



U. S. Congressman Allen Boyd, left, and Baptist College of Florida President Dr. Tom Kinchen will speak at WFEC's 2000 annual members' meeting Saturday, Nov. 11.

## Firm foundations

*WFEC will celebrate friends, families, faith*

**W**e sometimes take them for granted, yet we build our lives around them. That's why West Florida Electric Cooperative's 2000 Annual Members' Meeting will celebrate the friendships, families and faith that provide a firm foundation for us as individuals, as communities and as a cooperative. Join the festivities starting at 9 a. m. Nov. 11 at the Baptist College of Florida in Graceville.

U. S. Congressman Allen Boyd will return for a third engagement as the annual meeting's keynote speaker. During his previous appearances at the event, Boyd's comments about issues important to rural residents have received enthusiastic applause and a standing ovation from the crowd.

Boyd represents Florida's Second Congressional District, 19 counties spanning from Panama City almost to Jacksonville. Active in the Blue Dogs, a coalition of fiscally conservative Democrats working to reform Washington politics, Boyd chairs the Florida House Democratic Conservative Caucus. He currently serves on the Appropriations Committee, the Military Construction Subcommittee and the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration and Related Agencies Subcommittee on Appropriations. The fifth generation farmer is a Florida State University alumnus and a Vietnam veteran, as well.

Baptist College of Florida President Dr. Tom Kinchen also will be a guest speaker. Under his leadership for the past decade, the college has flourished, expanding both its facilities and curricula. The campus has grown from 150 to 217 acres, and BCF students benefit from new and renovated facilities, a wider-than-ever choice of degrees and programs that increase accessibility. BCF now offers Weekend College, a flexible course schedule for students unable to attend weekday classes; distance learning sites; international partnerships and on-line courses.

A yearly business meeting will follow Boyd's address. During the business session starting at 10:45 a. m., McDaniel and Associates, the independent certified public accounting firm handling WFEC's first mail ballots, will announce the trustee election results and the fate of the proposed bylaw amendment.

Compassion, a Southern Gospel trio from Sylvester, Ga., will perform before the meeting's ceremonies and speakers begin. Brothers Ricky and Samuel Atkinson, along with Jonathan Vice, form the group. Ricky is already familiar to some Southern Gospel fans, having performed with the Wilburns of Carthage, Tenn. He also appears on many gospel programs and, with the Wilburns, on the two most recent Gaither videos.

**November  
2000 CLF**



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Ricky is a songwriter, as well; his song “This Valley is for Me,” made popular by the McKameys, charted at number three in 1998, and “Resting Place,” made popular by the Wilburns, topped the charts last year. Additionally, the Southern Gospel Music Association nominated him for 1999 Songwriter of the Year.

After leaving the Wilburns last June, Ricky sings tenor and manages Compassion, joined by his younger brother, Samuel, a baritone who is new to the gospel music ministry. Jonathan Vice completes the trio, who recently released their first recordings.

The Marianna High School Cheerleaders will serve free soft drinks throughout the morning, and Sonny’s Barbeque will provide complimentary sandwiches and chips starting at 10:30. The activities will conclude with a drawing for prizes, including a savings bond, cash, gift certificates, a VCR and a cordless phone. You’ll also receive a door prize upon registration at the meeting.



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