

GEMC

GreyStone Power brings you

Georgia[®]

MAGAZINE

GreyStone Gives
page C

Water heater rebates
page G

OCTOBER 2022

PROVIDING LIGHT
IN A DARK NIGHT



Don't miss
the Annual
Meeting
Oct. 8
page I

www.georgiamagazine.org





Photo Credit: Robb Maag

MILLER'S MINUTE

A RETURN TO TRADITION

We are looking forward to a return to our traditional, in-person Annual Meeting of Members. I enjoy interacting with our members at this fun, free event, from the longtime members who have been to a dozen meetings to the families in their yellow and pink GreyStone hard hats who may be visiting us for the first time.

In addition to bringing back some old favorites, such as a concert, this year's event will feature some new experiences that you won't find at other events – including our Lineman's Rodeo demos, where members will get an up-close perspective of our linemen exhibiting their skills. See page I for details on what you can look forward to that day.

During the event, attendees will also have the opportunity to see the cooperative business model in action. For those who are new to GreyStone, this is a great way to learn what it means to be a co-op member. Board members will be elected, and members will hear about the co-op's successes over the past year. I hope to see you in Hiram on Oct. 8!

- Gary

Gary Miller,
President/CEO

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jim Johns, Chairman, District 8, Douglas County

Genevieve Cole, Vice Chairman, District 1, Paulding and Bartow counties

David Hagenow, Secretary-Treasurer, District 3, Douglas and Paulding counties

John Walton, District 2, Paulding County

Neal Dettmering, District 4, Carroll and Douglas counties

Billy Mayhew, District 5, Carroll and Douglas counties

Maribeth Wansley, District 6, Fulton, Fayette and Coweta counties

Milton Jones, District 7, Fulton County

Vacant until Annual Meeting, District 9, Cobb County

LOCATION

3400 Hiram Douglasville Hwy.

Hiram, GA 30141

CONTACT US

Main 770-942-6576

Outage 1-866-GREYSTONE (473-9786)

OTHER WAYS WE SERVE YOU

Co-op Connections® Card, 770-370-2436

EMC Security, 770-370-2030

Gas South, 1-855-802-2768

Go Energy Financial Credit Union, 470-514-3000

Operation Round Up®, 770-370-2080

SurgeMaster Plus, 770-370-2070

Cooperative Solar, 770-370-2252

DOWNLOAD OUR APPS

The GreyStone Power app allows you to pay your bill, view billing history and electricity use, and verify payments. The Outage Helper app lets you report an outage, receive live restoration times and view an outage map. Download both apps from the App Store or Google Play on your mobile devices.

FIND THE BOLT AND ENTER TO WIN!

Find the hidden lightning bolt (⚡) in the following GreyStone pages and send us an email to MemberMatters@greystonepower.com with the subject line: Find the Bolt!

Include the following information in the email: the page you found the lightning bolt on, your full name, your phone number and your member account number. You will be entered into a drawing for a \$50 Visa gift card.

GreyStone Power is an equal opportunity provider and employer. Not available in the EU



The GreyStone Power Foundation, Inc. Scholarship, which is funded by members who donate to Operation Round Up®, was awarded recently to five students in the cooperative’s service area. Winners of the \$3,000 scholarships included students Gracie Price, Sara Tilley, Raylee Johnson, Lucas Merritt and Landon Hall.

The scholarships are given based on academic performance as well as school and community activities and are made possible by GreyStone members who agree to round up their electric bills to the next dollar. The cost per month to assist worthy students like these, as well as charitable organizations throughout the service area, is no more than 99 cents per month for participating members.

Gracie Price graduated from Whitefield Academy and will attend the University of Alabama to study performance arts and business. Sara Tilley graduated

from East Paulding High School and will attend Jacksonville State to study forensics. Raylee Johnson graduated from Praise Academy and will attend Shorter University to study elementary education. Lucas Merritt graduated from Trinity Center for Independent Studies and was dual enrolled at Truett McConnell. He will attend Kennesaw State University to study mechanical engineering. Landon Hall graduated from East Paulding High School and will attend Savannah College of Arts and Design to study game development.

