



Operation Round Up Funds Care Packages for Citizen Soldiers

To help soldiers in the Georgia National Guard and their families, Coweta-Fayette EMC's Operation Round Up Trust Board recently donated funds to Operation Appreciation for military personnel care packages and resource program support.

Founded in 2012 by an army spouse and three volunteers, Operation Appreciation bridges the gap between civilian/military lives and offers a comforting safety net for resources, emergency info and navigation. The assistance they provide is not based on rank or the promise of repayment. They work hand-in-hand with family resource personnel to identify units preparing to deploy, those currently deployed or soldiers in the process of reintegration. The program then covers postage for packages, provides emergency assistance, handles deployment/welcome-home ceremonies and funerals, and much more.

According to Operation Appreciation President Beth Waters, the need is vast. On a typical day, these civilian service members live, work and play in our communities. At the critical moment of being activated, however, the world changes for these men and women and their families. Everything "normal" gets put on hold, and it can be a scary time. That's when Operation Appreciation steps in to provide guidance amidst uncertainty and help raise morale.

In our service territory, Operation Appreciation helps two units of 300+ soldiers, as well as their family members and rear detachment service personnel.

"We like to be a resource for them when traditional avenues aren't available," said Waters. "And our pack-

ages simply provide a 'thank you for your service to our country' that has made some amazing differences in soldiers' lives. Your money is set aside for those in need in your area – we want to be good stewards of our donations."

Operation Appreciation helps GA Guard and Reserve

members across all military branches. "We collect items for packages and then have packing days," said Waters. "Every penny we get, we give back to the troops because we have such a great love of country. We may be small, but we're mighty." To learn more, visit Operationappreciation.org.

Operation Round Up is a Coweta-Fayette EMC program that donates more than \$250,000 each year to worthy groups in our service area through voluntary contributions from members who "round up" their bill to the nearest dollar. For more information on Operation Round Up, please call 770-502-0226 or log on to Utility.org.





The President's Message

*Chris Stephens
President and CEO*

One major concern for electric utilities is our aging workforce. Surveys indicate that 25 percent of employees in our industry will be eligible for retirement in five years. Here at Coweta-Fayette EMC, we are not immune to this problem, and it's one of the many reasons we invest in our youth.

Offering scholarships through Operation Round Up is one of the ways we show that support. Each year, this program—managed by an independent trust board—provides financial assistance to graduating seniors who qualify and technical students enrolled locally at West Georgia/Southern Crescent Technical Colleges. In conjunction with other Georgia EMCs, we also support a statewide scholarship fund.

Another avenue by which we invest in our youth is participation in career days at our local schools. Whether it's a lineman informing kids how they got to where they are or me speaking about my career path as an engineer, we always appreciate these opportunities to devote time to students. It allows them to learn more about our industry and about us.

One of the most successful ways we have supported young adults is by participating in Washington Youth Tour. Each June, more than 1,700 high school students from electric cooperatives across the country

travel to Washington, D.C. for a week to gain an understanding of American history and their roles as citizens by meeting senators and representatives. Coweta-Fayette EMC has selected two candidates from our service territory every year since 1979, and each delegate stands out as a future leader.

This fact was never more apparent than when I heard Georgia's own Sylandi Brown address more than 5,000 electric cooperative leaders at the 2017 NRECA Annual Meeting. Sylandi was selected by the national Youth Leadership Council (YLC) to serve as spokesperson for the whole country. She reflected on her experience while in Washington: "Through the NRECA Washington Youth Tour, we have been motivated to discover and ignite our light in a world full of darkness. We have been motivated to use our energy for good and to use this power to positively impact others."

Whether the youth whose lives we touch come to work for us or go on to be successful in other endeavors, we will certainly continue to provide these opportunities. I am encouraged by our future workforce prospects each time I have the chance to listen to these leaders of tomorrow.

EMC Named Heard Chamber Business of the Year

During the Heard County Chamber of Commerce dinner earlier this year, Coweta-Fayette EMC was named Business of the Year for their support in the Heard County area. We'd like to thank Jimmy Adams, Vice President of Energy Services and General Manager of Relyco, who provided funding, volunteered his time for community projects and helped with Heard Chamber events.

One of our cooperative principles is Concern for Community, therefore Coweta-Fayette EMC is always willing to lend a helping hand when possible. We have been a part of the Heard Chamber



Pictured above left to right are 2017 Chamber Chairman Jimmy Adams, Coweta-Fayette EMC CEO Chris Stephens and EMC Board Member Sheriff Ross Henry.

Photo by Donna Haralson, The News and Banner

for many years and are always happy to give them support when needed.

EMC Trust Awards Technical Scholarships

To help students in our service area acquire the necessary knowledge and skills to compete in an ever-evolving workplace, the Coweta-Fayette Trust, Inc. Board of Directors recently awarded \$18,000 to deserving technical school attendees for 2017.

Eighteen students enrolled at both Southern Crescent Technical College (Griffin Tech) and West Georgia Technical College were selected to receive individual \$1,000 scholarships for tuition, books or course-specific tools and equipment.

This funding, made possible by Coweta-Fayette EMC's Operation Round Up Program, was awarded to top academic performers seeking financial assistance. The winners of this year's scholarships were selected by the Southern Crescent Technical College Foundation Board and the West Georgia Technical College Foundation Board based on a combination of need and academic performance.



