



Pathfinders and Bridge Builders

The employees at Coweta-Fayette EMC are looking to 2012 with optimism. Innovation is one of the key ingredients they will be using to serve you better in the New Year. For instance, an enhanced voice over IP phone system is being added to provide additional functionality, redundancy, capacity and Member-friendly features that will provide even better service to our Members.

We are also making significant progress towards the completion of our GPS/GIS project. We are inspecting, inventorying, tagging and obtaining GPS coordinates at every pole, transformer and other major piece of electric distribution equipment. All of the data collected will be utilized in our mapping system, engineering software and customer service database.

When we conclude this GPS/GIS project in 2013, we will have the most up-to-date and accurate electronic mapping system currently available. All information will be accessible in our offices or remotely in the field. We will be able to interface our mapping system – using almost surveyor-like accuracy – with any geo-referenced ESRI shape file of roads, water and sewer lines, county property parcel maps and aerial photographs, just to name a few.

Also on the horizon, the Georgia General Assembly will convene and begin the legislative process in the first half of January. We wish them wisdom and courage in carrying out their responsibilities. Georgia is blessed to have many great leaders willing to make the hard, but necessary, decisions.

At the November 29 Newnan-Coweta Chamber of Commerce Eggs and Issues Early Bird Forum, I had the great pleasure of hearing State Rep. Lynn Smith update us on what we could expect in the upcoming 2012 legislative

session. Rep. Smith did an outstanding job, and one particularly important issue she addressed was the pending federal government's

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulations and the negative economic impact it could have on Georgians. It was aptly described as the "EPA train wreck," and I personally think that is an appropriate term.

I have said many times that we are fortunate to live in an area where we are represented by leaders with integrity. Former State Sen. Mitch Seabaugh also attended the forum and expressed

his great pride in having served the people in our area. Sen. Seabaugh recently accepted an appointment as deputy state treasurer by Governor Deal, and we wish him every success as he continues to serve the good people of our state. We would also like to congratulate Mike Crane, who was elected to fill Sen. Seabaugh's District 28 position on December 6. The depth of leadership and professionalism exhibited by Mike and his fellow candidates is another testament to the wealth of talent alive in this community.

At your cooperative, we will be doing everything in our power to assist the local business community, civic leaders and elected officials to take the steps to enhance prosperity and "open the door" to a better quality of life for our Members and others in our service area.

Our employees plan to work to an even higher standard in 2012 – to be pathfinders and bridge builders within the community for YOU.

For the Team,

Anthony H. Sinclair "Tony"
Anthony H. Sinclair "Tony"





Our Lady of Mercy Catholic High School Athletic Director Bill Schmitz and several student athletes accept their award. Shown l-r are: Trizna Banos; Chris Donnay; Schmitz; Adam Rose; and Ashlyn Bodkin

Our Lady of Mercy Catholic High School Wins Cooperative Spirit Award

Coweta-Fayette EMC believes fairness and mutual respect are just two of the character-building qualities that represent good sportsmanship, and one school recently honored by the co-op – Our Lady of Mercy Catholic High School in Fairburn – definitely embodies that belief.

Mary Ann Bell, the EMC’s Vice President of Marketing, recently presented a 2011 Georgia High School Association’s (GHSAs) Cooperative Spirit Sportsmanship Award to the school’s Athletic Director Bill Schmitz and several student athletes in honor of their outstanding sportsmanship during the 2010-2011 school year.

Introduced in 2006, the award promotes sportsmanship at competitive events and honors the conduct of not only student athletes, but also fellow students, parents, coaches, spectators and the entire school community.

Coweta-Fayette Employee Honored for Community Service, Volunteerism at Georgia EMC Annual Meeting



During Georgia EMC’s annual meeting - which was held November 14 in Atlanta and fea-

tured Gov. Nathan Deal – longtime Coweta-Fayette EMC lineman Lanny Hammett was recognized as a finalist for the inaugural Community Service and Volunteerism Award.

This award was designed to highlight the wonderful and far-reaching work EMCs, their employees and directors do in Georgia each year. Hammett, who has worked tirelessly and quietly for his community and co-op over the decades, was nominated in the Employee of the Year category and honored as one of the top three volunteers among our state’s EMC personnel.

Coweta-Fayette EMC Employees Honored for Heroics

Three Coweta-Fayette EMC workers were recently recognized by Georgia EMC for likely saving the life of a man who experienced health problems at the co-op’s headquarters building in October 2010.

