

GreyStone Power brings you

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M A G A Z I N E



**Small change
changes lives**

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Photo Credit: Robb Maag

MILLER'S MINUTE IT'S TIME TO TALK SAFETY

Every January, I recommit myself, and GreyStone Power, to the safety of our members, employees and the public. At GreyStone, safety is paramount. Our employees face danger every day to provide power to you. They count on each other to keep each other safe. Employees are trained to work safely, and that every injury is preventable. Our safety awareness program recognizes employees for identifying and correcting deficiencies and hazardous conditions, both at work and at home. Recently, this focus on safety resulted in GreyStone receiving a perfect 100 score following the intensive process of safety accreditation.

As we begin a new year, I encourage you to talk safety to your family. Do you have a place to meet if there is a fire in your home? Have you taught your children what to do if a stranger approaches and asks them to get in the car with them? Have you talked with your teen driver about no texting while driving? Keeping our families safe is one of the things we think most about, but sometimes we don't go through the process of teaching them how to be safe. In 2018, talk safety. The cost of not doing so is high.

- Gary
Gary Miller,
President/CEO



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The GreyStone Connection, which wraps GEORGIA Magazine, is a quarterly newsletter published by GreyStone Power to keep you informed about the cooperative you own.

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OTHER WAYS WE SERVE YOU

Co-op Connections® Card, 770-370-2436
EMC Security, 770-370-2030
Gas South, 1-866-563-8129
GEMC Federal Credit Union, 770-949-3557,
770-445-2800
Operation Round Up®, 770-370-2080
SurgeMaster Plus, 770-370-2070
Cooperative Solar, 770-370-2252



**Members met Solar Sam at
the Annual Meeting in October.**

AROUND GREYSTONE COOPERATIVE SOLAR

Become a solar pioneer! Join the 1,060 GreyStone members who have signed up for Cooperative Solar.

Up until now, you've never really considered yourself a solar pioneer. But now the cost and maintenance make it realistic to be one of the first to buy a block of solar power from GreyStone Power, the electric cooperative you own.

You've always gone the extra mile, caring for your family and the environment. Signing up for solar is just the next logical step to take. With Cooperative Solar, there is no equipment. No investment. No hassles. No contract. Solar energy, the easy way. You feel good about helping add solar energy to GreyStone's energy mix.

Maybe you wanted to purchase a block when the first 750 blocks were sold, but didn't purchase it in time, and then there was a long waiting list. But now that 750 more blocks have been added through the purchase of 1 megawatt from a solar field in Hazlehurst, it's your chance to be included!

Just type in www.greystonepower.com/solar, or call 770-942-6576. It's easy to do.

GREYSTONE COOPERATIVE SOLAR FAST FACTS ... sign up at www.greystonepower.com/solar ... \$25 per block ... receive credits offsetting the majority of your payment from the energy your block produces depending on weather conditions ... first come, first served ... no contract ... no holes in your roof ... no solar siting issues ... no maintenance or replacement costs on your part ... renters can participate ... no increased property taxes from the value added to your property ... homeowners under restrictive covenants can participate ... National Renewable Energy Laboratory estimates only about 25 percent of residential rooftops in the U.S. are suitable for on-site solar generation ... program began Oct. 8, 2016 ... operated and maintained by GreyStone Power ... economies of scale reduce solar costs ... solar made easy!



The *leadership* experience of a *lifetime*



Washington Youth Tour 2017

Every summer, GreyStone Power sends a group of high school students to Washington, D.C., to explore the nation's capital on an all-expenses-paid trip. Participants on this weeklong trip visit historical sites and monuments and hear inspiring words from elected officials while building their own leadership skills.

For more than 50 years, the Washington Youth Tour (WYT) has developed promising student leaders into even more exceptional young adults. GreyStone will sponsor five students on the 2018 tour, which will be held June 7-14.

GreyStone's 2017 WYT delegates included (pictured above, from left)

'Being able to see so much history that I had studied for so many years really felt like a dream come true.'

—GreyStone delegate and Praise Academy student Jordan Busby

Jake Strickland, of South Paulding High School; Kristin Pirkle, of Chapel Hill High School; Jordan "Buzz" Busby, of Praise Academy; Elizabeth Blevins, of Alexander High School; and Joseph Rollins, of East Paulding High School.

Even for students who have

previously traveled to D.C., the WYT is an eye-opening experience that offers more of a behind-the-scenes look at the capital than what the average tourist would experience.

"Even though I've been to D.C. other times, this trip has been different," says Blevins. "At the Iwo Jima parade, staring at the Marines and the memorial, I realized how blessed I am to be an American. I just sat there reflecting on all the different places we visited that are so important to America's history," she adds.

When GreyStone's delegates tour D.C., they travel as a group with students representing co-ops from the 41 electric membership cooperatives

across the state. They also have the opportunity to interact with delegates from other states during the tour. More than 1,500 students participate in the Youth Tour program each year.

