



Power Points

www.diversepower.com

JULY 2015



diversepower

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

*Innovation through vision.
Quality through service.*

Last call for recipes!

There's one more month to submit your recipe for consideration to be included in Diverse Power's cookbook, scheduled for publication in 2016. The book will combine history of the cooperative, including our new Pataula District, with flavorful Southern recipes from throughout our 14-county service area.

Share your favorite recipe with your fellow co-op members. Categories include breakfast, soups and salads, bread, vegetables and sides, grilling and game, preserving and more.

For possible inclusion, email your recipe(s) to jackie.kennedy8899@yahoo.com or mail to Diverse Power Inc., ATTN: Cookbook, P.O. Box 160, LaGrange, GA 30241, by Aug. 1, 2015.

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Diverse Power Foundation awards record number of scholarships

The Diverse Power Foundation recently presented scholarships to 44 students within the service territory of Diverse Power Incorporated, marking a record number of awards distributed in one year.

Selection of Diverse Power Foundation scholarship winners is based on grades, SAT scores, extra-curricular activities, personal character, civic responsibility and financial need. The winning students each received a \$3,000 scholarship to the technical institute, junior or four-year college of their choice.

Scholarship funds are made possible through Operation Round Up®, a philanthropic program managed by the Diverse Power Foundation, wherein Diverse Power members "round up" their

monthly power bill to the next dollar, with the difference supporting area education. Headed by a volunteer board, the Diverse Power Foundation assesses student applications and chooses recipients annually.

Since 2003, the generosity of Diverse Power members has provided \$804,500 in scholarships. Students awarded this spring are shown here and on pages 22D-22E, along with the names of their high schools, parents and hometowns.

Continued on page 22D



Kayla Akers, Lafayette Christian, daughter of Joyce Taylor, of LaGrange



Bailey Allen, LaGrange High, daughter of Roger and Molly Allen, of LaGrange



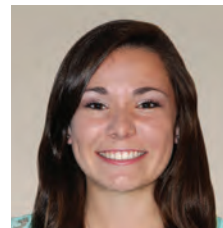
Cory Aycock, Columbus High, son of Charles and Cynthia Aycock, of Columbus



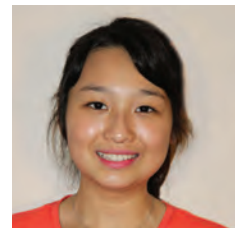
Meaghan Belcher, LaGrange High, daughter of Randy and Jackie Belcher, of LaGrange



Marlena Bevineau, Troup High, daughter of Charles and Wendy Power, of LaGrange



Kirsten Champion, Harris County High, daughter of Spencer and Donna Champion, of Pine Mountain



Soyoun Choi, LaGrange High, daughter of Chul Young Choi and You Joung Kim, of LaGrange

Diverse Power Incorporated, an
Electric Membership Corporation

Diverse Power Inc.
P.O. Box 160
1400 South Davis Road
LaGrange, Georgia 30241
(706) 845-2000
(800) 845-8362

Diverse Power Inc., Pataula District
P. O. Box 289
413 Blakely Street
Cuthbert, GA 39840
(229) 732-3171
(800) 845-8362

www.diversepower.com
www.arcofadventure.com

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Diverse Power Incorporated provides electricity and related services to almost 35,000 meters on 5,500 miles of power lines in Troup, Harris, Meriwether, Heard, Muscogee, Coweta, Calhoun, Clay, Quitman, Randolph, Early, Stewart and Terrell counties in Georgia and Chambers County, Ala.

Power Points is the official newsletter of Diverse Power Incorporated and is distributed monthly to all its members.

Jackie Kennedy, Editor
jackiekennedy8899@yahoo.com

A Word from Wayne

Where will our young go? Or will they stay?

How co-ops can make a difference

Two high school students representing Diverse Power recently returned from Washington, D.C., where they took part in the annual Washington Youth Tour, joining more than 1,600 high school students from throughout the country. As students have for the past 50 years, these young delegates had the trip of their lives.

They met U.S. senators and representatives, heard from co-op leaders, visited the U.S. Capitol, Arlington National Cemetery and Smithsonian Institution museums and met hundreds of students like them. They returned home filled with great memories.

Where will they go from here? Will they leave the place they've called home? Or will they stay to help create stable communities?

Nearly 60 percent of rural counties shrank in population in 2013, up from 40 percent in the 1990s. While some economists might see this as simply the market acting efficiently, we know communities like some of those in our service areas cannot survive if this trend continues.

According to a study on rural youth migration, many young people living in rural areas have a negative view of their community when compared to major urban centers. There is a perception that rural areas offer limited economic and social opportunities. As we all know,

your perception is your reality.

Cooperatives are a business model. But unlike investor-owned companies that focus almost exclusively on turning a profit, cooperatives serve both an economic and social purpose. So if a cooperative is operating in concert with our seven cooperative principles and values, we can change the perception that rural areas offer limited opportunities. We can ensure that young people know and understand they have a critically important role to play in our communities.

Diverse Power was created to improve the quality of life in rural areas by providing safe, reliable and affordable electricity. While that mission has been accomplished, it needs to be maintained and expanded.

