



Spirit of Cooperation and Compromise a Recipe for Success

As President/CEO of Coweta-Fayette EMC, I feel privileged to participate in many Chamber of Commerce, economic development and educational meetings and initiatives throughout the counties we serve. Our co-op service area is diverse and offers a wide variety of amenities.

To supplement these thriving communities, we provide dependable energy services at a reasonable cost, and we are also extremely successful at delivering superior member/customer service. Improving the quality of life for our consumers is an important strategic goal for our employees, management and Board of Directors.

Our whole co-op works hard and smart in coordination with everyone to promote economic prosperity. Sometimes we lead, and sometimes we participate as a member of the team. Our primary goal is to put consumers' interests first in all that we do; it does not matter to us who gets the credit, just that the results improve our members' lives, enhance and expand educational opportunities and provide good careers for our children.

I often say to our employees that our jobs must also involve bridge-building and path-finding. We think there are always opportunities for elected officials, community organizations, business leaders and citizens to collaborate harmoniously to reach even greater goals together.

It occurs to me that the most innovative ideas we have implemented in my cooperative career came about because we conducted ourselves as a team. The result involved putting a variety of talented, goal-oriented individuals together who accept success as the only outcome.

Sometimes the best answer is right in the middle of the "Bell Curve" area of two major opposing positions. A wise person I trust and admire, some-

one who once served as a state legislator, said to me, "Tony, when a legislative body comes together in agreement on a piece of legislation, and no one likes everything in the bill, you have probably done a good job, and the citizens will benefit at the least cost as a result."



Coweta-Fayette EMC proudly serves over 74,000 member locations within the counties of Coweta, Fayette, Clayton, Fulton, Heard, Meriwether, Spalding and Troup. Of the over 900 electric co-ops in the U.S., we are the 40th-largest. We are truly big enough to serve, but more importantly: we are small enough to care, and we always will!

The Fayette Chamber of Commerce's tagline is "Where Business and Community Connect," and the Newnan-Coweta Chamber's branding statement is "Prosperity's Front Door." These are both excellent examples of defining an organization's purpose in a simple manner that clearly states intention and direction and provides a benchmark of success. All the locations within our service area are unique – that is what makes living in the Coweta-Fayette EMC service area such a delight.

You can depend on your EMC to continue working collaboratively with other people, businesses and groups in the communities we serve to assist them in meeting their goals. We understand the spirit of cooperation and compromise, and it truly is a recipe for success.

For the Team,

Anthony H. Sinclair "Tony"

Anthony H. Sinclair "Tony"



Fayetteville Fire Dept. Receives Life-Saving Devices

In an effort to help the Fayetteville Fire Department serve the citizens of Fayette County, the Coweta-Fayette EMC Trust, Inc. Board of Directors/Operation Round Up recently donated funds to help purchase three Life Pak Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) and accessories.

An AED is a portable electronic device that automatically diagnoses potentially life-threatening cardiac problems and is able to treat a patient through defibrillation, the application of electrical therapy. This method stops arrhythmia, allowing the heart to reestablish an effective rhythm. With simple audio and visual commands, AEDs are designed for the layman, and are a critical first aid tool for first responders and good Samaritans alike.

According to Fayetteville's Deputy Fire Chief, Linda Partridge, the AEDs will help the department provide basic life support for Fayette County residents. "In the past three years, [we have] responded to an average of 1,450 emergency medical calls each year," she said. "Our current AEDs were purchased in 2003 and are in need of replacement due to their age."

With the new AEDs funded by Operation Round Up, the City of Fayetteville Fire Department will be able to replace outdated equipment and streamline patient care.

"Our first priority at Coweta-Fayette EMC is safety, and we fully endorse similar initiatives in our community," said Coweta-Fayette EMC CEO Anthony "Tony" Sinclair. "We are honored to help Fayetteville's brave first responders provide the best public assistance possible."

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.

Don't get stung!

Tiny Pests, Big Problems: Treat Fire Ants Before They Damage Equipment

Mother Nature is fairly unpredictable – even the smallest creatures can have a huge impact on our environment. One of the biggest nuisances for electric cooperatives and their members comes from the unlikelyst of tiny perpetrators: the fire ant.

Fire ants are widely known in our area for their lively and aggressive behavior, swarming over anything from pets to people, and their painful stings have probably affected us all at one time or another. They invade homes, school yards, athletic fields, golf courses, parks, farms and electrical equipment, costing humans billions of dollars every year in repairs and treatment.

These little insects constitute a whopping \$638 million-a-year headache for the nation's electric and telecom industries. Annually, they have also caused about \$6 billion in damages in other sectors, including schools and HVAC companies. They mostly live in the Southeast, but are continuing to migrate westward.



Fire ants infest about 320 million and for unknown reasons, they are attracted to electrical circuits and switching mechanisms. Upon contact with live wires, they get electrocuted before releasing pheromones that alert the rest of the colony doesn't realize what's happened to the stimulus. Eventually, the accumulation of ants can prevent equipment from working properly and cause a voltage problem.

Coweta-Fayette EMC has an ongoing program that includes inspecting for fire ants. However, to prevent fire ants, Coweta-Fayette EMC to stop fire ants, animal control, power lines and/or the power supply service will not be interrupted due to fire ant infestation.

Members can help reduce the chance of fire ant infestation by watching for signs of fire ants on electrical equipment. They can potentially cause damage in color, and their nests can damage your transformer. It



Brooks and Bernhard Area Substations Upgraded

Coweta-Fayette EMC is continually improving our system to provide safe and reliable power for cooperative members. Upgrading, replacing and installing infrastructure is necessary for improvement and enables your EMC to meet the future load growth expected in our service area.