“We are so grateful to our 27,000 members who contribute to Operation Round Up, the foundation’s fundraising program, so that we can recognize worthy students such as these, as well as help those who need help in our community,” says Marcus Carter, chairman of the foundation board.

Capital credits checks are arriving!

Capital credits are a unique feature of cooperatives. Margins above the cost of doing business are returned to members annually. The amount of your check is determined by your energy use. GreyStone has returned \$169.6 million in capital returns to members since 1936. It’s the cooperative difference!

GreyStone is in the process of returning \$12 million to members and former members who had service in the years 2002, 2003 or 2021. Watch for your check in the mail. It is GreyStone’s way of giving back to you for your continued support over the years. Thank you!



GreySt



neGIVES

One
of the guiding principles
of GreyStone Power is giving back to the
communities we serve. This supports the cooperative
principle of Concern for Community and is at the heart of
everything that GreyStone does.

In the summer of 2018, the co-op expanded on that principle by creating GreyStone Gives, an employee community service initiative. The program allows GreyStone employees eight hours a year to volunteer with a 501(c)(3) charitable organization within its service area. Employees can volunteer on their own or through group coordinated events offered throughout the year.

“GreyStone Gives was an effort to expand GreyStone’s commitment to the community we serve by allowing every employee an opportunity to serve in the community,” says Rita Wilson, human resources manager at GreyStone. “Prior to this initiative, it was mostly the members of the Senior/Extended Leadership teams that served the community by sitting on various boards throughout our service area.”

So far this year, GreyStone employees have collected school supplies for the Douglas County School System’s school supply donation drive and helped clean up, paint and pressure-wash one of the S.H.A.R.E. House facilities. According to GreyStone Gives volunteer and member services representative Ana Ventura, the program not only benefits the community, but also the employees who volunteer.

“GreyStone Gives helps create inclusion and build strong community bonds,” Ventura says. “I enjoy the opportunity to learn valuable skills, get closer to co-workers and meet new people.”

BOARD CANDIDATES

Each year, members elect three of the nine directors who serve on GreyStone Power's Board of Directors. Each member may vote for a candidate from each district. Incumbents seeking re-election this year include David Hagenow and Billy Mayhew. Following Lucy Andres' retirement from the board, the Nominating Committee solicited applications from all members who reside in District 9. Numerous applications were submitted, and after interviewing five of the applicants, the Nominating Committee selected Charisse Braxton as its sole nominee for the position. Because no members were nominated by petition, there will be no contested election this year. Therefore, the election will be conducted by voice vote at the Annual Meeting on Saturday, Oct. 8.



David Hagenow
District 3
Douglas and Paulding counties

David Hagenow is retired from IBM with nearly three decades of financial planning and accounting experience. Prior to retirement, Hagenow created, measured and reported on expense and resource budgets

for IBM Global, worked as team lead/forecast coordinator for North America IBM and has certification in Certified Management Accounting. A veteran of the U.S. Army, Hagenow served for 3½ years with training in power generation. He graduated from Western Illinois University with a Bachelor of Science degree and earned a Master of Accountancy degree from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University.

Hagenow has earned the Director Gold certification, as well as the Credentialed Cooperative Director Certificate and the Board Leadership Certificate from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA). Hagenow has been serving on the board since 2016 and currently serves as secretary-treasurer.

"My desire is to help GreyStone Power balance outstanding service with affordable rates for all members. In addition, I will use my background in financial planning and analysis to help ensure the cooperative makes good strategic, fiscal decisions," he says.



