



The GreyStone Connection

THE POWER OF MEMBER CONNECTIONS



A LOOK INSIDE: **p. 26C** IMPROVED CFL BULBS SHINE BRIGHT FOR THE FUTURE VOLUME 1 • NUMBER 3 • JULY 2013

Miller's Minute

Ah, summertime. Enjoying a swim in a refreshing pool, reading a book in an air-conditioned sunroom and time off at home to use all the electricity-powered gadgets we love.

However, summertime pleasures lead to higher summer rates. When we use more electricity, it takes additional generating plants to produce the extra power we need. Summer's higher rates encourage efficient use of electricity, which helps keep GreyStone's year-round rates some of the lowest in Georgia. In summer, it's important to remember, use more, pay more.

Think summer bills are high? If many members of Congress and the Environmental Protection Agency have their way, electricity costs that have barely increased over the past 77 years could skyrocket.

Inside your electric bill this month, you will find a slip to sign and send back allowing us to pass your concerns along. Or go online and contact Congress at www.ourenergy.coop.

- Gary

Gary Miller, President/CEO



WIIFM: What's in it for me?

by AMANDA BUSBY, Editor

When you hear the word value, does the image of your favorite fast food value meal pop into your mind? More food for less money, right?

Value can mean many different things to different people. Importance. Something special. Worth. To us, it means giving you the best service and more benefits for your membership!

When you sign up for electricity from us, you become a member-owner, which means you, along with 104,500 others, have a say in the leadership of the corporation. What other business that you patronize can offer the same?

Each year at our Annual Meeting of Members, which is held the second Saturday in October, or by ballot in September, you are given the opportunity to select who you would like to represent you as part of our board of directors. Elections are held yearly for rotating districts.

As a member-owned electric cooperative (co-op), your employees and board value you. We are dedicated to providing you with the best electric service at the lowest possible rates. This is one area where we differ significantly from investor-owned utilities (IOUs), which operate to maximize profits for the shareholders.

Co-ops operate to provide at-cost electric service to their members. Any margins the co-op earns are used to maintain

operations or are returned to you each year in the form of a capital credits check.

In addition to your right to vote and low rates, you have numerous other benefits right at your fingertips. Did you know that through GreyStone, you have the opportunity to join the member-owned GEMC Federal Credit Union? Only select organizations are members of the credit union, allowing their employees or members the ability to join, which in turn offers you exclusive benefits, including low interest rates for loans and mortgages.

The credit union provides a wide array of financial services, including free dividend-paying checking and high dividend savings accounts. Members can also purchase a new or pre-owned vehicle with low financing.

In 2011, our Residential Energy Services department began offering

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free seminars (Energy Efficiency 101) designed specifically with you in mind. The two-hour seminar is held each spring and fall and offers members important tips that can be used to lower monthly electric bills.

We are also pleased to offer free home energy audits, which can help you determine where you need to concentrate your efforts in your home, so you can be the most energy efficient. You can schedule your appointment by calling 770-370-2070.

Aside from the in-house services we offer, GreyStone also partners with ancillary companies that offer our members discounts and services. Among these are Gas South, which offers a monthly discount to all members. EMC Security, owned by GreyStone Power, Jackson and Walton EMCs, provides cutting-edge security options for our members, including medical alert and home entertainment services.

Each month we hold a series of staff meetings, including front-line

Benefits cheat sheet

- **Low electric rates** – *In Georgia, 14th lowest in summer and 5th lowest in winter among 95 providers*
- **Capital credits check** – *Profits returned to you each fall*
- **GEMC Federal Credit Union** – *Membership, financial and car services*
- **Co-op Connections® Card** – *Discount savings locally and nationally*
- **EMC Security** – *Discounts on home and business security*
- **Gas South** – *Special member discounts*
- **SurgeMaster Plus** – *Power surge protection*
- **Operation Round Up®** – *Community-focused charity*
- **Green Power** – *Renewable energy*
- **Energy efficiency seminars** – *Learn energy-saving skills*
- **Free energy audits** – *Discover areas to improve savings*
- **Rebates** – *Energy-efficiency improvements*

employees to senior executives. In each meeting, a topic of discussion comes up—what's best for our members? How will this decision ultimately benefit our members?

