



Coweta-Fayette



# powerlines

## 2019 ANNUAL MEETING & MEMBER APPRECIATION DAY

The perfect weather and county-fair atmosphere attracted over 3,000 people at the 2019 Coweta-Fayette EMC Annual Meeting and Member Appreciation Day. Employees registered 979 members who came to learn about the cooperative and see who would take home this year's grand prize – a \$1,000 credit on their CFEMC electricity bill.

Children lined up for rides on the swings and mini Ferris wheel, while others learned about electric safety at the Little Lineman Booth. Cotton candy and popcorn were a kid's favorite too.

While they played, adults visited exhibits including **Relyco Resources** where they learned about home automation and security; **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; and **True Natural Gas** provided information on their services as well. Members also got a close up look at an **EV** and learned about CFEMC's new **Smart Choice Solar** project, which is expected to be on-line by the end of the year. **Piedmont Hospital of Newnan and Fayette** provided screenings and health information. Members also received a reverse fold umbrella as a special registration gift.

At many of the booths, members got a chance to experience augmented reality. Through an app on your phone, you could scan an image - a zap code - and learn more about a certain product or service. We'll continue to use this type of technology to share information with our membership. In fact, look for the code in this issue of Powerlines to see video highlights from this year's meeting.

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, **Therol R. Brown** (Seat 1-Fayette County), **J. Neal Shepard, Jr.** (Seat 1- Coweta County) and **Daniel C. Langford, Jr.** (Seat 2- Fayette County) 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 our last annual meeting, we have grown to over

80,000 active services, which makes us the ninth 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 our plans and strategies for the co-op. This year, that included long-term power cost contracts, facility and asset management, cybersecurity and continuous review and updating of our policies and procedures to insure that we remain in conformance with all current governance procedures for co-op boards and management."

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

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**Our office will be closed on November 28th and 29th so that employees can enjoy the Thanksgiving holiday with their families.**

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position and that, most importantly, our rates 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, including Newnan Utilities and Georgia Power."

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

"Many of our members told us renewable initiatives are important," Stephens said. "As a founding member of Green Power EMC, we have been an advocate for renewable energy since 2003. In fact, in a joint effort with our very own True Natural Gas, we just began construction of the **Michael C. Whiteside Solar Electric Plant** in Heard County. This solar plant will allow us to start the "Smart Choice Solar" program to offer many of our members the opportunity to access emission-free energy. The plant will also serve as an educational resource for our community.

In addition, Stephens spoke about the progression of Vogtle 3 and 4, which will provide another carbon-free source of generation for the next 60-80 years.

"With the use of technology and the tremendous efforts of our employees, your power was on over 99.9% of the time last year. The past 12-month rolling average time that our members were without power is just over 90 minutes. That is 53 minutes less than the average of all other cooperatives in Georgia for the year of 2018."

Stephens reinforced the fact CFEMC was financially strong and encouraged members to review the financial information they received in the mail.

"Your board of directors approved the retirement of capital credits totaling over \$4 million to members who purchased electricity from the cooperative in 1999, 2000, 2001, and 2018. Over 79,000 members received a refund. Since 2000, CFEMC has returned over \$30 million to our members. You'll see that over 71% of our costs go toward purchasing power. For every dollar you spend, nearly 72 cents goes directly to purchased power. Eighteen cents goes to the operation and maintenance of our system and the remaining 10 cents to depreciation and interest expense. In addition to reviewing our power costs and expenses, we work hard to be fiscally responsible to the membership. We ranked 29th lowest out of the 41 cooperatives in Georgia as it relates to total controllable expenses to members. Over the past few years, costs associated with providing service and operating our system have continued to increase. Many of these costs occur each month no matter how many kilowatt hours our members use."



## The President's Message

Chris Stephens  
CEO

If you attended our Annual Meeting October 12, we are certainly glad you came! If you were unable to stop by, we missed you. It gives me the opportunity to update the members on their EMC.

It was a long summer in which we saw record temperatures with over 90 days at 90 degrees or above. With the record temperatures, we set a new system peak demand for energy consumption. Even with significant growth over the past several years, we had not set a new peak demand since 2007. The key is we were able to supply your needs during this period with no interruptions.

Making sure we have the energy to meet your needs at peak times is critical. In order to do this and maintain reasonable rates, we must maintain a diverse mix of generation resources. Our current energy portfolio consists of natural gas, coal, hydro, renewables and nuclear. In fact, we are in the process of adding additional solar. In cooperation with our very own True Natural Gas, we began construction of a new community solar project in Heard County. This project will serve as the catalyst for one of our newest programs, Smart Choice Solar.

Smart Choice Solar will provide our members the ability to purchase solar panels from CFEMC and offset their energy usage. No need to put solar on your roof when you can purchase panels that are installed and maintained by your EMC. Look for more information soon.

Many of you saw our electric vehicle at the Annual Meeting and learned about our "Drive Free for a Year" program. This program was developed to help those who purchase or lease a new EV to receive a credit on their bill based on our time of use rate for the energy used to charge it. Utilizing energy outside of peak hours helps all our members by improving our load factor which helps distribute the physical cost of generation plants and other fixed costs.

CFEMC is growing. We've added 51 employees since moving into the Palmetto facility, and added 15,000 new services and over 950 miles of lines. Our two wholly-owned subsidiaries, True Natural Gas and Relyco Resources, have experienced significant growth over the past 15 years as well.

I also highlighted the fact that our employees are dedicated to safely providing dependable, reasonably priced electricity and exceptional customer service. I stress safety. My number one responsibility is to make sure each employee goes home to their family and loved ones every day. Their dedication to safety extends beyond our system, to our members and the general public. I'm extremely proud of the fact our employees make safety a core value, not just a priority.

These are just a few highlights I presented at the Annual Meeting. The truth is, the power behind all of our programs and accomplishments is the employees and your Board of Directors. The co-op business model is unique. We are mission-oriented and put people first. We will continue to strive to always have our members' best interest at heart and we are determined to enrich the lives of those living and working in the communities we serve.



## SCAN THE ZAPCODE AND SEE HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE 2019 ANNUAL MEETING!

### How to Scan a Zapcode

1. Go to your smartphone's app store.
2. Download the **Touchstone Energy Experience App**.
3. Open the app on your phone.
4. Scan the code and touch the icon for a video or link!

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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