Recently, the co-op completed a construction project in south Fayette County that was part of a long-range plan to convert our distribution system from 12,470 volts to 25,000 volts. The project included upgrades at both the Bernhard and Brooks substations enabling the EMC to use higher line voltage and therefore boost possible capacity. In addition to the substation changes, distribution transformers, line insulators, arrestors and other associated equipment were also upgraded to accommodate the higher voltage. This increase will make the distribution system more efficient by reducing line losses, which will in turn enhance the quality of service. Also beneficial, the need for additional substations and conductor replacements can be postponed.

It took approximately three years to complete this project in the Fayette area. A lot of coordination between EMC employees, businesses, schools and residents was needed to make this change-over possible. Your understanding and help during this period was much appreciated.

There are other ways your EMC is working to enhance reliability. As part of a regular main-

EMC linemen upgrade substations in Fayette County to increase voltage and boost system efficiency.



tenance program, infrared imaging cameras are being used to survey substations and other equipment to determine hot spots that can be addressed before they cause power failures. EMC employees are also trained to look for potential problems in the field. There are always unforeseen circumstances beyond our control, but we plan and stay prepared for those situations.

Your cooperative works hard and takes pride in giving our members reliable, affordable service—when upgrades are needed, Coweta-Fayette EMC takes action.

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with your insurance provider to make sure you are covered for damage caused by fire ants and other animals.

*Contributing source:
Victoria A. Rocha, Electric
Co-op Today*



Check for fire ant mounds along the base of your transformer – if undetected and untreated, the colony could damage equipment and cause potential outages.



Five Ways to Spring into Energy Efficiency

Winter blahs got you feeling sluggish? Chances are your home may also be running poorly. Spring marks a perfect time of year to clear the air and make your house (and your life!) more efficient. Here are five quick tips that will save both energy and money:

- Seal cracks and gaps – consider adding weather stripping around leaky doors and caulking around window frames. A caulking gun is easy to use and can seal up leaks around vents, ductwork and windows. A typical member at Coweta-Fayette EMC may save more than \$200 annually by taking this simple step.
- Change filters regularly (furnace and air conditioner filters monthly). Filthy filters could create the world's most expensive dirt by restricting air flow, making your heating and cooling system work harder and reducing its overall efficiency.
- Clean your refrigerator inside and out, and check the settings. Ideally, a refrigerator's temperature should be between 37 and 40 degrees for maximum operating efficiency. When it's time to replace your old refrigerator, be sure to buy one that's ENERGY STAR rated.
- Think sun block. By pulling down the shades on your windows this spring and summer, you could save about \$35 a year. Your local hardware store likely carries lots of inexpensive window coverings. Best of all, by blocking the sun, your house will stay cool and comfortable year-round.
- Enjoy spring breezes. Use a clothesline during warmer months and let sunlight and breezes dry clothes naturally. This will reduce your electric bill by not running a dryer, and may also add a genuine clean, fresh scent to your family's laundry.

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Fire ants infest about 320 million acres in the U.S., and for unknown reasons, they are attracted to electrical circuits and switching mechanisms. When fire ants make contact with live wires, they get electrocuted ... but not before releasing pheromones that attract other ants. The rest of the colony doesn't realize what is happening; they simply respond to the stimulus. Eventually, the accumulation of dead fire ants may prevent equipment from working properly and could lead to a potential outage or voltage problem.



Coweta-Fayette EMC has an ongoing maintenance program to inspect underground pad-mounted transformers and other equipment, and this includes inspecting for fire ants. However, it is beyond the control of Coweta-Fayette EMC to stop fire ants, animals and/or vermin from interfering with power lines and/or the power supply. We are unable to guarantee that service will not be interrupted due to acts of nature or equipment failure.

Members can help reduce the chance of an outage or voltage problem by watching for signs of fire ants in their yards around electrical equipment and by treating the area before they can potentially cause damage. Fire ants are reddish-brown in color, and their mounds may be found along the base of your transformer. It is also recommended that you check



with your insurance provider to make sure you are covered for damage caused by fire ants and other animals.

*Contributing source:
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Attention Businesses: Join the Co-op Connections Discount Program for Greater Exposure

Coweta-Fayette EMC, in conjunction with other Touchstone Energy cooperatives around the country, developed the Co-op Connections program in 2007 to deliver more value to our members and assist participating businesses in increasing customer visits.

The Co-op Connections Card program benefits our members by offering valuable discounts from our participating businesses. A list of these businesses is already on our website at www.utility.org, and we would like to add your name as well. Any discount you can offer, big or



small, will be appreciated and will help you generate more business.

This program is free to our participating businesses, and you will receive free advertisement by having your deal listed on our website.

Our discount deals presently include automotive, clothing, dining, beauty supplies, entertainment and much more. You can offer any discount you like. We only ask that you agree to make the offer for at least one year.

If you are interested or would like more information, please contact us at 678-423-5428 or email Megan at mphillips@utility.org.

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Douglas B. Warner, Attorney

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Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

All Fire Alarms Are Not the Same

Don't Be a Victim

Over \$4 billion in property losses and 400,000 residential fires happen every year in the U.S. When they are functioning properly, home fire alarms go a long way toward saving lives. The latest in fire-detection technology and monitored fire alarm systems can save your family, your possessions and your home.

How Monitored Systems Work

With Relyco's monitored fire alarm systems, you get the best protection available anywhere. Relyco alarms use the latest fire detection technologies to detect both heat and smoke. Upon sensing smoke or unusually high temperatures, a smoke or heat detector

installed by Relyco, sets off your alarm system and sends a signal to the monitoring station that alerts the fire department. This means that your property and belongings stand a better chance of surviving the fire, even if you are not at home.

And, remember, monitored fire alarms can save you as much as 20 percent on your homeowner's insurance. Call Relyco today at 770-253-4053 for more information.



Security Resources

