



Counting Our Many Blessings

I hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving; your EMC family certainly did! Once again, I am especially proud of our employees, who delivered over \$4,500 in canned food goods to One Roof Ecumenical Alliance Outreach, a local food bank, in November. This is always rewarding for everyone involved and shows that “Commitment to Community” is much more than a slogan to our co-op team.

In other EMC news, we are finalizing our important initiatives for next year. We plan to be highly involved in all economic development programs and activities throughout our service area in 2012. Although Coweta-Fayette has always been very proactive with regard to promoting business development, we intend to set even higher achievement goals for ourselves in 2012.

We want to work closely with the business community, as well as city, state and national leaders, to project the message that the “door to prosperity” is open here. We are going to think globally, but act locally. For instance, deepened access to our strategic port in Savannah will benefit everyone in our service area – and Georgia – for generations to come. To be competitive in the worldwide container shipping business in the future will require all Georgians to act as one body, unified by purpose. It will also require working closely with South Carolina to meet regional goals.

Making sure that industries, large commercial entities and small businesses have the infrastructure needed to stay competitive is essential. We provide world-class electric service, as well as outstanding natural gas and security services through our subsidiaries, but these are just a few of the infrastructure items our leaders must focus on.

Many industrial/commercial prospects need infrastructure assurance not only for months or years in the future, but for right now or by next

month. There are many components to development other than what cooperatives provide, and they are all vital to success. Water and sewer service, high speed broadband, communications, efficient interstates, road and rail systems and our premier Atlanta airport are just a few examples of what developers find important.

There is no one entity in our service area or the state that can achieve what is necessary for all of us to be successful, and there is no one individual who has all the right answers (we all make a few mistakes along the way!). If

there is no road leading to where we need to go, then we will work together to make that road.

I have just been relaying to you in general terms a strategic cooperative initiative our employee team will be addressing to create opportunities and enhance the quality of life for our Members tomorrow and in the future.

It is only appropriate that we also reflect on the community and business leaders who have done a marvelous job creating the excellent environment we call home today. The companies in our service area – including businesses from all over the world – are providing jobs that have, for the most part, weathered the recession much better than in many areas of our country. We are truly fortunate to live and work in a region that has done things right, one that cherishes family values, quality education systems and good ol’ southern hospitality.

In the Christmas and holiday season at hand, we should definitely take a minute to consider all we have to be thankful for. Enjoy your many blessings in the days to come!

For the Team,

Anthony H. Sinclair “Tony”
Anthony H. Sinclair “Tony”



A Salute to Service: Operation Round Up Helps Fund Mobile Replica of Vietnam Wall

In honor of local veterans and their families and in recognition of the Vietnam War's 50th anniversary, the Coweta-Fayette Trust, Inc. Board of Directors/Operation Round Up recently awarded \$2,500 to the Coweta Commission on Veterans Affairs (CCVA) for its sponsorship of "The Traveling Wall – the Wall that Heals."



Coweta-Fayette EMC's Operation Round Up Trust Board members Rodney Riggs (second from left), Pam Clemons and Ben Sewell (far right) present a \$2,500 donation to Malcolm Jackson (far left) and Tom Downey (middle) of the Coweta Commission on Veterans Affairs.

The wall, a near half-scale replica of the permanent Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall in Washington, D.C., arrived in Newnan October 18 with great fanfare alongside a contingent of patriotic motorcyclists. The caravan was escorted through the city and out to the Coweta County Fairgrounds for display Oct. 20-23.

The mobile wall program is a Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund project that travels the country as a symbol of sacrifice and a testament to the curative powers of remembrance. By displaying it, sponsors

hope not only to give the general public a better understanding of our military forces and their sacrifices, but also to provide a place of healing and a sense of unity among Americans.

This was the Traveling Wall's first visit to Coweta County and this region of the state. Out of the over 58,000 estimated U.S. casualties during the Vietnam War, 21 of those were Coweta residents.

In addition to the memorial, the CCVA featured a ceremony honoring Coweta veterans and their families, showcased memorabilia/equipment from the war and arranged for several service organizations to be on hand for questions regarding veterans' benefits. Members of a Chinook helicopter squadron adopted by the City of Newnan in 1968 on their way to Vietnam were also honored.

"Coweta-Fayette EMC and our Operation Round Up board were proud to contribute to this noble and important cause," said CEO Anthony "Tony" Sinclair. "The debt of gratitude we owe our brave veterans is tremendous and humbling."



Flags honoring Coweta's fallen Vietnam veterans line the path toward the Traveling Memorial Wall.

The wall, a near half-scale replica of the permanent Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall in Washington, D.C., was displayed in Newnan.



MEMBER APPRECIATION DAY



FUN FOR EVERYONE!

EMC CELEBRATES MEMBERS AT 64TH ANNUAL MEETING

Bring on the excitement . . . and crowds!

This year's EMC Annual Meeting and Member Appreciation Day, held Oct. 15 at cooperative headquarters in Palmetto, drew over 3,500 people for a morning of carnival-themed fun and informative co-op business.

Despite the recessionary economy and a subsequent slowdown in new construction, Coweta-Fayette EMC's message to cooperative consumers attending the event was one of cautious optimism and positive projections.

