



## 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.

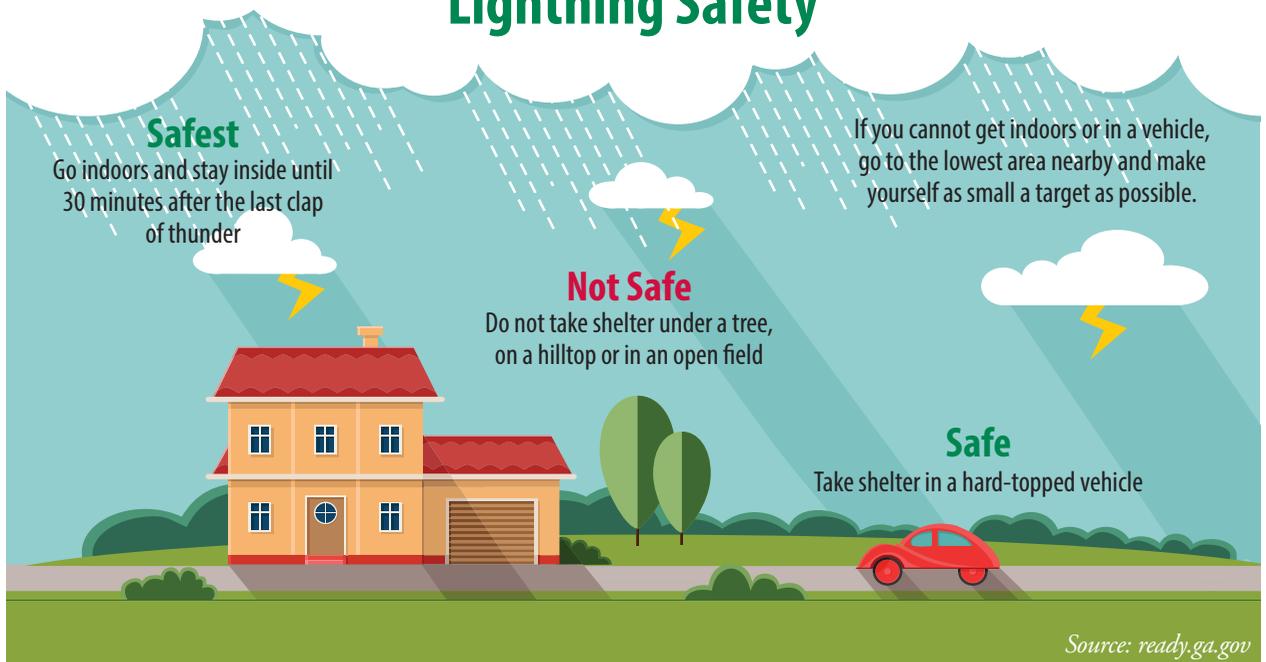
Knowing how to stay protected in a storm is key to preventing a tragedy and costly injuries. There is no safe place from lightning when you are outside. The best way to stay safe from the threat of lightning is to stay indoors.

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



Source: [ready.ga.gov](http://ready.ga.gov)

# 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.



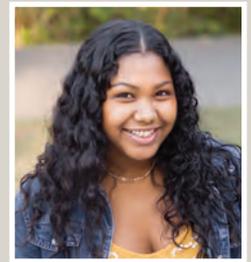
**Andrew Boles**  
Central Christian School  
Daniel & Donna Boles  
\$1,500



**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



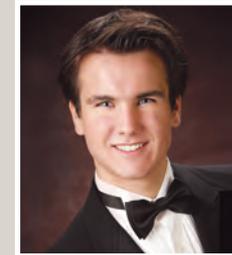
**John Crow**  
Newnan High School  
John & Katharine Crow  
\$1,500



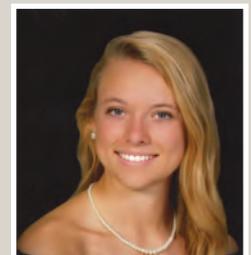
**Mahari Young**  
Newnan High School  
James & Mary Young  
\$3,000



**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



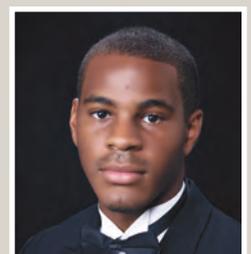
**Zila McCallum**  
Starr's Mill High School  
Pamela Pearson  
\$1,500



**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

.....  
**POWERlines**

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**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 



## 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