

APRIL 2024

Coweta-Fayette **EMC**

POWERLINES

Celebrating Lineman Appreciation Day

A NEWSLETTER FROM
COWETA-FAYETTE EMC



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Join us this month as we honor the brave men and women who power our world! Coweta-Fayette EMC will celebrate Lineworker Appreciation Day on April 8, 2024, and we ask all of our co-op members to help us honor these hard-working individuals all month long.

Rain or shine, day or night, lineworkers brave challenging conditions to make sure we have electricity when we need it. From learning the intricacies of the electric grid to climbing utility poles while carrying 40+ pounds of equipment, they spend thousands of hours training and learning throughout their career.

In addition to the highly visible tasks they perform, their job goes far beyond climbing utility poles to repair a wire. Today's lineworkers are information experts who can pinpoint power outages from miles away. Line crews now use laptops, tablets, drones, and other technologies to map outages, survey damage and troubleshoot problems.

It's no secret that a lineworker's job is tough—but it's a job that's essential and must be done, often in challenging conditions. During severe weather events that bring major power outages, they are among the first ones called. They must be ready to leave home unexpectedly, and they don't return until the job is done, sometimes days later.

Coweta-Fayette EMC has 63 lineworkers who are responsible for keeping power flowing 24/7, 365 days a year. To do this, they maintain 6,764 miles of power lines across 8 counties.

Their dedication is nothing short of extraordinary and a testament to their commitment to powering our local communities, and we're proud to recognize their efforts. Without them, we simply would not have the reliable electricity that we need for everyday life.

So, the next time you see a lineworker, we invite you to please take a moment and thank them for the work they do to keep the lights on, regardless of the time of day or weather conditions. We also invite you to join us in recognizing them on social media using the hashtag #ThankALineworker. After all, they are the power behind your power.



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The President's Message



Chris Stephens, CEO

April is a month of change. We move from cold winter days to warmer spring ones. We watch the world turn green from new growth and planting. It's also a special month for Coweta-Fayette EMC. Why? April has a very special day in it – Lineman Appreciation Day. At the heart of our operations, our linemen stand as the pillars of reliability and commitment, ensuring that every home and business on our lines remains energized and connected, no matter the circumstances.

Our linemen brave the elements, work in challenging conditions, and are exposed to many hazards while maintaining and repairing our electric infrastructure. Their dedication is a testament to their character and to the values we hold dear at our cooperative. It is their commitment to safety and hard work that keeps the lights on and helps keep our community strong and resilient.

As we express our gratitude for their tireless efforts, we also look ahead to the changes necessary for the growth and sustainability of the electric system. This includes the introduction of our new rate structure, which goes into effect this month. This adjustment reflects our ongoing commitment to providing reliable and affordable electric service while also investing in the maintenance and improvement of our infrastructure for future generations.

As a reminder, CFEMC is implementing its first rate adjustment since 2007. We are moving to a fixed kilowatt-hour charge and raising the customer service charge on residential accounts from \$20.00 to \$28.00. With this change, your bill will be more evenly distributed throughout the year. There will be no more summer and winter rates to keep up with. The new flat rate structure has been designed with fairness and transparency in mind, ensuring we can continue to meet our members' needs and provide you with reliable power.

We understand that change can be challenging, and we are here to support every member through this transition. Our staff is ready to assist those who may need help understanding the new rates, offering resources and guidance to ensure that this change is as smooth and positive as possible. We encourage you to reach out with any questions by calling 770-502-0226.

I want to extend a heartfelt thank you to our linemen for their exceptional service and to you, our members, for your continued trust and support. Together, we are building a brighter, reliable future for your cooperative and the community we serve.



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