### January 2017 GreyStone Member News



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Celebrating 10 years of savings!





### OUR SOLAR LAUNCH

GreyStone's new solar program, and our solar farm on Ridge Road in Paulding County, have been widely embraced by our members. At our Annual Meeting in October, members signed up for 279 blocks of solar power. Over the next month, all 750 blocks were reserved by members, and our waiting list is still growing!

Cooperative Solar is a new chapter in GreyStone's history, and we're happy that you support it. We are considering ways to have more solar blocks to offer; you'll be the first to know!

2017 will be an exceptional year for GreyStone members, not just due to harnessing power from the sun. Our Wallet Watch rate reduction returns continue; we have given back over \$11 million to members since the Wallet Watch program began, and we expect to return \$21 million to members in Wallet Watch credits in 2017. In addition, we mailed \$10 million in capital returns last October to our members. GreyStone Power—committed to energizing your life for less!

Gary Garv Mille President/CEC

### ■GreyStone Connection ENERGIZING YOUR LIFE

www.greystonepower.com January 2017 • Vol. 4, No. 1

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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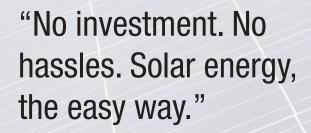
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Douglasville, GA 30134	Dallas, GA 30157

#### 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 GEMC Federal Credit Union, 770-949-3557, 770-445-2800 Operation Round Up®, 770-370-2066 SurgeMaster Plus, 770-370-2070



GREYSTONE SOLAR FARM FAST FACTS ... 2,044,000 kWh produced per year ... 4,256 panels ... panel output 320 watts ... panel tilt 20 degrees ... land area 6 acres ... availability first come, first served ... operated and maintained by GreyStone Power ... economies of scale reduce solar costs ... no holes in your roof ... no solar siting issues ... renters can participate ... homeowners under restrictive covenants can participate ... no contract ... solar made easy!

### AROUND GREYSTONE COOPERATIVE SOLAR

You've always gone the extra mile, caring for your family and the environment. You've probably considered solar energy, but the cost and maintenance made it unrealistic—until now.

GreyStone Power is pioneering solar power. We built a local state-of-the-art solar energy farm in Paulding County so members like you can use our solar panels no matter where you live. No equipment. No investment. No hassles. No contract. Solar energy, the easy way.

If you pioneered solar with us by being one of the inaugural 750 purchasers, you will begin to be billed for your solar block(s) in January. If your block generates more than the cost of your block, the excess will be credited to your bill. Over a year's time, the energy produced by the block(s) should offset the majority of the cost of the block(s).

Thank you for supporting renewable energy and our environment! If you haven't signed up for Cooperative Solar already, sign up at greystonepower.com/solar or call 770-942-6576 to sign up for the waiting list.





ver the last 50 years, more than 50,000 students have become part of an elite group

to see Washington, D.C., in a way most do not. This year, 114 students from across Georgia were given this same opportunity as a delegate of the Washington Youth Tour (WYT). They were able to get a special behind the scenes look at our nation's capital.

Over the years, the trip has made such an impact that many delegates have walked away with a new or reaffirmed decision to follow their dreams in public service. The 2016 GreyStone Power delegates were no different. With suitcases packed and dreams

high, they embarked on a trip that would change their lives.

### "The Youth Tour helped me to discover just how important the role of a leader is."

-GreyStone delegate and South Paulding High School student **Raegan Allister** 

> The delegates first joined other students in Atlanta, who were sponsored by 38 cooperatives from around the state. In Washington,

they joined 1,500 nationwide delegates from 43 states. GreyStone delegates (as seen above, from left) Andrea Hill, of Paulding County High School; Jamie Babecka, Paulding County homeschool; Raegan Allister, of South Paulding High School; Lena Allen, of Paulding County High School; and Austin Hawkinson, of Harvester Christian Academy, were among the cream of the crop representing Georgia.

Students are given the same historical and leadership opportunities now as the first students who participated. It was former President Lyndon Johnson who first envisioned

beginning the WYT in 1957 when he was a senator. He expressed his desire at the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) Annual Meeting to "send youngsters to the national capital where they can actually see what the flag stands for and represents."

### A LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

The Youth Tour is Georgia's oldest leadership program for teens that rewards academic achievement and provides them a backstage pass to America's history at the nation's capital. Students also have the opportunity to step out of their comfort zone by connecting with other student leaders from around the country.

