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Coweta-Fayette **EMC**

POWERLINES

CFEMC's delegates selected for the 2023 Washington Youth Tour

A NEWSLETTER FROM COWETA-FAYETTE EMC



Coweta-Fayette EMC (CFEMC) selected three local high school students to represent CFEMC on the 2023 Washington Youth Tour (WYT), an all-expenses-paid leadership experience sponsored by Georgia's electric membership corporations (EMCs), including CFEMC.

Emily Kirk, a junior at Northgate High School; Kalani McClendon, a junior at Fayette County High School; and Mariana Torres, a junior at East Coweta High School, were selected to participate in the tour this summer, which involves a week-long trip to Washington D.C. to learn more about our nation's capital.



WYT Delegate Emily Kirk, (middle) a junior at Northgate High School, is pictured with family, NGHS Guidance Counselors Bonnie Cruver and Michelle Hutcheson, and CFEMC Communications Coordinator Rachel Camp.

“Coweta-Fayette EMC is excited to offer this exceptional opportunity to three outstanding local students,” said Rachel Camp, Communications Coordinator with Coweta-Fayette EMC. “It will allow Emily, Kalani, and Mariana the chance to network with fellow peers and enhance their knowledge of our government and legislative process,” said Camp.

Kirk, McClendon, and Torres were carefully selected to represent CFEMC by a robust judging committee after submitting their applications and essays for review.

More information about the Washington Youth Tour can be found on our website at www.utility.org. Applications for the 2024 Georgia Electric Cooperative Youth Tour (WYT) will be available in January 2024.



WYT Delegate Mariana Torres, (middle) a junior at East Coweta High School, is pictured with family, ECHS Principal Steve Allen, and CFEMC Communications Coordinator Rachel Camp.

Every year, CFEMC recognizes outstanding high school students who are leaders in their schools, communities, places of worship, or academic and community organizations by providing a valuable leadership development program through the Washington Youth Tour, established by America's electric cooperatives to inspire and educate our youth.

This year's tour, which takes place June 15-22, 2023, offers opportunities for students to meet policymakers, tour historic museums and monuments, and participate in educational development and leadership experiences, all while making new friends from across the state and the nation.

For more than 50 years, the tour has helped promising student leaders to become exceptional young adults all while inspiring our next generation of leaders. EMC leaders and former student delegates agree the WYT has grown into an invaluable program that gives young Americans an experience that will stay with them for the rest of their lives.



WYT Delegate Kalani McClendon, (middle) a junior at Fayette County High School, is pictured with family and CFEMC Communications Coordinator Rachel Camp.



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COWETA-FAYETTE EMC PURPA PROCEEDING NOTICE OF PURPA HEARING

Coweta-Fayette EMC will hold a hearing to facilitate the consideration and determination of standards established by the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978, as amended by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021.

This hearing is held pursuant to the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978, 16 U.S.C. § 2601 et seq., and particularly pursuant to 16 U.S.C. §§ 2621, 2622, 2631, and 2632. The hearing will be held at the Coweta-Fayette EMC Corporate Office, with participant sign-in beginning at **1:00 p.m.** and the hearing commencing at **2:00 p.m.** on July 20, 2023. The following standards will be considered at the hearing:

1. Demand-response practices, pursuant to 16 U.S.C. § 2621(d)(20).
2. Electric vehicle charging programs, pursuant to 16 U.S.C. § 2621(d)(21).

The hearing will be governed by the “Rules for Conducting Proceedings Required by the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 (as amended by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021)” (the “Rules”), which was adopted by the Board of Directors of Coweta-Fayette EMC on November 22, 2022. A copy of the Rules may be obtained at Coweta-Fayette EMC’s headquarters during business hours. The headquarters is located at 807 Collinsworth Road, Palmetto, Georgia 30268, and is open Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. EST/EDT. A copy of the Rules also may be downloaded from Coweta-Fayette EMC’s PURPA Website at www.utility.org/purpa.

In accordance with 16 U.S.C. § 2631, the United States Secretary of Energy, any affected electric utility, and any electric consumer of an affected electric utility has a right to intervene and participate as a formal party of record in the hearing. Please see Rule 4 concerning the procedure for intervention.

Any member of Coweta-Fayette EMC that does not desire to intervene and participate as a formal party of record nonetheless will be given the opportunity to make an oral or written statement expressing his position and views on the foregoing standards. Please see Rule 5 concerning the procedure for making such statements.

All persons must sign in not later than **2:00 p.m.** to ensure that they are able to participate in the hearing. Please see Rule 11 concerning the conduct of the hearing.

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The President’s Message



Chris Stephens, CEO

We have all heard the phrase, “Don’t put all your eggs in one basket.” This popular adage is often used in conversation or a story when someone is about to do something foolish or risky. If they heed this advice, it means they did not commit to “one basket,” but instead hedged their bets with multiple options.

This strategy is how I describe Coweta-Fayette’s common-sense approach to the current energy transition. We know that consumer interest in renewable energy continues to grow. We have seen this trend here and have been on the cutting edge of implementing renewables into our energy mix since 2001. That is the year we helped found Green Power EMC, now the largest operational green power program in the Southeastern United States. Green Power EMC serves its Member EMCs by finding, screening, analyzing, and negotiating power purchase agreements with Georgia-based renewable resource providers including solar, landfill gas, hydro, wood waste and wind.

Recent innovations and advances in renewable energy technologies have led to decreases in costs, making renewables more feasible, accessible, and scalable. Since 2005, CFEMC has reduced our carbon footprint by 50% and our dependence on carbon-source fuels for electricity generation has been reduced by utilizing less coal and more natural gas and renewables. Today, 30% of our fuel mix is carbon-free coming from nuclear and solar sources. Over the next 5 years, we will continue to reduce our carbon footprint as our fuel mix increases to nearly 60% carbon-free with the addition of more renewables and nuclear.

Nationally, there is increasing reliance on renewable energy sources while we are seeing fossil fuel plants being taken offline, often ahead of schedule. We are also seeing more pressure on the electric grid due to rising electricity demand and severe weather events.

So how do we reconcile these challenges of grid pressure and a changing fuel mix? Renewable energy is certainly beneficial for the environment, but they are limited resources because the sun does not always shine, and the wind does not always blow. Our primary responsibility is to provide electricity 24/7 to you and our community. To do this, we need reliable sources of power that will meet all the peaks and valleys of on-demand energy in our connected world.

That is where our familiar adage comes into play. While the utilization of renewables is increasing, we still need to incorporate other forms of energy into the mix to ensure reliable service. Remember, solar and wind are intermittent power sources. This fact coupled with the growing demand for energy creates its own challenges.

That is why we spread our eggs into multiple baskets. There is great value in maintaining a diverse mix of fuel sources including fossil fuels, nuclear, and renewables to ensure reliability and resiliency while meeting the growing demand for electricity.

Lowering the overall carbon footprint in this country means we are going to electrify more and more of our economy. Renewables and other carbon-free energy sources, like nuclear, are an important part of a broader energy portfolio, but not all of them are available 24/7. In today’s ever-connected world, people need power around the clock.

As our nation increasingly depends on electricity to power the economy, CFEMC is working to anticipate, plan and respond to market trends and policy shifts. By not “putting all our eggs in one basket” when it comes to our energy mix, we are able to keep two important principles in mind when it comes to responsibly incorporating renewables into our energy mix: cost and reliability.