

GreyStone Power brings you

GEMC

# georgia<sup>®</sup>

M A G A Z I N E



**Making life better**  
page C





Photo Credit: Robb Maag

## MILLER'S MINUTE

# A STORM TO REMEMBER

Now that summer has arrived, winter and its challenges seem long ago. However, I want to thank you for your patience as GreyStone faced some of the highest weather-caused outages since 1995 due to an early winter snowstorm, and a later tornado, wind and lightning storm that wreaked havoc on our system.

To put it in perspective, during Hurricane Opal in 1995, 97 percent of our system was down following the hurricane's trek through our area. Snowstorm Benji in early December 2017 put more than 50 percent of our members in the dark, our second highest outage ever, and the wind storm in March took out electricity to 19,000 of our members' homes and businesses.

We prepare for scenarios such as these, when poles break, lines come down and transformers are destroyed in widespread areas. It takes time to make repairs, and our methods must be safe to protect both our members and our linemen. Rest assured that getting the power back on as soon and as safely as possible is our singular goal when these conditions occur.

- 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.*

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#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Milton Jones, Chair, District 7, Fulton County  
Maribeth Wansley, Vice Chair, District 6, Fulton, Fayette, Coweta counties  
Jim Johns, Secretary-Treasurer, District 8, Douglas County  
Genevieve Cole, District 1, Paulding, Bartow counties  
John Walton, District 2, Paulding County  
David Hagenow, District 3, Douglas, Paulding counties  
Neal Dettmering, District 4, Carroll, Douglas counties  
Jennifer DeNyse, District 5, Carroll, Douglas counties  
Lucy Andres, District 9, Cobb County

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#### EXECUTIVE STAFF

Gary A. Miller, President/CEO  
Nadia Faucette, Vice President, Engineering  
Michael Moore, Vice President, Power Supply  
Kara Pearson, Vice President, Financial Services  
Bill Sharpton, Vice President, Operations  
Tim Williams, Vice President, Marketing & External Affairs  
James Wright, Vice President, Corporate Services

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#### COMMUNICATIONS STAFF

Amanda Busby  
Adam Elrod  
Vicki Harshbarger  
Ashley Kinnard, Editor, The GreyStone Connection  
Trisha McBee

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#### LOCATIONS

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#### CONTACT US

Main 770-942-6576  
Outage 1-866-GREYSTONE (473-9786)

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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 get an up-close look at a solar panel in our lobby.**

## AROUND GREYSTONE

# COOPERATIVE SOLAR

GreyStone Power is removing barriers to solar power! Even the cost is reduced!

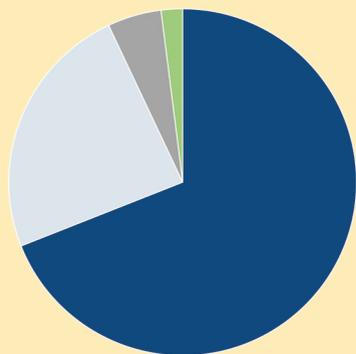
The cost for Cooperative Solar's "solar made easy" program has been reduced from \$25 per block to \$22, and GreyStone members can purchase up to two blocks.

Cooperative Solar provides access to solar energy to members who might otherwise be excluded from owning and installing their own solar electricity generation.

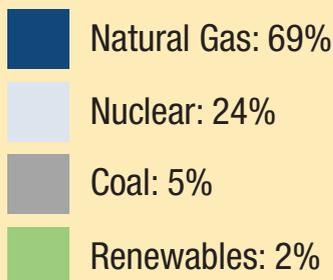
As a GreyStone Power member-owner, you can purchase solar electricity according to your needs and interests. Every month, the energy output of your portion will be calculated and credited to your bill. This solar energy will offset energy produced from traditional fuels.

If your block produces more kilowatt-hours than you use during your billing period, you will receive a credit for the excess.

Energy output will vary due to the sun's angle, the time of year and the number of cloudy days in the month. Sign up at [www.greystonepower.com/solar](http://www.greystonepower.com/solar).



### GreyStone's 2017 Fuel Mix



Renewables will increase to almost 10 percent of total by 2022.