"Coweta-Fayette EMC is in an excellent position to supply our members with reliable and reasonably priced power now and in the future," said CEO Anthony "Tony" Sinclair. "One blessing has been the stable pricing on natural gas, which is the primary fuel for a significant portion of our generation portfolio."

The co-op celebration featured midway games, arts and crafts, EMC information stations, a photo booth, prize drawings, health screenings by Piedmont Newnan and Piedmont Fayette Hospitals and toe-tapping music from Carrollton-based band Homegrown. Members also received an EMC stadium blanket and vehicle trunk organizer upon registration.

Consumers of Coweta-Fayette EMC Natural Gas were eligible to win a gas grill, and Relyco Security Resources (an EMC subsidiary) held a drawing for a year of free security system monitoring. The grand prize for this year's meeting was a \$1,000 electric bill credit. In addition to these items, one lucky child received a \$50 gift card.

During the business meeting, Ross Henry, James W. Fulton and Elwood Thompson were declared winners of the board election. The directors ran unopposed and will serve another three-year term.

After the business and service awards portion of the meeting, the prize drawings began. This year's grand prize winners were:

- \$1,000 electric bill credit from Coweta-Fayette EMC - Leola Roberts
- Gas grill from Coweta-Fayette EMC Natural Gas - Helen Passantino
- Security system from Relyco Security Resources - Jonathan Atwell
- Children's drawing, \$50 gift card - D'andre Carter
- \$100 survey drawing - Heather Elliott

Everyone at Coweta-Fayette EMC – your neighbors – had so much fun honoring members and practicing our core cooperative values at the annual meeting this year, and we can't wait to make our 2012 event even better. See you then!



Beware Space Heater Hype This Winter

Space heaters are small, versatile and fairly good at warming a room, but some manufacturers claim they can cut heating bills significantly. Do these claims hold up?

Maybe... if you turn the thermostat down to around 50° and place the heater in a closed-off room. This method of “zone heating” will save money, but it’s impractical for most consumers.

When it comes to efficiency, there are no magic solutions.

Space heaters cannot come close to

replacing energy-efficient central heating or weatherization improvements, but rather work best when supplementing a furnace or heat pump.

Someone using a space heater eight hours a day, five days a week, for a month, would spend around \$15 (in addition to other electricity costs). But remember: space heaters can only warm a small space. The cost of running multiple heaters is usually much higher than that of most central heating systems.

Better money-saving options include buying ENERGY STAR-rated appliances, cleaning furnace filters, unplugging battery chargers and other ‘vampire’ electronics and repairing ductwork leaks.

Despite these facts, many kinds of space heaters are heavily marketed during the fall and winter in TV infomercials and large newspaper ads mimicking actual news articles. Before buying such devices, consider the following easy and inexpensive energy-saving measures for your home:

- Add caulk/weather stripping to seal air leaks around doors and windows
- Move furniture away from heat registers
- Add insulation to attics/exposed walls
- Close blinds/curtains at night



Anthony H. Sinclair, President and CEO
C. Bradford Sears, Jr., Attorney
Douglas B. Warner, Attorney

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Even though natural gas pipeline incidents are uncommon, you can help prevent emergencies by knowing the signs of a potential problem. Anytime you suspect a leak, call us at 1-877-427-4321.

Help Prevent Natural Gas Pipeline Emergencies

LOOK for blowing dirt or continued bubbling in standing water.

LISTEN near a natural gas appliance or line; there may be a hissing or roaring sound when natural gas is leaking.

SMELL for the distinctive, rotten-egg odor associated with natural gas. You should take action anytime you detect even a small amount of this odor in the air.

LEAVE the area immediately if you detect a natural gas leak. Don't try to identify the source or to stop the leak yourself.

AVOID touching anything that may cause a spark. This includes lighters, matches, cigarettes, flashlights, light switches and telephones in the area of the suspected leak. You should even wait until you are away from the area to use a cell phone.

CALL Atlanta Gas Light or 9-1-1 once you are out of the area of the suspected leak and in a safe place. Stay away until an Atlanta Gas Light representative or emergency personnel indicates it is safe to return.

Water Heater Safety

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) urges all users to lower their water heaters to 120 degrees Fahrenheit.

A thermostat setting of 120 degrees Fahrenheit (49 degrees Celsius) may be necessary for residential water heaters to reduce or eliminate the risk of most tap water scald injuries. Consumers should consider lowering the thermostat to the lowest settings that will satisfy hot water needs for all clothing and dish washing machines.

Never take hot water temperature for granted. Always hand-test before using, especially when bathing children and infants.

Natural Gas Equipment Safety

According to the Federal Emergency Management Agency:

- It's important that you have your furnace inspected by a qualified specialist, to ensure that it is in good working condition. Do not attempt repairs yourself unless you are qualified.
- Be sure all furnace controls and emergency shutoffs are in proper working condition.
- Keep trash and other combustible material away from your heating and water heating systems.

Avoiding Carbon Monoxide

Natural gas is a safe fuel source; however, incomplete combustion of any fuel – charcoal, gasoline, wood or even natural gas – produces carbon monoxide. Carbon monoxide is poisonous and has no odor, taste or color. Carbon monoxide detectors are helpful, but they are no substitute for using equipment safely. This includes having your appliances inspected at least once a year by a certified contractor. For a referral to one in your area, visit our web site or call 1-800-427-5463 and choose option five.



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