

GEMC
Celebrating the Georgia lifestyle
Georgia[®]
MAGAZINE

**GreyStone recognizes
local student leaders**
page E

**Cooperation among
cooperatives**
page I

JANUARY 2021

**GreyStone's
big move to
Paulding
County**
page C

www.georgiamagazine.org



GREYSTONE
POWER CORPORATION
Making Life Better



Photo Credit: Robb Maag

MILLER'S MINUTE

A WIN-WIN MOVE

At the time of this magazine printing, we will be partway through moving operations to our new headquarters in Paulding County. In November, we began moving equipment and materials, and in December, many employees, including our line crews and warehouse personnel, completed their moves. Our administrative employees will soon follow.

The Douglas County Board of Education announced in October that they would purchase our Douglasville headquarters and relocate their central office there. This is a win-win for GreyStone, the school system and the community. We had hoped that those who succeeded us in that building would be a positive influence on the county, so we are very excited to see this come to fruition.

While we are moving to Paulding, we aim to offer convenient service throughout our eight-county service area. We will maintain our network of more than a dozen payment kiosks even after our move, and continue to evaluate new kiosk locations. A new kiosk will be available at our new headquarters as well. Stay tuned to our website for information on when the new headquarters will be opening to our members.

- 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

Lucy Andres, District 9, Cobb County

LOCATION

11490 Veterans Memorial Hwy.
Douglasville, GA 30134

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, 1-866-563-8129

Go Energy Financial Credit Union, 770-949-3557, 770-445-2800

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.

Not available in the EU

Supporting VETERANS

GreyStone Power has been honoring veterans in the local community via financial and in-kind support from service programs such as Habitat for Humanity, scholarships, donations to causes and organizations dedicated to honoring military service, employment opportunities, and recognizing and showing appreciation for its own veteran-employees.

Specific efforts to recognize military personnel began in 2015, when GreyStone hosted an event honoring Vietnam veterans during the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War. Since that time, the co-op has launched a number of other initiatives to recognize veterans, including an annual military service recognition breakfast for GreyStone Power employees, retirees and board members who are veterans or are actively serving in the military.

In addition, GreyStone employees have landscaped a new Habitat for Humanity home for a local war veteran as well as supported programs which encourage hiring of military personnel.

“Supporting local veterans is part of GreyStone’s commitment to the communities we serve,” says Gary Miller, president/CEO of GreyStone Power. “These men and women have made great sacrifices through their service, and it’s a privilege to support them and recognize them in any way we can.”



On Veterans Day, GreyStone Power honored the employees, directors and retirees as well as the community members who have served their country.

Foundation scholarships

Attention, students! GreyStone Power is awarding five \$3,000 scholarships to GreyStone Power members or their children who are either seniors in high school or enrolling in college annually. The scholarships, provided by the GreyStone Power Foundation, Inc./Operation Round Up, are awarded based on need and academic achievement. All ages are eligible.

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 application deadline is Friday, April 16, 2021. Applications are available at greystonepower.com/scholarships.



New year, new location



GreyStone Power Corporation begins the new year with a move to its new headquarters in Paulding County, just south of the intersection of Pine Valley Road and Highway 92. The new headquarters site was built without incurring any new debt and sits near the geographic center of GreyStone's eight-county service area, which will allow GreyStone to respond quickly to members' needs.

GreyStone has been in Douglas County since July 1963, when the headquarters moved to 4040 Bankhead Highway. Numerous changes and updates were made throughout the years including its last major expansion in 1990, when the not-for-profit co-op served around 50,000 members. Since then, the co-op's membership has more than doubled, along with the operating revenue and miles of lines.

The Douglasville headquarters was purchased by the Douglas County Board of Education and will serve as their new central office.

The new facility at 3400 Hiram Douglasville Hwy., Hiram, is expected to be open to the public in early 2021. Watch our website, greystonepower.com, for more information on the official closing date of the Douglasville office and opening date of the new headquarters.





Local Youth Tour delegates to receive scholarships

Roxy Bridges

New Manchester High School

Roxy Bridges is a 2020 GreyStone Power Washington Youth Tour delegate from Douglasville. Roxy loves to paint and create art, explore and watch movies. She is a member of the National Art Honor Society and enjoys volunteering. She would like to attend a fine arts and design school such as the Rhode Island School of Design or Massachusetts College of Art and Design.



