



‘Move Over for Linemen’: It’s the Law in Georgia

Climbing a pole is dangerous enough for electric linemen without vehicles whizzing close by at hazardous speeds. Georgia’s new “Move Over for Linemen” law, effective July 1, aims to help protect utility workers by making drivers more aware of their presence, and therefore more cautious. The state’s 41 EMCs, including Coweta-Fayette EMC, recently brought the issue of line worker safety before the 2016 Georgia General Assembly.

The new legislation requires any motorist approaching linemen at an active work site—indicated by traffic cones or flashing yellow, amber, white or red lights—to change lanes or reduce velocity to below the posted limit. They must also be prepared to stop. Any driver who fails to change lanes or decrease speed may be fined up to \$250 per incident. The law applies to all types of utility workers—electric, natural gas, cable and telecommunications personnel, as well as right-of-way crews and contractors.

Gov. Nathan Deal signed the bill during a statewide event to recognize Lineman Appreciation Month in April. The EMCs, Georgia Power, a number of municipal systems, Electric Cities of Georgia, MEAG Power and others gathered at the State Capitol as

the governor, legislators and the public said, “Thank you!” to line workers in attendance.

The new law and added protections are critical to safeguard workers. According to the Georgia Department of Highway Safety, emergency vehicles parked beside a highway are vulnerable to crashes, even with lights flashing. Consequently, the original law was created in 2003 to reduce injuries and fatalities to police officers, paramedics, firefighters, wrecker operators and highway maintenance workers.

“This bill will help the selfless linemen and women in Georgia go home safely to their families after working around the clock to keep our lights on, even in extreme weather conditions,” said Gov. Deal as he signed the bill April 19.

“Our crews—who already perform potentially deadly work to keep power flowing to our homes and businesses every day—deserve as safe an environment as possible,” said Coweta-Fayette EMC CEO Chris Stephens. “I’m proud of Georgia’s lawmakers for recognizing the importance of this legislation.”

Georgia joins Alabama, Florida, Mississippi, North Carolina and Tennessee in having move over laws that include utility workers.





The President's Message

*Chris Stephens
President and CEO*

Since 1947, one of Coweta-Fayette EMC's main missions has been to deliver reliable power to our members. Our cooperative directors and employees have always made this promise of dependability a priority, and we've consistently ranked in the top 30% when compared to other Georgia co-ops as a result. In 2015, we even implemented a new strategic plan that named reliability as one of our core values. In keeping with that plan, we have expanded efforts to enhance our maintenance and technological solutions and are devising further updates for the future.

Inspecting power lines, electrical equipment and substations has always been a daily routine for our line-man and maintenance technicians. Several years ago, however, we also began using infrared thermography to help identify potential points of failure in our substations. We have now enhanced the use of this technology on downline equipment and devices, including underground pad-mounted gear and transformers. These inspections find hot spots caused by defects in connections and components. The thermography indicates areas of excess heat so that problems can be corrected before damage to equipment or power outages occur. An increase in temperature is a failure indicator, which makes the use of infrared technology one of the best diagnostic tools available for finding any early stages of degeneration throughout our system.

Another solution we have used for a number of years is supervisory control and data acquisition, or SCADA. This program allows us to remotely moni-

tor substation equipment and downline devices in real time to better understand the status of the distribution system serving our members. Through advancements in technology and communications, we are now able to expand the traditional SCADA program into more of a distribution management system (DMS). One advantage of a DMS solution is that it gives us the ability to analyze Coweta-Fayette EMC's system status and make reconfiguration decisions if a service interruption occurs. This helps isolate the problem and redirect the flow of current from one source to another in mere minutes, ultimately restoring power to affected consumers. We are currently in the process of completing a pilot project testing this technology and anticipate expanding the capability to other parts of the system.

With our outage management system (OMS)—yet another technological tool we've put in place to help us restore your power—member information is logged into the program when someone calls to report an outage and then automatically grouped with other consumers experiencing a similar problem. This process helps us determine the location of the issue with more accuracy and speed than ever before.

Speaking of outage reporting, there are many ways to contact us about a service interruption. One of the most efficient methods, however, is to use our Coweta-Fayette EMC app, which may be downloaded to your smartphone or tablet. This application not only allows a member to notify us of a problem, it also provides a way he or she may view current outages throughout the system on our OMS map viewer.

These are just a few of the technologies we are using to enhance reliability. As we move forward, the EMC's skilled employees will perform the routine maintenance we have always completed, but we will also continually seek innovative solutions that allow us to better serve our members. That is a commitment you can count on—from our board of directors, employees and me.

How to be Energy Efficient in Humid Climates

Why does a 95°F day in Georgia feel hotter than the same temperature in the Southwest? Why do dry heat and humid heat feel so different, and how does this affect your strategy for home energy efficiency?

Generally speaking, when there is more moisture in the air, the temperature feels hotter than it actually is because moist air is closer to saturation than dry air. High humidity will make the air feel hotter, while low humidity will make the temperature feel cooler.

The majority of energy used to make the home feel comfortable is spent on home air conditioning and cooling. The first priority is heat reduction. However, in humid areas, moisture reduction is nearly as important as lowering the indoor air temperature. If a home has too much moisture, indoor air quality can be compromised and mold and mildew problems can develop.

The first line of energy defense is to ensure that your home is properly insulated and sealed in order to keep the heat and humidity that surround the house from getting inside. Leaky ducts, windows and doors can cause energy loss, making the HVAC system work much harder to wring the moisture out of the air and exacerbate potential indoor air quality issues. Homes that are "sealed tight" are easier to keep cool and dry.

