



## Piedmont Wellness Fair Adds Healing Touch to EMC Annual Meetings

The food is good, the information helpful, the kids will be occupied for a while and the thought of winning a grand prize is certainly appealing, but what many Coweta-Fayette EMC members love most about attending our annual meetings is something far more valuable than fun activities and great gifts: the free adult screenings and checkups at Piedmont Healthcare's wellness fair.

Year after year, under changing corporate names and amid buy-outs and mergers, dozens of dedicated healthcare professionals have selflessly joined us as we celebrate our co-op members. Set up just past registration—and often the source of crowd bottlenecking due to popularity!—these nurses and staff members, in recent years representing Piedmont Newnan and Piedmont Fayette Hospitals, provide a variety of healthcare services for the many consumers who flock to the event. From blood pressure, glucose and cholesterol screenings to consultations on attendees' general wellbeing, first-aid and specialty medicine, these volunteers have provided education and services to thousands of visitors since the EMC began partnering with local healthcare institutions.

"The nurses and staff members who participate in the Coweta-Fayette EMC Health Fair each year always speak highly of the event and its large numbers of participating members from our community," said Piedmont Fayette Hospital CEO Michael Burnett.



"Our goal at Piedmont is to make a positive difference in every life we touch, and I am always proud when members of the Piedmont Fayette family make a difference outside of our hospital walls."

He said that while the EMC annual meeting health fair is the biggest event attended annually by Piedmont Fayette—named one of America's Best 50 Hospitals by Healthgrades in 2015/2016—the hospital's nurses, physicians and staff also donate time to events and programs like the Fayette CARE Clinic and Healing Bridge, both which provide healthcare to uninsured families and others in need. The hospital is also proud of its long-standing partnership with Fayette County

*continued inside*





## The President's Message

*Chris Stephens  
President and CEO*

We hope you attended our 69th annual meeting in October, but if you were unable to join us, we missed you! Here's a recap of my report for those who couldn't make it...

Like other co-ops, Coweta-Fayette is a not-for-profit, democratically controlled business owned by the consumers we serve. That's why you are a "member," not a customer. You have the opportunity to elect fellow members to represent you on the board of directors, a group that oversees operations and represents your best interests.

Another advantage of EMC membership is having competitive rates—one of our primary goals is to keep them reasonable. This can be difficult, however: for every dollar we spend, 70 cents is for purchased power. Minor fuel price fluctuations can have a significant impact on your bill. For the past two years, we have had the good fortune of lower-than-expected natural gas prices, allowing us to pass savings on to you. This could change in the near future, though, as a result of legislation like the Clean Power Plan. We care about the environment, but also want to protect your rates and ensure we have enough generation so that when you flip a switch, the lights come on. At the same time, we must maintain a diverse power portfolio that is reliable and affordable.

To that end, we purchased 10 MW of solar generation that's scheduled to go online by the close of 2016.

We also joined in ownership of two new Plant Vogtle nuclear units; although they won't produce energy until 2019/2020, this foresight will provide clean, efficient power for many years.

When comparing our reliability to that of other co-ops, your electricity is interrupted fewer times than the state average. Outage duration/member is under 75 minutes, while cooperatives statewide average around 113 minutes—almost 2 hours. Although we are doing well, we want to do better. We are in the process of implementing advancements in technology and communications that will allow us to analyze system status in real time and make reconfiguration decisions during service interruptions. This will help isolate problems and restore power more efficiently. Currently, we are completing a pilot project to test this technology in anticipation of expanding these capabilities to other parts of the system.

As if all this weren't enough, one of the greatest attributes of belonging to a strong cooperative is the ability to get a return on your investment. Revenues received in excess of operational costs are allocated to you, in proportion to usage, as capital credits. This revenue is used for system improvements (i.e. installing new poles, lines and transformers) that result in debt stabilization, which in turn helps lower rates. When financial conditions allow, the directors approve capital credit refunds to members. Your board has returned more than \$20 million since 2000, with the most recent refund in October totaling \$3.7 million for the years 1992/1993.

Coweta-Fayette EMC is committed to our members and the communities in which we work and live. These bonds and the principles listed above exemplify why we are ready to serve you now and in the future. We hope to see you at our 70th annual meeting in 2017!

## Piedmont Health at Annual Meetings *continued*



schools, where they recently installed hand hygiene stations and defibrillators, and for whom they sponsored a baseline concus-

sion testing program for student athletes.

For Piedmont Newnan, providing high-quality, comprehensive, compassionate healthcare has made them the cornerstone of wellness for Coweta County. In 2012, the organization expanded to better meet the needs of local residents, opening a state-of-the-art 362,000 square-foot, 136-bed hospital. In 2016, they received the Women's Choice Award as one of America's Best Hospitals for Patient Safety.

This cooperative and our consumers are lucky to have incredible hospitals like Piedmont Fayette and Piedmont Newnan in our backyards, and we're extremely fortunate that they send such wonderful healthcare professionals to help us each year. It wouldn't be the same at Coweta-Fayette EMC's Annual Meeting without their smiling faces and wellness expertise. See you next year, Piedmont Healthcare!

### On the Cover

*A handful of the 2016 Piedmont Healthcare volunteers, who embody our belief in cooperation among organizations, give a quick pose with EMC member/health fair participant Willie Murry, far right. Hospital representatives shown l-r are: Cynthia Finney (Newnan); Cat Spinks (Newnan); Michelle Washington (Newnan); Cat Hoffman (Fayette); Joani McElroy (Newnan); Kelli Welhaf (Newnan); Anne Williams (Fayette); Chris Moore (Fayette); and Debbie Camp (Newnan).*





# EMC Hosts Nearly 3,000 at Annual Meeting and Member Appreciation Day

Coweta-Fayette EMC hosted approximately 3,000 consumers and family members for a fall morning full of fun, food and prizes at the 69th Annual Meeting and Member Appreciation Day Oct. 8 at cooperative headquarters in Palmetto.

