



Healing Heroes Cycle Toward Recovery

The day was dreary, the sky drizzly, the road slick and unforgiving. Despite the damp and the chill, cheers went up as the first riders approached. With flags waving and spirits lifted, the crowd ushered in the heroes.

“Witnessing the extraordinary kind of strength and endurance needed to complete something like this is humbling,” says EMC CEO Chris Stephens. “It’s truly inspiring.”

The event he’s referring to—Ride 2 Recovery—is a groundbreaking veterans program started in 2008 to save lives by restoring hope and purpose. It’s described as vets helping vets through caring, hard work and cycling-based programs.

On March 1, the Ride 2 Recovery Gulf Coast Challenge kicked off the riding portion of its multi-day bike race stretching nearly 500 miles from Atlanta to New Orleans. Coweta-Fayette EMC volunteers were lucky enough to be on site to help prepare food for, serve hot drinks to and encourage almost 200 healing veterans and active-duty personnel from all branches of the military during a rest stop at American Legion Post 57 in Newnan.

According to Ride 2 Recovery organizers, the Gulf Coast Challenge offers participants a chance

to reflect on the immense coastal recovery that has taken place since Hurricane Katrina

ravaged the Atlantic region. Riders ended the 2015 journey March 7 by lending experience, strength and determination in the form of community service.

The first-ever Ride 2 Recovery challenge was held with only 14 riders; now, events zig-zag across the country (including an American Challenge from Ground Zero in New York to the Pentagon) and even include tours of Normandy and Belgium/Luxembourg to trace D-Day and the Battle of the Bulge, respectively. Each challenge sells out early and has a lengthy waiting list.

“The mission of Ride 2 Recovery—to improve the health of healing heroes worldwide—is an admirable one. We were honored just to help out,” says Stephens.





The President's Message

Chris Stephens
President and CEO

Have you ever thought about what the word “safety” actually means? In preparation for May and National Electrical Safety Month, I have asked many people this question and received very different answers.

According to the Oxford Dictionary, safety is “the condition of being protected from or unlikely to cause danger, risk or injury.” It is something we are taught as children—I remember my parents telling me to be safe when I rode my bike, crossed the road or went to a friend’s house to visit. And like most kids, I would try new things that were not parent-approved, and the results were often in the form of an injury. Usually, I learned something from my scrapes and falls; occasionally it took time to sink in. These lessons, if mastered, develop a culture of safety.

Here at Coweta-Fayette EMC, safety is paramount. In order for us to improve and achieve lasting results, our employees make safety a core value, not just a priority. It is not as if we don’t have accidents; human error is inevitable. It is what we learn from our mistakes and the dedication to continuous training

and instruction we develop that leads to a culture of safety.

This culture consists of shared beliefs, practices and attitudes throughout an organization, or in our case, a cooperative. And it was evident at Coweta-Fayette EMC in early April when we received a perfect score from the Electric Cooperative Safety Accreditation Program of Georgia, which was established to inform and promote safety and loss control standards in the interest of employees and the public we serve. The program also aims to prevent injuries and recognize the employees who strive every day to maintain a safe work environment.

This score is a credit to each employee’s dedication to safety. Although it took hard work to reach this pinnacle, the toughest part will be staying at the top. The essence of success in safety is continual improvement. Whether it is an accident in the office or in the field, where our linemen are exposed to significant hazards, it is my personal challenge to see that each employee goes home to his or her loved ones every day. It is also my hope that the culture of safety our employees have developed here will be shared within their homes and throughout their communities.

We challenge all of our members to live safely also—your lives are important to us! For more information on electrical safety, please visit the Electrical Safety Foundation at esfi.org.

Keeping You Safe During and After Summer Storms

No one knows electrical safety better than the experts who practice it every single day. Coweta-Fayette EMC encourages you to practice safety with these reminders for during and after a summer storm:

Avoid wires and water—when lightning strikes a home during a storm, the electrical charge can surge through pipes and utility wires. That means you can get zapped if you’re touching water or any device that’s plugged in.

Skip the makeshift shelter—during a storm, it’s tempting to take cover under a picnic gazebo or golf cart, but in open-sided structures with no conductors to channel strikes, a bolt’s path of least resistance to the ground could be you. These structures also raise your risk of a lightning strike because of their height.

Portable generators—take special care with these devices, which can provide a good power source, but become deadly if improperly installed or operated. Do not connect generators directly to house-

hold wiring. Power from generators can back-feed along power lines and electrocute anyone coming in contact with them, including line workers making repairs. It’s best to hire a qualified, licensed electrician to install your generator and ensure it meets local electrical codes.

