



'Sharing Success' with Communities In Schools of Coweta

In an effort to assist Communities In Schools of Coweta County in providing services and support to students struggling to remain in school and graduate, Coweta-Fayette EMC recently applied for and was granted funding through CoBank, a financial partner of the cooperative, and its "Sharing Success" charitable contribution program.

"Choosing Coweta's Communities In Schools as our non-profit recipient was easy; meeting the vast needs of students—needs that often go way beyond the classroom—that's the hard part," said Interim EMC CEO Chris Stephens. "Coweta-Fayette's portion of the grant was the least we could do given the sheer volume of kids this organization has already helped and will help in the Coweta school system. We hope CoBank's matching funds will assist them as they continue to chip away at the drop-out rate."

Communities in Schools of Coweta, helmed by Executive Director Gina Weathersby, was able to add Denise Buchanan at East Coweta High School as a site coordinator who helps at-risk students with their academic and non-academic needs. Through this coordinator, the program connects students and their

families to critical community resources, tailored to local needs, to reduce the risk factors that may be barriers to student academic success.

"Shared success has always been a hallmark of the cooperative business model," said CoBank Vice President Kurt Morris. "Throughout rural America, cooperatives are working not only to provide value to their members, but to improve the quality of life in their local communities. We are delighted to join with you in support of such a worthy cause."

This is the third year in a row the Sharing Success program has awarded a matching grant fund to Coweta-Fayette EMC and a local non-profit. One Roof Ecumenical Alliance and Fayette CARE Clinic are past recipients.

From l-r: Kurt Morris, CoBank Vice President; Denise Buchanan, Communities In Schools ECHS Site Coordinator; Gina Weathersby, Communities in Schools of Coweta Executive Director; Chris Stephens, Coweta-Fayette EMC Interim CEO.





The President's Message

*Chris Stephens
Interim President and CEO*

Over the 20 years I have been employed by Coweta-Fayette EMC, I've often been asked who we are. When I tell people that we are an electric cooperative providing power to over 76,000 member-owner accounts just south of Atlanta, I'm then asked, "What is a cooperative?" and "Who are the member-owners?" My response is simple. A cooperative is a private, non-profit corporation owned by its members, in this case the "member-owners" who consume the electricity.

Being a member has perks. It gives consumers a vote in the affairs of the co-op at our annual meeting each fall, where bylaws are adopted that set forth rights and responsibilities and provide guidelines to assure a democratic organization. Members also elect directors to serve on a board to represent them in establishing rates. The rates are based on the actual costs to deliver electric service, including paying back any debt or loan. The remaining margins are paid back to our members in the form of capital credits. This return of capital maintains our non-profit status.

Another question I get is, "What makes you proud to be a part of Coweta-Fayette EMC?" This is by far the easiest for me to answer. It's the employees,

our members and the elected board of directors. Our employees' dedication to safely providing dependable, reasonably priced electric service is always evident. From the outside linemen working day and night in the worst of conditions, to inside personnel who use the latest in technology to enhance efficiency and accuracy, they all strive toward a common goal: providing excellent customer "member" service.

Coweta-Fayette EMC members play an important role in the co-op's success by providing us valuable input, both good and bad, to assist us in improving. Our members are also critical to the process of electing our governing body, the board of directors.

The directors are extremely involved in industry issues and the impacts they will have on the cooperative as a whole. This helps them in making decisions and setting rates and adopting policies that will benefit both members and employees.

One other question I hear is, "What does the future hold for Coweta-Fayette EMC?" This is the hardest question to answer, but we are continually assessing our future needs and planning ahead. We recently completed a strategic plan that focuses on member satisfaction, rates, public relations, economic development, reliability and employee value.

Other key areas we will continue to concentrate on are legislation and regulations that may impact member rates, as well as the exploration of any renewable energy solutions that may offer benefits to our consumers. Our vision: **Coweta-Fayette EMC will be the industry leader for energy and related services and will be the voice of our members on energy.**

2015 Washington Youth Tour



*Washington Youth Tour
2014 winners: Ethan Sisk of
Sharpsburg and Edward Legaspi
of Fayetteville.*

The Washington Youth Tour, scheduled for June 11-18, is a leadership opportunity and educational experience like no other. Sponsored by local electric cooperatives like Coweta-Fayette EMC, this trip is awarded to

exceptional high school sophomores and juniors who compete for a chance to tour Washington, D.C. along with more than 100 other teens from across

the state and more than 1,400 teens from across the country!

