

GEMC

GreyStone Power brings you

# Georgia<sup>®</sup>

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OCTOBER 2021

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Bring this magazine to the meeting to receive your prize!  
[www.georgiamagazine.org](http://www.georgiamagazine.org)





Photo Credit: Robb Maag

## MILLER'S MINUTE

# A TRUSTED ENERGY ADVISOR

When making a big decision about solar panels, we want our members to call us first. Recently, consumers across the state, including some GreyStone members, have been targeted by disreputable rooftop solar vendors. In some cases, scammers have used high-pressure sales techniques and left members saddled with debt.

Some solar developers have begun going door to door, while others advertise "free electricity" or "free solar" on social media. The Georgia Public Service Commission chairman has asked the attorney general's office to investigate these bad actors and their misleading advertising. Georgia is one of the fastest-growing markets for solar energy, which has led to the rise of some new companies that are making promises they cannot deliver on.

GreyStone Power is proud to be your trusted energy advisor. Members should feel free to contact us for credible solar information. Our energy advisors can help with the facts, costs and benefits of solar, including if rooftop solar is the right fit for your home or business. We encourage you to call us at 770-370-2070 before signing any solar contracts. Or, visit [www.greystonepower.com/rooftopsolar](http://www.greystonepower.com/rooftopsolar) to learn more.

- 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

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

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#### LOCATION

3400 Hiram Douglasville Hwy.

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*





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 Christina Bae, Zachary Davis, Kamari Dumas, Eric Okanume and Sammi Zhu.

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.

Christina Bae graduated from Paulding County High School and will attend Georgia Tech to study biochemistry.

Zachary Davis graduated from East Paulding High School and will attend the University of West Georgia to study psychology. Kamari Dumas graduated from East Paulding High School and will attend Georgia State University to study nursing. Eric Okanume is a sophomore at University of Georgia Honors College and studies biological sciences. Sammi Zhu graduated from Douglas County High School and will attend Harvard University to study medicine.

“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 \$157.1 million in capital returns to members since 1936. It’s the cooperative difference!

GreyStone is in the process of returning \$8 million to members and former members who had service in the years 2002 or 2020. 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!





# Considering solar?





# We're here to help

Today's consumers want and expect options, including the type of energy powering their homes. Many homeowners are looking for a less expensive form of energy with ongoing savings. Some are looking for a green energy source. These two motives are why many homeowners are exploring rooftop solar panels. The interest in alternative energy sources is also being fueled by decreasing costs for rooftop solar, the availability of financial incentives and the proliferation of companies offering solar panel installation.

However, as attractive and popular as rooftop solar may appear, it is important for consumers to fully understand its true costs, the operational reality of this form of energy and actual energy savings. To determine whether rooftop solar is right for a particular situation, homeowners must undertake their due diligence.

## **We're here to help.**

As your trusted energy advisor, GreyStone Power can offer a candid assessment of your specific situation. After all, GreyStone has a different "bottom line" that is not directly tied to the sale of a product or service. We constantly strive to find new ways to help you use energy more efficiently. GreyStone is seeking to keep pace with the changing energy environment and evolving technology. We are exploring more options that will help you manage your energy use such as energy audits, rebates and the energy efficiency loan program. We take a more holistic, objective view of how to achieve energy savings.

## **Is rooftop solar right for you?**

To help determine whether rooftop solar is right for you, GreyStone's energy advisors will examine:

- overall energy efficiency of the home/building
- age and pitch of the roof
- orientation of the sun in relation to the home/building
- tree coverage

Unlike a solar company that has one objective—to sell their products and services—we will look at the total energy picture and help you determine the best options for your home. While rooftop solar certainly works for many people, it's not the answer for all.

When helping co-op members determine whether rooftop solar is right for them, a co-op energy advisor will also discuss the many financial considerations:

- Is there a large, upfront payment required or are fees spread out over time?
- Will the homeowner own the panels or will they be leased?
- Are there any hidden costs, i.e., does the roof need to be replaced before installing the panels?
- Are there ongoing maintenance fees?
- Are there rebates or other financial incentives available?
- Is the estimated energy savings worth the investment?
- Is it more cost-effective to invest in other energy-saving measures?

Most important, an energy advisor will provide perspective on the total energy puzzle. Taking into account current energy consumption, the home "envelope," age and efficiency of the HVAC system and homesite, an energy advisor can help co-op members determine whether rooftop solar is the best choice given the homeowners' objectives.

When assessing solar options, it is an excellent time to examine other potential energy efficiency improvements for your home. For example, it may make sense to insulate the attic at the same time as installing solar.