Billy Mayhew
District 5
Carroll and Douglas counties

Billy F. Mayhew is market executive senior vice president with ServisFirst Bank in Douglasville. He formerly worked for Douglas County Bank from 1980 until 2013, serving as bank president and

CEO for 28 years. He is a graduate of University of West Georgia. Mayhew was a founding board member of the Douglas County Boys Club in 1982, now the Douglas County Boys & Girls Club, and was awarded the Boys & Girls Club Lifetime Achievement Award in December 2003. He has also served on the boards

of the Douglas County Chamber of Commerce, the WellStar Regional Board, the Douglas County Regional Youth Shelter, Community Bankers of Georgia and PRC Medical of Douglas County. He is currently chairman of the Hospital Authority of Douglas County.

Having earned the Credentialed Cooperative Director Certificate from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), Mayhew is working toward his Board Leadership certification. Since joining the GreyStone Power Board of Directors in 2018, he has served on the Finance Committee and currently serves on the Policy, Public and Employee Relations Committee.

"It is a true honor to serve on the GreyStone Power Board," he says. "My focus is to represent co-op members by maintaining low rates and excellent service."



Charisse Braxton
District 9
Cobb County

Charisse Braxton currently serves as senior director of clinical operations at Kaiser Permanente, a nationally renowned health care organization. She also serves on the alumni advisory board

for Byrdine F. Lewis College of Nursing and Health Professions at Georgia State University (GSU).

Braxton has over 30 years of experience in health care, from her role as a registered nurse to a leader in health care administration. She graduated from SUNY Downstate in Brooklyn, New York, with a Bachelor of Science in nursing. She earned her Master of Science at GSU, becoming nationally certified as a Family Nurse Practitioner, and completed the MBA/MHA program at GSU's J. Mack Robinson College of Business. She holds a Green Belt in Lean Six Sigma for process improvement. Braxton also served as chairwoman of the Clayton County Chamber of Commerce in 2021 and is the immediate past chair on the Clayton County Chamber of Commerce executive board.

A Cobb County resident for 15 years, Braxton says, "I am excited for this new opportunity to serve my community. My goal is to support GreyStone Power as the premier utility organization in this region, offering affordable, high-quality service to its members."

GreyStone Nondiscrimination Statement

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotope, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA

through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at How to File a Program Discrimination Complaint and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.



OFFICIAL NOTICE OF GREYSTONE POWER CORPORATION'S ANNUAL MEETING OF MEMBERS SATURDAY, OCT. 8, 2022

The Annual Meeting of Members of GreyStone Power Corporation will be held Saturday, Oct. 8, 2022, at the GreyStone Power Corporation headquarters facility at 3400 Hiram Douglasville Highway, Hiram. Registration will begin at 8 a.m., and the meeting will begin at 11 a.m.

The business portion of the meeting will be conducted in the following order:

1. Reports of Officers, Directors and President/CEO;
2. Results of the election of Directors to serve three-year terms from Districts 3, 5 and 9;
3. Any and all other business which may properly come before the membership at this meeting.

Your cooperative exists solely to serve its members, and we hope you will take an active role through your participation in the Annual Meeting. Please come and bring your family.

This Official Notice is hereby issued in accordance with your Bylaws this 22nd day of August, 2022, by:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Hagenow". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

David Hagenow, Secretary/Treasurer

EFFICIENCY 101

Water heater REBATES

Some residential members may be interested in converting gas water heaters and furnaces to electric due to rising costs of natural gas and propane. GreyStone has two rebates available for members who convert from gas to electric.

If the requirements are met, the member becomes eligible for either a \$200 or \$400 rebate after converting a water heater from gas to electric. Also, members become eligible for either a \$300 (not Energy Star-rated) or \$600 (Energy Star-rated) rebate when changing from gas heat to an electric heat pump or dual fuel.

Members can also receive a rebate for replacing their propane water heater with an electric one. Members can be eligible for: a rebate of \$500 for a water heater with a 12-year or better limited warranty, a rebate of \$300 for a water heater with less than a 12-year limited warranty or a rebate of \$500 for a Marathon or heat pump water heater.

It is the member's responsibility to complete these conversions on their own or with the help of outside contractors (GreyStone is not involved in electric conversions). After the conversion is completed, a residential energy consultant will inspect the conversion to ensure that all requirements are completed. At that point the rebate will be processed for the member. Visit greystonepower.com/rebates to learn more.