# Making Life Better



In addition to providing some of the lowest-priced electricity on the market and 24/7 self-service, GreyStone Power helps make life better by giving back to the communities it serves. "Community service reflects our values and is how we give back to others," one of the co-op's eight guiding principles states.

GreyStone President/CEO Gary Miller says, "We support the community we serve because it's the right thing to do."

Numerous employees voluntarily serve in support of charitable and civic organizations. Kara Pearson, vice president of Financial Services, and James Wright, vice president of

**GreyStone Vice Presidents Kara Pearson and James Wright lead Chamber businesses to success through their roles as Chamber chairs for Douglas and Paulding counties.**

Corporate Services, currently chair the boards of the Douglas County Chamber and Paulding County Chamber, respectively.

Leading these Chamber boards helps promote success for local

businesses and helps the areas grow economically through encouraging new businesses to locate in the service area.

Pearson is helping lead the Douglas Chamber to market Douglas County to the outside world while keeping it attractive to new and existing Chamber members. "We will continue to improve our programs to meet members' needs," she says. "We want to make sure we remain current with what our members need and continue bringing in new membership and new business to Douglas County."

The 600-member chamber recently began an initiative with strategic partners, including city and

county government, the Douglas County Water and Sewer and Douglas County Development authorities, and other local business owners to create a county brand. "We are very diligent about a combined focus and effort on working together," said Pearson.

Wright's goal as chairman of the Paulding Chamber is to leverage Paulding County's assets to recruit employers that will offer jobs leading to careers in areas like health care or advanced manufacturing.

He speaks highly of the new Richland Creek Reservoir under construction and the positive influence it will have on enticing new business to locate in Paulding. He believes another "crown jewel," WellStar Paulding, can be used to encourage more health-related employers to locate near the hospital. "We have a lot of good resources here and more coming," he said.

Wright is especially encouraged about the newly approved Paulding County College and Career Academy, funded by a \$3 million grant from the Technical College System of Georgia. "The Academy will enhance students' work opportunities by developing their job skills to help meet the needs of future employers in Paulding County and the region," he said.

GreyStone Power delivers electricity and other services to 115,000 members of the electric cooperative in eight counties west of Atlanta, including Paulding, Douglas, Fulton, Carroll, Bartow, Fayette, Cobb and Coweta.

Visit [youtube.com/greystonepower](https://www.youtube.com/greystonepower) to view GreyStone's new commercial and see how we make life better for members.



## TOGETHER WE SERVE: MORE EMPLOYEES IN THE COMMUNITY

- **Amanda Busby** serves on the fundraising/ planning committee for the Paulding Education Foundation.
- **Ebony Cintron-Hawes** sits on the Community Organizing Resources for Excellence (CORE) Board.
- **Michael Craton** serves on the Paulding County Water and Sewer Advisory Board.
- **Wayne Glover** serves on the Boys & Girls Club Board of Paulding County.
- **Rita Harris** chairs the Paulding College and Career Academy Board and serves on the Mason Creek Elementary STEM Advisory Board.
- **Vicki Harshbarger** chairs the Partners in Education Committee for the Douglas County School System.
- **Drew Hook** serves on the Paulding Education Foundation Board.
- **Ashley Kinnard** chairs the Communities in Schools of Douglas County Board.
- **Brandon Knight** serves on the United Way Advisory Board of Douglas County.
- **Kurt Kraft** serves on the South Fulton Chamber Board.
- **Lisa Lonon** serves as co-chair of the Boys & Girls Club of Douglas County.
- **Trisha McBees** serves on the S.H.A.R.E. House Board.
- **Gary Miller** is past chair of the WellStar Health System Board and serves on the WellStar Douglas Regional Health Board, as well as the Hospital Authority of Douglas County Board. He is also on the Gresco Utility Supply Inc. Board and serves as treasurer of the Douglas County Economic Development Authority Board of Directors.
- **Jeff Noles** serves on the Douglasville-Douglas County Water and Sewer Authority Board of Directors.
- **Tim Williams** serves on the state Board of the Technical College System of Georgia and as vice chairman of the Board of Directors of the GEMC Federal Credit Union.

# Same little card. Even more BIG savings.



The Co-op Connections® Card program that you know and love is better than ever! The revamped website and app allow you to do many new things, in addition to more local deals!