"The Youth Tour helped me to discover just how important the role of a leader is, in addition to the role of followers. If everyone was a leader, we would never get anywhere. Sometimes it's important to step down and be the first to follow, because without them, there would be no leaders," shares GreyStone delegate Reagan Allister.

It has become a primary goal of the WYT to help co-ops promote stonger communities and a stronger nation by giving as many young people as possible the ability to make meaningful, lifelong contributions to their communities.

### HOW DELEGATES ARE SELECTED

Each year, high school juniors are recognized and recommended for WYT by their school counselors based on their exemplary academic achievements and leadership potential. Last spring, 52 students in the GreyStone service area accepted the challenge to test for a chance to become a WYT delegate and travel to Washington, D.C., for a weeklong, all-expensespaid trip, as well as the opportunity to rediscover themselves.

"You don't have to be a politician to get involved in the government and the betterment of America."

—GreyStone delegate and Paulding County High School student Andrea Hill

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C GREYSTONE CONNECTION NEWSLETTER

reyStone has participated in the WYT program for 50 years. Each year, GreyStone representatives visit participating schools within the service area to present the program to the counselors and the students who have been selected as school leaders. Students are given study materials, then asked to test on that material at the GreyStone office for a chance to win this incredible trip. Today, WYT alumni, prospective participants and others interested in the program can visit the Youth Tour website, www.youthtour.coop, to learn about its history or reconnect with fellow WYT alumni.

To learn more about the WYT or for student participation information, contact your school counselor or call 770-370-



### 2017 is the 10th anniversary of Co-op Connections® Card



Over the past decade, GreyStone's Co-op Connections Card (CCC) program has been getting better and better-saving you money through local and national deals, prescription discounts, medical services (vision, hearing, dental, chiropractic and lab & imaging), and many more!

See GrevStone's **Facebook page** for special CCC giveaways throughout the year!

### **10 PERKS TO 10 LUCKY WINNERS FOR 10 MONTHS!**

To celebrate this milestone, we have some amazing things planned this year. Stay tuned to GreyStone's Facebook page as we give away 10 extra CCC perks at participating businesses (in addition to the CCC

discount!). Be one of the first 10 members to show up at the announced location and present your card to win!

Want to learn more about the little card with huge savings? Or, would you like your business to participate? Visit the CCC page of greystonepower.com or call 770-370-2436.

### **TOP TEN OFFERS VIEWED ONLINE**

- 1. Six Flags Over Georgia
- 2. Six Flags Over White Water
- 3. Texas Roadhouse, Douglasville
- 4. Zaxby's, Powder Springs
- 5. Irish Bred Pub & Restaurant, Douglasville
- 6. Stone Mountain Park
- 7. Outback Steakhouse, Douglasville
- 8. Dairy Queen
- 9. Williamson Bros. Bar-B-Q, Douglasville
- 10. Enterprise Rent-A-Car

Need a card? Call 770-370-2273.

### AROUND GREYSTONE MEETING OF **MEMBERS**



More than 1,200 GreyStone Power members gathered at the co-op's headquarters in Douglasville on Oct. 8 to celebrate the Annual Meeting. The event marked the launch of GreyStone's Cooperative Solar program, and members signed up for 279 blocks to capture their share of the sun. Children enjoyed games, inflatables and balloon artists, while their parents learned more about solar power at our Solar Energy Expo. Mark your calendar for Saturday, Oct. 14, for the 80th Annual Meeting of Members!

### Grand prize, congrats! Melissa King, Douglasville







### 2017-2019 directors elected

5, Carroll, Douglas counties; Lucy Andres, District 9, Cobb County.

### EFFICIENCY 101 THERMOSTAT contro

Cut your electric bill, and keep more dollars in your pocket, by controlling one of the largest energy guzzlers in your home or business: your heating and cooling system. All it takes is to master that thermostat.

Residential Energy Services Manager Rudy Echols, GreyStone's foremost expert on energy efficiency asks, "Did you know that 50-plus percent of your energy dollars spent in your home pay for heating and cooling? Paying attention to these dollars spent can make a significant difference in managing your energy costs."

President Jimmy Carter was the first to recommend a thermostat setting of 68 degrees or lower in the winter and 78 degrees or higher in the summer. Listen to this little known fact: each time you lower the setting only 1 degree in summer, or 1 degree higher in winter, you raise your energy bill by 3 to 5 percent.

