



## Empowerment through Play

Along with service and reliability, commitment to community is a top priority for Coweta-Fayette EMC—and we know it's important to our members, too.

One way our cooperative seeks to help others is by participating in Operation Round Up, a program that impacts everyone from young school children to the elderly on fixed incomes. By contributing, our co-op members are responsible for changing lives.

In September, the Coweta-Fayette Trust, Inc., Board of Directors awarded funding to Lekotek to purchase iPads, disability-adapted toys and a Smartboard/projector. The word “Lekotek” comes from the Swedish word “lek,” meaning play, and the Greek suffix “tek” meaning library. Loosely translated, Lekotek means play library, but according to the organization, it's much more: a safe haven from medical appointments and therapies, and a place parents find resources and support while children have fun and learn along the way.

Although children with disabilities face challenges, they are welcomed at Lekotek with encouragement and opportunities for success. Lekotek envisions a world where children with special needs are included and empowered through play. Lekotek provides accessible play, adaptive technology and toys, information and resources to facilitate inclusion in family and community life.

Staff members have backgrounds in special education, child development and occupational, speech and recreation therapy. Coupled with their knowledge and extensive inventory of adapted toys, Lekotek makes it possible for every child to participate with siblings at home and peers at school. The south side Lekotek, based in Peachtree City, is the busiest of many metro area locations.

Founded in 1993, Operation Round Up gives EMC members the opportunity to literally “round up” their bill to the next highest dollar. The difference is added to a fund managed by the Coweta-Fayette EMC Trust Board and awarded to various organizations in need. The pennies given individually to the program each month combine with the pennies of thousands of other members, and the results are astounding: to date, EMC consumers and Operation Round Up have contributed more than \$200,000 annually to worthy groups in the area.

Funds from Operation Round Up have most recently helped the Newnan/Coweta Boys & Girls Club, Fragile Kids Foundation, Fayette County Special Olympics and Grantville Police Department, to name a few. This is a voluntary program, and you may sign up or opt out at any time. To join, please call customer service at 770-502-0226.





## The President's Message

*Chris Stephens  
President and CEO*

I am very fortunate to be officially named the President and CEO of Coweta-Fayette EMC by our Board of Directors. I am excited to start this new phase of my life with a company that I love like my own family.

Newnan is my home; it's where my parents, Barbara Smith Stephens and Clifton Stephens, were born, and where I was born as well. As a child, I spent many weekends with my three older brothers, my dad and my grandfather on the farm in Western Coweta, the place where I currently live with my wife, Lori, and children, Cole (15) and Kendall (13). Back then, I fondly remember hearing my grandparents tell stories about when Coweta-Fayette EMC first installed electrical power to their homes and how life-changing it was to have lights, refrigerators and radios.

As a child, I was surrounded by people who wanted me to do my best. I credit my grandparents with instilling in me a strong work ethic; I was expected to work hard on the farm. From this, I learned that hard work pays off, and when setting my mind to it, I can accomplish anything... well almost. As a teenager, one of my goals was to excel at soccer. Again, I worked hard to be the

best I could be. Ironically, my coach was Michael Whiteside, the former CEO of Coweta-Fayette EMC, and we ended up winning a championship.

Today, I still enjoy working on the farm, but I also enjoy hunting, waterskiing and coaching my children in their sporting events. As with many families, we are busy everyday with projects and activities around the house and farm. Hopefully, my children will learn and carry with them some of the same life lessons I learned as a child.

As an engineer, problem-solving abilities come very natural to me. While at the EMC, I have been able and continue to be able to do what comes naturally—make decisions with input from 200 of the most outstanding employees in the electric utility business.

As CEO, one of my primary goals is to meet the needs and expectations of our members by providing reliable electricity. One way we are planning to accomplish this is by developing a smarter system that can self-heal after outages; it will have the ability to provide valuable real-time information to eliminate errors, increase response time, and thus increase our efficiency and member satisfaction.

Member value is very important to me, and I will work hard to assure we are delivering. I'm thankful for this wonderful opportunity and can't wait to see what's on the horizon. We are always thinking and planning for you, our members, and for the future. So, let's get started.

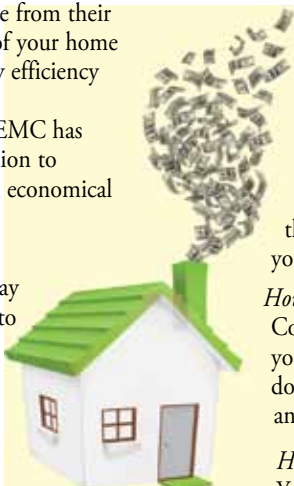
## Loans for Energy Efficient Home Improvements Available NOW!