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- In-store discounts from Entertainment Book
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- Cash back shopping at more than 2,000 online retailers
- Enjoy discounts from many fast-food restaurants and more



Learn more at [connections.coop/greystonepower](http://connections.coop/greystonepower)

# ..... AROUND GREYSTONE

# BOARD ELECTIONS

Three seats on the GreyStone Board of Directors are up for election in 2018. The winners will be announced Saturday, Oct. 13, at the Annual Meeting of Members.

## HOW TO BECOME A CANDIDATE

Eligible members may become a candidate by being selected by the GreyStone Nominating Committee, or by nomination by petition of members. While incumbents Genevieve Cole, District 1; Neal Dettmering, District 4; and Jim Johns, District 8, have been nominated by the Nominating Committee, eligible members may still run by petition.

An eligible member may be nominated by submitting a petition signed by 50 or more GreyStone members of record (the name must appear on the electric bill). The petition along with a Candidate Affidavit must be submitted by Thursday, July 5. Petition and affidavit can be found at [greystonepower.com/content/board-elections](http://greystonepower.com/content/board-elections).

## NOMINEE REQUIREMENTS

All nominees are subject to a criminal background check, must live within the geographic boundary of the district they seek to represent and must meet all other conditions of eligibility.

Candidates desiring to have their name and biographical information included in the Annual Meeting ballot edition of *GEORGIA Magazine* must submit information in the format and manner required by the Credentials and Elections Committee by Friday, July 13. If you are unable to determine the district in which you reside, or need additional information, call GreyStone's independent legal counsel, Steve Minor, at 770-214-5108.



## DIRECTORS NOMINATED FOR RE-ELECTION THIS YEAR

Genevieve Cole, District 1, Paulding and Bartow counties; Neal Dettmering, District 4, Carroll and Douglas counties; and Jim Johns, District 8, Douglas County.

## MEMBERS OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Tony Wilson, District 1; Beatrice McClung, District 2; James S. Smith, District 3; Pat Skinner, District 4; David Boatright, District 5; Laurie Searle, District 6; Harold Reid, District 7; Ed McCray, District 8; and Kathy Boehm, District 9.

# EFFICIENCY 101

## EARN A \$100 rebate

GreyStone members who own their homes and install an ENERGY STAR smart thermostat, or install an ENERGY STAR-rated HVAC system with a smart thermostat, are eligible to receive a \$100 rebate.

To request a rebate, complete the smart thermostat form found at [www.greystonepower.com/rebates](http://www.greystonepower.com/rebates). On that page, you can also find a link to view qualifying thermostats.

Smart thermostat technology enables users to remotely control their home's temperature via a tablet, smartphone or computer for greater control using the home's Wi-Fi connection. Additionally, some smart thermostats learn from users' behaviors and begin to adjust settings to match their preferences and schedule.

Some smart thermostats also track weather conditions, your home's energy trends, and monitor the effectiveness of your HVAC system.

Smart thermostats that earn the ENERGY STAR rating are third-party certified to save energy based on field data collected from more than 1,000 homes over an entire year.

Rebates will be paid for 2018 purchases and installations, or until allotted funds are depleted.



## THIRD LOWEST-PRICED SERVICE

GreyStone ranks third for the lowest-priced electricity in Georgia out of 94 electric utilities! Plus, GreyStone Power's rates are nearly 15 percent lower than Georgia Power's rates. That's according to the 2018 winter rate survey by the Georgia Public Service Commission, comparing rates at 1,000 kWh.

To save even more on summer bills, turn up the thermostat! GreyStone recommends a thermostat setting of 78 degrees or higher during the summer. Every degree below 78 in summer increases your bill 3 to 5 percent.

# improving service

## FOR GREYSTONE MEMBERS

### Free filters for members

FilterEasy helps residential members replace air filters periodically to keep your heating and air equipment running at peak efficiency. You'll receive your first shipment FREE, compliments of GreyStone Power, as well as a 20 percent discount on following deliveries!

Visit [FilterEasy.com/greystone](http://FilterEasy.com/greystone) to learn more.

## FilterEasy<sup>®</sup>

### Easy payments 24/7

GreyStone has payment kiosks in five of the counties we serve to give members a fast, easy and convenient option for bill payment.