For their heroic efforts, Dawn Hunter, Rusty Rainey and Darrell Sewell each received a prestigious Life Saving Award during the association’s annual meeting in Atlanta November 14.

On the day of the incident, GRESCO Utility Service, Inc. representative Jason Chandler was visiting the EMC’s Palmetto location on a sales call when he began to experience severe health problems. Hunter, Rainey and Sewell leaped to action, calling 911 and monitoring his vitals until an ambulance arrived.

Chandler was rushed to Piedmont Fayette Hospital, where he was diagnosed with a life-threatening saddle or bilateral pulmonary embolism, a blood clot in each lung. He believes the trio’s prompt response probably saved his life.

“The employees at Coweta-Fayette EMC are a credit to their company and their community,” says Chandler.



Coweta-Fayette EMC employees Dawn Hunter, Darrell Sewell and Rusty Rainey (not pictured) received a prestigious Life Saving Award at Georgia EMC’s annual meeting in Atlanta November 14.

GA EMC’s Life Saving Award was established to recognize statewide EMC employees whose quick thinking and actions are instrumental in safeguarding others from dangerous or potentially deadly situations.

Spare Change Changes Lives

It's the little things that count in life – being kind to your neighbors, returning a lost wallet, picking up after yourself while enjoying the great outdoors. While each action may not amount to much alone, we see a big impact in our community when these small deeds are combined.

That's why Coweta-Fayette EMC is proud to offer Operation Round Up, a charitable campaign begun in 1989 by South Carolina's Palmetto Electric Cooperative and currently adopted by about 250 electric co-ops nationwide. Although initially created to help co-op members who could not pay housing, medical and utility bills, Operation Round Up programs at many EMCs began allocating monies to organizations that serve the community and are in the business of identifying need.

Since 1993, your cooperative's Operation Round Up program has been a successful one, contributing more than \$250,000 annually to worthy groups in the EMC service area. These awards were made possible by voluntary contributions from cooperative members whose monthly electric bills were "rounded up" to the nearest dollar. The difference between what was actually owed and the next highest dollar was placed in an interest-bearing account managed through a separate board of directors, the Coweta-Fayette EMC Trust.

One of our most popular Operation Round Up offshoots is "Bright Ideas," an educational grant program administered to schools and teachers for special projects outside the normal scope of everyday learning. This investment in education touches students' lives and helps schools struggling with ever-tighter budget constraints. After six years of Bright Ideas grants, along with the college and vocational scholarships also funded by Operation



OPERATION ROUND UP® COWETA-FAYETTE EMC

Round Up, Coweta-Fayette EMC has awarded almost \$1 million to educational endeavors.

We would like to thank all of our generous members who participate in the Operation Round Up program. Without you, none of this would be possible.

As a result of your thoughtful donations, many charitable organizations have received much-needed assistance and countless individuals facing hardship in our community have been helped.

Funds from Operation Round Up have provided things like wheelchairs, voice-activated computers, wheelchair lifts, handicap accessible vans, a veterans' flight to Washington, D.C., box fans, food pantry items and pre-natal counseling, just to name a few. Organizations like the American Red Cross, Fayette Special Olympics, Prevent Child Abuse Coweta, Coweta Commission on Veterans Affairs, Fayette Senior Services, Promise Place, Newnan/Coweta Boys & Girls Club and Coweta Pregnancy Services are merely a fraction of the groups who have benefitted from our members' donations.

We are truly blessed to have such amazing members, and we know even the smallest contributions are meaningful beyond measure. Together, we can use a little pocket change to change our community.

0% Interest Loans Extended until June



Looking for economical financing on energy efficiency upgrades? You're in luck - Coweta-Fayette EMC, in conjunction with Georgia EMC Federal Credit Union, will be able to extend our popular 0% interest rate offer through the first of June, 2012.

If you need added insulation, new windows or a more efficient heating and cooling system in your home and want to take advantage of this 0% interest loan, now is the time to make your upgrades! Don't miss this great opportunity - with 0% interest, you can borrow up to \$5,500 for up to 36 months.

Smart homeowners want to get the most value from their energy dollar. With a 0% loan, your home can be more comfortable AND you can potentially save money with energy efficient improvements.

Before you begin, call the EMC marketing department at 678-423-5428 for more details and program requirements.

Winter Weather Safety

If caught outdoors:

- ♦ Try to find shelter.
- ♦ If no shelter is available: try to stay dry; cover all exposed body parts; and build a fire for heat and to attract attention.

