

Five reasons we love serving our members

COASTAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE CEO & EXECUTIVE VP CHRIS FETTES



Chris Fettes

Valentine's Day may seem like an observance originally created by a greeting card company, but over time it's become a widely celebrated day generating millions of dollars spent on flowers, candy and, of course, greeting cards professing our love. But Valentine's Day isn't just for the lovebirds. It's also the perfect time to let our friends, family, co-workers and other special people in our lives know we care about them—with or without a store-bought greeting card.

So, in that vein, we've created our list of the top five reasons why we love serving you, our members at Coastal

Electric Cooperative. Because what good is love if it's never expressed?

1. We love serving our members because without you, the co-op wouldn't exist.

Our purpose is to provide you with reliable, economical electricity. Simply put, Coastal Electric exists to serve you. We don't make profits, and we don't answer to distant stakeholders. As a not-for-profit electric cooperative, our one purpose is serving the people right here in our community. That's why we were formed by local people, for local people in 1940—to bring

power to our area when for-profit utilities would not.

2. You enable us to complete our mission by joining us in giving back.

A major part of our mission is to serve our community and look after the greater good. Your generosity enables us to help the most vulnerable members of our community through programs like Operation Round Up. Not only do we come together to offer a hand to those in need, but Coastal Electric members' Operation Round Up dollars also fund worthwhile endeavors that will enrich our community for generations, such as grants for local schools and scholarships that propel hometown students toward bright futures.

3. Members of our co-op serve on the board of directors.

The board provides guidance for setting co-op priorities and helping make big decisions. Because our board members live in the area, they're able to serve as the pulse of the larger community and identify immediate and long-term needs.

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The broader co-op membership provides helpful input through their vote on director elections and by weighing in on co-op and community issues.

4. You help us get it right. Coastal Electric members keep us in the know. We do our best to avoid power outages, but Mother Nature can occasionally throw us a curveball. Our members are quick to report any power disruptions and are patient as our crews work to safely restore power. We know outages are frustrating, and your support as we work through storms has meant the world to our employees. Your opinions are critical for the co-op's success, and we thank you for communicating

with us. Because Coastal Electric employees live, work, volunteer and raise families right here, our members are our friends and neighbors. Our kids go to school together, we see you at the grocery store and we live on the same street. We listen and care about what matters to you.

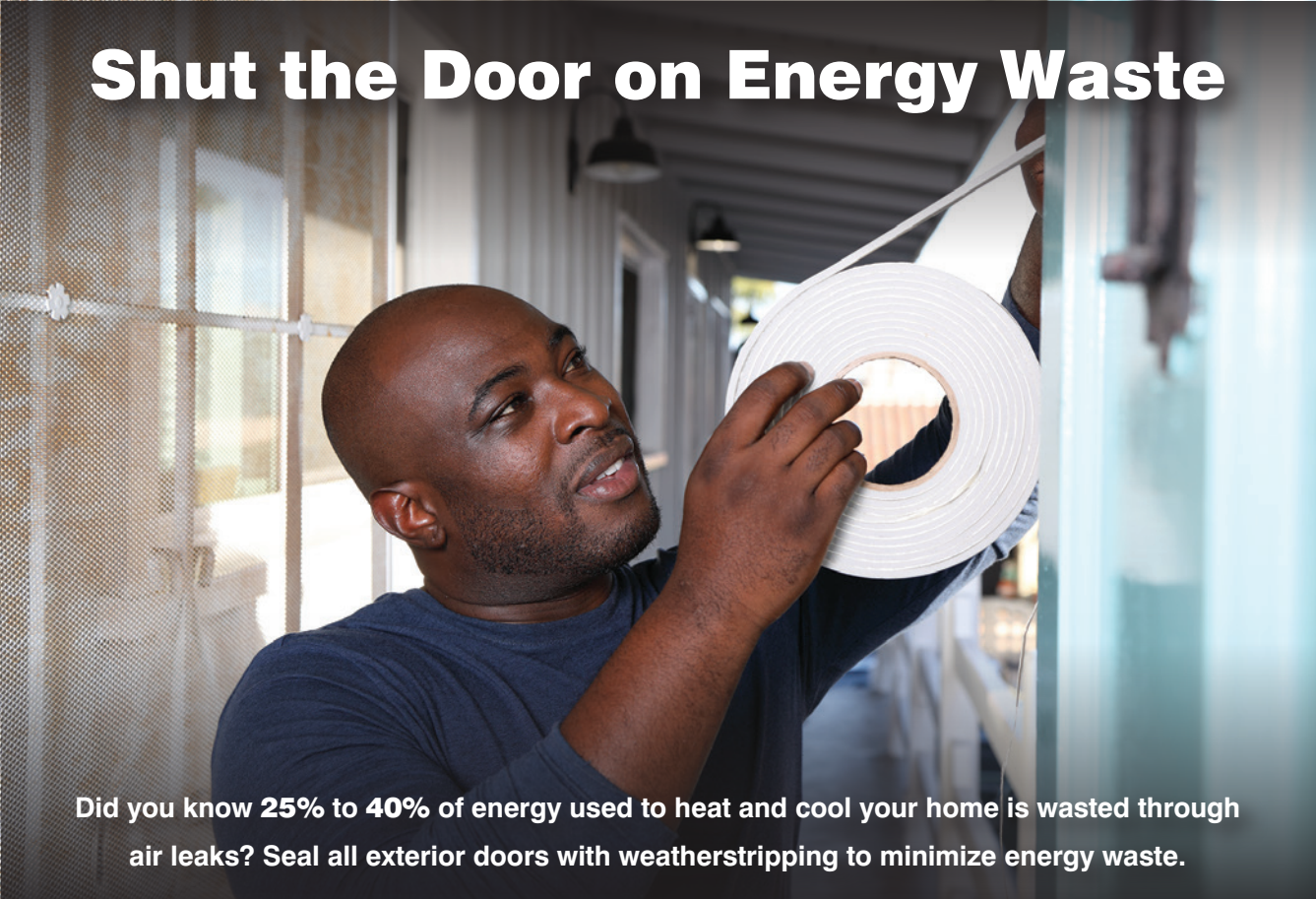
5. You and other Coastal Electric members make up the community we serve—and for us, it's all about community. Because our employees live and work here, too, we care about our community the same way you do. We're invested and work to help it thrive. That's why Coastal Electric donates to local charities,

is active in our area's chambers of commerce and supports local businesses—big and small. It's also why we invest in economic development, and why you'll see our employees volunteering at local schools, and other charitable and community endeavors.

