



## Cooperative Spirit Award

Today's society is full of examples highlighting lack of civility, lack of empathy for neighbors and a general loss of respect for others. You see these every day on any television channel or news broadcast. The younger generation often bears the brunt of these accusations. However, Georgia high schools are leading the way in changing this perception through the behavior of their student athletes exhibit on the field and fans in the stands.

Since 2006, Coweta-Fayette has joined with other EMC's across Georgia, to recognize schools who exhibit exemplary sportsmanship during competitive events. This honor reinforces the Georgia High School Association's philosophy which states: "Student athletes, coaches, spectators, and all others associated with high school activity programs should adhere to the fundamental values of respect, fairness, honesty and responsibility."

This year, Coweta-Fayette EMC is pleased to announce Fayette County High School has been recognized as the 5A-Region 3 winner of the 2016-2017 Georgia High School Association Cooperative Spirit Sportsmanship Awards.

The qualities the award represents can be found throughout Fayette County High School – from the students, to the athletes, to the teachers and administration. Just look at the school mission: "promoting lifelong learning through excellence in all we do!" FCHS accomplishes this through appreciating the uniqueness of each individual; providing all students with opportunities for success; and being effective role models for students.

Jekobe Coleman, a sophomore football and basketball player for FCHS, explained what sportsmanship means. "To me, it's being a good sport on and off field and on and off the court. It's good team spirit. It's always supporting the school, no matter if you are having a good season or bad season."

Senior Cross Country and Track athlete, Rachel Gomes, feels these qualities are echoed throughout the student body. "Sportsmanship is the embodiment of unity. For our school, that feeling is unmatched on and off the field. The unity we show in the stands, at sporting events, and on our teams, makes us do better. It's a life skill we'll carry beyond the field into the community and into the world."

Only one school in each division within each region is chosen to receive the annual award.

The GHSA takes into consideration all aspects of sportsmanship during events—student athletes on the field, fellow students, school staff, parents and game spectators, making the award a tribute to the whole community.

"I'm proud to be the principal of a school where students do show cooperative spirit," Dr. Daniel Lane, principal of Fayette County High School, said. "We use athletics as a vehicle to train young men and women. The skills they learn are something they can carry with them to be more successful as adults. I'm proud of all our students, whether they are athletes or in the student body. We have a great group of students that support our athletes. It's just great to see the Tiger pride in action."





## *The President's Message*

*Chris Stephens  
President and CEO*

Last month, I had the great opportunity of visiting our nation's capital and testifying before the US Senate Agriculture Committee in support of the 2018 Farm Bill. I not only represented Coweta-Fayette EMC, but also more than 900 other cooperatives who provide electric service in the United States. The Farm Bill is important legislation providing the Rural Utilities Service (RUS), formerly known as the Rural Electrification Administration (REA), the ability to support electric cooperatives in implementing initiatives that answer the needs of our members and the communities we power. RUS loans help electric co-ops reduce costs and improve reliability for our members by financing basic maintenance like replacing poles and wires. It also helps fund projects that make our systems more modern, efficient, and secure. RUS has been the most successful public-private infrastructure investment program in the history of the country. The President's Budget request for 2017 estimated that the federal government could realize up to \$300 million in net interest and fees from RUS loans. This makes us a good investment.



Coweta-Fayette EMC not only believes in maintaining and growing an electric infrastructure that will sustain our growing communities, we also believe in ensuring the needs of the communities and our future members are met. That investment doesn't stop there. We participate in school programs that emphasize safety, we grow leadership skills through our participation in the NRECA Youth Tour program. The information these students learn here helps develop our future community leaders. At CFEMC, our Operation Round Up program donates more than \$250,000 each year to various individuals and organizations.

Since CFEMCs Operation Round Up's program began in 1993, it has funded over \$3.6M to individuals and local charities, including first responders; and over \$1.1M for educational purposes through scholarships and Bright Idea classroom grants.

Whether it is financing reliable and affordable electric systems, funding sustainable renewable energy development and conservation, or working to integrate electric smart grid technologies, these initiatives support the nation's long-term prosperity by ensuring rural communities have the infrastructure to compete in the global economy while improving the quality of life there. Electric cooperatives enjoy a productive partnership with the federal government and with the communities we serve to promote the health of rural America. We look forward to continuing to work with you and our elected officials toward that important goal.

I can't conclude without a word about Hurricane Irma. With some sources reporting an estimated 16 million people without power, this may prove to be the single largest number of outages caused by a weather event in U.S. history. It certainly was the highest volume and most geographically widespread electrical outage caused by a single weather event in Georgia history. At the height of the storm Georgia EMCs reported approximately 550,000 outages, up to 40,000 at Coweta-Fayette EMC alone.