Next, make sure your HVAC system is the right size. The U.S. Department of Energy estimates that most current residential systems are oversized. If your unit is too big, you will pay higher energy bills, and you won't get the efficiency level or comfort you want and expect. It is also likely that the unit is "short cycling," constantly turning off and on, never achieving optimum efficiency. When the unit runs in short bursts, it will not operate long enough to eliminate all of the humidity in your home.

If you would like more information about how to save energy, contact our energy experts at Coweta-Fayette EMC.

2016 Melissa Segars Scholarship Winners

Congratulations to another group of extraordinary young men and women from Coweta-Fayette EMC's service territory. We are always amazed by the caliber of local teenagers, and these winners are no exception!

To further enrich our cooperative's commitment to community, the Coweta-Fayette Trust, Inc., Board of Directors recently awarded \$44,000 in scholarships to these 21 deserving high school students for the 2016 school year.

We applaud the dedication and drive shown by these hard-working young people!



Sehr Abdulla
Fayette County High School
Parents: Aryn & Rukhsana Abdulla
\$3,000



James Aldredge
Starr's Mill High School
Parents: Jim & Laura Aldredge
\$3,000



Abbigail Coe
Northgate High School
Parents: Ken & Melissa Coe
\$1,500



Lauren Colston
Landmark Christian School
Parents: Alvin & Sheila Colston
\$1,500



Zabeena Dharani
McIntosh High School
Parent: Anila Dharani
\$3,000



Ryan Fuqua
Northgate High School
Parents: Greg & Tracey Fuqua
\$1,500



Allison Gary
Whitewater High School
Parent: Mitzi Gary
\$3,000



Jasmine Guy
East Coweta High School
Parents: Marc & Sharilyn Guy
\$1,500



Lindley Hudson
Newnan High School
Parents: Thomas & Christi Hudson
\$1,500



Lily Kocsis
Starr's Mill High School
Parents: Paul & Susie Kocsis
\$1,500



Anna Lisicia
Landmark Christian School
Parents: Joseph & Karen Lisicia
\$1,500



Raahina Malik
Fayette County High School
Parents: Amanullah & Shairoz Malik
\$3,000



Lindsay McKay
Whitewater High School
Parents: Wesley & Melissa McKay
\$1,500



Amber Melton
Whitewater High School
Parents: Bill & Tammy Melton
\$1,500



Parker Nail
Whitewater High School
Parents: Michael & Rebecca Nail
\$1,500



Grace Neal
Newnan High School
Parent: Debbie Neal
\$3,000



Matthew Ragan
East Coweta High School
Parents: Rob & Sue Ragan
\$1,500



Asia Ridley
Fayette County High School
Parent: Sherese Floyd
\$3,000



Janice Sanders
Newnan High School
Parent: Yvette Partridge
\$3,000



Amiri Savage
Landmark Christian School
Parents: Carter & Angela Savage
\$1,500



Christine Wilson
Newnan High School
Parents: Chad & Jennifer Wilson
\$2,000



Home Security System



Energy Savings



Remote Video



Remote Door Lock



Remote Lighting

Real Security is Home Automation from Relyco.



Yes, you can have it all. Control over the systems of your home while you're away. Control your door locks for security, lights for energy savings, and even keep an eye on family pets. Monitor it all from your smartphone. Talk about peace of mind. Relyco means safe, secure and satisfied.



Security Resources

770-253-4053
relycosecurity.com

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

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Nominating Committee for Upcoming Board Elections Announced

Bylaws of Coweta-Fayette Electric Membership Corporation

Article III Directors

3.05 Nominations by Nominating Committee.

It shall be the duty of the Board to appoint, not less than forty-five (45) days before the date of the meeting of the members at which board members are to be elected, a committee on nominations consisting of not less than five (5) nor more than eleven (11) members who shall be selected so as to give equitable representation to the geographical areas served by the Cooperative. No member of the Board may serve on such committee. Written notice of the names of the members of the committee and meeting date for the committee shall be provided to the members prior to such meeting. It shall be the duty of the nominating committee to meet not less than forty-five (45) days prior to such meeting and to nominate one or more candidates for each seat on the Board of Directors that is to be filled at such meeting.

3.06 Nominations by Petition. Other nominations for such elections may be made by written petition signed by not less than fifteen (15) members, which shall be submitted to the Secretary of the Cooperative or his/her designee not less than forty-five (45) days prior to such meeting.

3.07 Notice of Nominees. The Secretary shall be responsible for posting at headquarters of the Cooperative the nominees for each seat made by the nominating committee and by petition and shall provide written notice thereof to the members by separate written notice according to the rules and procedures promulgated by the Board of Directors.

The following Nominating Committee was appointed by the Board of Directors at their regular meeting held June 28, 2016. This committee will meet August 16 and prepare a list of nominations that will be posted at the EMC office at least 45 days before the annual meeting on October 8, 2016

2016 Nominating Committee:

Kenneth Charles Baker
Newnan

John B. Harp, Jr.
Fayetteville

Joe R. Nolen
Newnan

Ronald Davis
Fayetteville

James R. Lanier
Newnan

Don H. Spaller
Brooks

Irene Edwards
Fayetteville

Fran C. McElwaney
Brooks

Charles R. Sykes, Jr.
Brooks

The three directors whose terms expire this year are:

Therol Brown
Seat 1
Fayette County

Daniel C. Langford, Jr.
Seat 2
Fayette County

J. Neal Shepard, Jr.
Seat 1
Coweta County