Flooded areas—stay away from downed power lines, and avoid walking through watery sites. Lines could be submerged and still live with electricity. Report any downed lines you see to Coweta-Fayette EMC by calling 770-502-0226 immediately.

Electrical equipment—never use electrical equipment that is wet, especially of the outdoor variety, which could be a potential danger after a summer storm. Water can damage electrical equipment and parts, posing a shock or fire hazard.

For a checklist to assess safety hazards around your home or to take a quick quiz, visit www.togetherwesave.com/power-of-community/safety.

Sources: NRECA’s Straight Talk; and the Electrical Safety Foundation International.

EMC Trust Awards Scholarships to Outstanding Technical College Students

Congratulations to our 2015 winners!

To help students in our service area acquire the necessary knowledge and skills to compete in an ever-evolving workplace, the Coweta-Fayette Trust, Inc. Board of Directors recently awarded \$13,000 to deserving technical school attendees for 2015.

Thirteen students enrolled at both Southern Crescent Technical College and West Georgia Technical College were selected to receive individual \$1,000 scholarships for tuition, books or course-specific tools and equipment.

This funding, made possible by Coweta-Fayette EMC's Operation Round Up program, is awarded to top academic performers seeking financial assistance. The winners of this year's scholarships were selected by the Foundation Boards from the two colleges based on a combination of need and academic performance.

Operation Round Up is a Coweta-Fayette EMC program that contributes more than \$200,000 each year to worthy groups in our service area. These awards are made possible by voluntary contributions from co-op members whose monthly electric bills are "rounded up" to the nearest dollar. The difference between what is actually owed and the next highest dollar is placed in an interest-bearing account, and this money is managed through a separate board of directors, the Coweta-Fayette Trust.



Daniel Black
Business Management
Luthersville
West Georgia Tech



Marjorie Byrd
Medical Billing Specialist
Tyrone
West Georgia Tech



Della Carter
Medical Assisting
Fairburn
Southern Crescent Tech



Logan Davis
Welding & Joint Diploma
Newnan
West Georgia Tech



Joshua Dumas
Industrial Systems Technology
Fayetteville
Southern Crescent Tech



Wayne Floyd
Drafting Technology
Fayetteville
Southern Crescent Tech



Autumn Franks
Criminal Justice
Palmetto
West Georgia Tech



Jana Holley
Radiologic Technology
Fayetteville
Southern Crescent Tech



Marlena Huntley
Radiologic Technology
Fayetteville
Southern Crescent Tech



Ezekiel Kelly
Associate in Nursing (AND)
Peachtree City
West Georgia Tech



Michael Pritt
Automotive
Moreland
West Georgia Tech



Shelby Singleton
Respiratory Care
Newnan
Southern Crescent Tech



Zapporah Visrael
Radiologic Technology
Fayetteville
Southern Crescent Tech



Electronic Billing (E-bills)

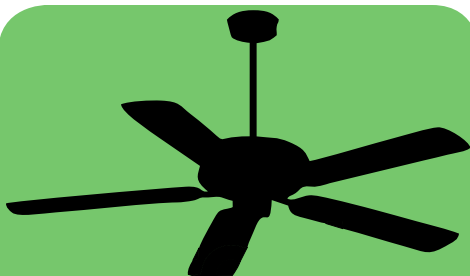
Would you like to eliminate the paper bill you receive each month and simply receive an email alert instead?

A lot of members are embracing electronic billing as an alternative to paper. Enrolling in e-billing is a convenient option to traditional paper billing eliminating clutter and the need to dispose of old paper bills.

Once enrolled you will receive monthly e-bill notices, including a link that will direct you to an image of your bill. This link also allows you to log onto our online portal providing several options to help manage your account:

- Make one time credit card or e-check payments
- Set up draft payments
- Select text or email alerts when certain events concerning your account occur
- Review billing history and usage

It's easy to enroll in e-bill, simply contact a customer service representative, or visit our portal at www.utility.org and click on **Pay My Bill**. Once you are logged onto our portal, select **e-notifications** under the **My Account** tab to set up e-billing and start enjoying the convenience and ease of e-bills.



Energy Efficiency Tip

Circulate savings! Ceiling fans are a great way to keep cool during summer months and can even allow you to raise your thermostat setting about four degrees without affecting your comfort. (*energy.gov*)

Summer Rates

Residential

Summer (June 1 - October 31)

Service Charge	\$20.00/mo.
First 750 kWh/mo	7.80¢/kWh
Over 750 kWh/mo.	10.65¢/kWh

Electric Water Heater Credit (June 1 - October 31)
\$2.00/mo.

(One EWH credit per household)

Residential Load Management Annual Credit

\$10.00 credit applied to the member's bill in October for allowing the EMC to cycle the air conditioner and/or water heater during the months of June - September.

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

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