Hurricane Irma was a historic storm requiring a historic response. More than 4,500 linemen participated in the restoration effort, with more than 1,500 linemen and right of way personnel travelling to assist from 18 other states as far north as Pennsylvania and as far west as Texas and Oklahoma. As a result, 99% of EMC outages were restored within 5 days of the outage peak and full restoration was complete within 7 days. Here at Coweta-Fayette EMC, 99.9% of all outages were restored within 72 hours. I think the quality of this response is a testament to the power of the cooperative spirit and some of the best evidence (at the worst of times) of how vital electric cooperatives are to the communities we serve.

# EMC Hosts Largest Ever Annual Meeting and Member Appreciation Day



The weather was perfect and the county fair atmosphere attracted the largest ever turnout of registered members for the 2017 Coweta-Fayette EMC Annual Meeting and Member Appreciation Day. It's estimated over 3,500 people came to learn about the cooperative and see who would take home this year's grand prize – \$1,000 credit on their CFEMC electricity bill.

Children lined up for their turn to play in the Laser Tag Maze; take a swing at the Knock Me Out inflatable; and go for a ride on the Turbo Tubs and Turbo Swings. Cotton candy and crafts were a children's favorite too. They even got a chance to see what being a lineman would be like in the Little Lineman Photo Booth.



While they played, adults visited exhibits including Relyco Resources where they learned about home automation and security; the EMC at Your Fingertips gave members a chance to check out how our app works; Operation Round-Up showed members how their pennies were making a difference; Green Power EMC was on hand to answer questions about solar energy; Piedmont Hospital of Newnan and Fayette provided screenings and health information; and True Natural Gas was on site celebrating 15 years of service to EMC members. Members also received a LED lantern as a special registration gift.

The annual meeting brings members together to



participate in the democratic cooperative process – electing their board members and learning more about the cooperative business. This year, James W. Fulton, Jr. (Seat 3 Fayette County), Elwood Thompson (Seat 2 Coweta County), and Ross Henry (Seat 1, Counties other than Coweta and Fayette) were reelected for three year terms.

During the business session, Board Chairman James Fulton welcomed members and shared highlights from the previous year.

"We continue to be one of the few electric cooperatives in the country to consistently experience growth," Fulton said. "Since out last annual meeting, we have grown to over 78,625 members, which makes us the eighth largest co-op in the state of Georgia and one of the top 50 largest in the entire country. To stay ahead of this and future growth, as well as "game changing" advances in technology, energy accessibility and availability, and government relations, we continue to review and update our strategic plan for the co-op."

Fulton went on to assure members that CFEMC was strong financially.

"At our last board meeting, our outside independent auditor reported that your co-op continues to be in a very strong financial position and that, more importantly, our rates and operating ratios, to you our member/owners, continue to be lower than co-ops of similar size throughout the nation and lower than the average rates of most other co-ops and utilities in the state of Georgia."

Chris Stephens, President and CEO of CFEMC, shared how the EMC's future vision is one designed to help our communities grow and prosper.

"There are three words I feel describe Coweta-Fayette EMC," Stephens said. "Trusted. Dependable. Innovative."

Stephens shared how the EMC had grown from powering single lamps hanging in homes to serving some of the area's largest industrial loads.

"In 2016, CFEMC delivered over 1.5 billion kilowatt hours to your homes and businesses. Electricity powers more than lives. We know dependability matters. That's why we are there, no matter what occurs.

We are on call 24 hours a day to meet your needs. Our outage time per member was under both the state and national averages.

"Secondly, CFEMC is trustworthy. The Summer 2017 Georgia Public Service Commission's residential rate comparison for an average use of 1,000 kilowatt hours per month showed Coweta-Fayette EMC's rates ranked 22<sup>nd</sup> lowest out of the 94 other electric utilities in the state. Georgia Power ranked 53<sup>rd</sup>. Thanks to the financial strength of your EMC, the Board of Directors approved the return of over \$3.4 million in capital credit refunds this year. The most recent returns covered the years of 1994, 1995 and 1996. Your Board of Directors have approved the return of nearly \$24 million since 2000."

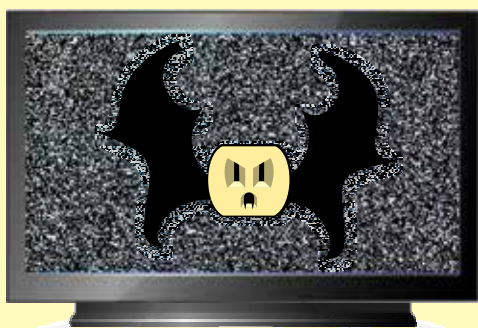
Lastly, Stephens talked about how the EMC is using innovative technology.

"We have made investments in technology that paid dividends during the recent Hurricane Irma. In addition to the great work by our employees and with the help of others, our use of technology assisted us in restoring electric service to 40,000 of you within 72 hours. During Irma, we used technology to refeed some areas from other substations so that the outage times were much shorter.

