



Changing Co-op, Enduring Purpose

You may be able to spot a few changes since we published our last Coweta-Fayette EMC group picture more than seven years ago—new faces added, dear friends departed, fashion choices updated—but the dedication of our employees to reliable, affordable electric service remains constant. As our employee numbers have grown from 187 to 205, so too has our commitment to member service and the cooperative principles.

Coweta-Fayette EMC can trace its history back to 1945, when a group of citizens from Coweta, Fayette and Fulton Counties met to discuss the creation of a new rural electric cooperative. Tremendous growth has occurred since then, and our consumer base has increased from 691 members to more than 76,000 accounts spanning 6,000+ miles of line in eight counties. Today, Coweta-Fayette EMC serves thriving communities with a progressive attitude toward power provision and a strong sense of responsibility with regard to service excellence. From residential to business accounts, all consumers are both members and owners of the cooperative.

We've weathered the economic uncertainty of the not-too-distant past and come out on the other side to witness signs of growing confidence throughout our service territory. EMC leaders have continually managed our load forecast, which is a prediction of how much electricity will be needed in the future.

We all depend on power to meet daily needs, but the amount used varies from season to season, day to day and even hour to hour. We plan far in advance—often decades ahead—to ensure there is enough power to meet demands. If a new subdivision is built in our service territory, for example, it's the co-op's responsibility to ensure an adequate power supply. This may mean running new poles and lines, or even building a substation; whatever the need, Coweta-Fayette EMC is prepared.

So although there are some differences in our size, your cooperative's purpose endures. We seek to improve the quality of life in our communities, plain and simple. Our business model was created so that people could join together to improve their circumstances by securing electric service. That opportunity provided a generation of Americans with economic security and unmatched political strength, and this fact remains: co-op leaders are facilitators; honest brokers of member information; catalysts for positive change; and trust-builders among a new member generation.

It's been quite a ride these last seven years, but we love our communities and look forward to growing alongside them. Let's hope the next photo tells a similar happy story!





The President's Message

*Chris Stephens
President and CEO*

I recently attended a legislative conference in our nation's capital hosted by the National Rural Electrification Association (NRECA). During my visit, I had the opportunity to visit with our legislative staff to address critical issues facing electric cooperatives. One of the key takeaways from the conference was the introduction of a non-partisan initiative by NRECA called "Co-ops Vote" that promotes voter participation among co-op members.

Over the past several weeks, millions of Americans have gone to the polls to exercise their right to vote, an act that plays a crucial part in our representative democracy. The enthusiasm with which these citizens are participating is encouraging, but there is still work to be done. In places all over America, even those served by electric cooperatives, citizens aren't taking advantage of their voting privilege. In the 2012 national elections, voter turnout dropped overall, but the decline in rural counties was 18%—twice that of the nation as a whole. When citizens don't vote, they lose the opportunity to communicate with political leaders. Their concerns go unheard on issues that matter to them where they work, live and raise families.

Reliable and affordable electricity and the quality of our healthcare system are just a couple of the topics we all care about. Still, they only become priorities if enough people show elected officials they are paying attention. Registering to vote and actually following through are the most effective ways to send this message.

When we go to the polls with the cooperative principle of "Concern for Community" in mind, we instantly improve our political system. It's a system designed to produce a government "of the people, by the people and for the people." People like you and me.

As a nation, there are 900+ electric co-ops serving more than 42 million members representing about 75% of the nation's landmass. Encouraging voter participation by each of these eligible members will have great influence on our nation's elected officials. This will also increase cooperative member influence on state and local elections.

Coweta-Fayette EMC has joined America's electric cooperatives in launching the "Co-ops Vote" campaign to help get out the vote and insert issues important to our members into the public discussion. This effort will help boost voter turnout in areas served by cooperatives across the country to ensure our voices are heard loud and clear every day, but especially on Election Day.

Here's what you can do to help. Visit the Co-ops Vote website, www.vote.coop, take the pledge to become a co-op voter and support your community and co-op when casting your vote in 2016. The website will give you information on your elected officials and candidates, the voter registration process, election dates and locations and background on key co-op issues we want our leaders to understand.

