

POWERlines

Creating Convenient Options and Opportunities for YOU!

Every day, Coweta-Fayette EMC looks for ways to offer more options to those we serve. Providing the best possible customer experience means giving our Members more flexibility as they carry out their business with us. For instance, you may pay a bill in person, by mail, with our phone system, via our website's online payment screen, through personal online banking software or by credit card, e-check or cash, and you can even have your account drafted automatically.

If you have an account inquiry, you may talk to one of our friendly customer service representatives in person, utilize the online billing system or give us a call. We also provide personalized, password-protected usage history online, as well as other important data. Our website offers a wealth of information to our Members 24 hours a day. We believe in making your business transactions convenient.

At Coweta-Fayette EMC, we embrace technology to ensure we serve you in the most efficient manner possible. We have many Members who use their smart phones and iPads to facilitate most business needs through our apps. We also have three strategically located offices to serve those Members who prefer to conduct business face to face.

Over the past few years, we have been asked by some Members to explore the possibility of alternate voting options at our Annual Meeting. Our Board of Directors and employees agreed to explore the options other co-ops throughout the U.S. were using that might be of interest to our Members. The Board asked management to do some research and relay their findings.

A knowledgeable employee team was formed out of personnel from all functional areas of the cooperative typically tasked with the Annual Meeting registration and voting procedures. Many co-ops now make it possible for Members to vote not only in person, but also

by mail and online. The employee team soon learned that optional voting methods could in fact be offered in a manner that was accurate, timely, convenient, transparent and accountable.



The employee team's recommendation to the Board requested giving Members the opportunity to vote on By-Law Amendments to authorize the use of other voting methods. The Board agreed unanimously to offer proposed By-Law Amendments for Member consideration at this year's Annual Meeting Saturday, October 12.

Coweta-Fayette EMC is always proud to host our Members in the fall and provide updates about co-op progress and future expectations. We realize that for myriad individual reasons, such as health, vacations, sporting, recreational events and many more, a significant number of Members are unable to attend our Annual Meeting each year. The proposed By-Law Amendments that will be presented to the Membership this year for a vote would make it possible for all Members to cast a ballot, whether they could attend the Annual Meeting or not. Choice is always good, and in this case, it truly follows the "one member, one vote" criteria cooperatives were founded upon.

The future opportunity to vote by mail or online, in addition to voting in person, would allow all Members equal participation in co-op governance. We value all Members and understand that your family and personal time is a precious commodity. If you would like to see more voting options available in the future, please consider attending our upcoming Annual Meeting to vote in favor of the proposed By-Law Amendments.

For the Team,

Anthony H. Sinclair "Tony"

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Operation Round Up Helps Seniors Beat the Heat this Summer

As Georgia dwellers, we know how soaring temperatures feel in the summertime. Can you imagine weathering the scorching August heat without air conditioning or fans? For many seniors in our area, that unbearable notion is an unfortunate reality.

This situation is all too common across the viciously hot, sun-soaked South – and often unbelievably dangerous, especially for the elderly. Thanks to Coweta County 911 and the EMC's Operation Round Up program, however, many of those living without relief from the heat received a helping hand and a cool breeze last month during a campaign to assist fixed-income seniors.

As a part of this initiative, the Coweta-Fayette Trust, Inc. Board of Directors awarded \$2,950 to Coweta County 911 to purchase and deliver 200 electric fans to elderly residents in the area. On July 5, Trust Board member Ben Sewell joined Kathy Shrader, Meals on Wheels Coordinator, and Jerry Bass, of Coweta County 911, in a fan delivery to Newnan resident Ernest Brantley.

According to Bass, the fan donation program begun in 2004 has been wildly successful and continues to expand – in 2011, the demand was so high they even ran out of fans!

"We feel it is important that we do all we can to serve Coweta County, especially during the hottest time of the year," he said. "And the elderly are most in need of fans in the summertime because of an abundance of heat-related deaths."

Bass said fan recipients are chosen after

discussions with senior centers and groups like Meals on Wheels.

