



Lives on the Line

Every year, we take the time to thank our extraordinary line workers who dedicate their lives to keeping the lights on in our local communities. Sixty-six linemen (plus contract crews) maintain 6,298 miles of line in Coweta-Fayette EMC's service territory, and without them, our world would be dark.

We depend on our entire staff to keep the cooperative running smoothly, but during the month of April, we honor all the electric utility power line technicians who often find themselves in dangerous and challenging situations so our lives may be a little bit brighter and safer every day. These brave and tireless men and women across the nation repair damaged lines and maintain critical infrastructure for our communities. Without their hard work and commitment to the job, our co-op would not thrive. No matter the time of day—during sunshine or starry nights, under blue skies and dark clouds, on weekdays, weekends and holidays—if the lights go out, so do they.

“We sit in holes and splice wire—anything it takes to get the job done is what we do,” says Crew Chief Pat Long, with Coweta-Fayette EMC since 1978 and a member of the first “hot line” crew at the co-op. “Champ (partner Willie Champion) and I drive 130 to 200 miles on a busy day. We have fun, but we stay safe.”

Perhaps you have seen linemen raising their buckets in howling winds and torrential rains or in freezing temperatures and icy



Equipment Operator Willie Champion uses protective safety gear as he works on an underground transformer.

conditions. They work around the clock near high-voltage power lines until electricity is restored to every member in our Coweta-Fayette EMC community. And make no mistake: electricity lacks a conscience. Many linemen have had close calls personally or have witnessed a coworker's close call, and it can haunt the memory.

“You have to have those eyes open—don't get but one chance,” says Equipment Operator Champion, a former fireman who's been with the cooperative almost 30 years. “We have to always wear our gear because anything could make an arc; safe coming in and safe

continued inside





The President's Message

Chris Stephens
President and CEO

Coweta-Fayette EMC, along with other Georgia electric cooperatives, recognizes April as Lineman Appreciation Month, extending what is currently only a one-day national observance. Although we have a month set aside to honor these devoted men and women, I appreciate their efforts every day and night of the year.

Linemen are a special breed. It takes a unique person to work in their environment, around high voltages and often in the worst weather Mother Nature can throw at them. This certainly isn't for the majority of the population. Our linemen are the first responders of our electric distribution system, and they are on-call 24/7 to get our members' power back on when they experience a service interruption. Conditions can be dangerous, but our linemen power through—using safe work practices that protect themselves and our members—to ensure electricity is restored at the earliest possible time.

At Coweta-Fayette EMC, our linemen maintain 6,298 miles of distribution lines, which ranges up to 25,000 volts and powers 77,975 active services. They also monitor 28 substations with a total of 85

circuits. In fact, these same men built 58.5 miles of distribution lines and connected 1,136 new services in 2016.

Linemen create a brotherhood. Whether it is working alongside a fellow employee or assisting others in need, they all look out for each other. Many of our men have volunteered to assist the NRECA International Foundation, traveling to the Dominican Republic, Costa Rica and Guatemala to work with other linemen to construct power lines for those who have never had electricity. The conditions can be extreme, the tools are limited and the language is different, but it is quickly apparent our linemen and their counterparts in other countries share the same commitment to working together and using safe practices. They all speak line work.

To show your appreciation and support for the men and women who light up our lives and dedicate themselves to getting the job done, regardless of conditions, please do so by visiting Coweta-Fayette EMC's Facebook or Twitter pages and letting them know with the hashtag **#ThankALineman**.

Linemen *continued*



Crew Chief Pat Long and partner Champion—who playfully refer to themselves as the “Geritol Crew”—pause briefly during a new construction project.

going home is what we want.”

In addition to aiding members in our local service territory, linemen are always willing and eager to volunteer when a neighboring town, county or state is in need after a major outage occurs. They provide the power behind the power, and often make up the very fabric of nearby communities.

“Being a lineman isn't for everybody,” says Crew Chief Corey Hendrix, with Coweta-Fayette EMC since

2000. “Mistakes can cost a limb or a life. But at the end of the day, it's rewarding work. I can't imagine doing anything else.”

Our linemen are brave, committed and critical to our success. This year—and every one to follow—we hope you will join us in thanking the many men and women locally and around the world who light our lives. Remember, your power works because they do!



From the ground, Crew Chief Corey Hendrix assists Journeyman Dustin Arrington with an equipment hand-off from the bucket.

On the Cover

Dustin Arrington and fellow Journeyman Josh Scoggins (with Pike Electric) ensure a power line is properly insulated.

Tracing the Co-op Family Tree

We cherish what precious little time we get to spend with family – from spouses, parents, children and siblings, to grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins – but working with them day in and day out might test the patience of even the kindest among us.

Not so for some Coweta-Fayette linemen, however, who consider working for the EMC a family tradition. For these utility workers, co-op roots run deeper than the holes they dig and spread outward like lines on a grid.



Brothers Daniel and Robbie Cason have worked as linemen for Coweta-Fayette EMC for 21 years and 10 years, respectively, but not on the same crew. “Knowing there is loyalty and a shared history with someone, that’s important,” says Daniel. “Other things come and go, but we begin and end with family.”

