



## Linemen Light the Way

It's often said that if they sent a lineman to the moon, there wouldn't be a dark side.

We believe it—without linemen, there would be no electric cooperatives. Because their work is so important, America's electric co-ops have designated the second Monday of April as National Lineman Appreciation Day.

On April 13, Coweta-Fayette EMC will honor the hard working men who often work in challenging conditions to keep the lights on. The full text of the resolution, which the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) Board adopted unanimously, reads as follows:

*“Whereas linemen leave their families and put their lives on the line every day to keep the power on; Whereas linemen work 365 days a year under dangerous conditions to build, maintain and*

*repair the electric infrastructure; Whereas linemen are the first responders of the electric cooperative family, getting power back on and making things safe for all after storms and accidents; and Whereas there would be no electric cooperatives without the brave men and women who comprise our corps of linemen; Therefore be it resolved that NRECA recognizes the Second Monday of April of each year as National Lineman Appreciation Day and make available to electric cooperatives, materials and support to recognize the contributions of these valuable men and women to America's Electric Cooperatives.”*

Please read on for a little more insight into the lives of our linemen... we're really proud of them. We also invite you to say thank you the next time you see them—though humble, they truly deserve it for the light they bring to our world!





## The President's Message

Chris Stephens  
President and CEO

Electric power lines were first installed in the late 1800's. From this historic technological leap, the lineman was born.

Much has changed with tools and safety since the early days, but one thing remains true; without linemen, we would not have electricity. Since 1947, Coweta-Fayette EMC has provided safe, reliable power to our members—thanks to our brave lineworkers. They are our heroes and first responders who have the discipline and willpower to leave their families in the middle of the night and on holidays to restore electric service, a fact that is often taken for granted.

According to the U.S. Department of Labor, electric line work is one of the “Top 10 Most Dangerous Professions.” Linemen often do not get second chances; their mistakes can be deadly. High voltage wires and equipment, treacherous weather conditions, the risks of injury from a fall... linemen are in near-constant danger, and that's why they train. And train and train some more! At Coweta-Fayette EMC, safety is paramount, and we are proud to be at the forefront of electrical safety equipment, as well as electrical safety education. The lengths we will go to keep you, your family and our linemen safe are a point of pride for us and are never taken lightly. Getting my guys home to their families is my number one priority.

Linemen are a special breed and have developed a brotherhood. They always look out for each other and are willing to assist whenever called. Whether they are helping a neighboring cooperative or bringing light to a rural community in Guatemala, these men understand line work and safety.

On April 10, 2013, Sen. Johnny Isakson (R-GA) and Sen. Michael Bennet (D-CO), introduced a board resolution designating April 18 as National Lineman Appreciation Day. The resolution, which passed with unanimous consent, “recognizes the efforts of linemen in keeping the power on and protecting public safety.” Please join us as we honor our linemen, our heroes, our first responders.

### **National Electric Co-op Lineman Facts**

- Linemen (including job categories for lineman, grounds-man and tree-man) make up the largest single category of jobs at the typical distribution co-op.
- There are about 18,000 full-time linemen in the rural electric program, making up nearly one-third of all rural electric distribution co-op employees.
- The average age of a co-op lineman is 43.
- Co-op linemen make up about 16 percent of all linemen in the U.S. We punch way above our weight due to the fact that electric co-ops serve vast service areas, three-quarters of the U.S. landmass and own 42 percent of the nation's distribution line, distributing electricity to over 42 million people.
- Co-op linemen maintain 2,566,917 miles of distribution line for 850 distribution systems nationwide.

### **Coweta-Fayette EMC CEO Recognized for Bringing Electricity to Other Parts of the World**

Coweta-Fayette EMC and Georgia EMC recently received the 2015 International Award from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA).

The International Award recognizes exceptional dedication to the development of global communities through NRECA International, which provides people in developing countries with access to safe, reliable and affordable electricity. This results in increased agricultural productivity, millions of new jobs and higher incomes/quality of life for rural communities in more than 42 countries.

