



# powerlines



Coweta-Fayette



## CREWS ASSIST STORM RAVAGED LA CO-OPS

Mother nature hasn't been kind to our sister cooperatives located in Louisiana. Hurricane Laura and Delta made landfall within 12 miles of each other leaving a path of devastation and over 250,000 without power at the height of the event.

Many co-ops were still making repairs from Laura when Hurricane Delta came in near Creole, LA as a Category 2 storm.

Jeff Arnold, CEO of the Association of Louisiana Electric Cooperatives said, "We've launched a massive storm recovery and power restoration effort, assisted by hundreds of personnel from other states. Even so, full recovery could be weeks away."

CFEMC crews are part of this massive recovery effort. Following Laura, crews traveled to Jeff Davis Electric Cooperative in Jennings, LA and worked for three weeks. Then following Delta, crews left for Beauregard Electric Cooperative in Deridder, LA.

"We've been on the receiving side of assistance in the aftermath of major storms," CFEMC CEO Chris Stephens said. "I know the difference it can make in the recovery effort. It's incredibly hard work and I'm proud our crews are willing to go and lend a hand."

Crews from CFEMC who assisted with restoration are: Jerome Arrington, Wesley Long, Connor Hoff, Andrew Collins, Steven Robinson, Doug Worley, Holland Brown, Jason Edmondson, Bobby Smith, Ben Daniel, Terry Jones, Brandon Smith, Chad Daniel, Dell McWaters, Jacob Lewis, Austin Clark, Jody Hand, Josh Watson, Chad Duncan, Bubba Proctor, Chip Schloemer, Tanner Webb, Corey Hendrix, Trent Brimer, Jimbo Boone, Taylor Alston, David Sales, Jake Kierbrow, Steven Robinson, Conner Hoff, Bobby Smith, Ben Young, John Dunn, Ben Daniels and Daniel Cason.



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## FIRST EVER DRIVE-THRU ANNUAL MEETING A SUCCESS



While this 75th Anniversary celebration may not have been what we envisioned earlier in the year, the rainy weather and COVID-19 didn't dampen the spirits of all who participated.

Due to the pandemic, the CFEMC Annual Meeting and Member Appreciation Event held October 10<sup>th</sup>, looked different this year. Your board weighed the desire to bring everyone together against the health and safety concerns and the decision was made to hold a business only Drive-Thru Annual Meeting.

"I couldn't have been more pleased with how the event turned out," CEO Chris Stephens said. "Since we are member owned, it's vital members participate and keep up to date with the business of the cooperative. And this year, we had more members than ever participate and vote for their Board of Directors."

A total of 5,828 members registered online or at one of our offices during the weeks leading up to the event. We received a total of 5,224

ballots by mail, online, or from members who dropped them off in person the day of the annual.

"In comparison, the most we've ever had register was 1,470 in 2017," Stephens said.

Members can also view the reports from the Board of Directors, Operation Round Up Trust Board, TrueNatural Gas and CFEMC's CEO on our website by visiting <https://utility.org/about-us/2020-annual-meeting/>.

On the Saturday morning of the meeting, viewers watched the Facebook Live announcements as Cooperative Attorney Doug Warner announced the results of the grand prize drawing and Board of Director election results.

Ross Henry, Lee Hunter and James "Jim" Fulton were re-elected to serve three-year terms.

The Grand Prize winner was Ruth Elizabeth Perez who received a \$1,000 bill credit.



### The President's Message

Chris Stephens  
CEO

Coweta-Fayette EMC is celebrating 75 years of safely providing reliable, affordable electric service to you, our members, and like the communities we serve, are at the heart of every decision we make.

A challenge facing CFEMC, along with 37 other Georgia EMCs, is the need for reliable internet service in rural Georgia. To promote the deployment of broadband in rural areas across the state, the GA EMCs filed the "Georgia Solution" with the Georgia Public Service Commission (PSC). The filing was part of a rate case underway at the PSC that will determine the fee, terms and conditions for cable companies to attach wires to our poles that are owned by the members.

The cable industry has falsely claimed that our fees are a barrier to expanding broadband to rural areas and are requesting the PSC to lower the current rates. The truth is, we want the cable companies to expand their services to rural GA, but they must pay their fair share to attach to our poles. Any adjustments to lower pole attachment rates will further subsidize these for-profit corporations and will impact the cost of service to Georgia citizens and businesses. EMCs are not-for-profit electric utilities; therefore, the reduction in revenue from the pole attachments would be passed on to the members of the EMCs like you.

The GA EMCs understand the need to bridge the digital divide by bringing broadband to unserved areas. That is why CFEMC fully supports the "Georgia Solution" which offers a tremendous incentive and expedited service to broadband providers willing to expand in unserved areas. Pole attachment fees have never been a barrier to broadband development, it has always been about density and the number of those who choose to take the service. We are confident reducing the fees for existing attachments will not translate into increased availability in the areas where it is most needed. Consider the fact that many areas inside of Georgia Powers service territory remain unserved even though the cable companies receive an even lower subsidized rate mandated by the federal government.

CFEMC will continue to look for ways to partner and expand needed services to our members while safely providing dependable, reasonably priced electricity. Electric cooperatives were formed by members of their communities to meet their needs that larger, for-profit utilities would not serve because they found it unprofitable. For more information on the GA EMCs desire to expand broadband in rural Georgia, please visit [www.emcs4ruralbroadband.com](http://www.emcs4ruralbroadband.com).

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