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Office Hours

7 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Monday-Friday
(Drive-thru Hours)

Pay your bill online at
www.cwemc.com

Payment Methods

Payments can be made at our
Chatom and Jackson offices
with cash, checks, debit or
credit cards

Our Customer Service Rep-
resentatives can accept pay-
ments over the phone using a
credit card or debit card

Local Pages Editor

Anna Wright



CWEMC lends a hand

Help is a word rarely used in the business world, yet it is used every day among rural electric cooperatives.

Help is a *good thing* — at least that is one definition, along with *support, relief, comfort, lend a hand, and even rally round.*

I know, first-hand, that those words describe some of the feelings rural electric cooperatives in Mississippi, Louisiana and Texas are experiencing as more than 200 line workers from 21 cooperatives in Alabama traveled to their aid after Hurricane Gustav swept through that area on Labor Day.

Clarke-Washington EMC sent five of our linemen to South Louisiana Electric Cooperative near Houma, La., to help restore power to their members: David Bryant, Kenny Harrell, Harold Hoven, Jason Pipken and Bobby Pritchard. These men left Tuesday morning, Sept. 2 at 11 a.m. traveling to Houma, La., located 40 miles southwest, of New Orleans and was one of the hardest hit areas by Hurricane Gustav.

Other Alabama cooperative's will

be helping Dixie Electric Membership Corp. a 95,000 member utility near Baton Rouge as well as South Louisiana Electric Cooperative Association, with a membership of 20,000 people.

Reports stated that the storm knocked out power to 100 percent of both co-ops' members.

Clarke-Washington EMC will never forget the help that we received in the recent past after Hurricane Ivan damaged this area. We are happy to provide help to overcome their devastation just as hundreds helped us.

October is National Cooperative Month and I can't think of a better message to emphasize than that of cooperatives working together.

Thank you.



Stan Wilson

CEO/Manager of
Clarke-Washig-
ton Electric
Membership
Corporation



Linemen from Clarke-Washington EMC leave for Houma, La. On Tuesday, Sept. 2, to aid South Louisiana Electric Cooperative Association restore power after Hurricane Gustav hit the area on Labor Day. Bobby Pritchard, David Bryant, Harold Hoven, Jason Pipken and Kenny Harrell.

October is National Cooperative Month

There's something special about the utility that brings electricity to your home: It's a consumer cooperative, and you're more than a customer. You're a member.

The hallmark of a cooperative business is its seven guiding principles. They are:

1. ***Voluntary and open membership.***
2. ***Democratic member control.***
3. ***Members' economic participation.***
4. ***Autonomy and independence.***
5. ***Education, training and information.***
6. ***Cooperation among cooperatives.***
7. ***Concern for community.***

Clarke-Washington EMC is proud to serve you as a rural electric cooperative.



Quick and efficient customer service: Allison Taylor, & Aerial Crump



CWEMC linemen Dwight Pugh, works to repair and maintain power lines



Anna Wright with CWEMC talks with young students about electrical safety.



Steve Sheffield, David Anderson and Austin Roberts of CWEMC's Operations Department



Terry Hooper with CWEMC tightens a guy wire after storms from Hurricane Fay in August.



CWEMC provides opportunities for local youth: Luke Wheeler and Kaitlan Ramsey, 2008 Washington D.C. Youth Tour winners



CWEMC participates in the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life fundraising program.



Take time this fall to keep cold air out this winter

Safety on the Farm

Crisp, fall weather means harvest time on the farm. Don't let this harvest turn dangerous when electrical hazards are overlooked. Farm workers are killed each year by electrocution when large farm machinery makes contact with overhead power lines.

The following tips will help keep everyone on the farm safe:

- Look over work areas carefully for overhead power lines and utility poles.
- Make sure there are ample clearances of power lines when moving large machinery such as combines, grain augers, pickers, bailers and front end loaders.
- When planning new construction, consider existing power lines.
- Be extra careful when working around trees and brush that often obstruct power lines.
- Train all farm workers on how to properly operate machinery near overhead power lines.

Source: ©Safe Electricity, www.safeelectricity.org; National Ag Safety Database

Don't let your hard-earned money blow away through drafty doors and windows, as well as un-insulated attics, walls, floors, and basements. As we stay indoors to stay warm this winter, save your money and reduce your utility bills by following the energy efficiency tips below:

- Find air leaks inside and around the exterior of the home. Check around fixtures that penetrate walls, such as exhaust fans and electrical outlets. Look for unfilled gaps and cracks near dryer vents, chimneys and faucet pipes.
- Seal leaks between moving parts with weather stripping, such as between a door and its frame. Caulk cracks between windows and walls, as well as around door frames.
- Replace your screens with storm windows and doors. If you have older or leaky windows that you can't replace, consider doing temporary fixes, such as plastic film kits that create the effect of an interior storm window.
- If you are shopping for new windows, doors, or skylights, look for ones with the Energy Star label.
- Make sure attics and flooring above unheated areas, such as crawl spaces and the garage, are properly insulated.
- Have your furnace checked by a professional to make sure it's operating safely and at its optimal level. In addition, change your furnace filters monthly.
- Have a programmable thermostat installed to automatically raise and lower home temperatures for energy savings by day and night.