Operation Round Up is a Coweta-Fayette EMC program that contributes more than \$250,000 each year to worthy groups in the cooperative service area. These awards are made possible by voluntary contributions from EMC 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.



Coweta-Fayette Trust Board member Ben Sewell (far left) joins Jerry Bass, of Coweta County 911 (far right), and Meals on Wheels Coordinator Kathy Shrader in delivering a fan to Ernest Brantley's Newnan home

Also pictured, above: After sweeping the porch, Ruth Strickland and "Mr. Issac" enjoy a cool breeze with her new fan.

Summer Safety Tips

When the weather gets hot, we head outdoors for sun and fun. Keep in mind some tips from the Electrical Safety Foundation International to make sure everyone has a safe summer.

Water and electricity don't mix



Summer is the season for swimming and boating, and awareness of electrical hazards around water can prevent deaths and injuries. Water and electricity don't mix.

- Use covers on outdoor power outlets, especially near swimming pools. Keep cords and electrical devices away from the water, and never handle electrical items before you've dried off.
- Use a ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) to help prevent electrocutions and electrical shock injuries. These

devices interrupt the flow of power v surge. Portable GFCIs require no too available at prices ranging from \$12

Lightning and storms



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- If weather conditions indicate a storm from doors and windows – or seek sl area away from trees and any metal, clotheslines, poles, and fences. If you far away as possible.

Local Chambers Key Factor in Region's Economic Growth

In the quest for community prosperity, nothing matters more than a sound economic development vision enhanced by robust business involvement.

At Coweta-Fayette EMC, we take that fact to heart. To do our part in helping the co-op service territory thrive, we participate in many Chambers of Commerce and their programs aimed at economic development. This sustained, concerted effort by business leaders, policymakers, local organizations and citizens – to name a few – is critical to an ever-rising standard of living and the true economic health of our region. Teamwork, ultimately, is the only route to success.



In Newnan, the Newnan-Coweta Chamber of Commerce brands their area as “Prosperity’s Front Door.” They support this concept with multiple annual events strengthening the business/community bond and by defining Coweta County as “the ultimate destination to grow your business and your family” – a strong community strategically positioned to provide all the ameni-

ties crucial to fostering industry growth and development.



In line with the Newnan Coweta Chamber’s campaign, Coweta-Fayette EMC supports: existing and new business development; partnering with education to help improve our workforce for the future; quality healthcare facilities and practitioners; local elected officials, development authority and business leaders; and especially co-op members, the most integral piece of the economic prosperity puzzle.

In Fayetteville, the Fayette Chamber of Commerce’s tagline is “Where Business and Community Connect.” Their vibrant network of businesses and organizations promotes strong leadership, entrepreneurship, education and community enhancement across Fayette, which is recognized on the state level as an “Entrepreneur Friendly Community.”

As a foundation for these tenets, the Fayette Chamber hosts several premier events, including an annual meeting gala, a Business on the Green Classic golf and tennis tournament, the Com-

munity Expo, a “Dome Roam” at the State Capitol and the Partners in Education Breakfast recognizing outstanding collaborations between schools and businesses.

In Franklin, the Heard County Chamber of Commerce seeks to provide value by maintaining and enhancing a prosperous economic climate for businesses, both existing and new, through support, promotion and collaboration, while respecting the region’s character, culture and diversity. Placing an emphasis on pride, progress and partnership, they encourage consumers to shop locally. Each spring, the chamber hosts an education luncheon, and each summer, they sponsor “A Chattahoochee Independence Day,” a large fireworks show and crafts fair.

As you can see, the Coweta-Fayette service territory is diverse and dynamic, and the economic development climate is ripe for growth. You can depend on your EMC to continue working collaboratively with other people, businesses and groups to assist them in meeting their goals. Each Chamber we support is as unique as the communities we serve, but they – and we – all share a united purpose: prosperity in our area.



