

GEMC

*GreyStone Power brings you*

# Georgia<sup>®</sup>

MAGAZINE

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JANUARY 2022

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**GREYSTONE**  
POWER CORPORATION  
**Making Life Better**



Photo Credit: Robb Maag

## MILLER'S MINUTE

# OUR FUTURE LINEWORKERS

GreyStone Power is investing in local education and training programs to support our future lineworkers. We partnered with West Georgia Technical College as they launched a new apprentice lineman program in 2021, which will help fill the employment gap of linemen retiring. Your co-op has also donated resources to the Paulding College and Career Academy's Energy Pathway program, and we hired two of its graduates as apprentice linemen after they completed a successful internship last summer.

When it comes to hiring, GreyStone also intends to recruit veterans. We are a proud advocate for Vets Power Us, a program developed to support veterans, active military and their spouses by helping veterans find career opportunities within America's electric co-ops and by helping the co-ops recruit, hire and honor veterans.

Careers with member-owned electric cooperatives offer great advantages. Co-ops like GreyStone are dedicated to the communities they serve, provide rewarding job opportunities and great benefit packages. Whether you're interested in linework or another meaningful co-op career, you can view job openings at <https://careers.electric.coop/>.

- 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

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#### LOCATION

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Hiram, GA 30141

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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, 1-855-802-2768

Go Energy Financial Credit Union, 470-514-3000

Operation Round Up®, 770-370-2080

SurgeMaster Plus, 770-370-2070

Cooperative Solar, 770-370-2252

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#### 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.

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#### 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](mailto: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*



## GREYSTONE NEWS

# Scholarships AVAILABLE

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.

Students also have the opportunity to apply for the Walter Harrison scholarship, a program sponsored by Georgia's electric membership corporations (EMCs). The \$1,000 scholarship can be applied to academic expenses at any accredited two- or four-year university, college or vocational-technical institute in Georgia.

Fourteen Walter Harrison Scholarships will be awarded in 2022 to students with exemplary academic records. Grade-point average, academic standing, scholastic honors and financial need are considered when determining a student's eligibility.

The application deadline is Friday, Jan. 14, 2022, for both scholarships. Applications are available at [greystonepower.com/scholarships](http://greystonepower.com/scholarships).

### In remembrance of Burnell Redding

The GreyStone family remembers longtime Board Member Burnell Redding. He passed away on Oct. 31, 2021, at the age of 84. Redding was elected to the GreyStone Power Corporation Board of Directors, representing District 4, Carroll and Douglas counties, in 1969. At that time, GreyStone was known as Douglas County EMC. Redding served as president of the GreyStone Power Board of Directors from 1981 until 1985, and also served many years as secretary-treasurer during his tenure.

Redding was a dedicated and respected leader. His experience and expertise have brought great value and a better quality of life to the members of Douglas County EMC and GreyStone Power during his 46 years of service.



# TRAINING THE NEXT



Education, training and information is one of the seven cooperative principles that GreyStone Power abides by, and this principle is evident when training employees. GreyStone has been proactive when it comes to training the next generation of linemen with community partnerships and educational opportunities.

This past summer, GreyStone offered a summer internship to students. Landon Aiken and Cal Bentley had the opportunity to be participants in the program. The interns, who were recent graduates of the Paulding College and Career Academy (PCCA), learned the ins and outs of line work at GreyStone.

Before starting the internship, Aiken and Bentley received energy and lineman career training at the Jerry Lamar Tucker and Ellen Barrett Tucker Energy Pathway Lab at the PCCA. The lab was named after GreyStone retiree Jerry Tucker and his late wife, Ellen. This is the first year of the program, and the co-op is exclusively working with the PCCA for the internship.

"We hope this is the first of many internship programs offered through the career academy," said Jarred Stevens, director of safety & loss control. "We are hoping that it's a successful pilot and proves to be beneficial to the

students."

During the four weeks of the program, the interns had the opportunity to go out in the field with GreyStone linemen, learning about different wiring and materials as well as how to put it together. Aiken hoped to use his experience gained during the internship as a steppingstone into a career in line work.

"I love it," said Aiken. "I love being outside and being able to work instead of sitting in a classroom."

Aiken was able to make that career goal come true. Both he and Bentley were hired as apprentice linemen for GreyStone. On Oct. 18, 2021, the PCCA held its first Career Signing Ceremony at the new GreyStone Power Corporation headquarters.

"The two young men, Mr. Cal Bentley and Mr. Landon Aiken, have represented the Paulding College & Career Academy, and their instructor, Mr. Blake Pendley, extremely well. We are so excited to see what the future brings for them," said Marores Perry, CEO of the Paulding College and Career Academy. She added, "GreyStone Power

# GENERATION OF LINEMEN

has been an outstanding partner even before the Academy's inception."