GreyStone Power recognizes that consumer interest in green energy sources and renewables is at an all-time high, and we stand ready to help our members determine their best options. Email us at [solar@greystonepower.com](mailto:solar@greystonepower.com) or visit [greystonepower.com/rooftopsolar](http://greystonepower.com/rooftopsolar) to learn more.



# Board election candidates

Annually, three of the nine positions on GreyStone's Board of Directors are elected by members. Every member may vote on every position to elect directors. The following three directors were nominated by the Nominating Committee. No additional candidates were nominated by member petition. See the back of this issue for your ballot.



## **Genevieve B. Cole District 1 Paulding and Bartow counties**

Genevieve B. Cole is retired from Paulding County's banking industry with 47 years of experience, including leadership roles such as CEO, president, director and the chartering of a

locally owned community bank. She is a graduate of Chattahoochee Technical College, C&S Lending School, Georgia Banking School, Commercial Lending School and the LSU Graduate School of Banking. During her career, she has volunteered and served as chair of the Paulding County Chamber of Commerce, trustee of Dallas First Baptist Church, PTA chair and member of the Community Bankers of Georgia Regulation Committee. She is currently secretary of the Paulding Education Foundation and serves on the Wellstar Paulding Hospital Regional Board, the Paulding Community Foundation Board and the S.U. Braly Scholarship Committee. She has also earned the Director Gold certification from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA). Cole has served as vice chair for the GreyStone Power Board of Directors since 2018.

"It has been my pleasure to represent District 1 as a GreyStone Power director since 2015," says Cole. "Having lived nearly my entire life in GreyStone's service area, I want to continue to be a part of the cooperative's mission in the continuation of reliable service at the very best rates possible."



## **Neal Dettmering District 4 Douglas and Carroll counties**

Neal Dettmering currently serves as senior judge in several Douglas County courts, after having retired as judge of Douglas County State Court in 2017. Prior to that, he was in

private practice law for 27 years. He currently serves on the advisory board of Oglethorpe Power Corp., Georgia System Operations Corp. and Georgia Transmission Corp. He holds a Bachelor of Science in education from Auburn University and a doctorate degree from University of Georgia School of Law. He has served the community through Boy Scouts of America, the Douglas County Chamber of

Commerce, the Douglas County Rotary Club and in coaching youth sports. He has been treasurer and served on the Administrative Board at Douglasville United Methodist Church. Dettmering has earned the Credentialed Cooperative Director Certification from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) and has served on the GreyStone Power Board of Directors since 2015.

"I would like to continue to serve on GreyStone's Board," says Dettmering. "Varied experience in the legal field, including my past experience as GreyStone's legal counsel and my service on the Georgia EMC Counsel Association, has allowed me to better understand GreyStone's functions and capabilities and make more informed decisions regarding GreyStone's operations."



## **Jim Johns District 8 Douglas County**

Jim Johns is a retired Delta Airlines pilot instructor. Prior to that, he was employed with Firestone Tire & Rubber Co. and served in the U.S. Army from 1969-71. He graduated from the U.S. Army School of

Transportation as a turbine engineering mechanic and holds B.S. and M.S. degrees from Purdue University, as well as a Georgia State University education specialist degree. He was also employed with the Douglas County Board of Education for four years and has been a vocational tech instructor for high school and college students and graduates. He has served as an elder and a deacon at First Christian Church of Mableton. Having earned the Credentialed Cooperative Director Certificate and Board Leadership Certificate from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), Johns has held both vice chair and secretary-treasurer positions on the GreyStone Power Board of Directors. He has served as chair since 2018.

"The cooperative has done a lot well — its rates are very low, its member satisfaction scores are exceptional, and it just constructed (on time and on budget) an excellent new campus that will serve its needs for years to come," Johns says. "I want to help the board continue to build on these past successes and to exceed our members' expectations."



# 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 credible 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](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).

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## OFFICIAL NOTICE OF GREYSTONE POWER CORPORATION'S ANNUAL MEETING OF MEMBERS SATURDAY, OCT. 9, 2021

The Annual Meeting of Members of GreyStone Power Corporation will be held Saturday, Oct. 9, 2021, at the GreyStone Power Corporation headquarters facility at 3400 Hiram Douglasville Highway, Hiram, Ga. Due to the pandemic and an abundance of caution, this year's Annual Meeting will be a drive-thru event, held from 8 to 10 a.m. Members should enter our campus at the Ridge Road entrance and bring this magazine, including the ballot, for ease of registration and voting. Read more about the event on page J.

Your cooperative exists solely to serve its members, and we hope you will take an active role through your

participation in the Annual Meeting.

This Official Notice is hereby issued in accordance with your Bylaws this 27th day of August, 2021, by:

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

David Hagenow, Secretary/Treasurer



## EFFICIENCY 101

# Power strip TIPS

As the abundance of electronics impacts our daily lives, we realize there simply are not enough outlets in our homes. As a result, we end up with a number of "outlet expanders," more commonly known as power strips.

