

POWERLINES

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



Sun, Fun, & Safety: Protect Yourself from Hidden Electrical Hazards

As summer heats up, so does our use of electricity—from pool pumps to power tools. Keeping safety top of mind can help prevent serious injuries, including the often-overlooked danger of **Electric Shock Drowning (ESD)**.

ESD can occur in lakes, docks, or marinas when faulty electrical wiring leaks current into the water, potentially paralyzing swimmers. Always swim in designated areas, avoid swimming near docks with electrical equipment, and ensure any shoreline or dock wiring is inspected by a professional.

When outdoors, be cautious with **extension cords and power tools**. Use only cords rated for outdoor use and keep them away from water. Never operate electrical equipment in wet conditions, and always plug into **Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter (GFCI)** outlets, which help prevent shocks by shutting off power when a fault is detected. Also, be mindful of overhead power lines when using ladders, trimming trees, or flying kites.

Indoors, simple habits can go a long way. Avoid overloading outlets, replace frayed or damaged cords, and keep electrical devices away from sinks, bathtubs, and other water sources. Test GFCI outlets regularly, especially in kitchens, bathrooms, and laundry rooms.

Summer fun should be worry-free. By staying aware of electrical risks—both indoors and out—you can protect your family and enjoy the season safely.



Summer Storm SAFETY

When Thunder Roars, Go Indoors

Head inside at the first sound of thunder—lightning can strike miles from a storm.

Wait at least 30 minutes after the last thunder before going back outside.

Protect Your Home

Unplug electronics or use surge protectors to prevent damage from lightning strikes.

Consider whole-home surge protection for added safety.

Avoid Electrical Hazards Indoors

Stay away from corded phones, electrical appliances, and plumbing during a storm.

Don't shower or use water—lightning can travel through pipes.

Watch for Downed Lines

Stay far away from downed power lines—always assume they are live.

Report outages or hazards to your local utility immediately.

Be Prepared for Outages

Keep flashlights, batteries, and a charged phone ready.

Never use generators indoors or in enclosed spaces.



A COOLER HOME STARTS WITH A CFEMC HOME ENERGY AUDIT

As temperatures rise, let us help you find ways to lower your energy use! Contact us today for a home energy audit - a unique benefit of being a CFEMC member!

Call to determine if a home energy audit is right for you.
770-502-0226

Upcoming Board Election

From the Bylaws of CFEMC:

Article III Directors 3.05 Nominations by Nominating Committee

It shall be the duty of the Board to appoint, not less than forty-five (45) days before the date of the meeting of the members at which board members are to be elected, a committee on nominations consisting of not less than five (5) nor more than eleven (11) members who shall be selected so as to give equitable representation to the geographical areas served by the Cooperative. No member of the Board may serve on such committee. Written notice of the names of the members of the committee and meeting date for the committee shall be provided to the members prior to such meeting. It shall be the duty of the nominating committee to meet not less than forty-five (45) days prior to such meeting and to nominate one or more candidates for each seat on the Board of Directors that is to be filled at such meeting.

3.06 Nominations by Petition

Other nominations for such elections may be made by written petition signed by not less than fifteen (15) members, which shall be submitted to the Secretary of the Cooperative or his/her designee not less than forty-five (45) days prior to such meeting.

3.07 Notice of Nominees

The Secretary shall be responsible for posting at headquarters of the Cooperative the nominees for each seat made by the nominating committee and by petition and shall provide written notice thereof to the members by separate written notice according to the rules and procedures promulgated by the Board of Directors.

The following Nominating Committee was appointed by the Board of Directors at their regular meeting held May 26, 2026. This committee will meet Aug. 5, 2026, and prepare a list of nominations to be posted at the EMC office at least 45 days before the Annual Meeting on **Oct. 6, 2026**.

Connected by Purpose: Why the Cooperative Model Matters

One of the most important benefits of being a cooperative is how it helps us keep rates stable and affordable. Any margins we generate don't go to outside investors. They are assigned to you in the form of patronage capital based on your contribution. These margins are reinvested back into the system and ultimately returned to you in the form of capital credits.



Chris Stephens
CEO

We work diligently to control costs, operate efficiently, and make strategic investments that benefit our entire membership. Every dollar is managed with care because it ultimately belongs to you.

Planning Ahead for a Growing Energy Future

You've likely heard more about energy demand and supply in the news lately. Across the country, demand for electricity is growing, while new technologies and population growth are placing additional pressure on the grid.

Rest assured, we are not waiting to react; we are planning ahead.

Through our partnerships and long-term power supply planning, we are actively working to ensure a reliable mix of energy resources for the future. This includes evaluating new generation options, grid improvements, and innovative solutions that keep your power dependable and your rates competitive.

Our responsibility is not just to keep the lights on today, but to make sure they stay on tomorrow and for generations to come.

Your Voice Matters

Another defining strength of the cooperative model is that you have a voice. As a member-owner, you help shape the direction of this organization. Whether through voting, attending meetings, or sharing your feedback, your input matters.

This edition of the newsletter includes important information about upcoming board elections, including key dates and details about the nomination and voting process. We encourage you to stay informed and take part.

A Commitment That Doesn't Change

While the energy landscape may evolve, one thing will always remain the same: our commitment to you.

We will continue to put members first in every decision, plan responsibly for the future, safely deliver reliable electricity, and keep affordability at the forefront.

Being part of a cooperative isn't just about receiving electricity, it's about belonging to an organization grounded in community, accountability, and a shared purpose.

Thank you for trusting us to power your homes, businesses, and lives. We don't take that responsibility lightly, and we're honored to serve you.

The Directors who Intend to Seek Re-election:

Wayne "Ross" Henry
Seat 1 : All counties except
Coweta & Fayette

James "Lee" Hunter
Seat 2: Coweta County

James "Jim" W. Fulton, III
Seat 3: Fayette County

2026 Nominating Committee

Diane Maney
Peachtree City, Ga.

Cheryl Sewell
Senoia, Ga.

Fran McElwaney
Brooks, Ga.

Agustine Latorre
Newnan, Ga.

Frank Rooks
Newnan, Ga.

Brad Nolen
Newnan, Ga.

Robert N. Slay
Newnan, Ga.

George Michael Scott
Newnan, Ga.

Tommy Matthews
Fayetteville, Ga.

You can also learn more about board governance and the election process anytime by visiting our website at:

<https://utility.org/board-governance>

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 E. Harris • James Lee Hunter • Chuck Johnson • Mildred A. Winkles

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