Smart homeowners want to get the most value from their energy dollar. One way to increase the comfort of your home while potentially saving money is to make energy efficiency improvements.

To make this process easier, Coweta-Fayette EMC has partnered with Georgia EMC Federal Credit Union to develop the HomePlus Loan Program, a fast and economical way to finance your energy efficient upgrades.

*How do I get started improving my home?*  
Call Coweta-Fayette EMC at 770-502-0226 today for your energy audit to determine the best way to make your home energy efficient. Then complete a simple HomePlus Loan application and submit it to Coweta-Fayette EMC. All work must be done by an approved EMC contractor, and be ENERGY STAR compliant, where applicable.

*How long does it take to process my loan application?*  
Once the credit union receives your completed application, they generally process it in 24-48 hours. Please do not proceed with



your home improvements until you have received confirmation from the credit union.

*What improvements can I finance through GEMC FCU?*

You may finance all EMC-approved energy upgrades, including HVAC, with the HomePlus Loan. When applying for the loan, please indicate the amount of money you wish to borrow to complete your project.

*How and when are my contractors paid?*

Coweta-Fayette EMC will verify the completion of your home improvements. You will then sign your loan documents and the check will be made payable to you and the contractor.

*How will I make my loan payment?*

Your monthly loan payment may either be applied to your EMC bill or simply drafted from your bank by the credit union.





# Coweta-Fayette EMC: Behind the Brand



Have you ever wondered how companies are created? In the hustle and bustle of everyday life, we rarely slow down to think about such things, but there is often a rich, unique history behind the name brands we deal with on a daily basis.

Coweta-Fayette EMC is no different. The circumstances leading up to the creation of your cooperative are quite interesting and distinctly American. These events shaped us, they gave us direction and purpose . . . and they deserve another look. From monumental milestones to minor—but colorful!—details, the past helps tell our story. Which, of course, is also YOUR story.

We will begin at the beginning, in the dark. Life without power meant long days and hardships. Family members hand-pumped water and carried it back and forth from the well to the house for bathing, cooking and washing clothes by hand on a washboard. Early to bed and early to rise was a way of life, as rural families made the most of what daylight they had. In the evenings, people huddled together, straining their eyes to read by the glow of kerosene lamps. A nighttime trip to the outhouse was a dreaded occurrence, as creatures great and

small often waited in the dark. Experiences with snakes and spiders led to scary tales, which older children retold with great exaggeration to frighten younger siblings and visiting relatives from the city.

The sole source of heat was often a fireplace or cook stove.

Attempts by farmers to bring electricity to the country were denied in most cases, as electric companies thought it was a bad investment to run lines long distances in sparsely populated areas. Persistent farmers were offered the option of paying in advance for construction costs, in addition to the cost of electricity. This route was generally cost-prohibitive to most, and when farmers did choose the high-cost option, their rates were double those of people who lived in the city.

President Franklin D. Roosevelt's Executive Order on May 11, 1935, created the Rural Electrification Administration (REA), which provided low interest loans to fund not-for-profit, consumer-owned cooperatives designed to provide electrical service to its members. Ten years later, the first meeting of Coweta-Fayette Electric Membership Corporation's original incorporators was held August 31, 1945, in the auditorium of the Coweta County Welfare & Agricultural Building in Newnan. They included: W. Floy Farr, of Tyrone; Leonard "Swain" Peeples, of Senoia; Harry R. "Hoss" Harp, of Fayetteville; James S. "Jim" Carmical, of Sargent; H.H. Cook, of Pal-

metto; James B. "Jim" Woods, of Brooks; Dr. W.H. Tanner, of Rico; Eugene T. "Gene" Evans, Sr., of Moreland; and Wayland M. Lyle, of Newnan.

Distribution lines were purchased from two other EMCs in 1947, and the cooperative was born. Tremendous growth has occurred since then, and our member base has increased from the original 691 members to over 76,000 member accounts in Coweta, Fayette, Heard, South Fulton, Clayton, Spalding, Troup and Meriwether Counties.

From poverty to prosperity, cooking demos to cloud data, and lamp-wiring clinics to LEDs, rural electrification has come a long way.



*Shown top left: Coweta-Fayette EMC linemen pose with one of the early co-op trucks.*

*Above: Local ladies display their handiwork during a lamp-wiring clinic at Ebenezer Church in 1957.*



*Bottom left: Early directors meet circa 1957. Shown l-r are: (seated) Leonard "Swain" Peeples; Wayland Lyles; Harry R. "Hoss" Harp; and Dr. W.H. Tanner; (standing) J. Frank Lester; Eugene T. "Gene" Evans, Sr.; W. Floy Farr; Pat Johnston; and J.B. "Jim" Woods.*



## Home Security System



## Energy Savings



## Remote Video



## Remote Door Lock



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