

GEMC

GreyStone Power brings you

Georgia[®]

MAGAZINE

A trip of a lifetime
page C

Save energy this winter
page G

JANUARY 2025

**Employees
honored
for heroic
efforts**
page I

www.georgiamagazine.org





Photo Credit: Matt Odom

MILLER'S MINUTE

EXPANDING FIBER SERVICE

We unveiled our broadband subsidiary, GreyStone Connect, in May 2023. Since then, we've continued to expand high-speed fiber internet service to more and more of our unserved and underserved members. Last year, we surpassed our goals for customers served and miles of line built. You can read more about our progress on page E of this issue.

GreyStone got into the broadband business because we understand that the benefits to our members can be sweeping and life-changing in some cases — from e-learning opportunities and telehealth access to economic development and a higher standard of living.

We're always planning for future growth on the power delivery side, and now we're planning for growth in phases with our fiber service. We expect to continue to see a rise in electricity demand from new businesses in our service area, such as data centers. Quality electric service and reliable internet will continue to make life better for both our commercial and residential members. Visit www.GreyStoneConnect.com for updates and to check availability in your area.

- 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

Genevieve Cole, Chair, District 1, Paulding and Bartow counties

David Hagenow, Vice Chair, District 3, Douglas and Paulding counties

Billy Mayhew, Secretary-Treasurer, District 5, Carroll and Douglas counties

John Walton, District 2, Paulding County

Neal Dettmering, District 4, Carroll and Douglas counties

Maribeth Wansley, District 6, Fulton, Fayette and Coweta counties

Milton Jones, District 7, Fulton County

Jim Johns, District 8, Douglas County

Charisse Braxton, District 9, Cobb County

LOCATION

3400 Hiram Douglasville Hwy.

Hiram, GA 30141

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, 1-855-802-2768

Go Energy Financial Credit Union, 470-514-3000

Operation Round Up®, 770-370-2080

SurgeMaster Plus, 770-370-2070

Cooperative Solar, 770-370-2070

DOWNLOAD OUR APP

The GreyStone Power app allows you to pay your bill, view billing history and electricity use, and verify payments. This secure app also allows members to view an outage map and report outages. Download the app 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.

GreyStone Power is an equal opportunity provider and employer. Not available in the EU

HONORING VETERANS



Founder and CEO of Veterans in Victory Inc. Stephen Underwood (far left) was presented with a donation at the GreyStone Power annual Military Service Recognition breakfast in November.

On Nov. 12, GreyStone Power honored its veterans with an annual military service recognition breakfast for GreyStone employees, retirees and board members who are veterans or are actively serving in the military, as well as spouses of veterans.

The event featured the presentation of colors by the Paulding County High School JROTC, and retired U.S. Army Command Sgt. Maj. Flint Weathers, a journeyman lineman for the co-op, served as the keynote speaker. Guests also enjoyed special remarks from Founder and CEO of Veterans in Victory Inc., Stephen Underwood.

“Our goal is that we will be able to make an impact on the lives of our veteran community,” Underwood says.

The breakfast also featured a special check presentation to Veterans in Victory Inc. The organization was awarded \$3,000 to help with their mission of assisting veterans suffering from PTSD, homelessness and addiction recovery.

“With the help that GreyStone has so generously given, this is just a first step in what we hope to accomplish in the years to come,” Underwood adds.

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

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 Wednesday, Jan. 15, 2025. Applications are available at greystonepower.com/scholarships.





a trip of a

LIFETIME

2024 Washington Youth Tour

GreyStone Power is accepting applications from area high school and home-schooled juniors to compete for an all-expenses-paid spot on the 2025 Washington Youth Tour. This inspiring, weeklong leadership trip offers participants the opportunity to experience U.S. government and U.S. history firsthand while having fun, making new friends and developing leadership skills.

If chosen, a student will become one of five delegates sponsored by GreyStone and will join more than 100 teens from other electric membership cooperatives (EMCs) across Georgia to represent the state during the 2025 Washington Youth Tour to be held June 13-20, 2025.