Kelli Screven
\$1,000
Dental Assistant
Southern Crescent Tech



Peter Chase
\$1,000
Welding & Plumbing
Southern Crescent Tech



Matthew McCartney
\$1,000
Film & Television
Southern Crescent Tech



Frances Pass
\$1,000
Culinary Arts
Southern Crescent Tech



Tyerra James
\$1,000
Early Childhood Education
Southern Crescent Tech



Kayla Varnom
\$1,000
Radiologic Technology
Southern Crescent Tech



Traci Durden
\$1,000
Radiologic Technology
Southern Crescent Tech



Christopher Wimbish
\$1,000
Plumbing
Southern Crescent Tech



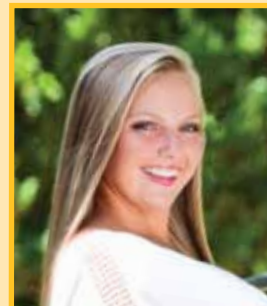
Willie Byrd
\$1,000
Business Management
Southern Crescent Tech



Michael Allen Hand
\$1,000
Welding
West Georgia Tech



Jennifer Palmer Wilson
\$1,000
Registered Nursing
West Georgia Tech



Hannah Nicole Stephens
\$1,000
Radiologic Technology
West Georgia Tech



Bryan Gordon
\$1,000
Nursing
West Georgia Tech



Rosemary Elizabeth Sweeting
\$1,000
Nursing
West Georgia Tech



Charissa Sigaloff
\$1,000
Radiologic Technology
West Georgia Tech



Ambily Jacob
\$1,000
Registered Nursing
West Georgia Tech



Lessa F. Gore
\$1,000
Electronics Technology
West Georgia Tech



Kari Janos
\$1,000
Registered Nursing
West Georgia Tech

Summer Rates



Residential

Summer (June 1 - October 31)

Service Charge	\$20.00/mo.
First 750 kWh/mo	7.80¢/kWh
Over 750 kWh/mo.	10.65¢/kWh

Electric Water Heater Credit (June 1 - October 31)
\$2.00/mo.

(One EWH credit per household)

Residential Load Management Annual Credit

\$10.00 credit applied to the member's bill in October for allowing the EMC to cycle the air conditioner and/or water heater during the months of June - September.



Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



Keep warm summer air outside where it belongs! Add caulk and weatherstripping to seal air leaks around leaky doors and windows.

Source: U.S. Dept. of Energy

Chris Stephens, President and CEO
C. Bradford Sears, Jr., Attorney
Douglas B. Warner, Attorney

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

James W. Fulton, III, Chairman
Therol Brown, Vice Chairman

J. Neal Shepard, Jr., Secretary-Treasurer
W. L. Clements

Ross Henry

Daniel C. Langford, Jr.

Alice J. Mallory

Elwood Thompson

Mildred A. Winkles

.....
POWERlines

Editor: Mary Ann Bell

807 Collinsworth Road, Palmetto, GA 30268
(770) 502-0226

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



Coweta-Fayette

770-502-0226
www.utility.org

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



Local Students Headed to Washington, D.C.

Rachel Gomes, a student at Fayette County High School, and Abby Adams, a student at Starr's Mill High School, were recently selected to attend the 52nd Washington Youth Tour, an all-expense paid leadership experience scheduled for this summer and sponsored by numerous electric membership corporations (EMCs) in Georgia, including Coweta-Fayette EMC.

Set for June 8-15, Youth Tour stands as the state's oldest leadership program for teens and offers a personal lesson in U.S. history, competitions and contests to encourage leadership and teamwork, conversations with elected leaders on important subjects, and a better appreciation for community and public service.

The journey of a lifetime kicks off in Atlanta with speaker Rep. Brooks Coleman, chairman of the House Education Committee. Building upon Coleman's passion for learning and his role as public servant, the trip also consists of personal visits with Georgia's congressional delegation. In these meetings, students are encouraged to ask questions about current events and initiatives that could impact their families and communities.

Paying tribute to those whose vision and bravery secured a free and open society is another key component of the program. To that end, participants will visit historic landmarks in the Nation's Capital, including sites like Arlington National Cemetery, the Smithsonian Museums, the Holocaust Museum, Mount Vernon, the Supreme Court, the Capitol, the Washington Monument and the MLK, FDR, Jefferson, World War II and Lincoln Memorials.

Also while in D.C., our delegation will join more than 1,700 Washington Youth Tour participants from co-ops across the country, providing yet another life experience: the chance to learn from a diverse group of peers

representing nearly every state. According to Coweta-Fayette EMC Senior Public Relations VP Mary Ann Bell, the tour was established to inspire the next generation of leaders by exposing students to the fast-paced world of politics, service and teamwork.

"These teenagers represent the next wave of educated, engaged citizen leaders in our communities and country," said Bell. "It's important for them to experience D.C., to see monuments and memorials honoring those who made sacrifices so we may live in a free society, and to introduce them to others who share similar hopes and dreams, but come from a variety of backgrounds."

Since 1965, the Washington Youth Tour has given more than 3,000 students in Georgia and 50,000+ teens nationwide this opportunity. The program was initially implemented at the behest of President Lyndon Johnson, who wanted to "send youngsters to the nation's capital, where they can actually see what the flag stands for and represents."



*Abby Adams,
Starr's Mill High School*



*Rachel Gomes,
Fayette County High School*