“It’s what matters most when we leave here every day,” echoes Robbie.



For 15-20 years, cousins Jerome Arrington (Underground Crew Chief), Andrew Betts (Systems Operator) and Dustin Arrington (Lineman) have worked together in stormy weather and blue skies. “When you have to spend a lot of time

working away from home, it helps knowing you have family close by,” Dustin says.

But that term – family – is evolving.

“The linemen here are already a brotherhood,” says Jerome. “We give each other a hard time like we’re kin, but we have that trust, too. We know everything about each other; without even saying a word, we know when something’s wrong. When one of us is hurting, all of us are.”

“I love every one of these guys,” says Andrew. “It doesn’t matter if we’re related by blood.”

Richard Davis (Right-of-Way Foreman), whose grandfather and great-grandfather served on the board at Greystone Power, definitely comes from co-op stock. “Our EMC is a family anyway, regardless of relatives,” he says. “That’s what sets us apart from investor-owned utilities.”



Substation Maintenance Supervisor Darrell Sewell, who taught his son, Lee, a lineman, about electrical work from age 10, says he worries about all the guys like they are his own. “I worry about them because I know what’s out there,” he says. “But I’m proud Lee followed in my footsteps. We are very fortunate to work for this company together.”

Although there are many more related Coweta-Fayette EMC employees, here are a few definite kinfolk in our co-op lineman family: Operations VP Wendell Webb and his brother, Wayne, an underground construction manager; Roger Conner and his son, Scott, both former linemen; CSR Patsy Cox and her son, Eddie, a lineman; and Trent Brimer, a linemen, as well as his father, Terry, and his grandfather, David.

EMC's Green Power Program Green-e Certified

The Green-e Energy Certification program provides independent, third-party certification to ensure renewable energy meets strict environmental and consumer protection standards. The Center for Resource Solutions requires that sellers of certified renewable energy disclose clear and useful information to potential customers, allowing consumers to make informed choices. Therefore, the following content label provides the renewable resources used in Coweta-Fayette's program in 2016 and 2017.

PRODUCT CONTENT LABEL

The product is sold in blocks of 100 kilowatt-hours (kWh).
The product will be made up of the following renewable resources

	Green-e Energy Certified New ³ Renewables in Coweta-Fayette EMC Green Power Program		Generation Location
	2016 ¹	2017 ²	
-Biomass	100%	100%	Georgia
-Geothermal	0%	0%	
-Eligible hydroelectric ⁴	0%	0%	
-Solar	0%	0%	
-Wind	0%	0%	
TOTAL	100%	100%	

1. The 2016 figures reflect the resources that were supplied for the year ending December 31, 2016.

2. The 2017 figures are prospective and reflect the power that we have contracted to provide. Actual figures may vary according to resource availability. We will annually report to you before August 1 of the next year in the form of a Historic Product Content Label the actual resource mix of the electricity you purchased.

3. New Renewables come from generation facilities that first began commercial operation within the past 15 years. This product includes generation from a facility that is approved for extended use by Green-e Energy.

For comparison, the current average mix of resources supplying Coweta-Fayette EMC includes: Coal (30%), Nuclear (26%), Oil (0%), Natural Gas (43%), Hydroelectric (1%), and Other (1%).

The average home in the United States uses 909 kWh per month. [Source: U.S. EIA, 2013]

For specific information about this electricity product, please contact Coweta-Fayette Electric Membership Corporation, (770) 502-0226, www.utility.org/site/GreenPowerBlock.aspx.



Green-e Energy certifies that Coweta-Fayette Electric Membership Corporation Green Power Program meets the minimum environmental and consumer protection standards established by the non-profit Center for Resource Solutions. For more information on Green-e Energy certification requirements, call 1-888-63-GREEN or log on to www.green-e.org.



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In Memory of Virginia Walls, Coweta-Fayette EMC's First Employee

In 1946, Marvin Morrow was excited to hear of a job opening in downtown Newnan, as three of his daughters were looking for work. He mentioned to Virginia that the newly formed EMC was opening an office and suggested she apply for the job. On a Friday morning in April, she interviewed with EMC Coordinator John J. Hood at the welfare and agricultural building. She began work at 1 p.m. that same afternoon, at a starting salary of \$83 per month.

Virginia was the first employee hired by Mr. Hood to work at the EMC. In the early days, he physically knocked on doors to sign people up for electricity. When he returned to the office with contracts and membership fees, Virginia made a list of new members and deposited the membership fees. To her credit, the REA in Washington D.C. noted that Coweta-Fayette EMC had the best record-keeping of early membership.



The member newsletter, Rural Sparks, contained meter cards, which she hand-stapled to the newsletter before mailing. Upon receipt, members marked their cards in accordance with their meter reading before sending them back to the office for Virginia to hand-process bills based on members' notes.

In 1955, she was promoted to secretary to Manager Hood and remained in that position until she retired in 1983 with 37 years of service. She was the mother of two daughters and dearly loved retirement and spending more time with her grandchildren.

She passed away on February 20 while at home with her family. She was an encyclopedia of knowledge about the EMC's history and was truly a great lady. She will always be thought of as the "First Lady of Coweta-Fayette EMC."