In addition to training, the co-op has also donated equipment. GreyStone's digger derrick truck got a new lease on life with West Georgia Technical College (WGTC). After 20-plus years of hard work at the cooperative, instead of retiring the truck and sending it to auction, GreyStone donated the vehicle to the apprentice lineworker program at WGTC. Though it is too small for many of the larger poles in our system, it is still a useful and functioning vehicle, which could be important in the training needs of future linemen.

"The Apprentice Lineman Program at WGTC is the first in Georgia to be offered as a non-credit program from a technical college and would not be possible without the support of key industry partners like GreyStone Power," said Angela Berch, vice president of economic development

and community affairs at WGTC. "Having the proper equipment for our students to learn and train on is a major factor in ensuring their success. The donation of the digger derrick will be a huge asset to our program."

GreyStone also played a role in creating WGTC's Economic Development Division's Lineman Apprentice Program. The program was a collaboration with Carroll EMC, Coweta-Fayette EMC, Diverse Power and Georgia Power, along with GreyStone, to bring lineman training to the west Georgia area. Douglas County resident William Teague received a \$2,500 scholarship from GreyStone Power to attend the new program at WGTC.

GreyStone Power recognizes that education and training are crucial to bringing in the next generation of lineworkers. Community partnerships have been essential in the co-op's efforts in linemen training. It is that joint effort that helps GreyStone Power continue to make lives better for the community it serves.



# Youth Tour goes VIRTUAL



Different times call for different measures, and the notion was front and center recently during the 2021 Georgia Electric Cooperative Youth Tour (YTGA), a leadership experience designed exclusively for teens and sponsored by the electric membership cooperatives (EMCs) in Georgia, including GreyStone Power. Isaac Breiding, of Douglasville; Nathaniel Jose and Jasmine Walker, of Villa Rica; and Olivia Noble and Marissa Sandoval, of Dallas, were all selected to join approximately 40 students from across Georgia for a three-day virtual leadership event.

For more than 50 years, electric cooperatives across the state have recognized outstanding high schoolers by providing a valuable leadership experience, which normally involves sending high achievers on the Washington Youth Tour (WYT) to spend nearly a week in the nation's capital. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the tour was reshaped this year into a virtual three-day event.

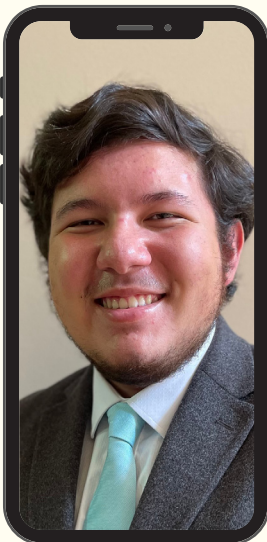
Held June 22-24, 2021, YTGA offered dynamic and interactive sessions focused on different aspects of leadership – Leadership and Me, Leadership and My Community, Leadership and My Nation – and included personality profiles, small group breakouts, photo contests, trivia challenges and more.

Student delegates also participated in a live virtual town hall with Georgia's members of Congress. They heard from Georgia's Lt. Gov. Duncan, learned from WYT alumni who have worked on Capitol Hill and collaborated in small groups for the chance to win a \$5,000 college scholarship. GreyStone delegate Isaac Breiding and delegates from Diverse Power and Grady EMC were among the winners of a \$5,000 scholarship. In addition, those who participate are also eligible to apply for an annual \$10,000 Youth Tour alumni national college scholarship.

For more information on the program, contact your school counselor or call GreyStone's Youth Tour coordinator at 770-370-2059.