We used our mapping and outage management system to pinpoint where problems were on the system and were better able to identify the equipment and manpower necessary to repair the facilities damaged from the storm."

The business session concluded with the awarding of the major prizes. Mary Shoemake was the lucky winner of a \$1,000 bill credit on her CFEMC electric bill. Robert Bolton received one year of free monitoring from Relyco Resources and Laurie Wagner went home with a new gas grill from True Natural Gas.





## **Don't let your TV use energy when you're not watching it!**

You bought an ENERGY STAR-qualified TV to save energy, but there's even more you can do to boost its efficiency. Here's a tip from Coweta-Fayette that can help you save power – and money.

TVs are bigger than they used to be, and some of the largest ones can use as much electricity each year as a new, conventional refrigerator. But ENERGY STAR-qualified TVs use roughly 40 percent less energy than standard models.

When your ENERGY STAR TV is turned on, you know it's using energy efficiently, but if the TV is on when no one is watching it, that costs money. So you hit the "off" button. And that's when the "energy vampires" go to work... although your TV is switched off, it still uses power.

Here are a couple of things you can do to stop that power drain. Many high-definition TVs have a quick-start option. By turning it off, you'll save energy and add only a few seconds to start-up time. To stop those "energy vampires," use a power strip as a central turn-off point. When you're not watching your TV, simply flip the strip's off button. If you have set a timer to record a TV program, however, you'll need to keep the recorder plugged in and drawing power.

For other tips on how to save energy – and money! – visit Touchstone Energy's efficiency website, or call the energy experts at Coweta-Fayette EMC. Find out how the little changes add up at [www.TogetherWeSave.com](http://www.TogetherWeSave.com).

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
James. W. Fulton, III, Chairman  
Therol Brown, Vice Chairman  
J. Neal Shepard Jr., Secretary-Treasurer  
W.L. Clements  
Ross Henry  
Daniel C. Langford, Jr.  
Alice J. Mallory  
Elwood Thompson  
Mildred A. Winkles

.....  
**POWERlines**

Editor: Chellie Phillips  
807 Collinsworth Road, Palmetto, GA 30268  
(770) 502-0226

**Coweta Fayette EMC is an equal opportunity  
provided and employer /M/F/Y/D**



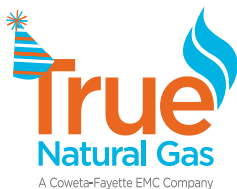
**Coweta-Fayette**

**770-502-0226**  
**www.utility.org**

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



# True Natural Gas is 15!



It's time to celebrate!  
This year marks the 15<sup>th</sup>  
Anniversary of True Nat-  
ural Gas.

On April 25, 2002,  
the governor of Georgia,

Roy Barnes, signed the "Natural Gas Consumers' Relief Act" which allowed EMCs' affiliates to become marketers. Since that time, Coweta Fayette EMC Natural Gas (which later changed its name to True Natural Gas) has been providing the best in natural gas—simple pricing structures, easy to understand bills and friendly customer service statewide to anyone on Atlanta Gas Lights distribution system.

As a subsidiary of Coweta-Fayette EMC, we have a unique corporate relationship. Profits from the natural gas service go to the EMC, helping keep electric costs low. Approximately 30 percent of our customer base is made up of Coweta-Fayette EMC's electric members. This makes us the prominent gas marketer serving CFEMC electric members.

"We've reached a milestone through the hard work and dedication of our employees and our culture of customer service," Dan Hart, President and CEO of True Natural Gas said. "We have dedicated ourselves to 15 years of serving the members of Coweta-Fayette EMC and the surrounding towns and communities, and are excited about what we have achieved and what our plans are for the future. It's truly been an amazing journey."

Just look at all that has happened along the way.

"We couldn't have gotten here alone," Hart said.

"The partnership between CFEMC and True Natural Gas is a strong one. Through the hard work of my leadership team and devoted employees, we've been able to grow and thrive. I'm proud to report that our business is solid and that we are looking forward to see what the future holds."



2007

*Partnered with Sawnee EMC so they could offer their members an additional energy source from a reputable and reliable company.*

2011

*Partnering with Newnan Utilities enabled their customers an additional energy source from a reputable company with consistent low rates.*



2012

*Endorsed by Consumer Investigator, Dale Caldwell as his #1 choice of gas marketers*

2013

*Name change from Coweta-Fayette EMC Natural Gas to True Natural Gas. What led to the name change was confusion of customers thinking they had to be either a member of the EMC or reside in the EMC's territory to receive service.*



2014

*Launched True Rewards (customer loyalty program)*



2017

*Acquired FireSide Natural Gas residential customers which resulted in an increased growth of business by 25%.*