24-hour locations include:

**DOUGLAS:** GreyStone's main office in Douglasville

**PAULDING:** GreyStone's satellite office in Dallas

**COBB:** Valero Food Mart in Powder Springs

Hourly locations include:

**FULTON:** Thrift Food Mart in Fairburn

**PAULDING:** Bala Food Mart in Dallas

**CARROLL:** Ginni Food Mart and Community Southern Bank, both in Villa Rica

Kiosks will not make change with cash payments. Any overage will be credited to your account. Cash, check and credit/debit cards are accepted. All transactions will receive a receipt.



### Level out your bill

Like many of us, do you struggle to meet expenses each month? Switch to our Levelized Billing plan. Your bill will be an average amount based on actual use over the last year. You won't have to worry about sharp seasonal increases during extreme hot and cold seasons. To sign up, visit [greystonepower.com/levelizedbilling](http://greystonepower.com/levelizedbilling), call 770-942-6576 or email [memberservices@greystonepower.com](mailto:memberservices@greystonepower.com). Prepaid accounts are not eligible. You must have been a GreyStone member for 12 months. Levelized billing: another convenience from GreyStone.





# Linemen face the storm aftermath

## APPRECIATING OUR LINEMEN

They work long hours in the rain, sleet and snow to restore power, sometimes when the lights in their own homes are out. They answer the call when fellow lineworkers in other cities and states face massive outages and spend days away from the comforts of home. They face all the dangers that come with working with electricity, always putting safety first.

In March, a tornado touched down in south Fulton County and storms wreaked havoc on GreyStone's service area, causing 19,000 members to lose power.

Due to that storm, one of GreyStone's own linemen, Line Foreman Terry Queen, had a large pine tree fall on his house. He awoke early the next day to cut his way out of his property so that he could come to work to help restore power for others. Queen (pictured, top right) said thankfully, no one in his family was injured in the incident.

GreyStone Power is thankful for these dedicated employees, and we encourage members and the public to show their support for linemen through the purchase of a special Thank a Lineman vehicle license plate.

Gov. Nathan Deal signed the law to make available a specialty license plate to honor Georgia's electric utility lineworkers, including GreyStone linemen.

Proceeds benefit the Southeastern Firefighters Burn Foundation (SFBF), which assists burn patients and their families at the Joseph M. Still Burn Center at Doctors Hospital in Augusta.

Georgians who are interested in purchasing a Thank a Lineman license plate can visit [www.sfbf.net/License-Plate](http://www.sfbf.net/License-Plate) when renewing your annual motor vehicle registration.

In addition, by an act of the General Assembly and Gov. Deal, \$10 of the Georgia Department of Revenue's \$35 annual specialty tag fee for Thank a Lineman license plates will be contributed to SFBF each year when the motorist renews the specialty plate.

We hope you'll consider purchasing a Thank a Lineman license plate to recognize line crews and support burn patients and their families through the important work of the Southeastern Firefighters Burn Foundation.

*Pictured at left, a March storm left many fallen trees on power lines, especially in south Douglas and south Fulton, where a tornado touched down. On the right are some of the GreyStone linemen who serve you. From top: Terry Queen, Brad White, Roy Flemister, Brett Corley and Andre Reed.*





# Making Life Better

Everyone likes better. And as we focus on better service with 24/7 convenience, we're also making life better with affordable, reliable power.

Did we mention that GreyStone Power's rates are nearly 15% lower than Georgia Power's? Out of 94 electric utilities, GreyStone ranks third for the lowest-priced electricity in Georgia!

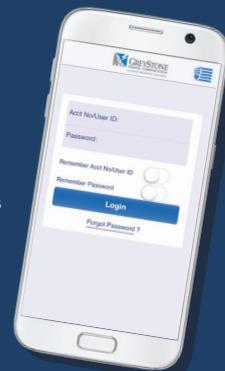
GreyStone Power. Focused on better service and lower rates.

**Now, that's better.**

\* According to the 2018 winter rate survey by the Georgia Public Service Commission. Based on the average residential use of 1,000 kilowatt hours (kWh) per month.



*GreyStone Power is an equal opportunity provider and employer.*



**GREYSTONE**  
POWER CORPORATION

*Owned By The People We Serve*