For many delegates, the trip brings history to life. Blevins was struck by reminders of what she learned in AP U.S. history. "The whole trip, I was referring back to my AP U.S. history knowledge, and the history nerd in me was constantly freaking out," she says.

A PROUD HISTORY

The WYT is Georgia's oldest leadership program for teens, impacting youths in our state for more than 50 years. There are more than 50,000 alumni in every walk of life, including U.S. senators and CEOs. Some students feel led to work in public service after participating in the tour and learning so much about our nation's history and government.

In 1957, then-Sen. Lyndon Baines Johnson inspired the Youth Tour at the National Rural Electric Cooperative (NRECA) Annual Meeting. The senator and future president addressed the crowd and said he wanted young people sent to the nation's capital where they can actually see what the flag stands for and represents.

Following that meeting, rural electric cooperatives began sending small groups of young people to Washington. Soon other states were sending busloads of young people. In 1964, NRECA began coordinating joint activities among the state delegations, and the tour had grown to 400 young people from 12 states. Today, the Youth Tour experience includes multistate activities coordinated by NRECA.



HOW DELEGATES ARE SELECTED

Beginning in January, GreyStone employees visit participating high schools in the co-op's service area to present the program to counselors and students who have been chosen as leaders in their schools. Participants are given study information that covers the history of rural electrification, American government, electric co-ops and more. A test on this material is held in March at GreyStone's office, and the five students who earn the top scores are chosen as GreyStone's delegates on the WYT.

To learn more about the WYT, visit greystonepower.com, contact your school counselor or call GreyStone's WYT coordinator at 770-370-2600.



'The day at the Capitol was the most influential to me. Actually visiting the place where our government functions is something everyone should experience.'

—GreyStone delegate and Chapel Hill High School student Kristin Pirkle

Honoring our veterans and warriors



From left, Vietnam veteran and GreyStone employee Jerry Tucker stands by as Building & Grounds employees Zachary Puckett and Chris Foust install a parking sign. The sign reserves a parking spot for wounded warriors like Tucker, who was injured while serving in Vietnam. Tucker is the longest serving GreyStone employee, with 49 years of service at the co-op.

There are two reserved parking spots for these veterans at GreyStone's Douglasville office and one located at GreyStone's Dallas office.

One of the seven cooperative principles is concern for the community, and supporting local veterans is part of GreyStone's commitment to the community it serves.

In November, the co-op held a special Military Service Recognition event to celebrate the GreyStone employees, retirees and board members, all pictured at right, who have given so much to our country through their service.

GreyStone Board Chair Milton Jones, who served in the Marine Corps, led attendees in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by a blessing from Board Secretary-Treasurer Jim Johns, who served in the U.S. Army.

The program included a check presentation from Jones and GreyStone President/CEO Gary Miller to University of North Georgia (UNG) representatives to establish the GreyStone Power Corporation Corps of Cadets Scholarship.

UNG is the Military College of Georgia



and one of only six Senior Military Colleges in the nation. GreyStone created the scholarship to help cadets defray the cost of higher education at UNG. The scholarship will award one gift in the minimum amount of \$1,000 each year.

During the event, GreyStone also remembered retiree James "Jim" Crawford. A veteran of the Air Force,

Crawford worked for GreyStone for 20 years, retired in 2010 and passed away last June.

The event recognized newly hired veterans as well. Through a nationwide initiative called "Serve Our Co-ops; Serve Our Country," America's electric co-ops strive to increase recruitment efforts for veterans and their spouses.

AROUND GREYSTONE MEETING OF MEMBERS



WRAP UP

GreyStone celebrated the co-op's 80th Annual Meeting of Members on Oct. 14 with more than 2,300 people in attendance.

Members had the opportunity to shop with local Co-op Connections® Card vendors and visit the Health Fair, which offered flu shots, massages and CPR training.

Energy Efficiency 101 seminars, where GreyStone's energy experts shared information on filter choices and the Cooperative Solar program, were well attended that morning.

Members were also treated to a performance by gospel singer and award-winning songwriter Morgan Harper Nichols, pictured above.

An election was held by voice vote for three uncontested directors continuing their service to members. Those incumbent directors include Milton Jones, District 7, Fulton County; John Walton, District 2, Paulding County; and Maribeth Wansley, District 6, Fulton, Fayette and Coweta counties.

During the business portion of the meeting, GreyStone President/CEO Gary Miller spoke about the co-op's low electric rates. "Over the past 12 months, we've been able to lower electric bills by more than \$20 million!" he said.

The grand-prize winner Dennis Johnson, Douglasville



EFFICIENCY 101

CONTROL energy costs

Did you know heating and air costs make up the majority of your electric bill? That's why it's so important to change your filters regularly to keep your system running efficiently. Typically, more than 50 percent of your energy dollars go to heating and cooling.

Want to learn more about how to control your energy costs and save money? Our Residential Energy Services team is made up of experts who can teach you simple steps for saving energy and money. GreyStone offers two free seminars annually to members.