If caught in your vehicle:

- ♦ Stay inside it.
- ♦ Run the motor about 10 minutes each hour for heat.
- ♦ Open the window a little for fresh air and to avoid carbon monoxide poisoning.
- ♦ Turn on the dome light at night to be visible to rescuers.
- ♦ Tie a colored cloth, preferably red, to your antenna or door.
- ♦ After the snow stops, raise your hood to indicate help is needed.

- ♦ From time to time, move arms, legs, fingers and toes vigorously to keep blood circulating.
- ♦ Make sure the exhaust pipe is not blocked.

If indoors:

- ♦ Stay inside!
- ♦ When using an alternate heat source, such as a fireplace, wood stove or space heater, use fire safeguards and properly ventilate the area.
- ♦ If there is no heat: close off unused rooms; stuff towels and rags in cracks under doors; cover windows at night; eat and drink (Food provides body energy to produce heat. Water helps prevent dehydration.); and wear layers of loose-fitting, light-weight, warm clothing (Remove layers if needed to avoid overheating, perspiration and subsequent chills.).

Beware these dangers:

- ♦ Never use a generator, grill, camp stove or other gasoline-, propane- or charcoal-burning devices inside a home, garage, basement, crawlspace or partially enclosed area.
- ♦ Locate unit in a well-ventilated area to avoid carbon monoxide poisoning.

Remember others:

- ♦ Help people who require assistance, such as the elderly or those with disabilities.
- ♦ Check on your pets and make sure that their access to food and water is not blocked by snow, ice or other obstacles.

Provided by: The National Weather Service, Peachtree City



What are you
waiting for?

Apply today for our
college and technical
scholarships!

At Coweta-Fayette EMC, we take education seriously, and we think it's our corporate responsibility to support local students and the educational systems within our service area.

That's why we established the Melissa Segars Memorial Scholarships and Southern Crescent Technical and West Georgia Technical Scholarships, all of which are funded through the EMC's Operation Round Up program.

Melissa Segars Scholarships are available in \$3,000 and \$1,500 amounts, and applications may be picked up at your high school counselor's office or on our website at **www.utility.org** (click on "For My Community," followed by "Schools" and "Scholarships"). Applicants must be graduating seniors who reside in our service area and have been accepted at an accredited college or university. Applications for Melissa Segars must be turned in to a Coweta-Fayette EMC office by March 1.

Technical scholarships are available in \$1,000 increments and can be obtained from either participating technical schools or from our website. Applicants must live in our service area and may be high school seniors or older adults wishing to return to school for technical training. These applications are also due by March 1, but must be submitted to one of the above technical schools you have chosen to attend.

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

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Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Calling all exceptional students – It's Washington Youth Tour Time!

Looking for an exciting summer learning experience that may turn into the journey of a lifetime? If you are a high school sophomore or junior, you could be one of two students to win an all-expense paid trip to our nation's capital from Coweta-Fayette EMC.

This prestigious leadership opportunity is made available each year to Georgia students. If chosen, you will join more than 100 other teens in representing our state during the 2012 Washington Youth Tour, scheduled for June 14-21 in D.C.

The fast-paced, high-energy program is designed to give students a taste of democracy in action, while also encouraging them to become public servants and exposing them to our country's rich history through visits to national landmarks.

"Arlington Cemetery made me realize we live in a wonderful nation that thousands of individuals are willing to give their lives for, and we should not take freedom for granted," remarked one former student delegate.

That sentiment underscores the significance of the program – to participate in an unforgettable week-long journey in the nation's capital that includes face-to-face meetings with state and national leaders.

The tour begins in Georgia as students get to know each other, learn about our state's 42 EMCs and the electric co-op industry and enjoy a private tour of the birthplace of rural electrification – the

Little White House in Warm Springs.

The group then travels to Washington to connect with more than 1,500 students from across the country. While there, delegates will lay a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington Cemetery and tour the U.S. Supreme Court, Bureau of Printing and Engraving, Mount Vernon, the National Cathedral, Ford's Theater and Smithsonian and Holocaust Museums. Students will also visit memorials honoring Presidents Franklin Roosevelt, Jefferson and Lincoln, as well as World War II and the Vietnam and Korean Wars.

Entrants will be required to write a 500-word essay from a choice of topics supplied by the EMC. Deadline for the essays will be March 15. Students interested in learning leadership skills, developing life-long friendships and making a pilgrimage to our nation's capital should contact Amy Lott by phone at 770-502-0226, extension 4423, or by e-mail at alott@utility.org for more information and a kit of resource materials.



*2011 Winner
Rose Wilmot, of
Fayetteville*