GreyStone Marketplace LED offers

Got a few bulbs out around the house? Have you thought about switching to smart LEDs? Energy-saving LEDs come in a variety of colors and brightness levels and last 15-25 times longer than incandescent bulbs. The GreyStone Marketplace will have a great deal next month to help get you started. Want to stock up for Black Friday? Specialty LEDs will be 30% off Nov. 15-30. Also, this month members can save 25% off advanced power strips Oct. 10-28. Prepare your home for the holiday festivities, and stay tuned for additional savings on Christmas lights. Visit greystonepowermarketplace.com.

improving service

FOR GREYSTONE MEMBERS



Shop and pay your bill!

Members have a new real-time, cash-only payment option. It's a fast and convenient way to pay your GreyStone bill through the checkout lane at participating retailers near you. That means you can pay where you shop!

Using a CheckOut by PayGo bar code, you can make cash payments at stores such as Dollar General, Family Dollar, CVS Pharmacy, Walgreens, 7-Eleven and more. There are more than 50,000 locations across the country that accept these payments. A convenience fee of \$1.50 is automatically added at checkout.

Visit greystonepower.sedccheckout.com to get your bar code.

Home security from \$16.95 per month.



Protected by

EMC Security[™]

770-963-0305

www.emcsecurity.com

**BEYOND
SAFE.
BEYOND
SECURE.**

No contract required.



Join us for the 85th Annual Meeting!

DON'T MISS THE ANNUAL MEETING!

GreyStone Power invites its members to the 85th Annual Meeting of Members for fun activities, musical entertainment, information about electric vehicles, wellness booths and more! Join us on Saturday, Oct. 8, 2022, from 8 a.m. to noon.

The free event, located at 3400 Hiram Douglasville Highway in Hiram, will feature a Lineman's Square. The attraction will allow members to see a live wire demonstration and a Lineman's Rodeo demonstration. Plus, members will be able to ask linemen questions and see a bucket truck up close. The Paulding College & Career Academy, along with West Georgia Technical College, will be available to those interested in a lineman career.

In addition, health fair vendors will be on hand to offer information as well as flu shots and blood pressure checks. Members of all ages can enjoy inflatables, carnival games, free Chick-fil-A biscuits (8-10 a.m.) and concessions (popcorn, bagged cotton candy, canned soft drinks).

Enjoy the mesmerizing sound of Caleb Lee Hutchinson (pictured top right), "American Idol" season 16 runner-up, as he entertains members at 9:45 a.m., followed by a business meeting at 11 a.m. to update members on their cooperative. Door prizes and the grand-prize giveaway, a 2013 Ford F150 Supercab truck, will follow.

An election by voice vote will take place for three uncontested board directors who will continue their service to members. Those members who register at the Annual Meeting will receive a free gift. To simplify registration, members will need to bring their September or October *Georgia Magazine* cover with the QR Code in the label. The member also received an email in the September eConnect that will allow them to show the QR Code digitally during registration. The member (whose name is on the bill) must be present to register.

Members attending the event can enter GreyStone's headquarters at Ridge Road or Highway 92 and can begin arriving between 7:30-8 a.m.

Visit greystonepower.com to learn more!

Member John L. King of Douglasville, left, was the winner of 2021's grand-prize giveaway, a truck retired from the GreyStone fleet.



SERVING UP SOME GOOD NEWS!

While other prices have risen, GreyStone Power is offering a double helping of savings for members:

\$12 million in capital credits is coming to members this fall. This money back is tangible evidence of members' ownership of their electric cooperative.

And those served by GreyStone Power are already enjoying rates that are more than **21% lower** than Georgia Power's.*

These are just a couple of the benefits of being served by a not-for-profit electric cooperative.

Money back. Safe, reliable electricity. That's definitely good news.



* According to the 2022 summer rate survey by the Georgia Public Service Commission. Based on the average residential use of 1,500 kilowatt-hours (kWh) per month.