Join us for our next Energy Efficiency 101 (EE101) seminar on Thursday, April 12, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., at GreyStone's main office in Douglasville, located at 4040 Bankhead Highway.

Our energy efficiency experts will cover a range of useful topics, including filter choices, home lighting, insulation and solar programs.

Learn about how to simplify changing your filters with our FilterEasy program. Get automatic filter deliveries with exclusive member savings. Visit filtereasy.com/greystone to learn more.

Register for EE101 online at greystonepower.com. For questions, call 770-370-2252.



improving service

FOR GREYSTONE MEMBERS

App-ly yourself :)

Start the new year off right by downloading the GreyStone Outage Helper app.

With wintry weather, ice and snow possibly ahead, get prepared at greystonepower.com/mobileapps.



Report outages, receive live restoration times and view outage maps—all through your mobile device.

Help us help you

For better service, please follow these helpful tips when paying by check.

- Postdated checks can't be held by cashiers for later payment. Please don't send them! Your bill may not be paid.
- The written line on your check must match the numeric amount. GreyStone must post the written amount.
- Please use blue or black ink only. All other colors must be retraced in blue or black, as the machine will not read other colors.
- We cannot accept counter checks and starter checks, as these do not have an imprinted check number.
- Please be sure to pay the exact amount on an invoice. For those who have multiple accounts, this helps us to be sure that payments are applied correctly.



TURN IT DOWN AND SAVE MONEY

In the winter of 1977, President Jimmy Carter urged Americans to save energy, and in an effort to lead by example, he ordered thermostats in the White House to be turned down to 65 degrees. Keeping your thermostat turned down not only saves energy, but also keeps your energy dollars in your pocket.

GreyStone recommends a setting of 68 degrees or lower in the winter. Each degree setting higher can result in 3-5 percent more in energy costs. Programmable thermostats can help keep you on track by adjusting the temperature when you are away.



GreyStone Board Chair Milton Jones, left, and President/CEO Gary Miller, right, present certificates from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association for training classes in the Credentialed Cooperative Director program to Lucy Andres and Neal Dettmering, while Jim Johns, center, receives one for the Board Leadership program.

Training to better serve

For more than 81 years, GreyStone members have been represented by board directors who reside in GreyStone's eight-county service area. As the energy industry changes over the years, co-op directors must stay ahead of the curve to effectively lead. The National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) offers co-op-specific education programs to help directors make more informed decisions. In order to better serve our members, GreyStone directors participate in these special training programs and classes.



Warehouse of Hope feeds, clothes families in our community

SMALL CHANGE, BIG DIFFERENCE

GreyStone's Operation Round Up (ORU) program will reach a 20-year milestone this year. That's two decades of GreyStone members choosing to round up their electric bills to the next dollar to help those in need through organizations like Warehouse of Hope, Boys & Girls Clubs and Soldiers' Angels. Your small change makes a big difference!

Located in Douglasville, Warehouse of Hope serves approximately 600 to 800 families a week, assisting clients with food, clothing, baby diapers, formula, toiletry items and more. First-time guests must attend an orientation to become members, and then can receive assistance the same day.

Warehouse of Hope Director Emma Finger sees firsthand how community members are impacted through their services. "We get to hear a lot of stories of life change here," she says.

Recently, a woman with young children who had lost her husband in a car accident came to them in need. Finger says, "She broke down. 'What would I do if it wasn't for this place? How would I feed my kids? He was our sole provider.' There are just so many situations of people in life struggling."

Finger says ORU has been a huge blessing, with funds covering freight costs for weekly donations. "We work with Operation Blessing. They spend all day getting corporate donations, and they get transfer truckloads of it, and we have to pay for the freight to get it here. If we didn't get that truckload of food, there's no way that we could serve the amount of families we serve," she says.

Warehouse of Hope also partners with Must Ministries, and they served 2,700 children over the summer through a summer lunch program. They also assisted Paulding County Schools with a backpack program to provide children with food on the weekends.

For those who would like to support Warehouse of Hope, Finger says volunteers are their biggest need. Donations are also appreciated, with food and toiletry items always in need. Warehouse of Hope also accepts gently-used items of any kind.

Help Warehouse of Hope and other community organizations by signing up for ORU at greystonepower.com. It only costs about \$6 a year, but funds have wide-reaching impacts. More than 23,000 GreyStone members currently support ORU, and more than \$5.6 million has been donated since the program's inception in 1998.

On the cover is Warehouse of Hope Director Emma Finger and her husband, Howard, who serves as a volunteer. Pictured at left, Warehouse of Hope's Douglasville facility serves about 600 to 800 families a week. The logos on the right represent some of the other organizations that have received funds from Operation Round Up.



POWERING

Our Community



GREYSTONE
POWER CORPORATION

An Electric Membership Corporation

Your Community Partner

From attracting new jobs and retaining existing business, to prescription savings and other shopping discounts, from scholarships for local students, to helping neighbors through Operation

Round Up® and partnering with area schools, GreyStone Power is your Community Partner.

Because real power comes from making life better for the people we serve.