



Coweta-Fayette



CONTACT US: ☎ 770-502-0226 🌐 WWW.UTILITY.ORG

NOVEMBER 2024

POWERLINES

IN THIS ISSUE ● HURRICANE HELENE ● ANNUAL MEETING ● PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hurricane Helene: CFEMC Recovery and the Lasting Effects

In late September, all eyes were on the Gulf and Hurricane Helene. As we entered the evening hours of Thursday, Sept. 26, the storm's track was still in question. CFEMC employees, as well as outside crews, were staged and ready to respond to the storm.

As the storm took a more easterly track, we were left with approximately 3,900 members without power. Beginning early Friday morning, our crews responded to calls re-



porting downed trees, broken poles and power lines tangled in debris. High winds and saturated soil were the primary causes of these outages. Thanks to our ongoing right-of-way maintenance throughout the year, damage was limited, with most issues coming from trees outside our right-of-way falling onto lines.

“We are so appreciative of the patience and support of our members after the storm,” said CEO and President Chris Stephens. “Just as we carefully prepared for this storm, we know our members were also ready. Our team, along with the additional crews we brought in, worked tirelessly to restore power quickly and safely. I am very proud of them as they handled the tough conditions with the professionalism and dedication you expect.”

After power was restored to every CFEMC member, our crews suited up yet again to go help other areas of the state who felt the full impact of Helene with catastrophic system damage.



Eighteen employees were sent to Rayle EMC and worked on restoration efforts from September 27 through October 7. After completing their work at Rayle, they worked at Washington EMC until returning home on October 11. Two additional employees were sent to help Jefferson EMC from October 1 through the 16, and eight employees were sent to hard hit Satilla REMC on October 14 and returned on October 19.

“Part of being a cooperative is helping each other,” said Stephens. “We were blessed to have avoided the full impact of Helene, and our employees are more than ready to step up to those who were not as fortunate.”



LET'S GET SOCIAL! SCAN TO FOLLOW US!

President's Message



Chris Stephens
CEO

November is a special time of year for reflection and giving thanks. As I pause to consider all that I am grateful for, our members are at the top of the list. Your connection to Coweta-Fayette EMC enables us to make a lasting impact in the community; I am incredibly thankful for that. Together, we create a cooperative that doesn't just deliver power—it powers positive change.

Normally, I use this space to share updates on new projects and report on the progress of ongoing initiatives. These updates offer you, our members, a window into our priorities, progress, and challenges. However, in the spirit of this season of gratitude, I want to take a moment to express just how much your involvement means to us—perhaps in ways you may not even realize.

When you think of Coweta-Fayette EMC, you likely associate us with the local community. And you would be right. Our board of directors, leadership team, and employees live and work here. We are your neighbors, committed to making this community a better place. But you may not know that we are also part of a much larger cooperative network, and this network brings even greater value, tools, and knowledge that benefit you, the members of CFEMC.

One of the key aspects of this network is the cooperation among cooperatives. When severe weather threatens our region, we call on sister co-ops from areas that are unaffected by the storm. Through this mutual aid system, we can quickly bring in additional trucks, equipment, and personnel to help restore power as quickly and safely as possible. In return, we lend our resources to other co-ops when they

need assistance, just as we have done recently in the wake of Hurricane Helene. This mutual support is the backbone of the cooperative spirit and enables us to face large challenges together.

On a more personal note, I am incredibly thankful for the time our co-op board members dedicate to the success of Coweta-Fayette EMC. They invest hours into attending training sessions, participating in planning meetings and staying informed on industry trends. Their commitment means our members are represented by knowledgeable and thoughtful leaders, resulting in decisions that reflect your expectations and needs.

I am also deeply grateful to all of you who participated in our community meetings and our recent annual meeting. Your involvement helps shape the future of our cooperative, ensuring we stay aligned with the needs of our members.

I want to express my appreciation for the countless acts of kindness our employees, especially our linemen, receive when working in severe weather and dangerous conditions; your patience and understanding during power outages make a real difference. Our employees work tirelessly to restore power, and knowing that our members support us even in challenging times motivates us to keep going.

As we enter this season of thanks, I want to thank each of you sincerely. Your connection to Coweta-Fayette EMC isn't just about receiving reliable electricity—it's about being part of something larger. Together, we are building a stronger, more resilient community.

Wishing you and your loved ones a wonderful Thanksgiving filled with gratitude and joy.

Annual Meeting 2024 - a Driving Success!

CFEMC hosted its 77th Annual Meeting and Member Appreciation Day on Tuesday, October 15 at the cooperative's headquarters in Palmetto.

The annual meeting is an important part of the cooperative business model. Part of the value of being a member-owner of CFEMC is the opportunity to participate in the election of the board of directors. This year, the nominating committee appointed Mildred A. Winkles (Seat 3, Coweta County), Donald E. Harris (Seat 4, Coweta County) and Alice J. Mallory (Seat 4, Fayette County) to serve three-year terms. The nominating committee received no other candidates for consideration. As such, these incumbents were re-elected to the positions.

More than 2,800 people participated in the event and/or registered and voted during the weeks prior. Business

session updates and the drawing for the grand prize winner were streamed live via Facebook during the event. The recording of the business session and drawing as well as the virtual business meeting speeches and election can be seen on CFEMC's website, www.utility.org.



CFEMC Board Members (from left to right) Mildred A. Winkles (Seat 3, Coweta County), Donald E. Harris (Seat 4, Coweta County) and Alice J. Mallory (Seat 4, Fayette County), were re-elected to serve three-year terms.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

Coweta-Fayette EMC is an equal opportunity provider and employer /M/F/Y/D