Isaac Breiding



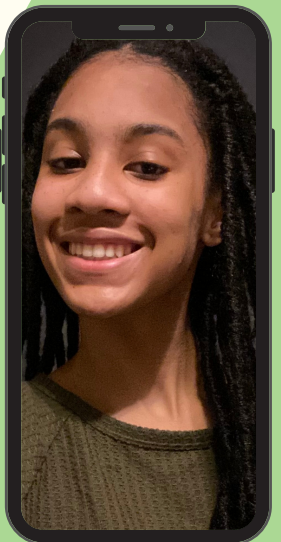
Nathaniel Jose



Olivia Noble



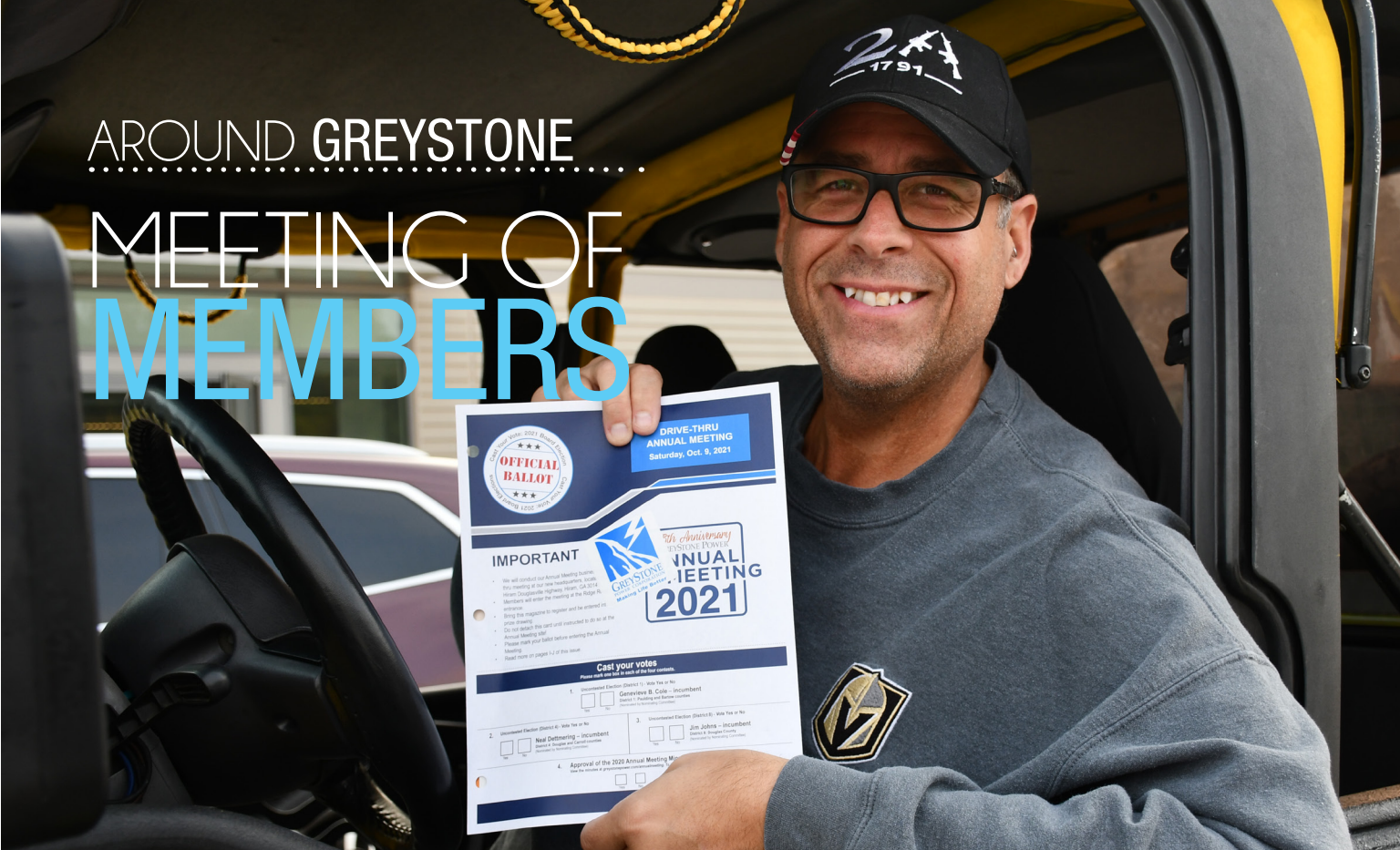
Marissa Sandoval



Jasmine Walker

AROUND GREYSTONE.....

# MEETING OF MEMBERS



## GREYSTONE POWER *Drive-thru* ANNUAL MEETING 2021

**A** first in the history of GreyStone Power, the 84th Annual Meeting of Members was held as a drive-thru event for the health and safety of our members and employees due to the uncertainty of the COVID-19 pandemic.

President/CEO Gary Miller wrote a letter to members welcoming them to the new headquarters and commemorating the history of the co-op on the 85th anniversary year.

"We are glad to welcome our

members to our new headquarters in Paulding County today. This new headquarters sits near the geographic center of our service area, allowing us to respond quickly to members' needs," Miller said.

2021 marked 85 years since the cooperative was formed. In the 1930s, about 90% of rural people lived and worked without electricity.

Back in August of 1936, a group met at the Douglas County Courthouse and formed the Farmers Electrical Association, a not-for-profit cooperative.

In 1937, the co-op became Douglas County EMC, and in 1988, members at the Annual Meeting

voted to change the name to GreyStone Power Corporation. Making life better for GreyStone members is as important today as it was 85 years ago.

Members had the opportunity to win one of 30 door prizes following the business meeting, including the grand prize, a 2012 Ford F-150 4x4 SuperCab truck retired from the GreyStone fleet. Member John L. King was the lucky winner of the truck.



John L. King was the grand prize winner.

## EFFICIENCY 101

# Space heater ISSUES

Small space heaters are meant to do exactly as their name says: heat a small space. But unfortunately, many people use portable space heaters to heat their entire home, which can really take a toll on your energy bills. The truth is, whether you should use space heaters really depends on your home's efficiency and energy needs.

