



Democracy Is the Co-op Way

The more you put in, the more you get out.

Each fall, Coweta-Fayette EMC has an annual meeting, and one of the most important activities we conduct is the election of directors. These nine people are entrusted with the strategic direction of the cooperative and its governance—no small task!

When pioneers created the modern cooperative movement in 1884, they were insistent upon all members having the right to vote. Unless we consistently remind ourselves how precious this right is, we can easily take it for granted.

At Coweta-Fayette EMC, we try to make it as convenient as possible for members to participate in our election process by voting in person, via mail-in ballot and digitally. As the utility industry experiences some of the biggest changes ever, electric co-ops need your active participation. As a member of a cooperative, you have the right (and some may even say the obligation) to help set its course. This is a critical difference between EMCs and other electricity providers, like investor-owned utilities (IOUs) or municipally-owned systems.

With IOUs, you are a customer, and there is no required ownership. Stockholders live far away and

have no direct attachment to the organization other than seeking a return on investment. Communities served by municipally-owned systems may vote for the mayor or city council, but the connection to the electric service is indirect.

A co-op's board of directors makes important strategic decisions for the organization, while the operations (day-to-day running of the business) is entrusted to the employees.

Some examples of decisions boards make that impact all members are:

- the level of involvement in community economic development
- whether to offer members renewable types of energy, like solar-/wind-generated power
- approving the budget for the co-op

With Coweta-Fayette EMC's annual meeting just around the corner in October, please keep our co-op election process in mind. As locally owned businesses in the community, electric cooperatives can introduce neighbors to neighbors and rekindle the spirit of democracy at the grassroots level.

We hope to see you this fall!





The President's Message

Chris Stephens
President and CEO

Summer is here. That means trips to the beach, family cookouts and home DIY projects. While you are outdoors flipping those burgers or starting your next project, I urge you to take a few minutes to think about safety.

According to the National Weather Service, 70 percent of all lightning fatalities occur from June through August.

A lightning strike can cause serious or even fatal injuries. To avoid these risks, always keep an eye on weather forecasts and make backup plans in case of an unexpected storm.

Lightning can strike up to 10 miles from the area in which it is raining. If you are planning to be outdoors, make sure you listen to local weather or download an app on your smartphone that provides weather forecasts so that you know if there is a chance of severe weather happening near you.

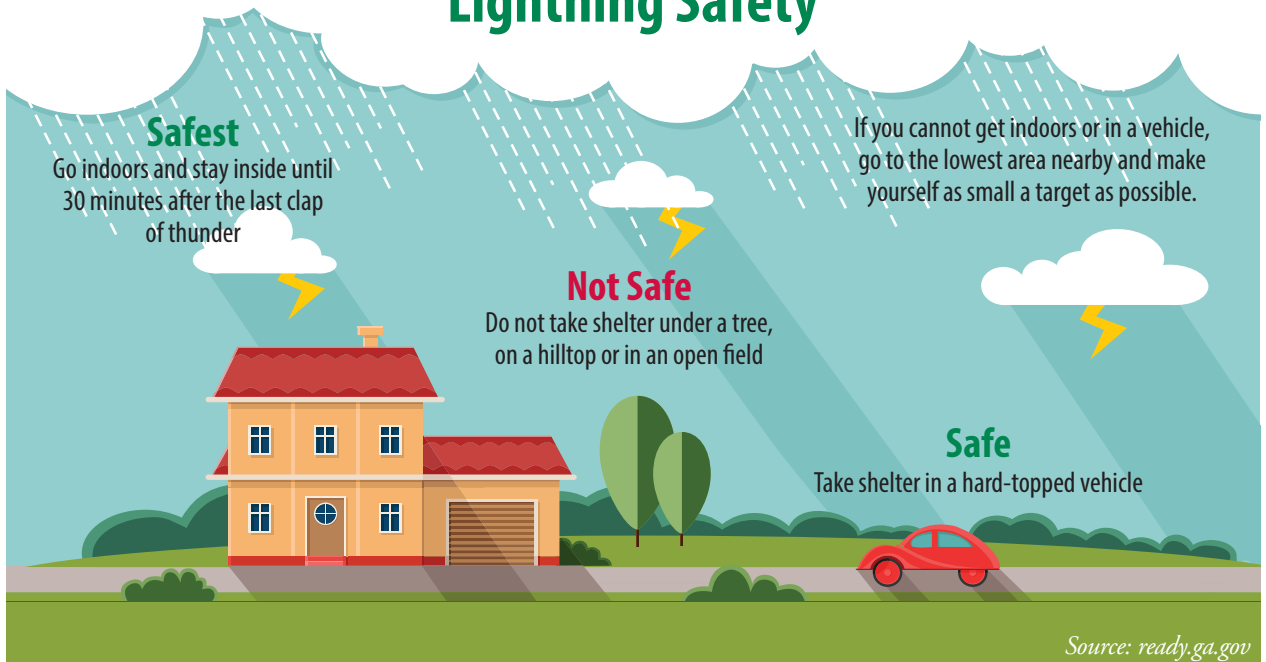
Knowing how to stay protected in a storm is key to preventing a tragedy and costly injuries. There is no safe place from lightning when you are outside. The best way to stay safe from the threat of lightning is to stay indoors.