Regardless of your political beliefs, I encourage you to join me and other cooperative members by sending a resounding message that candidates will need to put our concerns front and center in order to earn our vote. With millions of members speaking out with one voice, we are already having a major impact in making our top issues part of the national conversation. Let's stand up for the priorities of the electric co-op community in the lead-up to November 8. I hope to see you at the polls!

Langford Named to Co-op Board upon Spaller Retirement



Coweta-Fayette EMC directors have appointed Daniel Crawford Langford, Jr. to the cooperative board following the March retirement of long-serving member Kenneth Spaller.

Langford, 53, is the current mayor of Brooks and Chief Financial Officer for Landmark Christian School in Fairburn. He attended the University of Georgia, was a 1999 Leadership Fayette graduate, has two children and lives in Brooks with his wife, Lesley. From 2004 to 2010, Langford served on the Coweta-Fayette EMC Trust Board, which manages Operation Round Up funds. In 2008 and 2009, he acted as vice chairman; in 2010, he became board chair.

Having a top-notch board of directors is critical to the success of a cooperative and an integral part of the co-op business model—we believe it's important for members to be represented and their voices heard. This group of men and women, your neighbors, is tasked with looking into the future to determine the best course of action for more than 76,000 member accounts.

Spaller, one of our co-op directors since 1965, left a huge void in his absence. With Langford's gracious willingness to serve, leadership experience and business knowledge, we are confident Coweta-Fayette EMC remains in good hands.

Local Students Awarded Golden Opportunity to Visit Washington, D.C.



Juhee Shim with teacher Shery Kearney



Suji Han with teacher Martha Milam

Suji Han, a student at East Coweta High School, and Juhee Shim, a student at McIntosh High School, were recently selected to attend the 51st Washington Youth Tour, an all-expense paid leadership experience held this summer and sponsored by numerous electric membership corporations (EMCs) in Georgia, including Coweta-Fayette EMC.

Scheduled from June 9-16, Youth Tour stands as the state's oldest leadership program for teens and offers a personal lesson in U.S. history, competitions and contests to encourage leadership and teamwork, conversations with elected leaders on important subjects, and a better appreciation for community and public service.

The journey of a lifetime kicks off in Atlanta with speaker Rep. Brooks Coleman, chairman of the House Education Committee. Building upon Coleman's passion for learning and his role as public servant, the trip also consists of personal visits with Georgia's congressional delegation. In these meetings, students are encouraged to ask questions about current events and initiatives that could impact their families and communities.

Paying tribute to those whose vision and bravery secured a free and open society is another key component of the program. To that end, participants will visit historic landmarks in the Nation's Capital, including sites like Arlington National Cemetery, the Smithsonian Museums, the Holocaust Museum, Mount Vernon, the Supreme

Court, the Capitol, the Washington Monument and the MLK, FDR, Jefferson, World War II and Lincoln Memorials.

Also while in D.C., our delegation will join more than 1,700 Washington Youth Tour participants from co-ops across the country, providing yet another life experience: the chance to learn from a diverse group of peers representing nearly every state.

According to Coweta-Fayette EMC Senior Public Relations VP Mary Ann Bell, the tour was established with one thought in mind – to inspire the next generation of leaders. It exposes students to the fast-paced world of politics, leadership, service and teamwork.

"These teenagers represent the next wave of educated, engaged citizen leaders in our communities and country," said Bell. "It's important for them to experience D.C., to see monuments and memorials honoring those who made sacrifices so we may live in a free society, and to introduce them to others who share similar hopes and dreams, but come from a variety of backgrounds."

Since 1965, the Washington Youth Tour has given 3,000 students in Georgia and more than 50,000 teens nationwide this opportunity. The program was initially implemented at the behest of President Lyndon Johnson, who wanted to "send youngsters to the nation's capital, where they can actually see what the flag stands for and represents."