If you're using a space heater to compensate for problems in your home, your best bet is to improve the overall efficiency of your home. Caulk and weatherstrip around all windows and doors to prevent heat loss. Consider adding insulation to your attic and around ductwork.

Only use a space heater in small spaces that you're occupying and, if possible, try to shut off other rooms to contain the warmth provided by the space heater. If you decide to use a space heater to heat a small area in your home, make sure the heater is properly sized for the space; most heaters include a general sizing table.

Consider alternative ways to stay warm, like extra layers of clothing or UL-approved electric blankets. If you have hardwood or tile floors, lay down area rugs to provide additional insulation (and appeal!) and maintain warmth.



# 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](http://greystonepower.com/surgeprotection).



# improving service

## FOR GREYSTONE MEMBERS



### LED upgrades completed

GreyStone Power crews completed the last few upgrades of our systemwide LED upgrades, and the project is ⚡ now complete. The LED project was completed under budget and ahead of schedule.

Currently, 93% of GreyStone's service territory has been successfully upgraded to LED fixtures. The remaining 7% of the co-op's outdoor lights are primarily inactive lights, which will be upgraded as members make the choice to activate them.

Members can learn more about the outdoor lighting options that GreyStone offers or submit inquiries by visiting the Lighting Catalog page on our website, [greystonepower.com](http://greystonepower.com).

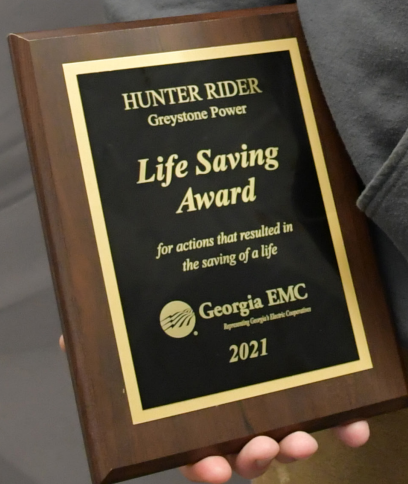
## Did your fridge get cleaned out this holiday season?

Restock your groceries with the money-saving printable coupons for your local supermarket.

### SHOP LOCAL AND SAVE

[connections.coop](http://connections.coop)





# Three employees honored for heroic efforts

## GOING THE EXTRA MILE AND SAVING LIVES

Serving members and the community goes beyond delivering electricity. GreyStone Apprentice Lineman Hunter Rider, pictured at left, was honored with Life Saving awards by Georgia EMC, the statewide trade association for Georgia's 41 electric membership cooperatives, and GreyStone Power.

It was around three in the morning when Rider heard a loud noise outside of his house. He went outside and found a vehicle that had obviously wrecked and was in a ditch. Rider ran over to check on the driver and got him out of the vehicle. They then made their way to the other side of the road and began to contact the police and fire department/EMS. During that time, the vehicle caught fire. All traffic stopped. Shortly after, the vehicle was completely engulfed in flames. The fire department and the police arrived on scene. The individual was transported to the hospital by EMS.

Two other GreyStone employees received the co-op's Gatekeeper award. This award is given to employees who recognize situations where assistance is needed and go the extra mile to

render aid.

Heath Hale was headed to work on an outage when he came upon an overturned car. He pulled over in the grass to see if anyone was still inside the vehicle. Hale found a woman hanging upside down by her seatbelt. He calmed her down and told her he was there to help. With the assistance of another bystander, they freed her from the car and got her to safety. Hale then called dispatch, giving them the location of the incident and other pertinent information.

In a separate incident involving another GreyStone employee, a box truck hit a minivan in front of Josh Jones, flipping the truck and sending the van into the oncoming traffic lane of Highway 278. Jones was the first to stop. The box truck landed on the driver's side with a man trapped inside. Jones had another person stop, and he asked them to call 911.

Another man came over to help Jones, and Jones helped him climb on top of the truck and open the passenger door so that they could reach the driver. Once they got him out, firemen who had arrived on the scene set up a ladder so they could get the injured man down from the truck. A fireman then bandaged up the man's arm. Once the police arrived, Jones headed home.



*Apprentice Lineman Hunter Rider, left, was the winner of 2021 Life Saving awards from GreyStone Power and Georgia EMC. Heath Hale, above left, and Josh Jones, above right, were the recipients of the 2021 GreyStone Gatekeeper awards.*



# Improving reliability every day. So, you can rest easy at night.

People depend on GreyStone Power to safely deliver reliable electricity 24/7.

That's why we're continuing to build a smarter, sturdier power grid. It uses innovative technology to minimize outages.

To help prevent outages, crews maintain 500 miles of vegetation near power lines each year, trimming trees and limbs.