Candidates who compete to win the weeklong experience are student leaders chosen by counselors or staff from participating high schools in GreyStone's service area. Candidates will receive information

about GreyStone Power and will submit a short video incorporating the information they learned. The students who earn the top five scores on their video win the trip!

GreyStone delegates who are selected for the Youth Tour have the opportunity to visit historical sites and monuments, as well as make connections with other high-achieving peers while participating in an unforgettable weeklong journey in the nation's capital. The Youth Tour includes face-to-face meetings with state and national leaders, leadership training and discussions on important issues with students from other states.

Students will also have the chance to interact with delegates from other states, as the tour brings more than 1,800 students from across the country to D.C.

The Washington Youth Tour is Georgia's oldest leadership program for teens, and there are more than 50,000 alumni from the program. For

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



Pictured below are Alexandria Criner, Ginikachukwu Amaeze, Sade Kangas and Aniyah Springer, who were selected as GreyStone's 2024 Washington Youth Tour delegates. Photo credit: Kathryn Green



“It’s scary to go on a trip with strangers, but the friends you make and the growth you experience is not worth missing out on. Take the leap, take a chance and you’ll grow.”

2024 GreyStone Delegate Alexandria Criner

A Year of Growth, and a Bigger Year Ahead

GreyStone Connect reflects on rapid expansion and looks forward to more connections in the new year.



As we step into the new year, **GreyStone Connect** is proud to reflect on the milestones achieved since connecting our first customer in February 2024. Our mission to deliver high-speed internet to underserved members has exceeded expectations, with more than 650 miles of fiber built and more than 1,400 members connected—well beyond our 2024 goals of 500 miles and 800 activations.

By fully funding the expansion without state or federal grants, GreyStone Connect has been able to maintain control over the network's quality and rollout speed, ensuring a reliable, high-speed connection for our members. Our presence in Georgia's unique mix of rural and suburban communities near Atlanta is helping bridge the digital divide and open up essential opportunities in education, health care and remote work.

Looking ahead into 2025, plans are already underway for Phase 3 of our expansion. This next phase will bring high-speed internet access to even more members, continuing to transform lives and strengthen our community.

— “ —

Phase 2 of our build-out is a major step forward in our mission to provide reliable, high-quality internet to our underserved members, and plans for the development of Phase 3 are underway for even more growth.

- Eric Lannen,
EVP of Broadband

— ” —

TO CHECK YOUR AVAILABILITY AND LEARN MORE, VISIT
GreyStoneConnect.com.

AROUND GREYSTONE

MEETING OF MEMBERS



Greystone Power's 87th Annual Meeting of Members returned to a drive-thru meeting to allow members to participate in the event without disrupting the schedule that many families have on the weekends.

President/CEO Gary Miller wrote a letter to members discussing prices, reliability and the co-op's broadband subsidiary, Greystone Connect.

"We are always looking for ways to serve you more efficiently, and we see that as an extension of our mission, which is making life better in the communities we serve," Miller says.

Based on the Public Service Commission's Residential Rate Survey for this past summer, comparing rates at 1,500 kilowatt-hours (kWh), Greystone's rates are more than 32% cheaper than

Georgia Power's rates. For those members using 500 kWh in the summer, Greystone had the lowest rates among the 41 electric membership corporations (EMCs) in the state.

In addition to lower prices, Greystone also has a 99.98% reliability rating.

"We have a team of employees from different departments who work together on various reliability projects so that we can continue to keep that rating high," Miller says. "When members flip a switch, we want the lights to come on every time."

2024 proved to be a banner year

for Greystone Connect, with the connection of its first customer to gigabit-speed internet in February. The fiber internet company went on to complete Phase 1, which included areas of southern Fulton County, southern Douglas County, portions of eastern Carroll County and a small portion of southern Paulding County and expanded to Phase 2 in August, which includes north and central Paulding County, as well as western Douglas County.