Home Energy Assessments Save Money and Energy

Hot summer temperatures have arrived, along with increased humidity and higher energy bills. Professional energy auditors from Coweta-Fayette EMC can help you assess where you may have problems and make recommendations that will help your comfort level and save on your utility bill.

Using the latest technologies available, they can inspect all areas of your home for energy loss. Our experts test for air leakage in living spaces and in your HVAC duct system, visually check air conditioning and water heating systems and inspect insulation in the attic, crawl space or basement.

Before they arrive, make a list of any existing problems, like condensation or uncomfortable rooms, so our auditors will be able to address your concerns. They will probably have lots of questions for you on temperature settings, the number of family members living at home, room usage and times people are home during the day. Your information is vital to the creation of an accurate energy use report.

Once your audit is completed, you will be given a detailed analysis of cost-effective home improvements to help lower energy bills and increase comfort. Some of the improvements may also qualify for EMC rebates.

For more information, contact our customer service department at 770-502-0226.

*Data Source: U.S. Department of Energy Savers
Image source: InsulationSmart.com*

Northgate Student Wins Prestigious Statewide Scholarship



Northgate High School student Ashleigh Ryan recently won the esteemed Walter Harrison Scholarship, an award sponsored by Georgia's 41 electric co-ops. She was one of 75 students to enter the statewide competition, which provides \$1,000 to offset the rising cost of obtaining a two- or four-year college degree.

Coweta-Fayette EMC joins in sponsoring the program annually in an effort to help community-minded teens with exceptional academic ability attend an in-state post-secondary school. A candidate's need for financial assistance is also considered.

Ryan is the daughter of Shawn and Amanda Ryan of Sharpsburg; she plans to attend the Georgia Institute of Technology this fall to pursue a career in neonatology. She is very involved in Northgate's academic clubs and extracurricular activities, including the National Honor Society, Beta Club, National French Honor Society, Pet Rescue Club and American Sign Language Club, which she founded. In addition to academics, Ryan is also a member of Varsity Swimming, Cross-Country and Track & Field.

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

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Editor: Mary Ann Bell
807 Collinsworth Road, Palmetto, GA 30268
(770) 502-0226

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770-502-0226
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EMC Observes 46th Annual Earth Day

Coweta-Fayette EMC believes in creating a healthy, sustainable environment and protecting the Earth for future generations; we know even the tiniest of actions can get really big stuff accomplished for our planet.

With that message in mind, coupled with the cooperative principle of "Concern for Community," the EMC recently celebrated Earth Day by donating bird feeders and seed to the Palmetto Neighborhood Senior Center. A poster contest was also held at Western Elementary School in Coweta, with prizes awarded to the students who created the best Earth Day artwork. Their masterpieces were then placed in our Newnan office for all to see.

EMC employees know it's important to inform members on environmental concerns and to energize them about securing a healthy place for our descendants to live for millennia to come. This year, over one billion people and thousands of organizations in more than 190 countries took part in the 46th Earth Day – Friday, April 22 – and acted to protect our shared environment. Your co-op is proud to have been among them.

We participated in the global, grassroots movement by providing energy efficiency literature, handouts, green snacks and bottled water in the lobbies of all three EMC locations.

"All across the globe, from big cities to small villages, people cleaned up their local communities, met with elected officials, planted trees, taught children to protect our planet and much more," said EMC Senior Public Relations Vice President Mary Ann Bell. "Inspiring others to be good Earth stewards and to appreciate the beauty of our environment are initiatives we support."

In addition to community activities, cooperative personnel marked Earth Day 2016 by wearing green and participating in office festivities.

Green Power EMC (GPEMC), the statewide cooperative devoted to providing power to Coweta-Fayette EMC and other co-op members using renewable resources, is celebrating its 15th anniversary. The first green cooperative in the state, GPEMC continues to be the largest.

Begun in 1970 by U.S. Senator Gaylord Nelson, Earth Day is recognized worldwide as a way to raise awareness and appreciation for our planet.



Coweta-Fayette EMC Crew Chief Richard Davis helps install a bird house at the Palmetto Neighborhood Senior Center.



Western Elementary School's poster contest winners proudly display their artwork.