



Cooperatives and Communities Have a Story to Tell

Hello, everyone – we at Coweta-Fayette hope your year has begun with promise. It has for us, and I am optimistic that 2014 and 2015 will produce continued economic improvements directly benefitting EMC members' quality of life. Our counties, municipalities, political and community leaders, businesses and citizens are working together, and the results have been outstanding. The Fayette Visioning Plan currently under development is an excellent example: a diverse group of focused, dedicated and talented individuals from all walks of life are proceeding forward with passion to benefit Fayette County.



Economic advancement is accomplished best when entire communities are involved. We have stellar leadership at our local development authorities – and they do a fabulous job – but everyone's help is needed. When business consultants or company officials visit our area in search of a new industry location, they look at many things besides land, utility and communications infrastructures, incentives and taxes.

The quality of life and people are also high on a potential business/industry prospect's list. Local shopping, dining, entertainment and recreational options, as well as low crime rates, are examples of assets that enable us to recruit companies that provide good jobs and benefits.

When a business scout arrives and meets friendly people who go out of their way to make visitors feel they are touring a "hometown," not just a "town" – that is priceless. It may be pleasant words from restaurant staff, competent service from a retail salesperson or clean and safe walking trails: any of these small factors could play a significant part in a business decision to relocate here. At the co-op, we often say, "We are big enough to serve, but small enough to care." That same co-op attitude is also true of the considerate Members we serve.

Similar to Fayette's Visioning Plan, we will also define a new "Coweta-Fayette EMC Strategic Five-

Year Plan" over the course of 2014. Preparing for the future is something we practice continually. Our personnel are flexible and adapt quickly to a changing utility environment and economic factors beyond our control, such as the recession over the last several years.

As a co-op, we exercise long-term planning for generation, transmission and distribution infrastructure needs and the resulting financial requirements. In the coming year, we will review in great detail our cooperative cost of service. We regularly adjust our actions based on local growth and technology innovations, and also assess our customer service activities to find areas for improvement. Although we know perfection is unattainable, we always strive for excellence and progress. And when we haven't succeeded in delivering our best? We believe in apologizing.

Jo Ann Emerson, the CEO of our national association, NRECA (National Rural Electric Cooperative Association), told me last year that she would like all electric cooperatives to tell their wonderful and successful stories. The Coweta-Fayette EMC story began with neighbors helping neighbors to provide electricity to rural areas where none was available. After being formed in 1945, electricity was ready for use in 1947 by a grateful group of founding Members. We now provide power at over 75,000 locations! Your co-op serves not only residential members and small commercial businesses, but also many multi-national corporations that conduct business worldwide. We have the employee talent, resources and future vision to serve any load wishing to locate in our service area. As does our community, in different ways. We should all tell our story – beginning today!

For the Team,

Anthony H. Sinclair "Tony"
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Coweta-Fayette EMC Crew Chief Awarded for Saving Neighbor's Life

Pat Long's Providential Timing and CPR Efforts Lead to Full Recovery for Victim

A maintenance operations crew chief at Coweta-Fayette EMC was recently recognized for saving the life of a neighbor.

Pat Long received a Life Saving Award from Georgia EMC during the statewide trade association's annual meeting in Augusta. On Nov. 10, 2012, Long and his wife, Kay, were driving on a back road in Chattahoochee Hills when they noticed a man lying on the ground near his garbage cans. They pulled over and ran to the man; his skin was blue, and they could not find a pulse. Hearing a sound from the man, Long and his wife began CPR, taking turns giving the labor-intensive compressions. Pat, who has been with Coweta-Fayette EMC for 35 years, is CPR certified, and Kay is a CPR instructor.

The Longs succeeded in their rescue attempt, and when EMTs arrived, the man was breathing on his own, although labored. "They put oxygen on him, and he started to get his color back," said Long, adding that it took about seven minutes for help to arrive.

The man, who lives only a few miles from the Longs, made a full recovery. He did not experience



brain damage, so it is estimated he had fallen less than five minutes before they arrived. The medical cause of the incident was never discovered.

Long said he is very proud to receive the Life Saving Award and shares the honor with his wife. "It's a perfect example of why everyone should learn CPR," he said.

Long was among eight employees from three EMCs to be recognized with a Life Saving Award during Georgia EMC's annual meeting. The Life Saving Award was established to recognize EMC employees whose quick thinking and actions are instrumental in safeguarding others from dangerous or potentially deadly situations.

Holiday Helpers: EMC Employees Give Back to



To give back to a community that has given us so much, Coweta-Fayette employees again joined together to make several local benevolent projects successful over the holidays.

EMC personnel have helped make many Christmas wishes come true in the co-op service territory over the past 17 seasons, and this year was no different. Due to a continued shortage of provisions in local food pantries, employees

decided once more to contribute by helping to three area charitable organizations.

