



powerlines



Coweta-Fayette



HOW TO GET THE MOST OUT OF YOUR MEMBERSHIP



Member Appreciation Day and Annual Meeting is about more than free chicken biscuits, cotton candy, rides and BINGO. It is a chance for you to participate in how Coweta-Fayette EMC runs its business.

1,131 registered members attended with their families with an estimated 3,300 people total. For our members who have not attended this yearly event, you may wonder why we have an annual meeting with our members. It boils down to the principals we follow as a cooperative. Cooperative principal number two is democratic member control.

Your relationship with Coweta-Fayette EMC is more than just a consumer. You are a member of a cooperative. That means you are part-owner.

The main goal of investor-owned utilities is to make a profit for investors. As an electric cooperative, Coweta-Fayette EMC exists to provide a service to our members. You as a member have a similar role to an investor. You share in our costs. You also share in our revenue, which you get back in the form of capital credits checks. And, you guide board leadership.

Our board exists to represent your interests. Board members are from the communities they serve. You may see them while you're out getting groceries, going to church or taking the family to dinner. They pay the same electric rates as you. They strive to keep rates as low as possible with the best quality service for your money.

At Annual Meeting, you get to watch a board meeting in

action. You have the chance to approve meeting motions, meet your board member representatives and vote on your board representation.

This years, members at Annual Meeting approved a motion to re-elect Mrs. Mildred Winkles, Seat 3, Coweta County; Mr. Donald Harris, Seat 4, Coweta County; and Ms. Alice Mallory, Seat 4, Fayette County to three-year terms.

"Since our last annual meeting, we have grown to over 84,000 active services, which makes us the ninth largest co-op in the state of Georgia and the top 50 largest in the entire country," said board chairman Jim Fulton.

Energy is a key current issue for policymakers. Your membership and our board's value in representing you are more important than ever.

For example, many members feel strongly about the construction of Plant Vogtle, a nuclear power facility South of Augusta. CFEMC's President and CEO Chris Stephens addressed this issue at the meeting. He said, "Your board of directors and the EMC staff spoke up for you. We stressed to Oglethorpe Power that we could not continue to move forward with an open check-book. We prevailed in getting concessions that protect you, the ratepayer."

As a cooperative, "We strive to be a catalyst for good in our community," said Stephens. This ranges from representing your interests on a local, state and national stage, to funding local charitable activities.

"This year, we presented scholarships totaling \$58,000.00 to high school seniors and students enrolled in technical studies.

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We contributed \$239,000.00 in grants to charitable organizations. We helped increase educational opportunities of area students through 32 Bright Idea teacher grants totaling over \$36,000.00," said Stephens.

Nothing we do at Coweta-Fayette EMC would be possible without our members. You voluntarily contribute to Operation Round Up, which rounds up your bill to contribute to the scholarships and grants mentioned above. You pay your bill, which covers power costs and helps us maintain our lines. And, you elect board leadership.

By coming to Member Appreciation Day and Annual Meeting, you get the most out of your membership.

FALL INTO ENERGY SAVINGS

Contact us for more
energy-saving tips!

- Check to see if your home insulation levels are up to par.
- Seal air leaks around doors, windows and electrical outlets.
- When heating your home, set the thermostat to 68 degrees to save energy.

HAPPY THANKSGIVING

Coweta-Fayette EMC offices will be closed in observance of Thanksgiving on Thursday & Friday, Nov. 22-23. We hope all our members have a Safe and Happy Holiday Season!

770-502-0226

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

James. W. Fulton, III, Chairman • Therol Brown, Vice Chairman • J. Neal Shepard Jr., Secretary-Treasurer
Donald Harris • Ross Henry • Daniel C. Langford, Jr. • Alice J. Mallory • Elwood Thompson
Mildred A. Winkles

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The President's Message

Chris Stephens
CEO

As we celebrate Thanksgiving this month, I want to look back and give thanks for some of this cooperative's achievements. Last month, we had our Member Appreciation Day and Annual Meeting. As much as it is a chance for you, our consumer-members, to vote on our board of directors, it is also a chance to come together with the whole family and celebrate our accomplishments as a cooperative.

In the wake of Hurricane Michael, I am thankful for our outstanding team. We sent 19 of our linemen to help cooperatives in South Georgia restore power to their consumer-members. Many have lost everything. Please continue to keep all those affected by Hurricane Michael in your thoughts and prayers.

As a result of a strong economy, we have seen steady growth in our service area. Much of the growth is residential, which makes up 90% of our membership. We are also seeing growth in the commercial and industrial area. We are financially strong, allowing your Board of Directors to give nearly \$3.3 million in capital credits refunds to our members. You may have received a check in the mail in last month. Capital credits are yet another reason to give thanks this season.

One accomplishment that made me the proudest this year was our employees achieving a perfect score on our safety accreditation. This speaks to their dedication to safety. My number one responsibility is the safety of our employees.

To make sure your power is available when you need it, we maintain a diverse energy mix. Our energy portfolio includes natural gas, coal, hydro, renewables and nuclear. We will add 15 MW of new solar by the year 2021.

Looking at the 2018 Summer Georgia Public Service Commission's residential rate comparison, you will see we are competitive. For an average use of 1,000 kWh per month, our rates ranked 23rd lowest out of the 94 other electric utilities in the state. Georgia Power ranked 67th. Our cost per kilowatt hour is 11.6 cents for the average user compared to the state average of 12.5 cents.

One of the many ways we give to our community is through Operation Round Up. This year we presented 28 scholarships totaling \$58,000. We helped increase educational opportunities of area students through 32 Bright Idea Teacher Grants totaling over \$36,000. We also contributed \$239,000 in grants to charitable organizations. The Operation Round Up Trust board has distributed more than \$5 million to individuals and organizations in our community since 1993.

Your Board of Directors and our dedicated employees are the reason for this cooperative's success. We're determined to keep giving you reasons to be thankful by enriching the lives of those living and working in the communities we serve.