NRECA International, with vital support from associations like Georgia EMC and co-ops such as Coweta-Fayette EMC, has pioneered low-cost rural electrification in underdeveloped countries by designing distribution grids, constructing lines and applying a set of standards that meet very specific community needs.

“No matter how you speak or with what accent the words are formed, connections between international co-ops are universal: the language of light and the spark of friendship trump any barriers that may exist,” said Stephens.

Wood and Stephens accepted the Award during the NRECA Annual Meeting in Orlando, which drew more than 8,500 representatives from electric cooperatives across the nation.





*Anthony Woodard, Power Line Technician*

They wake before the sun, pour steaming cups of coffee, prepare a bagged lunch and kiss their families goodbye. After swinging by the office to get the day's orders, 109 men – 61 employees, 48 contract workers – climb into their trucks at various times when needed and roll out. Our Coweta-Fayette EMC lineworkers form a solid unit with one job: to deliver safe, reliable electricity. But that objective can change in a million ways when rough weather steps in.

We often take power – and the men who provide it – for granted. Let's take a moment and stand in their boots. Linemen have to work safely, intelligently and efficiently... all while hoisted or dangling 40 feet in the air wearing sturdy, thick rubber gloves and other safety gear. On a typical day, lineworkers maintain electrical distribution lines or build service to new homes and businesses. They have a lot on their plates. But when our dispatch center calls crews with a problem, everything else takes a backseat.

Power restoration takes precedence on a lineman's to-do list. These brave men are always on call. With 22 EMC crews and 12 contract crews, we have a total of 34 teams standing by to serve you 24 hours a day, in the middle of the night or wee hours of the morning, weekends and holidays.

Can you imagine getting a call at 3 a.m. telling you to work outside during bad weather? Not many people are willing to face storms. Our lineworkers willingly face harsh elements daily, all to serve you.

Linemen also focus on safety; the lives of coworkers are on the line. Job safety is important to everyone, no matter your occupation. But for lineworkers, there can be no slip ups or careless actions. Mistakes can cost a limb or life. That's one of the reasons linemen form a brotherhood. When you put your life in the hands of coworkers every day, they become more than colleagues – they're family.

That sense of family extends to electric co-ops across the nation. One of our principles is co-



*Barry Wallace, Crew Chief, Underground*

# A Powerful Life

operation among cooperatives. We help other co-ops in their times of need, and they extend that service to us, too. It's reassuring to know if a severe storm strikes, a national team of lineworkers stands ready to answer the call.



*Crew Chiefs, Jerome Arrington and Wes Abbott*

To be ready to respond no matter the situation or weather conditions, linemen are highly trained. At Coweta-Fayette EMC, lineworkers go through regular training to ensure they can work safely with various kinds of equipment. The equipment gets tested frequently, too.

These highly skilled professionals light our homes and businesses every day. They endure harsh weather and long hours, all to make our lives better. Coweta-Fayette EMC's lineworkers are the heart of the Co-op Nation, proud and strong.

## Geared up for Safety

Can you imagine working a job that requires you to lift heavy equipment and perform detailed tasks near deadly high voltage? Now imagine doing this 40 feet in the air, and sometimes, in extreme weather... This is the life of a lineman.

These brave men answer when called – and they do so to ensure that you are provided with safe, reliable electric service. But how do they stay safe when working in these conditions? Coweta-Fayette linemen are required to wear personal protective equipment (PPE) at all times when on the job.

*Let's take a look at a lineman's PPE:*

- **Fire retardant (FR) clothing.** While our linemen do everything possible to prevent them, unexpected fires can happen. Fires typically occur with an arc flash – an explosion that results from a low-impedance connection to a ground phase in an electrical system.
- **Insulated gloves.** Linemen must wear insulated rubber gloves when working on any type of electrical line. They provide protection against



*Jeremy Brown, Power Line Technician*

electrical shock and burn, and are tested at 30,000 volts.

- **Hard hat.** No matter how tough or "hard-headed" our linemen are, they still need protection!
- **Work boots.** These heavy-duty shoes are designed with extra support in mind. The boot shields linemen from gouges, and provides a better grip when climbing poles.
- **Safety glasses.** Linemen must wear eye protection, whether working on electrical lines or clearing rights-of-way.