Sending our best and brightest to Washington, D.C., is one of the ways we expand our mission. We are committed to supporting youth in our communities by sponsoring leadership programs, funding scholarships and educational grants and promoting sportsmanship and academics.

Working to create and secure economic and social opportunities for young adults to stay in or return to our communities is our challenge.



Wayne Livingston
President/CEO

This Month

Practice fireworks safety on Fourth of July

Fourth of July revelers report 9,300 fireworks-related injuries each year, according to the U.S. Fire Administration. The biggest culprit: firecrackers, which are responsible for 1,600 of those injuries. Next worst are bottle rockets and sparklers. If you put on your own backyard show, keep fireworks away from power lines. Light them in open areas far away from power lines. If fireworks become tangled in an overhead wire or create a spark on one, don't try to solve the problem yourself; call 911 and your electric cooperative immediately. The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission further advises:

- Read and follow directions and warning labels.
- Light fireworks on smooth, flat surfaces, away from flammable materials.
- Keep spectators at least 20 feet away and not downwind from where fireworks are set off.

Area student wins EMC-sponsored art competition

Harris County High produces fourth consecutive winner

Diverse Power was one of six electric cooperatives that joined with Georgia Transmission Corp. (GTC) and Oglethorpe Power Corp. (OPC) to sponsor Rep. Lynn Westmoreland's annual 3rd Congressional District Art Competition last spring.

"We are proud to announce that the winner of the competition is from our service area," says Diverse Power Member Services and Marketing Coordinator Ken Pope, noting that

this marks the fourth year in a row the art contest winner has hailed from Harris County High School.

Katie Gilbert, a sophomore at Harris County High, took first place for her drawing, titled "Our Miracle



Johanna Blair's portrait of a U.S. serviceman took first place in 2012.

Aubri, Blessed Are We!" She receives a \$10,000 scholarship to the Art Institute of Atlanta and will have her artwork displayed at the U.S. Capitol where, in June, she attended the unveiling ceremony.

Gilbert will be a sophomore when school resumes in August. She



Sarah Stout won the 2014 contest with "Objects in Mirror Are Closer than They Appear."



At left, Katie Gilbert's drawing of her foster sister, Aubri, took top honors in this year's 3rd Congressional District Art Competition. At right, Gilbert celebrates her win with Aubri.



KATHERINE GILBERT

follows three other Harris County High art students who took top honors in previous 3rd Congressional District art competitions: Johanna Blair, the 2012 winner; Macie Poague, 2013; and Sarah Stout, the

winner in 2014.

"Each one of these students is very scholarly and has passion for her art," says their teacher, Sondra Palmer, Harris County High visual arts instructor. In Palmer's eight years at Harris County High, her students have been offered more than \$450,000 in scholarship monies. Palmer has been nominated for Georgia's art educator of the year; the winner will be announced in the fall.

For more than a decade, the EMCs of Georgia's 3rd Congressional District have joined GTC and OPC to sponsor the art competition and awards. Along with Diverse Power, sponsoring EMCs include Carroll EMC in Carrollton, Coweta-Fayette EMC in Palmetto, GreyStone Power Corporation in Douglasville, Southern Rivers Energy in Barnesville and Upson EMC in Thomaston.

Coweta-Fayette EMC's Mary Ann Bell and Carroll EMC's Kelly Hester served as event judges for the art competition in March.



Macie Poague's artwork won top honors in 2013.

Congratulations to our scholarship winners

A record number of students—44—received Diverse Power Foundation scholarships this year. For information on how and when to apply for 2016 scholarships, contact Diverse Power at (706) 845-2000 or (800) 845-8362, or visit www.dpf.org where scholarship applications are online. Applications also may be obtained through school counselors or administrators.



Jake Cooper, Columbus High, son of Sallie Cooper, of Fortson



Kayla Cotton, Harris County High, daughter of Shannon Cotton, of Cataula



Carson Culpepper, Harris County High, daughter of Todd and Dawn Culpepper, of Hamilton



Aaron Dixon, Lafayette Christian, son of Alex and Julie Dixon, of LaGrange



Caleb Fetner, LaGrange High, son of Brandon and Sherrie Fetner, of LaGrange



Anna Fonte, LaGrange High, daughter of Robert and Dottie Fonte, of LaGrange



Zachary Gallatin, Harris County High, son of Dewayne and Kristin Gallatin, of Fortson



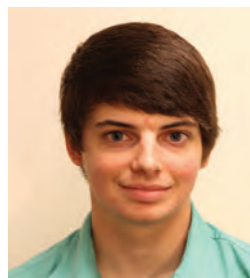
Gus Golden, LaGrange High, son of Grover and Kathy Golden, of LaGrange



Torrie Gray, Calvary Christian, daughter of Tony and Laura Gray, of Fortson



Hallie Hale, LaGrange High, daughter of Bobby and Natalie Hale, of LaGrange



Mason Hendrix, Callaway High, son of Chad and Tina Hendrix, of Hogansville



John Holmes, LaGrange High, son of John and Catherine Holmes, of LaGrange



Sarah Kate Jenkins, Harris County High, daughter of Charles and Delina Jenkins, of Hamilton