As a co-op, our mission is to enhance the quality of life in our community and look after its long-term interests. We love serving our members and our local community, and just like you, want to see it continue to thrive.

To us, every member matters. So happy Valentine's Day! We hope you feel the love.

Shut the Door on Energy Waste



Did you know **25% to 40%** of energy used to heat and cool your home is wasted through air leaks? Seal all exterior doors with weatherstripping to minimize energy waste.

Furthering your education is expensive.

\$20,000 in scholarship money can help.

If you are a high school senior in Bryan, Liberty, Long or McIntosh county, you could earn a \$5,000 scholarship—renewable for up to four years—from the Coastal Electric Cooperative Foundation. Get your application online at *CoastalElectric.Coop/scholarships* or at one of our office locations. This year's deadline is **Friday, April 1.**



Walter Harrison Scholarship

Residents of south Bryan, Liberty, Long and McIntosh counties who are graduating seniors, college students or adult students returning to school are eligible to apply for a \$1,000 Walter Harrison Scholarship sponsored by Georgia's electric membership cooperatives. For more information or to apply online, visit *CoastalElectric.Coop/scholarships*. Completed applications are due by **Wednesday, Feb. 9.**



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Business office hours

Open 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday, and until 5 p.m. on Friday, except for holidays.

Report outages

Call us at (800) 421-2343

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Coastal Electric Cooperative, your Touchstone Energy® Partner, is a not-for-profit, member-owned power cooperative providing electricity to the people of Bryan, Liberty, Long and McIntosh counties.



Touchstone Energy®
Cooperatives

The power of human connections

Coastal Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting of Members set for Thursday, May 26

In accordance with the requirements of the bylaws of Coastal Electric Cooperative, the following excerpts are being published for the information of the members. Members will receive an official notice of the meeting in April.

Article IV Board Members

SECTION 1. General Power

The business and affairs of the cooperative shall be managed by a board of nine members, which shall exercise all of the powers of the cooperative except such as are by law, the articles of incorporation or these bylaws conferred upon or reserved to the members.

SECTION 2. Election and Tenure

In order to equitably distribute the representation on the Board of Directors, three members of the Board of Directors shall be elected at the Annual Meeting each year, one each from the counties of Bryan, McIntosh and Liberty to serve for a term of three years, so that there always shall be a perpetual board of experienced members to conduct the affairs of the cooperative. Members from the area in Long County served by the cooperative shall be eligible to serve in the position of director created for McIntosh County.

SECTION 3. Qualifications

No person shall be eligible to become or remain a board member of the cooperative who: (a) is not a bona fide member and maintains a residence in the area served or to be served by the cooperative. The individual must maintain an active presence in at least one of the communities served by the cooperative and maintain a residence in the territory served or to be served by the cooperative; or (b) is in any way employed by or financially interested in a competing enterprise or a business selling electric energy; or (c) is an employee of the cooperative or who was employed by the cooperative within a period of three years immediately preceding the date on which such employee would take office if elected; provided, however, that any member of the Board of Directors shall be eligible to be employed by the cooperative on an interim basis not to exceed a period of 24 consecutive months.

Upon establishment of the fact that a board member is holding the office in violation of any of the foregoing provisions, such board member shall resign, and if such board member fails to resign, the Board of Directors shall remove such board member from office.

Nothing contained in this section shall affect in any manner whatsoever the validity of any action taken at any meeting of the Board of Directors.

SECTION 4. Nominations

(a) Nominations by the Nominating Committee

It shall be the duty of the Board of Directors to appoint, not less than 120 days nor more than 165 days before the date of a meeting of the members at which board members are to be elected, a committee on nominations consisting of not less than six nor more than nine members who shall be selected from different sections so as to ensure equitable representation. No member of the Board of Directors may serve on such committee. The committee, keeping in mind the principle of equitable representation, shall prepare and post at the principal office of the cooperative at least 100 days before the meeting a list of nominations for board members, which shall include at least one candidate for each board position to be filled by the election.

(b) Nominations by Petition

Other nominations for such election of board members may be made by written petition signed by not less than 30 members, which shall be submitted to the secretary of the cooperative or his or her nominee not less than 90 days prior to such meeting.

(c) Notice of Nominees

The secretary shall be responsible for posting at the headquarters of the cooperative the nominees for the election made by the Nominating Committee and by petition, and if feasible, shall include same in the notice to the members for the meeting at which the election is to be held.

(d) Nominations from the Floor

Additional nominations for the election of board members cannot be made from the floor at such meeting of the members; except that in the event of death or for any other reason there is no candidate nominated by the Nominating Committee to run for a board position, then in such event additional nominations from the floor may be made. However, no member may nominate more than one such candidate.

(e) Failure of Compliance

Failure to comply with any of the provisions of this section as to the election of directors, except bad faith or intentional failure to comply, shall not affect the validity of the election of any director nor shall it invalidate the actions of all or any of the directors.