In 2007, we answered these questions by joining Touchstone Energy's Co-op Connections® Card program, offering you discounts to hundreds of deals locally and nationwide! Through this program, you also have access to savings on many household items through coupons.com and to more than 1,000 retailers online through

myvipsavings.com, which allows you to earn free cash back on purchases made through the site.

Your card also provides health discounts on prescriptions and for vision, dental, hearing, chiropractic and lab and imaging services. You can learn more about this program by visiting www.connections.coop/greystonepower or by calling 770-370-2383.

For more information about your membership benefits, call 770-942-6576 or visit www.greystonepower.com.

'WIN BIG' encourages self-service convenience

On May 6, four lucky winners were selected for their participation in the WIN BIG contest. By taking advantage of GreyStone's self-service options and abiding by the eligibility requirements, participating members were eligible to be included in the random drawing.

Members participating in the contest used selected self-service options for a minimum of three consecutive months during the promotion period, ending in April.

"It's exciting that the co-op is embracing new technologies and innovative ideas in such a way that will benefit our members," explains Iris Levin, department manager of Member Services. "Since the launch of this promotion in December 2012, neighboring co-ops have also

launched a similar self-service driven campaign."

Since the contest was so successful, the next WIN BIG contest will begin July 1, allowing other members the opportunity to win. By using self-service features during the promotion time, three lucky members will have the opportunity to win a bill credit of \$75, \$100 or the grand prize of an iPad mini.

And the WIN BIG winners are ...

Congratulations to grand-prize winner, Joy Ashby! She received a bill credit of \$400! Our second-prize winner, Kerantha Grant, received a \$100 bill credit, while our two third-prize winners, Reginald Lastinger and Amanda Campbell, each received a \$50 bill credit.



Walk-in member Joseph Olubummo selects the winners with the help of Member Services Department Manager Iris Levin.

For detailed contest eligibility requirements or to register for online services, visit www.greystonepower.com.

Do It Yourself

Ask the Expert

The Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 mandated a phaseout of incandescent lightbulbs, including the 100-, 75-, 60- and 40-watt. By 2014, these bulbs, for the most part, will not be available for purchase. It is important to note that incandescent specialty bulbs, including three-way and dimmable, will remain available. The replacement of choice has been the compact fluorescent light (CFL) bulb, although the light-emitting diode (LED) bulb will become more competitive once initial high prices subside.

Early CFL bulbs did not live up to manufacturer claims. They cost more than incandescent, were not dimmable and adaptable to three-way switches, did not fit in some light fixtures, did not work well in moist or hot environments and longevity claims proved false. Fan vibration curtailed their life, they did not come on instantly and some burned out quickly. Their color was not the equivalent of incandescent lights, and they contained a small amount of mercury.

Today's CFL bulbs are much better. They are smaller, come on almost instantly and are closer in color to incandescents. The bulbs are available in three-way, dimmable and other specialty applications. They produce less heat than incandescent and last much longer when installed where lights are used most, preferably when left on for at least 15 minutes at a time. They will not last when used in appliances, range hoods, in enclosed globes or recessed can lighting, in vibration applications such as ceiling fans and outside where moisture can reach them.

Testing by Consumer Reports shows that ENERGY STAR-rated CFLs last longer than the cheaper bulbs and that constantly switching bulbs on and off will not affect these bulbs as significantly as it will cheaper bulbs. Average mercury content is less than 5 mg per bulb, compared to 500 mg in a dental

Got questions or need more info? Give us a call at 770-370-2252.
www.greystonepower.com