This tradition is important to co-ops, which are open to anyone able to use their service (meaning any person who moves onto EMC lines is eligible for membership). Annual meetings allow members to get to know the people who run their cooperative, and it's where they receive business updates.

Every year, we convene because we believe in the co-op principle of *Voluntary and Open Membership* and adhere to the notion of *Democratic Member Control*, which means members vote for a director who represents them on the board. Annual meetings serve as the forum for these elections.

This year, the festivities were bigger and better than ever, featuring the return of midway rides, our traditional carnival games, "Little Lineman" picture opportunities, arts and crafts, Varsity concessions, EMC information stations, prize drawings, bingo, health screenings by Piedmont Newnan and Piedmont Fayette Hospitals, music from the Northgate High School Marching Band, and a first-time appearance by lovable energy-saving characters CFL Charlie and LED Lucy, as well as familiar rural power mascot Willie Wiredhand.

Members received a jumbo cooler bag upon registration just for attending. As for EMC subsidiaries, consumers of True Natural Gas were entered into the running for a gas grill, and Relyco Security held a drawing for a year's free system monitoring. The grand EMC prize was a \$1,000 electric bill credit.

During the business meeting, Therol Brown, Daniel C. Langford, Jr. and J. Neal Shepard, Jr. were declared winners of the board election. The directors ran unopposed and will serve another three-year term. After the election, business and service awards portions of the meeting, the prize drawings began. Congratulations to this year's grand prize winners:

- \$1,000 electric bill credit from C-F EMC – Terry Arrington
- Gas grill from True Natural Gas – Stephanie Fregoso
- One year security system monitoring from Relyco – Mario Flores

Everyone at Coweta-Fayette EMC enjoyed honoring co-op members this year, and we can't wait for Annual Meeting 2017!

# ECHS Wins Cooperative Spirit Sportsmanship Award a Second Time



*CEO Chris Stephens (center) presents the Cooperative Spirit Sportsmanship Award to ECHS Principal Stephen Allen (left) and Athletic Director/Assistant Principal Ken Kesselring.*

Treating others with fairness and respect are just two of the qualities that represent good sportsmanship. To celebrate these attributes, among others, Coweta-Fayette EMC recently honored East Coweta High School in Sharpsburg with the 2016 Georgia High School Association's (GHSA's) Cooperative Spirit Sportsmanship Award—for the second time!

Coweta-Fayette EMC CEO Chris Stephens presented the trophy honoring GHSA member schools with exemplary 2015-2016 sportsmanship to ECHS administrative staff in early September.

"We are happy to present the Cooperative Spirit Sportsmanship Award to East Coweta High School once again," said Stephens. "This school's students, spectators and teammates have continually, year after year, exhibited good sportsmanship and character, both on the field and in the stands."

Introduced in 2006 and sponsored by Georgia's electric co-ops and the GHSA, the Cooperative Spirit Award promotes sportsmanship at competitive events and honors the conduct of not only student athletes, but also that of fellow students, parents, coaches and those in the stands, making the award a tribute to the entire school community.

"Good sportsmanship is one of the most important principles a person can have, both in life and in athletics," said Stephens. "And it definitely falls in line with cooperative values and the teamwork-centered initiatives we support."

Chris Stephens, President and CEO  
C. Bradford Sears, Jr., Attorney  
Douglas B. Warner, Attorney

BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
James W. Fulton, III, Chairman  
Therol Brown, Vice Chairman

J. Neal Shepard, Jr., Secretary-Treasurer  
W. L. Clements

Ross Henry  
Daniel C. Langford, Jr.

Alice J. Mallory  
Elwood Thompson  
Mildred A. Winkles

.....  
**POWER**lines

Editor: Mary Ann Bell

807 Collinsworth Road, Palmetto, GA 30268  
(770) 502-0226

**Coweta-Fayette EMC is an equal opportunity  
provider and employer/M/F/V/D.**



**Coweta-Fayette**

**770-502-0226**  
**www.utility.org**

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



# Prepare Your Home for Winter

## Weatherization Rebates Available

In an effort to encourage money-saving energy conservation and the installation of energy-efficient equipment, Coweta-Fayette is offering incentives to our members. These incentives can assist those of you looking to replace heating and air equipment, water heaters, insulation and additional air leakage sealing.

If you need help determining what modifications to make in your home, please call our energy services department at 770-502-0226 for assistance. All heat

pumps and air conditioners must have a 14.5 SEER or higher energy rating. Contractor invoices and/or purchase receipts will be required for proof of purchase. A whole house BPI energy assessment inspection must be performed by a contractor certified by the Building Performance Institute, Inc. to receive the whole house air leak sealing and HVAC duct system sealing rebates.

These rebates are only available for equipment replaced since January 1, 2016. EMC/Georgia EMC Federal Credit Union loans are available if you need assistance.

Program	Amount
Heat Pump Replacement (electric, dual-fuel or geothermal)	\$100.00
Central A/C Replacement	\$100.00
Programmable Thermostat	\$ 50.00
HVAC Duct System Sealing	\$300.00
Heat Pump Water Heating	\$250.00
Solar Water Heating	\$250.00
Attic Insulation Installation to R-38	\$100.00
Floor Insulation Installation	\$100.00
Whole House Air Leak Sealing	\$200.00
Attic Knee Wall Insulation	\$400.00

**Additional rebates and incentives are available for new home construction.**