panhandle. Their mission is to communicate and share their knowledge of native wildflowers and their value to Florida’s environmental and economic health.

Alliance members assist city, county and state agencies in identifying roadside wildflower areas and developing mowing schedules that allow native wildflowers to thrive. Talquin’s Vegetation Manager and Right of Way Contract Coordinator, Chad Locke and Abby Emery, work closely with the Alliance to learn how Talquin can assist. Our service territory is in a Monarch Butterfly migration route, and our integrated vegetation management program helps create a healthy habitat for these butterflies and bee pollinators. We also serve an area along the Highway 65 corridor that has rare plants and flowers, which are state and federally protected. People from all around the country come here to study these plants.

If you want to learn more about the alliance and how you can assist, email Info@FlaWildflowers.org.

trading post

Miscellaneous

48 pc set Heritage Hall English Ironstone Dinnerware: includes gravy boat, sugar, creamer, serving platter. Hand decorated w/ homes of various sections of our nation. Like new. \$300. 668-1871

Two EZ Go Golf Carts (jacked up version) with top, windshield, rear fold down seat, lights, horn, and hitch receiver \$2800 ea., Take your pick. 599-5464 Anytime.

KitchenAid Mixer. Bowl Lift style. Bowl and attachments. No box, no docs. \$50. Text 334-377-1781

GE smooth-top **electric range.** White. Matching GE white **dishwasher.** Both VG condition. \$160 each or both for \$300. 893-9702

Sojin Player Piano, Ivory in color, 5'3", has Christmas CD's, sing-a-long books. \$2,500. 284-7076

MISC Items: Antique Dishes & Lamps, New Old Man Tree Climbing Stand, Microwave, Receiving Hitch, Towing Mirrors, metal Bed Frame, Kitchen Counter Tops & Case Iron Sinks, Electric tools, Ty Beanie Babies 850-575-6013

Baritone ukulele with case, stand and Mel Bey instruction books \$125; Dog Crates 19"x30"x21" tall, \$25 17"x24"x19" tall \$20. 728-4045

Life Source blood pressure monitor, unused \$25; alum adult folding walker, wheels on front, **MISC Health Care:** Invacare \$30; disposable vinyl gloves size L, 600 for \$18; adult diapers up to 44" waist, 12 dozen for \$50; home oxygen supplies, hoses, concentrator cups, 1 cylinder, keys, regulators. reasonable offer. 385-8468

Pitbull Puppies – 6 weeks old, asking \$125. 856-5216/856-5878

Bird proof Dog Feeder, hold 25 lbs. \$20; **egg incubator** \$15. 926-8167

Beautiful sable Siamese kittens, born 12/1, 3 females left, registered w/ papers. 877-2467

Sofa cover – Surefit, wine, new \$35; **raccoon (critter) baffle for woodduck/bird post,** new \$15; **bat house,** new in box \$15. 877-5939

Ruth's Reasonable Rates Housecleaning & More! 566-7283

Smooth Fitness CE 3.2 Elliptical Trainer. Excellent Shape, very sturdy. Must disassemble some to remove from bedroom. \$500. 766-5113

Automotive

1995 Oldsmobile Cutlas Ciera, 111K miles, runs good, AC/heat great. Asking \$1,800 but price is negotiable. Text/call after 5 pm 321-1499

Utility Trailer: 6x12 great condition, \$1,000. 539-9432/566-2553 leave message

F150 Ford factory aluminum rims and tires. P265/60R18 \$200. 556-6922

Must See Vintage Car: 1979 Ford LTD II – 4 dr, A/C, radio, P/S, original motor/interior, low

Trading Post Guidelines

In order to continue to provide The Trading Post in every issue of *The Current*, we ask Members to adhere to the guidelines listed below when submitting an ad. If an ad does not meet the criteria, it will not be published. There is no cost to place an ad in The Trading Post.

- Members may submit one ad every three months (four times a year)
- Ads must be twenty-five words or less
- Must be typed or printed legibly in ink
- No registered businesses may run an ad
- No changes after ad submission
- Deadlines are the first day of the month preceding the month of publication (For example, December 1st is the deadline for the January edition.)
- Members must provide name, phone number, and account number.

Mail ads to: "The Current", Talquin Electric Cooperative P.O. Box 1679, Quincy, FL 32353-1679 or e-mail to: tradingpost@talquinelectric.com

mileage 27k, asking \$3,500. 9H31F170318 VIN. 766-5858

Real Estate

1/2 acre in SE Leon MH community. Paved street, septic, power pole. Covenants, HOA. \$22k OBO. 294-9545/228-1406.

FOR RENT - One room efficiency. Private entrance, kitchenette, fullbed, private bath with tub/shower, flat screen TV. Requires nonsmoker. Quiet neighborhood. \$500 month. Available 3/01/18. 212-3606

Farm/Garden

Available for stud – Cream colored standard male poodle. Would like to breed to a light colored golden retriever for a female puppy but open to other breeds. 510-6647 or gsdand2@gmail.com

Garden Plots Available. Community Gardens of Havana, \$30 per 15x15 plot per year includes mulch, water and use of tools. 570-9024 or lindamccat@comcast.net

MISC Birds: Button/Bobwhite/Coturnix Quail, Turkey Poults, Ducklings, Pheasant chicks, Guinea Keets, Mini Chickens, **Cane Syrup and Honey for sale.** Call/Text 745-4048 or visit LostCreekHollow on FB