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- If you’re in a group, spread out – don’t stand close together.
- Indoors, unplug electronics before the storm arrives, and don’t use corded phones.
- Avoid plumbing – sinks, bathtubs, faucets.
- Don’t forget about your pets. Doghouses are not safe from lightning, and chained animals are easy targets.
- If your home is flooded during a storm, don’t turn on appliances or electronics until given the okay by an electrician. If there’s laying water, don’t go inside. The water could be energized.



Working with large appliances

If your air conditioner goes out, keep a few things in mind before you start poking around. Large appli-

ances, such as air conditioners, are responsible for almost 20 percent of consumer-product electrocutions each year.

- Understand your electrical system – know which fuse or circuit breaker controls each switch, light, and outlet.
- Make sure circuits are turned off before starting work and take measures to ensure they’re not turned back on while working.
- Use a circuit tester – always test before you touch.
- Find more safety tips at esfi.org.

Source: *Electrical Safety Foundation International*

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devices interrupt the flow of power when they sense a surge. Portable GFCIs require no tools to install and are available at prices ranging from \$12 to \$30.

Lightning and storms



Lightning strikes are fatal in 10 percent of victims, and 70 percent suffer serious long-term effects, according to the National Weather Service. Because lightning can travel sideways for up to 10 miles, blue skies are not a sign of safety. If you hear thunder, take cover.

- If weather conditions indicate a storm, stay inside – away from doors and windows – or seek shelter in a low-lying area away from trees and any metal, including sheds, clotheslines, poles, and fences. If you're near water, stay as far away as possible.

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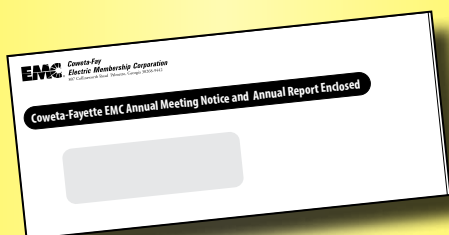
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Source: Electrical Safety Foundation International

Annual Report... New Look



Your annual report will have a different look this year. Instead of a folded newsletter like the one of the past, it will arrive in a regular window envelope marked Coweta-Fayette EMC Annual Meeting Notice: Annual Report enclosed.

This year we will be voting on some very important by-law changes. As we prepare for future voting options – like mail-in or online ballots – some of the current by-laws need changing to allow other options of voting. The way they are worded now, you must come to the annual meeting and vote during the business session.

We understand that everyone has busy lives and sometimes it is hard to schedule a day to attend the meeting. Therefore, we are working towards giving you other voting options. This will make it possible for all Members to have equal participation in co-op governance. As Mr. Sinclair stated in his article on the front of this newsletter, "We value all Members and understand that your family and personal time is a precious commodity."

The suggested changes will be included with your annual report, but you will actually need to vote in person at the meeting on October 12. For more details about this year's meeting, please check out the back of this newsletter.

Anthony H. Sinclair, President and CEO
C. Bradford Sears, Jr., Attorney
Douglas B. Warner, Attorney

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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POWERlines

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Coweta-Fayette

770-502-0226
www.utility.org

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



Member Appreciation and Annual Meeting

When: October 12, 2013 from 9:00 a.m. - Noon

Where: Coweta-Fayette EMC Headquarters Near Palmetto

Come join in the fun and learn more about your cooperative during this year's Member Appreciation Day. Each family will receive **a special gift** just for attending.

Entertainment will be by Alvarado Roadshow, a country band from Alvarado, Texas. They were here for last year's meeting and were enjoyed by all. Once again, they will entertain you with their true country style.

Fun activities can be enjoyed by the entire family. There will be games for the children and bingo for adults, plus door prizes, children's crafts, cotton candy, popcorn and soft drinks.

Information on energy efficiency, green power, Operation Round Up, Touchstone Energy, security and natural gas will be available outside on the midway before the meeting begins.

The Grand Prize will be a \$1,000 credit on your electric bill. You must be present to win, so be sure you mark Saturday, October 12, on your calendar and join us for a day of fun and valuable information at this year's member appreciation day and annual meeting.