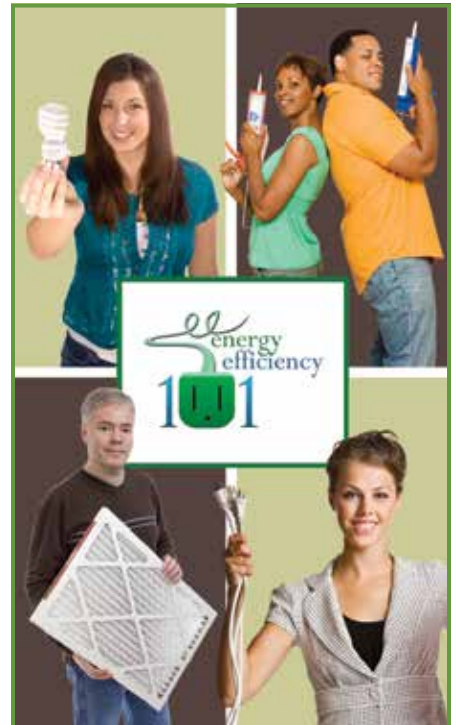
Rudy Echols
Energy Services Manager

filling, 550 mg in old-style thermostats and 25 mg in watch batteries prior to 2008. If a bulb breaks, be careful in the cleanup process and put the contents in your trash. Burned out bulbs may be recycled at stores such as Home Depot. When making a color selection, there are basically three available colors, including soft, daylight and bright white. They all have their advantages, but soft white is recommended as closest to the incandescent bulb.

For more information on CFL and LED bulbs, visit energystar.gov.

DIY top three

1. Buy ENERGY STAR-rated bulbs versus the cheaper varieties, and keep your receipt. If the bulb does not last the warranty period, take it back for a replacement.
2. Soft white CFL bulbs have the most similar light pattern to incandescent bulbs. They are most suited for living rooms, dens and bedrooms.
3. Be sure to read the label on the bulb package to ensure that the particular bulb is the correct one for its intended use. And remember, incandescent specialty bulbs will remain available.



GET EQUIPPED WITH DO-IT-YOURSELF SKILLS AND LOWER YOUR ENERGY BILL

**Tuesday, Nov. 12, 2013,
6:30-8:30 p.m.
GreyStone Power Auditorium
4040 Bankhead Hwy.,
Douglasville**

Seats are limited so reserve yours now! Seminar is for adults only. No children, please, as they may disturb someone else trying to learn.

For more information about EE101, call 770-370-2252.



TOGETHERWESAVE.COM



Employees raise funds for charity

To help find a cure for cancer, GreyStone employees organized several activities throughout the year to raise funds for two locally supported charities, Relay For Life and Gabe's Chemo Duck Program.

By sponsoring dress down days, hosting a charity luncheon and flea market at GreyStone and soliciting individual pledges to walk during the annual Relay For Life event, employees raised a combined \$7,735 for the cause. "We are grateful to GreyStone for



their support and encouraging employee participation," explains Dallas District Office Supervisor Dawn Lovingood.

To learn more about either of the charities, visit www.relayforlife.org or www.chemoduck.org.

Pinterest Pick

PINK LEMONADE CAKE

Ingredients:

- 1 cup unsalted butter, softened
- 2 cups white sugar
- 4 eggs, room temperature
- 2-3/4 cups flour
- 2-1/4 teaspoons baking powder
- 3/4 teaspoon salt
- 1 cup frozen pink lemonade
- 1 tablespoon lemon zest
- Pink food coloring

Frosting:

- 1 cup butter, softened
- 7 to 8 cups powdered sugar, sifted
- 1/2 cup frozen pink lemonade, thawed
- Lemon zest, to taste
- Pink food coloring

Instructions:

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Sift the dry ingredients together and set aside. Beat the butter for 3 minutes until light and fluffy. Add sugar and beat another 3 minutes. Add eggs, one at a time, and beat thoroughly after each addition. Add the flour mixture one cup at a time, alternating with the lemonade and ending with the flour mixture. Mix well and pour into prepared cake pan. Bake for 25-30 minutes or when a knife comes out clean. If using a bundt cake pan, bake for 45-55 minutes. Let cool completely.

Frosting:

Place the softened butter in a mixing bowl and beat with 1/2 of the powdered sugar. Add the lemonade and mix well. Add



another cup of powdered sugar, 1 cup at a time and beat until you reach the desired consistency to spread; you may not need all of the sugar specified. Beat until light and fluffy. Place icing into a good sized saucepan and heat until icing is runny. Spread on the cooled cake. -Source: @GigisAdventures

For more fabulous recipes, visit us at pinterest.com/greystonepower.

RANDOM Acts Community Challenge

GOOP SQUARE

PLAY TODAY!

facebook.com/greystonepower

GREYSTONE POWER CORPORATION

Stone Hill Hardware

HOUSE of RUBS

Cut someone else's grass and earn 20 points!