Angel Trumpets \$10 – single and double blooms. Over 40 different varieties. 591-2100

Massey Ferguson 135 tractor diesel, HD 5 ft

harrow, f ft bush hog, \$5,000. 508-5808

Plants, Hedges, Flowers, House Plants: over 200 plants, 1 & 3 gallon sizes; azaleas, boxwoods, crepe myrtles, cherry trees, red knockout roses, loropetalum, sego palm & more. 694-5838

Marine

Pontoon Boat Cover – heavy duty 300 Denier marine grade polyester, fits most 21' – 24' pontoon boats. \$100. 445-4556

14' Jon boat in excellent condition, trailer, and four stroke 20 horse Yamaha outboard. \$1,500. 514-7402

Wanted

Real Estate to Rent: 20+ fenced-in, mowed, pasture acreage needed several times a year for dog activities. 878-9581

FREE

Getting Ready For Spring Garden? **FREE Horse Manure** as long as it last – I can load your truck or trailer near I-10 and 267 (Quincy Area). 599-5464 – Anytime

Free Barn Cats, healthy, vaccinated, sterile, all ages, semi-feral, will setup in cage to acclimate, get as many as you need. 470-303-1507

Pine Trees – You Cut: 15 large pine trees, 2 medium pine trees. 524-3930 leave message



Thank you Community Christian 4th graders for having us out to learn about electricity!

2018 Legislative Cookout



Pictured above from left to right: Talquin Trustee David Miller, Trustee Doug Bruce, Trustee Sam Fenn, Trustee Carla Parraro, FL Governor Rick Scott, Trustee Carrie Durden, Trustee Joseph Alexander, Trustee Clifford Bristol, and Talquin General Manager Tracy Bensley.

We would like to thank Governor Rick Scott and Florida CFO Jimmy Patronis for attending our 2018 Legislative Cookout on January 24th. Thank you for all that you do on behalf of the citizens of the great State of Florida!

Watts Happening

Leon County Senior Outreach:

Explore “**Lunch and Learn**” to stay connected. No reservations needed to join the fun. Each event is from 10:30 AM – 12:30 PM. Featuring a delicious catered lunch for \$6 per plate. Call 850-891-4065 for more information.

March 27 Chaires Community Center

April 5 Miccosukee Community Center

April 11 Bradfordville – Wildwood Presbyterian Fellowship Hall

April 12 Woodville Community Center

April 17 Fort Braden Community Center

April 19 Lake Jackson Community Center

Taste of the Lakes at Buck Market:

This family oriented event transforms the campus of Deerlake Middle School into a bustling market filled with over

100 local vendors offering everything from trendy boutique clothing, jewelry, gift items and personalized products, to health and wellness services, and a variety of enrichment programs. There is something for everyone! Providing fuel for all that energetic shopping will be a wide array of Tallahassee’s most popular dining and catering establishments offering free samples of their signature dishes. There will be a well-stocked silent auction and continuous, live entertainment throughout the event.

Saturday, April 14 (11:00 AM – 2:30 PM)

Deerlake Middle School – 9902 Deer Lake W, Tallahassee

Honor Flight Fundraiser: Join us for a day of family fun, food, raffle prizes, car show, and great music by the Shephard’s Creek Band! If you want to enter your special ride, vehicle registration donation is \$10. General Admission is

FREE! For more information, call Pam at 850-545-6858.

Saturday, March 24 (10:00 AM – 2:00 PM)

FDOT Parking Lot (south parking lot near Korean War Memorial)

605 Suwannee St, Tallahassee

Veterans Memorial Railroad - invites you to ride a train over a mile around the park. Donations appreciated. Also, for your enjoyment - playground, walking trail, picnic pavilion, RR Ca-boose and Tom Keenan Depot.

2nd Sat. of the month (February – November, 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM EST)

Dates for the Free Train Rides: April 14, May 12, June 9, July 14, Aug. 11, Sept. 8, Oct. 13, Nov. 10

10561 NW Theo Jacobs Way -Bristol, FL -Road 12 (behind the Civic Center)

850-643-6646 or www.Veterans-MemoialRailroad.org



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PERIODICAL

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 (850) 627-7651

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1607 W. Jefferson Street
 Quincy, Florida 32351
 (850) 627-9666

Wakulla Member Services Office

681 Wakulla Arran Rd.
 Crawfordville, Florida 32327
 (850) 926-7422

Hosford Member Services Office

20557 NE Cooperative Way
 Hosford, Florida 32334
 (850) 379-8679

Lake Jackson Member Services Office

4808 Portal Drive
 Tallahassee, Florida 32303
 (850) 562-0125

Bradfordville Member Services Office

6724 Thomasville Road
 Tallahassee, Florida 32312
 (850) 893-6853

**Service Interruptions (Outages)
 Should Be Reported To**

**1-888-802-1832
 (live operator)**

**1-866-899-4832
 (automated systems)**

Visit us and report and view
 outages on the Web at
www.talquinelectric.com

Sign up for text outage notification
 at www.talquinelectric.com to report
 your outage quickly and to receive
 outage information.

Talquin Annual Meeting

Saturday, April 28th

Gadsden County High School

Doors Open @ 8:30 AM

Meeting Begins @ 10:00 AM

Free door prize and
 \$10 bill credit for
 every Member that
 registers and a raffle
 ticket for a chance
 to win one of many
 great items...

like a \$500
 Talquin
 bill credit!!!!



#TECares #MyTalquin #CoopNation #MyCoop