"We are proud to deliver reliable electric service and internet service that is making life better for our members," Miller says.



EFFICIENCY 101

Save energy **THIS WINTER**

Winter weather typically means increased energy use at home. Keep your bills in check with these tips to save energy — and money!

MIND THE THERMOSTAT

If you have a traditional heating and cooling system, set the thermostat to 68 degrees or lower. Consider a smart or programmable thermostat for additional savings.

GET COZY

Add layers of clothing for additional warmth, and snuggle up under your favorite heavyweight blanket.

DON'T BLOCK THE HEAT

If your air vents or heating elements (like radiators) are blocked by furniture or rugs, your home isn't being adequately heated.

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF SUNLIGHT

Open window coverings during the day to let natural sunlight in to warm your home. Close them at night to block the chilly night air.

BLOCK AIR LEAKS

Seal windows and exterior doors with caulk and weather stripping to improve indoor comfort and decrease the amount of energy used to heat your home.



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/surge-protection.

improving service

FOR GREYSTONE MEMBERS



Photo Credit: Matt Odom

Here at GreyStone, we strive to provide reliable power every day. One way this is possible is by keeping a clear right-of-way (ROW) for our power lines. That means cutting back vegetation that is 15 feet from either side of the power pole (30 feet wide total). More than 500 miles of branches were trimmed near power lines in 2024, and employees on our reliability team looked at other ways to minimize outages.

Need a family night out?

From concert tickets to Broadway or sports events to a movie theater, share memories and save with Co-op Connections!