Highlights include visits to:

- Mt. Vernon
- Arlington National Cemetery
- Smithsonian Institution Museums
- Lincoln, FDR and Jefferson memorials
- Holocaust Museum
- World War II, Korean and Vietnam Memorials

Entrants will be required to write a 500-word essay from a choice of topics supplied by the EMC. Deadline for the essays will be March 11. Students interested in learning leadership skills, developing life-long friendships and making a pilgrimage to our nation's capital should contact Amy Lott by phone at 770-252-7446 or by email at alott@utility.org for more information and a kit of resource materials.

Incentives Available for Energy Efficient Home Improvements

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. The whole house BPI energy assessment inspection and whole house air leak sealing must be performed by a contractor certified by the Building Performance Institute, Inc.

These rebates are only available for equipment replaced since January 1, 2015. 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	\$400.00
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 BPI Energy Assessment Inspection	\$200.00
Whole House Air Leak Sealing	\$400.00

Additional rebates and incentives are also available for new home construction

Concern for Community: A Cooperative Principle in Action



EMC benevolent project employee volunteers spread a little cheer at One Roof.

Of all the cooperative principles (seven, to be precise!), “Concern for Community” seems to resonate the most with Coweta-Fayette EMC employees during the holidays. To give back to a community that has given us so much, our personnel once again joined together to make several local benevolent projects successful this past December.

The EMC family has helped make many Christmas wishes come true in the co-op service territory over the past 18 seasons, and this year was no different. The project began before Thanksgiving, with the EMC’s Employee Be-

nevolent Committee calling for non-perishable food, toiletries, clothing and monetary donations to benefit One Roof Ecumenical Alliance Outreach, a coalition of churches bringing spiritual and financial aid to those in need; Angel’s House, an emergency shelter for teenage girls; Real Life Center, a non-profit that helps hurting people by giving them a means to cope with the financial, emotional, and spiritual hardships of life; and Tommy Thompson Senior Center, a social hub that offers meals and activities for senior clients.

By mid-December, over 2,000 items had been counted, sorted, boxed and delivered by EMC volunteers! In addition to helping the charities with food and other items from employees,



Marsha McDaniel, Kenny Hinesly and Lanny Hammett sort fruit for nursing home goodie bags.



Tommy Thompson Senior Center clients Evelyn Hines and William Smith greet co-op personnel.

the Benevolent Committee itself gave \$2,000 (matched by another \$2,000 from the EMC) to assist the groups financially as they purchase goods from the Atlanta Food Bank.

Fruit baskets and treats were also hand-delivered to nursing homes in Fayette and Coweta Counties.

“We look forward to this activity every year,” said project organizer Marsha McDaniel. “It makes such a huge impact on the recipients—and us. These amazing organizations and their clients have truly been an inspiration to all of us. It’s the least we can do for our community.”



Winter Storm Safety and Preparedness

Brrrrr... cold weather has arrived. And with violent and unpredictable winter storms already hitting the eastern U.S., it pays to be prepared.

Snow and ice storms are an inevitable part of the winter season – yes, even in the South! – and they often lead to downed power lines and outages. Remember the following tips to stay safe and warm should you find yourself in the dark after a severe winter event:

- ❄️ Never touch a fallen power line, and assume all wires on the ground are electrically charged. Call Coweta-Fayette EMC to report it immediately.
- ❄️ In the event of an outage, an alternate heating source – such as a fireplace, propane space heater or wood stove – may be used. Extreme caution should be taken. Plan to stay near the alternate heat source.
- ❄️ Fuel- and wood-burning heat sources should be vented; make sure carbon monoxide and smoke detectors are working properly.
- ❄️ Do not use a gas-powered oven for heating; it may go out or burn inefficiently, leading to carbon monoxide poisoning.
- ❄️ Do not use a gas/charcoal grill inside or charcoal briquettes in the fireplace.
- ❄️ If using a generator, be sure it's located outside for proper ventilation. Do not use a generator in an attached garage, and never connect it to a power line. The reverse flow of electricity could electrocute an unsuspecting utility worker.

Ideally, your family will stay warm until the power comes back on. But keep an eye out for signs of hypothermia, which include shivering, drowsiness and mental/physical slowness. The elderly and children are particularly vulnerable to hypothermia. Call 911 immediately if you notice these symptoms. At least one telephone in the house that does not depend on electricity should be available in case of a power outage.

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

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