Installing a smart power strip is a quick and easy way to start saving money while making your home more energy-efficient. Smart power strips can actually cut power off to save energy since they can detect when a device is in standby mode.

Replace standard power strips with advanced power strips to save energy. Advanced power strips look like ordinary power strips, but they have built-in features that are designed to reduce the amount of energy used by standby electronics that consume energy even when they're not in use (also known as phantom load).

Phantom loads can be prevented with the use of a power strip and using the switch on it to cut all power to the appliance, or simply by unplugging the appliance when not in use.

The GreyStone Marketplace is offering 50% off advanced power strips from Oct. 27 to Nov. 1. Please visit [greystonepowermarketplace.com](http://greystonepowermarketplace.com) to redeem the promotion.



## WEATHER STRIPPING DOORS

Save energy and seal air leaks by weather stripping exterior doors. How do you know if you need to weather strip? If you can see any light between the door frame and the floor, weather stripping should be applied to eliminate energy waste. This DIY energy-saving project is relatively easy and inexpensive depending on the type of materials selected. The most common weather stripping material is self-adhesive foam strips, although rubber, vinyl, metal or a combination of materials may also be used.



# 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](http://greystonepower.sedccheckout.com) to get your bar code.

# Go paperless!

## Log in to our member portal to sign up for e-billing.

Having trouble finding where you placed your bill each month? Try a new filing system that includes your email! Simply sign up for e-billing and always have access to your account information with the touch of a finger.

Once signed up, you will receive an email notification that the power bill is available online. A direct link will be included to link directly to the bill without having to sign in separately. Once signed up, be sure to keep your email address up to date so there will be no disruption to your notifications.







# Join us for the 84th Annual Meeting!



## DON'T MISS THE FIRST DRIVE-THRU ANNUAL MEETING!

On Saturday, Oct. 9, from 8 to 10 a.m., members are invited to join us for our 84th Annual Meeting of Members! Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and an abundance of caution, this year's Annual Meeting will be a drive-thru event. Members will not be required to get out of their vehicles.

"We were looking forward to returning to an in-person event this year, but due to the rise in COVID-19 cases, we felt we had to transition to a drive-thru event," says GreyStone President/CEO Gary Miller.

Those members who register at the Annual Meeting will receive a free gift. To simplify registration, bring this magazine. The member will also receive an email allowing them to show the QR Code digitally during registration. The member (whose name is on the bill) must be present to register.

The event will be at GreyStone's new headquarters at 3400 Hiram Douglasville Highway in Hiram, with members entering at Ridge Road. We are excited to welcome members to our new facility in Paulding County.

Members will still have the opportunity to win door prizes and the grand prize, a 2012 Ford F-150 4x4 Supercab truck retired from the GreyStone fleet.

Formed in 1936, GreyStone Power is celebrating 85 years in business. We have grown from the small co-op once known as the Farmers Electrical Association to one of the largest electric co-ops in the state and nation, which today serves more than 123,000 members in eight counties.

Continue to visit [greystonepower.com](http://greystonepower.com) for updates about the Annual Meeting as we get closer to the event.

*Member Mangie Gregory, left, was the winner of 2019's grand-prize giveaway, a truck retired from the GreyStone fleet.*





# DRIVE-THRU ANNUAL MEETING

Saturday, Oct. 9, 2021

## IMPORTANT

- We will conduct our Annual Meeting business with a drive-thru meeting at our new headquarters, located at 3400 Hiram Douglasville Highway, Hiram, GA 30141.
- Members will enter the meeting at the Ridge Road entrance.
- Bring this magazine to register and be entered into the prize drawing.
- Do not detach this card until instructed to do so at the Annual Meeting site!
- Please mark your ballot before entering the Annual Meeting.
- Read more on pages I-J of this issue.



## Cast your votes

Please mark one box in each of the four contests.

1. **Uncontested Election (District 1) - Vote Yes or No**

Yes No

**Genevieve B. Cole – incumbent**

District 1: Paulding and Bartow counties  
(Nominated by Nominating Committee)

2. **Uncontested Election (District 4) - Vote Yes or No**

Yes No

**Neal Dettmering – incumbent**

District 4: Douglas and Carroll counties  
(Nominated by Nominating Committee)

3. **Uncontested Election (District 8) - Vote Yes or No**

Yes No

**Jim Johns – incumbent**

District 8: Douglas County  
(Nominated by Nominating Committee)

4. **Approval of the 2020 Annual Meeting Minutes**

View the minutes at [greystonepower.com/annualmeeting](http://greystonepower.com/annualmeeting). To request a printed copy, call 770-370-2080.

Yes No