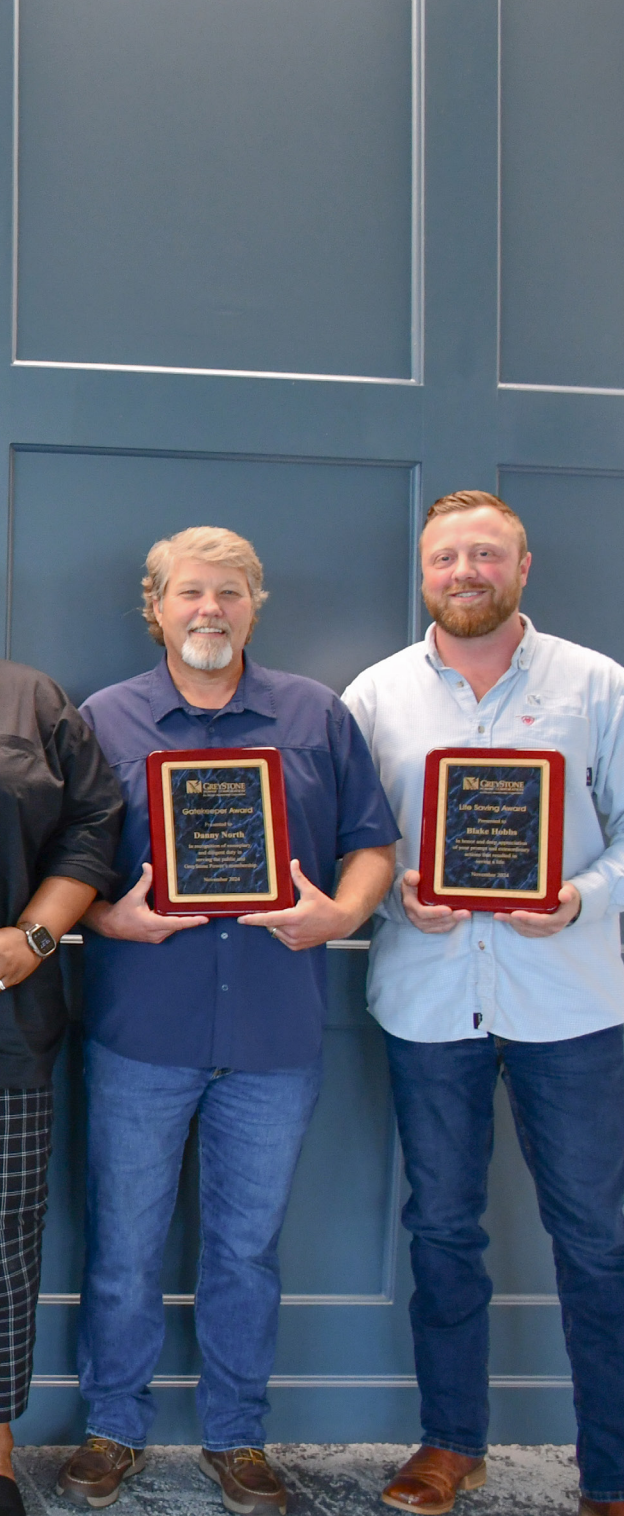
ENTERTAIN AND SAVE



connections.coop



GreyStone employees for heroic efforts



honored

SAVING LIVES, GOING THE EXTRA MILE

Serving members and the community goes beyond delivering electricity. In 2024, eight GreyStone employees received Gatekeeper awards. This award is given to employees who recognize situations where assistance is needed and go the extra mile to render aid.

Chris Dilbeck, Cody Rainey, Kelcey Murray, Danny North, Roger Quarles, JoAnne Simmons, Chris Smith and Kerry Spicer were this year's recipients of the Gatekeeper Award.

Blake Hobbs was honored with Lifesaving awards by Georgia EMC, the statewide trade association for Georgia's 41 electric membership cooperatives, and GreyStone Power.

Hobbs was on a duck hunting trip with a guide in Kansas, and the guide's dog went out on a frozen pond to retrieve a duck. The dog jumped into an open pocket of water in the ice and couldn't get back out. After a few minutes, it was clear he wasn't going to get out, so the guide walked out onto the ice. He made it to his dog and managed to pull him from the water. When the guide turned around and took two steps, he fell through the ice.

Hobbs and four other hunters immediately went into the water, breaking ice and trying to clear a path to get to him. Hobbs' cousin ended up falling through ice as well. All of their waders had filled with freezing water, and the guide had been treading water for about 10 to 15 minutes, all while keeping his dog afloat. The guide finally managed to get close enough to where the others could reach him by forming a human chain and pulling him in.

Another hunter had started their truck and had the heat running. Hobbs' cousin jumped in the front seat, while Hobbs and the guide got in the back and Hobbs began ripping the guide's clothes off and looking for anything to dry him off. Hobbs called the guide's wife, told her what happened and asked her to throw some blankets in the dryer. Hobbs and his cousin carried the guide inside, put him in bed and threw all the warm blankets on him.

After three days in the bed, the man's body temperature finally got back to normal. On the last day of the trip, the guide thanked the others for saving his life and said at one point, he thought he was going to drown. The guide and his dog are now doing great thanks to Hobbs' help.

GreyStone also honors an annual GEM Award winner. The GEM program awards those employees who have gone the extra mile for their coworkers, demonstrating exceptional teamwork and collaboration. This year's GEM recipient was Patrick Ehui.

GreyStone employees were honored for going above and beyond in an award ceremony held in November 2024.

A photograph of a man and a young boy wrestling on a grey couch. The man is wearing a white cable-knit sweater and blue jeans, and the boy is wearing a brown sweater and blue jeans. They are both laughing and holding patterned pillows. The scene is set in a room with a large window in the background showing greenery outside.

Dear Jake,

*Be ready for those
surprise wrestling
matches, and we'll
make sure there are
no surprises with
your reliable power.*

Reliably Yours,



GREYSTONE
POWER CORPORATION

RATED **99.98%** RELIABLE

At GreyStone Power, we think you should spend time having fun with your family, not worrying about your power company. So while you're enjoying these pre-teen days, we'll be out in the field, trimming back branches, upgrading power lines, and using advanced drone imagery to stop problems before they happen. Because the last thing you need is a sneak attack in the dark – not while this little ball of energy is on the scene.



GREYSTONE
POWER CORPORATION
Making Life Better

GreyStone Power is an equal opportunity employer and provider.