These items make up a lineman's basic PPE.

While working on electrical lines, they also may be required to wear equipment belts, tool pouches, safety straps and other types of equipment. A lineman's gear usually weighs about 50 pounds – that's a lot of extra weight when working in hazardous conditions!

So, the next time you see a lineman, be sure to thank him for keeping the lights on. But more importantly, show appreciation for the hard and often dangerous work they do, day in and day out.



*Josh Minnifield, Journeyman*

# Spring Forward: Prepare for Summer Heat, Increase Energy Savings!

Adding a few items to your spring chores list can help make your home more energy efficient and produce bills that won't make you sweat when temperatures soar.

Start with your air conditioner. Spring and early summer are good times to make sure your unit is ready to work:

- Get help from a professional who can inspect and service your unit.
- Give your air conditioner a do-it-yourself cleaning. Shut it off, and clear away leaves and yard debris outside. Inside the unit, clean or replace filters that can restrict air flow and reduce overall efficiency by making the air conditioner work harder on hot days. Dust the fan blades if you can do so safely. Make sure air can flow freely over inside/outside coils. Vacuum registers to remove dust buildup.
- Check weather stripping. With window units, ensure it is between the middle of the top and bottom window panes.
- Check out your roof. See how well your roof has weathered the winter. Few things can shorten the life of your home faster than a roof leak; even a minor one can damage your attic insulation. A roofing professional can assess and repair loose or missing shingles, as well as clear clogged gutters.

Make your co-op a resource. The energy advisors at Coweta-Fayette EMC can help you determine the right steps for your home, including whether an energy audit will help find more savings.

*Sources: U.S. Department of Energy, TogetherWeSave.com and Energy.gov.*

Chris Stephens, President and CEO  
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# EMC's Green Power Program Green-e Certified

The Green-e Energy Certification program provides independent, third-party certification to ensure renewable energy meets strict environmental and consumer protection standards. The Center for Resource Solutions requires that sellers of certified renewable energy disclose clear and useful information to potential customers, allowing consumers to make informed choices. Therefore, the following content label provides the renewable resources used in Coweta-Fayette's program in 2014 and 2015.

**PRODUCT CONTENT LABEL**

The product is sold in blocks of 100 kilowatt-hours (kWh).  
 The product will be made up of the following renewable resources

Green-e Energy Certified New <sup>3</sup> Renewables in Coweta-Fayette EMC Green Power Program			Generation Location
	2014 <sup>1</sup>	2015 <sup>2</sup>	
-Biomass	100%	100%	Georgia
-Geothermal	0%	0%	
-Eligible hydroelectric <sup>4</sup>	0%	0%	
-Solar	0%	0%	
-Wind	0%	0%	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	

1. The 2014 figures reflect the resources that were supplied for the year ending December 31, 2014.

2. The 2015 figures are prospective and reflect the power that we have contracted to provide. Actual figures may vary according to resource availability. We will annually report to you the actual resource mix of the electricity you purchased during the preceding year.

3. For energy supplied in 2014, New Renewables come from generation facilities that first began commercial operation on or after January 1, 2000. For energy to be supplied in 2015, New Renewables come from generation facilities that first began commercial operation on or after January 1, 2001.

For comparison, the current average mix of resources supplying Coweta-Fayette EMC includes: Coal (30%), Nuclear (26%), Oil (0%), Natural Gas (43%), Hydroelectric (1%), and Other (1%).

The average home in the United States uses 900 kWh per month. [Source: U.S. EPA]

For specific information about this electricity product, please contact Coweta-Fayette Electric Membership Corporation, (770) 502-0226, [www.utility.org/site/GreenPowerBlock.aspx](http://www.utility.org/site/GreenPowerBlock.aspx).



Green-e Energy certifies that Coweta-Fayette Electric Membership Corporation Green Power Program meets the minimum environmental and consumer protection standards established by the non-profit Center for Resource Solutions. For more information on Green-e Energy certification requirements, call 1-888-63-GREEN or log on to [www.green-e.org](http://www.green-e.org).