Jennifer Cochran

Chapel Hill High School

Jennifer Cochran is a 2020 GreyStone Power Washington Youth Tour delegate from Douglasville. Jennifer likes art, reading and writing books. She is a member of the National Art Honor Society. Jennifer plans to pursue a university degree in the field of astrobiology.



Gwen Douglas

Alexander High School

Gwen Douglas is a 2020 GreyStone Power Washington Youth Tour delegate from Villa Rica. Gwen loves going to concerts, thrift shopping and running. She serves as class president and Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) officer, mentors at the local elementary school and works at Chick-fil-A. She plans to attend the University of Georgia to become a pediatric psychologist and dreams of being a travel journalist.



Sammie McGurl

Landmark Christian School

Sammie McGurl is a 2020 GreyStone Power Washington Youth Tour delegate from Peachtree City. Sammie loves to read, sing and play sports—especially soccer and volleyball. She is involved in Mock Trial, Quiz Bowl, Key Club, Leadership Academy, National Honor Society and Beta Club. She is considering attending Notre Dame or Vanderbilt to become a physical therapist with an emphasis on sports medicine.



Laylah Pledger

East Paulding High School

Laylah Pledger is a 2020 GreyStone Power Washington Youth Tour delegate from Dallas. Laylah enjoys traditional and digital art, story writing and video games. She is a member of the National Honor Society, the National Art Honor Society and has won awards in the National PTA Reflections Arts Program. She would like to pursue a degree related to computer science or technology at MIT.



AROUND GREYSTONE

MEETING OF MEMBERS

GARY A. MILLER
PRESIDENT/CEO



GREYSTONE POWER
virtual
**ANNUAL MEETING
2020**

A first in the history of Greystone Power, the 83rd Annual Meeting business meeting was held virtually for the health and safety of our members and employees due to the uncertainty of the COVID-19 pandemic.

In 2020, directors from Districts 2, 6 and 7 were up for election, with a contested election for District 2. In District 6, Maribeth Wansley received a majority of the votes and was declared the winner. In District 7, Milton Jones received a

majority of the votes and was declared the winner. In District 2, John Walton received a majority of the votes and was declared the winner.

President/CEO Gary Miller spoke to members about the year's challenges and the co-op's response.

"Throughout the pandemic and difficulties of 2020, we have maintained our focus on making life better in the communities we serve, while delivering the award-winning level of service that our members expect," Miller said.

Back in March when COVID-19 was declared a pandemic, Greystone swiftly responded and took steps to reduce the spread and protect our community by teleworking, maximizing social distancing, enhancing cleaning measures at our headquarters and encouraging members to take advantage of our many self-service options.

Greystone has always worked with our members who struggle to

pay their bills, and as the months passed with COVID-19, more and more of our members were struggling. To assist our members, the Board of Directors decided to do a special \$15 million capital credits return on May bills.

In light of COVID-19, Greystone has continued to follow our cooperative principles, including cooperation among cooperatives. The co-op sent crews to Jeff Davis Electric Cooperative in Louisiana to assist with power restoration efforts after they were hit hard by Hurricane Laura.

Miller said the co-op is looking ahead to what 2021 may bring.

"Next year will be a milestone year for Greystone, as we will be celebrating 85 years of service to members at our new headquarters," said Miller. "2020 was a challenging year for many, but we have much to look forward to in 2021."

Members can still view Greystone's virtual Annual Meeting at greystonepower.com/annualmeeting.

EFFICIENCY 101

Winter Energy SAVINGS

While saving money through greater energy efficiency may be a year-round objective for many members, the way to achieve this goal will vary by season. During fall and winter months, when the outdoor temperature is chilly, members desire a warm home and seek to keep the cold air out. Here are a few ways that members can save on their energy bills this winter.

Take some time to examine seals on doors and windows to check for air leaks. Caulk and weatherstrip as needed to seal in warm air and energy savings. Similarly, examine outlets for air leaks, and where necessary, install gaskets around the outlet to prevent drafts. During the day, open curtains or drapes on south-facing windows to enable sunlight to heat your home naturally. Close curtains or drapes at night for an added layer of window insulation.