Hmmmm ... wonder what happens when you raise your thermostat, and therefore your home's or business's temperature, 5 degrees higher in winter? Bingo! Higher electric bills. Keeping your winter thermostat at 68, putting on a sweater, or covering up with a throw may be your best hedge against higher electric bills.

"Did you know that 50-plus percent of your energy dollars spent in your home pay for heating and cooling?"



# WATER TEMPERATURE ATER LEVEL

### WATER TEMP MAKES A DIFFERENCE

Your water heater is the second largest energy user in your home at approximately 18 percent of your energy bill. How can you save some of the money that goes down the drain with the hot water? Turn down the water heater thermostat; insulate the tank and hot water pipes if it is electric; and put in a higher efficiency water heater when you have to replace your old unit. You can also use cold water more often. For more energy efficiency ideas, visit greystonepower.com/save-moneyenergy/ energy-savings-tips/.

### 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.



### Help us help you

For better service, please follow these helpful tips when mailing your payment.

- be paid.



• Postdated checks can't be held by cashiers for later payment. Please don't send them! Your bill may not

• Please don't staple or tape your paperwork together-it requires extra work for cashiers, since machines are unable to process them.

• Pay exact amounts—don't round up your check to the next dollar, pay the exact bill amount.

• Make sure your phone number with the co-op is up to date. This helps us in the event of a storm if we need to contact you! Changes may be made online at greystonepower.com.

> GreyStone has been selected power supplier for the new Paulding County **Richland Creek Reservoir Water** Treatment Plant and Reservoir Pumping Station currently under construction. At a recent ribbon cutting, Paulding County Commission Chairman David Austin called the reservoir "the most significant event of our sustainability in our history." A \$15 million grant from the state of Georgia championed by Gov. Nathan Deal will combine with a \$3 million bond overwhelmingly passed by Paulding citizens to make the reservoir a reality.

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### ABOVE AND BEYOND

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GreyStone Power Lineman Jeremy Thurman has a healthy respect for electricity's power. He knows the importance of working safely. He understands that putting safety first means going home whole to his family at the workday's end.

STYLE

At GreyStone, all employees take safety seriously, which oftentimes raises their awareness of unsafe conditions off the job that can lead to a life saved or an opportunity to help someone avoid serious injury. Four employees were honored for their efforts in November.

Chris Foust and Jennifer Saint-Jean received Georgia Electric Membership Corporation and GreyStone Lifesaving awards in November. They were judged to have actually saved a life.

Foust rescued a non-swimmer from drowning when he heard him crying for help after he fell out of his sinking kayak at Lake Allatoona. "You saved my life," the gentleman said.

Saint-Jean risked her own life to get a young lady whose car had hit a tree out of her vehicle and far enough away so that she escaped injury when the vehicle exploded a few moments later.

GreyStone Gatekeeper awards were given to Wayne Glover and Danny North. A Gatekeeper recognizes emergency situations and is quick to render aid.

Glover witnessed a vehicle accident and was first on the scene, retrieving his safety kit and donning his rubber gloves as safety trainers had taught him. He covered the man's bleeding wound until paramedics arrived, and kept him calm under stress.

North witnessed a traffic accident and a distraught mom screaming for her child trapped in her wrecked car. He teamed up with another bystander, climbing into the windows and unbuckling the baby from the carseat to bring him out of the vehicle.

Thank you to these men and women who made the difference.

Lineman Jeremy Thurman, competing in the Georgia Lineman's Rodeo, enjoys the support of his family. Chris Foust Building & Grounds

ennifer Saint-Jean Member Services

Wayne Glover ommercial Marketing

Danny North Human Resources

# Energizing jour less.

Most people served by GreyStone Power are paying less for electricity than they were a year ago, thanks to our ongoing Wallet Watch reduction. That's something to celebrate!

Just think about computers, TVs, phones, washers and dryers, hot water, lighting, heating and all the other things that use electricity to make our lives better.

Georgia Power customers pay 30%\* more for their electricity than GreyStone Power members, based on the most recent residential rate survey by the Public Service Commission. Now, that's some powerful news.

GreyStone Power. Energizing your life for even less than before.







\*Based on 1,500 kilowatt hours (kWh) per month for 2016 summer rates.

GreyStone Power is an equal opportunity provider and employer.