Kids also spend more time outdoors in the summer. Make sure they know and follow basic electric safety rules too.

- Never climb trees near power lines. Even if the power lines aren't touching the tree, they could touch when more weight is added to the branch.
- Kites and model airplanes should only be flown during good weather conditions in large open areas like an open park or a wide field. They should stay away from overhead power lines or other electrical equipment such as substations. If a kite gets stuck in a tree that's near power lines, don't climb up to get it. Electricity can travel down kite strings or wires. Contact your Coweta-Fayette EMC for assistance.
- Never climb a utility pole or tower. The electricity carried through this equipment is extremely high voltage and could kill you.
- Don't play on or around pad-mounted electrical equipment. These are often green metal "box" transformers on cement pads.
- Never go into an electric substation for any reason. Electric substations contain high-voltage equipment; even raising your hand inside one can cause an arc that may result in an electric shock. Never attempt to retrieve a pet, ball or any toy from these areas. Call us at the co-op if that happens.
- Water often attracts children. Make sure they know water and electricity don't mix. Teach children to be careful plugging in electronics or other items near a pool.

Our crew's and employee's safety is a top priority of mine every day, but so is the safety of our members. I want to make sure that you know how to keep your family safe as well.

Lightning Safety



2017 Melissa Segars Memorial Scholarship Winners

Congratulations to another group of extraordinary young men and women from Coweta-Fayette EMC's service territory. We are always amazed by the caliber of local teenagers, and these winners are no exception!

To further enrich our cooperative's commitment to community, the Coweta-Fayette Trust, Inc., Board of Directors recently awarded \$44,000 in scholarships to these 28 deserving high school students for the 2017 school year.



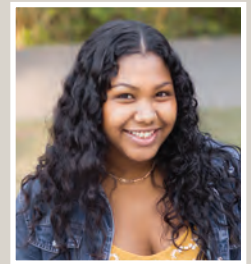
Andrew Boles
Central Christian School
Daniel & Donna Boles
\$1,500



Caroline Williams
Coram Deo Classical School
Timothy & Dayna Williams
\$1,500



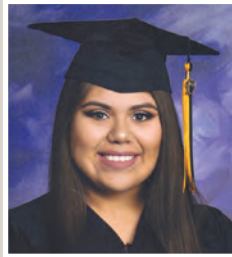
Kaitlyn Forte
East Coweta High School
Heather Lee West
\$1,500



Ereina Plunkett
East Coweta High School
Eric & Carlena Plunkett
\$1,500



Joshua Kirkland
East Coweta High School
Stephen & Tammy Kirkland
\$1,500



Alma Andrade
Fayette County High School
Jose & Blanca Andrade
\$1,500



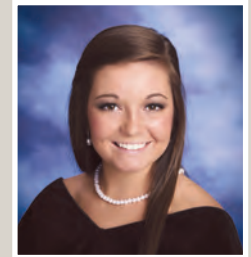
Cassidy McLaughlin
Fayette County High School
Chad McLaughlin & Tonya Johnson
\$1,500