Schedule a service appointment for your heating system to ensure it is operating at an optimal level. Use a programmable thermostat to set the temperature as low as is comfortable when you are home (ideally around 68 degrees). When you are asleep or away, turn the temperature down a few degrees. On really cold days, it's best to just maintain your desired temperature; this way the unit does not have to work hard to bring the home back up to the desired temperature.



Surge MasterPlus

SURGEMASTER PLUS

During a storm, lightning may strike at any moment, causing a power surge that could damage or destroy your TV, personal computer and other everyday electrical appliances in your home. This can be avoided by investing in GreyStone Power's SurgeMaster Plus program. This program is not insurance, but it is proven to reduce your risk of loss should a power surge come your way. Surge protection can extend the lifetime of sensitive electronic equipment by protecting it against harmful power surges. To learn more about the SurgeMaster Plus program and how to sign up, visit greystonepower.com/surgeprotection.

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 estimated restoration times and view outage maps all through your mobile device.

Download our payment app

Visit the App Store or Google Play on your mobile devices to download the GreyStone Power payment app. Just search for GreyStone Power. The app makes payments simple—just a few taps on your phone.

Along with paying your bill, the GreyStone Power app can also show billing history, verify payments and display electricity use. All this conveniently on your phone, tablet or all your devices!

Stay connected to your cooperative and take control of your account with this handy payment app.

**WE'RE ALL
IN THIS
TOGETHER.**



Let's Keep Small Businesses Thriving.

It's time to power a Small Business Comeback across America.

Co-op Connections is a free member benefit program brought to you by GreyStone Power. Download the free Co-op Connections app to find discounts from your local merchants and nationwide. We can support our neighborhood businesses and reopen safely if we all work together and practice smart social distancing.

Visit www.SmallBusinessComeback.coop for more information.



#POWERON



Cooperation among cooperatives

CO-OPS RETURN MUTUAL AID

GreyStone Power, along with other electric membership cooperatives (EMCs), operates according to seven basic cooperative principles. The principle of cooperation among cooperatives is an important one, especially following major storms. GreyStone sends linemen all over the country when needed, and in return, other cooperatives send aid to GreyStone in times of need. In 2020, that principle was put into action following Hurricane Laura and Tropical Storm Zeta.

GreyStone Power sent two crews comprised of 16 linemen to aid in the restoration efforts at Jeff Davis Electric Co-op (JDEC) in Louisiana, whose service area was hit hard by Hurricane Laura.

The effects of the devastating storm left the Louisiana co-op without access to about half of their system due to flooding. Their 10-mile-long transmission line was left with only two structures supporting it. Out of their 21 substations, only five were live. They had more than 4,000 broken poles and lost power to 100% of their system at one point.

Due to the extensive damage and need to rebuild JDEC's system, GreyStone sent two more crews after a two-week period, which replaced the two crews that were on-site.

Just a few weeks later, numerous contractors and crews from co-ops from within Georgia and as far away as Kentucky and Florida helped GreyStone linemen restore power to 57,000 members after Tropical Storm Zeta caused nearly half of GreyStone members to lose service. Because so many other utilities all across the South were also facing large outages, it was more challenging in the aftermath of Zeta to garner additional crews. The co-op received additional help with each passing day as crews were released from other less-impacted utilities.

The widespread damage from Zeta's 70 mph wind gusts included nearly 100 broken poles and countless downed power lines, plus hundreds of trees down and thousands of limbs scattered on power lines throughout our eight-county service territory. Many trees had to be cut up and removed before beginning restoration.

Cooperatives returning mutual aid to other cooperatives is essential after the devastation of a major storm. The teamwork and dedication to service is truly what sets co-ops apart from other utility providers. GreyStone is grateful for the support of fellow EMCs and proud to display the cooperative spirit.

GreyStone linemen helped Jeff Davis Electric Co-op (JDEC) in Louisiana restore power after Hurricane Laura. When major storms hit or when GreyStone offers aid to other co-ops, tune in to GreyStone's Facebook page at [facebook.com/greystonepower](https://www.facebook.com/greystonepower) for updates and photos.



More powerfully connected than ever before



In a time of social distancing, we're more powerfully connected than ever before ... virtually learning, working, exercising, playing and getting together online.

GreyStone Power energizes the everyday tasks and the special moments that help make life better.

Reliable, safe and affordable energy from the cooperative owned by the people they serve.



GREYSTONE
POWER CORPORATION
Making Life Better