The cooperative-wide project began with the Employee Benevolent Committee calling for clothing and monetary donations to benefit Alliance Outreach, a coalition of churches for those in need; Angel's House, an emergency shelter; and Meals on Wheels, an organization that provides food to the elderly.

By mid-December, over 2,000 items had been counted, sorted, boxed and delivered by EMC volunteers.

Although the atmosphere was festive while employees unloaded donations at One Roof, Angel's House and Meals on Wheels, the reality of hunger, hard times, homelessness and poverty definitely hit home for many participants.

Storm Sirens Ready for Potential Spring Tornadoes

The only thing predictable about spring weather is its *un*predictability. There are pop-up storms, lightning strikes, hail showers, straight-line winds, and yes, tornadoes. An average of 26 tornadoes per year across Georgia, in fact. So what does one do in the face of such volatility? Be prepared and ready to act. Take every precaution necessary. *Stay informed.*

To address this last important and often hard-to-implement item, Coweta-Fayette EMC decided last spring to assist Coweta County with an early warning storm siren project to help keep the community informed of approaching tornadoes.

“While tumultuous weather is inevitable, being unaware is not,” said EMC CEO Anthony “Tony” Sinclair. “We truly care about our members and the communities we serve, and doing what we can to ensure emergency preparedness on their behalf is crucial. It’s just who we are as a cooperative.”

The system of 13 sirens, located at parks, recreation areas and other gathering places, has been up and running for months, but the true test will come this spring. The devices, designed to warn those in the vicinity of a tornado to take shelter immediately, will also have the capability to email, text or call certain critical facilities in the area, such as day-care centers, nursing homes, hospitals and government offices.

If severe weather hits our area, members should contact Coweta-Fayette EMC at 770-502-0226 or www.utility.org to report any outages or view storm updates.



the Community at Christmas

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“You don’t realize how blessed you are until seeing people in our community whose basic needs aren’t met, especially around the holidays,” said project organizer Marsha McDaniel. “This yearly charitable activity makes a huge impact on the recipients – and us. These amazing organizations and

their clients have truly been an inspiration to all of us.”

In addition to helping the charities with food and other items from employees, the Benevolent Committee also donated \$1,500 (matched by another \$1,500 from the EMC) to assist the groups financially.



Holiday Helpers: EMC Employees Give Back to the Community at Christmas



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The cooperative-wide project began before Thanksgiving, with the EMC's Employee Benevolent Committee calling for non-perishable food, toiletries, clothing and monetary donations to benefit Newnan's One Roof Ecumenical Alliance Outreach, a coalition of churches bringing spiritual and financial aid to those in need; Angel's House, an emergency shelter for teenage girls; and Meals on Wheels, an organization that provides meals to seniors.

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Be Ready Before a Storm Strikes

Lights out?
Store these
items at home in
case of an outage.



☐ **Water**

Three-day supply,
one gallon per
person per day.

☐ **Tools**

Flashlight and
extra batteries,
can opener,
wind-up radio.



☐ **Food**

Three-day supply
of non-perishable,
high-energy food.

☐ **First Aid, Medicine**

First aid supplies,
hand sanitizer,
and at least a
week's supply of
medications for the family.



☐ **Documents**

Include copies of passports,
birth certificates, and
insurance policies.

**Learn more at
www.Ready.gov.**



*Source: American Red Cross, Federal
Emergency Management Agency*

See what everyone's buzzing about... connect with us on Facebook and Twitter!



Coweta-Fayette EMC is so fortunate to have amazing members and employees, and we want to ensure you have the opportunity to connect with us and vice versa.

To enhance our engagement with consumers, we launched a Facebook page last April and a Twitter page in August. So far our experience has been overwhelmingly positive, and we love hearing your unique story and sharing ours.

Whether it's to provide efficiency tips, storm info and office closings, or to offer safety advice, outage updates and community news, we are always listening and ready to help with fresh, valuable content. We want to talk to you!

Come visit us online and see what your EMC is doing on behalf of our membership – simply click “like” or “follow” today to join the conversation.



www.facebook.com/CowetaFayetteEMC
www.twitter.com/CoFayEMC

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C. Bradford Sears, Jr., Attorney
Douglas B. Warner, Attorney

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Could YOU Be Our Next Washington Youth Tour Winner?

Why waste another summer lying around the pool, when you could have the journey of a lifetime? If you are a teenager looking for an exciting learning experience (that also bulks up your college resume), look no further than the 2014 Washington Youth Tour. Just think – in six months' time, 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, open to high school sophomores and juniors, is made available each year to Georgia students. If chosen, you will join more than 100 other teens in representing our state during the event, scheduled for June 12-19 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.

The tour begins in Georgia as students get to know each other, learn about our state's 41 EMCs and the electric co-op industry and enjoy a pri-

vate 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 12. 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 770-252-7446 or by email at alott@utility.org for more information and a kit of resource materials.