Source: North Carolina Association of Electric Cooperatives and the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association



High school students attend “Co-op Boot Camp”

More than 30 students from across Alabama attended the 26th Annual Cooperative Youth Conference held at the Alabama 4-H Center in Columbiana, July 8-10. This year's theme was “Co-op Boot Camp.”

Markita Stewart of Jackson attended co-op camp in July and represented Clarke-Washington EMC.

This three-day conference is sponsored each year by the Alabama Council of Cooperatives and provides an opportunity for students to study about the cooperative form of business and its economic impact on society.

“Students aren't taught the cooperative form of business in school anymore,” Chellie Phillips, co-chair for the event said. “They really have to be on the college level before they are even exposed to this type of business structure.”

Dr. John Adrian, chair of the Auburn University Department of Agriculture Economics, provided the students with a basic history of the cooperatives and how they operate.

“The cooperative form of business is the only form that is created by the people for the people,” Dr. Adrian told the students. “When you are part of a cooperative, it is your responsibility to get involved, attend annual meetings and have a voice in how your cooperative is run.”

Participants in the conference gained insight in the decisions involved with managing a cooperative through a computer simulated program. This program allows students to form their own co-op and make day-to-day business decisions that will affect the financial outcomes of their business.

In addition to learning business skills such as reading a balance sheet and understanding the difference between assets and liabilities.

Students also spent time developing their decision making skills.

Darin Moseley, with the Big Oak Girl's Ranch, spoke on “What Motivates You.” Debbie Bracewell, with PowerSouth, encouraged students to think about the defining moments in their life and how they influence the course of their life.

Students also developed their leadership skills through a special presentation by magician Lynn Hodges and several group activities.

Students were given a dose of reality through a program provided by the Alabama Cooperative Extension Service. Reality Check offers students a chance to move from station to station in Realville, USA where they are faced with real life decisions.

Students ended the conference with a visit from Auburn University's Advisor to the Ag Ambassadors Deborah Solie. In addition, the students received a visit from several co-op representatives: Alabama

Farmers Cooperative's Grace Smith who highlighted the diversity of products offered by the farm cooperative; Jerry Adams, with Alabama Dairy Farmers, explained how dairy cooperatives function and the diversity of products dairy farmers now produce; Alabama Rural Electric Association of Cooperatives Mary Tyler Spivey and Mike Temple shared the rural electrification story with students; Barrett Walls and Amanda Simpson with Federal Land Bank Associations provided students with information concerning their services and Kelley Miller with First South Farm Credit encouraged students to make wise credit decisions.

Sponsors of this year's conference included: Alabama Farmers Cooperative, Federal Land Bank Association, First South Farm Credit Association, Southern States, Alabama Rural Electric Association, Dairy Farmers of America, Alabama Cooperative Extension Service and Auburn University.



Over 30 students from across Alabama spent three days at the 4-H Center located in Columbiana, AL learning about the cooperative form of business. Along with educational activities, students also heard from motivational speakers and enjoyed the recreational activities the facilities offered. Markita Stewart of Jackson represented Clarke-Washington EMC at co-op camp in July.

Save Time by Paying Online

Pay Online in 3 easy steps

1. Visit www.cwemc.com and select the bill payment option button on the home page.
2. Follow the instructions on the online billing information page. Located on the bottom of the page is a "Customer Login" button. Click and you will be taken to the login page.
3. Type your account number minus the last two digits in the account number field. Your password is located on your electric bill, just under the total.

Clarke-Washington EMC now has an online bill paying option available to our customers to make paying your electric bill more convenient.

To access this option visit our Web site at www.cwemc.com and click on the phrase "CWEMC now offers an Online Bill Payment Option" or on the link in the upper right hand corner.

The system will also ask for an account number, which will be your account number minus the last two digits. For example, if your account number is 1234501, you should enter 12345 in the account field.

A password is printed on each bill to give customers first-time access into the online bill paying system.

This is another way Clarke-Washington EMC is working to provide assistance to our customers and continue to provide them with the good value of electricity.

If you have any questions about the online billing system call our billing department at 1 (800) 323-9081.



www.cwemc.com

WARNING!

Be careful when using a portable generator

- Follow the manufacturer's directions for installation and operation.
- Use generators or other fuel-powered machines outside the home. Carbon monoxide fumes are odorless and can quickly poison you indoors.
- Take special care not to overload the generator. Use appropriately sized extension cords to carry the electric load. Make sure the cords have a grounded, three-pronged plug and are in good condition.
- Never connect generators to another power source such as power lines. The reverse flow of electricity can electrocute an unsuspecting utility worker.
- **Never** touch a downed power line. Call Clarke-Washington EMC to report it immediately. Avoid contact with overhead lines during cleanup and other activities.
- Assume all wires on the ground are electrically charged.



Clarke-Washington Electric
Membership Corporation

A Touchstone Energy[®] Cooperative 
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Jackson & Chatom