Kim Hoang
Fayette County High School
Cuong Hoang & Oanh Nguyen
\$1,500



Oluwatobi Odugunwa
Fayette County High School
Anthony & Christiana Odugunwa
\$2,000



Ally Harris
Heard County High School
Kevin & Iris Harris
\$1,500



Madison Seagraves
Landmark Christian School
Gregory & Connie Seagraves
\$1,500



Allison Nye
Landmark Christian School
Scott & Karen Nye
\$1,500



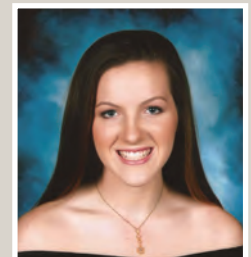
Clara Comiskey
McIntosh High School
Philip & Monique Comiskey
\$1,500



Brandon Battle
New Horizons, New Directions
Dolores Charles
\$1,500



Katelyn Cannon
Newnan High School
Steve & Teresa Cannon
\$1,500



Caroline Avett
Newnan High School
Tripp & Leslie Avett
\$1,500



Erin Lamb
Newnan High School
Stephen & Kimberly Lamb
\$1,500



John Crow
Newnan High School
John & Katharine Crow
\$1,500



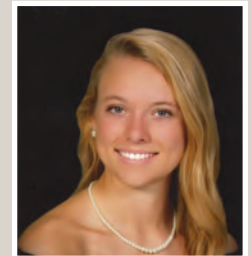
Mahari Young
Newnan High School
James & Mary Young
\$3,000



Reagan Brinkley
Northgate High School
Romeo & Jodi Brinkley
\$1,500



Ian Binek
Northgate High School
John & Suzette Binek
\$1,500



Shelby Sheehan
Our Lady of Mercy
Catholic High School
Thomas & Carol Sheehan
\$1,500



Allison Weinhardt
Sandy Creek High School
Ken & Suzette Weinhardt
\$1,500



Joshua Tysor
Starr's Mill High School
Dale & Kimberly Tysor
\$1,500



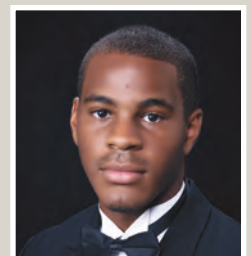
Zila McCallum
Starr's Mill High School
Pamela Pearson
\$1,500



Madison McPeters
Whitewater High School
Bill & Marci McPeters
\$1,500



Victoria Domaleski
Whitewater High School
Edward & Mary Domaleski
\$1,500



Quentin Byrd
Whitewater High School
Derrick Byrd
\$1,500

Safety Starts at Home



Use bulbs with the correct wattage



Label each breaker and test to see if they are working properly



Don't overload outlets

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

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POWERlines

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Coweta-Fayette

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Nominating Committee for Upcoming Board Elections Announced

Bylaws of Coweta-Fayette Electric Membership Corporation

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 June 27, 2017. This committee will meet August 9 and prepare a list of nominations that will be posted at the EMC office at least 45 days before the annual meeting on October 14, 2017.

2017 Nominating Committee:

Mrs. Woodrow Abney
Franklin, GA

Frank H. Fulton
Fayetteville, GA

Robert R. "Bob" Reeves
Fayetteville, GA

Pam F. Clemons
Franklin, GA

Sarah L. Japour
Newnan, GA

Margaret Hunter
Moreland, GA

Louis Dohanich
Moreland, GA

Deborah M. Lowe
Tyrone, GA

Willie J. "James" Upshaw
Moreland, GA

The three directors whose terms expire this year are:

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

Wayne "Ross" Henry
Seat 1
all service areas except
Coweta & Fayette Counties

Elwood Thompson
Seat 2
Coweta County