Jessica Jourden, LaGrange High, daughter of Ralph and Christine Jourden, of LaGrange



Lauren Kiskunes, LaGrange High, daughter of Michael and Sharon Blom, of LaGrange



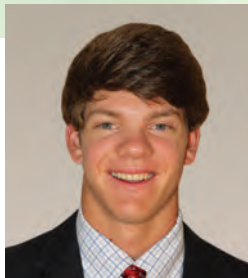
Shelby Knight, Lafayette Christian, daughter of Mandi Pike, of LaGrange



Jordan Lawson, Troup High, daughter of Jonathan and Shannon Lawson, of LaGrange



Ashley Lollar, Columbus High, daughter of Jack and Kelly Lollar, of Columbus



Logan Moody, LaGrange High, son of Leon and Lisa Moody, of LaGrange



Ashley Murphy, Troup High, daughter of Fred and Barbara Murphy, of LaGrange



Hayley Olive, LaGrange High, daughter of Wade and Roxanne Cottle, of LaGrange



Emily Pauley, LaGrange High, daughter of Mike and Lynn Pauley, of LaGrange



Adrianna Rhode, Troup High, daughter of Steve Rhode and Kimberly Mitchell, of LaGrange



Kyle Shelnett, Callaway High, son of Wayne and Camille Shelnett, of LaGrange



Haley Shults, LaGrange High, daughter of Richard and Kerry Shults, of LaGrange



Nathan Strickland, Flint River Academy, son of Mike and Loraine Strickland, of Pine Mountain



Adam Tate, Harris County High, son of Tim and Angela Tate, of Pine Mountain Valley



Makenzie Traylor, LaGrange High, daughter of Ryan and Dawn Traylor, of Hogansville



Haile Ussery, LaGrange High, daughter of Albert and Alice Ussery, of LaGrange



Dakota Whaley, Harris County High, son of Michael and Lisa Whaley, of Fortson



Peyton White, Troup High, daughter of Patrick and Tonya White, of LaGrange



Jessica Wiker, Callaway High, daughter of Jason and Lee Wiker, of LaGrange



Kyle Williams, LaGrange High, son of Chris and Michelle Williams, of LaGrange



James Winkles, Troup High, son of James and Rachel Winkles, of Pine Mountain



Madeline Wood, St. Andrew's, daughter of Carleton Wood and Michele Raphoon, of LaGrange



Madison Wreyford, Troup High, daughter of Mike and Christy Wreyford, of Pine Mountain



Brooke Yarbrough, LaGrange High, daughter of Todd and Betty Yarbrough, of LaGrange

Fun, food and fellowship enjoyed at Annual Meeting

STORY AND PHOTOS BY JACKIE KENNEDY

Almost 900 registered members were among approximately 2,500 people attending Diverse Power's Annual Meeting of Members on May 13, held at the South Davis Road headquarters in LaGrange and, for Pataula District members, at Andrew College in Cuthbert.

The electric cooperative's biggest event of the year featured a burger and hotdog lunch, gospel music and prize drawings.

President/CEO Wayne Livingston kicked off the business meeting by thanking his staff for the job they do.



Brylie Batchelor, 2-year-old daughter of Brian and Tiffany Batchelor, of LaGrange, was among the last to leave the festivities at this year's Annual Meeting.

"I can't express my appreciation for the group of employees we have here," he said. "They keep the power on and keep everything going."

Board of Directors Chairman Bill Couch discussed evolving advancements in technology, including cell phones that, in many homes, have replaced standard phone lines.

"People are able to cut off their landline, but I don't think they'll ever be able to cut off their power box," Couch said. "And we'll do our best to assure you'll always have a reliable and affordable power source in the future."



Serving lunch to the crowd were Diverse Power employees, from left, Jonathan Turvin, Daniel Crowe, Steven Davis and Kyle Duffie.



Dana Long, left, and her mother, Patsy Tidwell, of LaGrange, clap along to the gospel music performed at Annual Meeting. Long and Tidwell are the sister and mother, respectively, of Diverse Power Executive Assistant Lisa Booth.



Four generations of the Hardy family, of LaGrange, attended Diverse Power's Annual Meeting in May, including, from left, front: Lee Tate, Ashley Alsobrook, and Carl and Toni Hardy. Back: Carla Esposito and Hollis Alsobrook. Also attending was Carl's mother, Thelma Hardy (not pictured).



Diverse Power President/CEO Wayne Livingston got behind the wheel of an electric car on display at Annual Meeting.



Along with their band, Randi and Sherri Miller, of Nashville, Tenn., entertained members and their families.



James Bloodworth, left, of LaGrange won one of six grand prizes (a \$200 credit toward his power bill) awarded at Annual Meeting. His grandson, Garrett Wingate, of LaGrange, celebrates with him. Other grand-prize winners were Ronald Dodson and Rurel Waldrop, of LaGrange; Dewey Williams, of Pine Mountain; Pamela Farley, of Cataula; and Allene Boyett, of Cuthbert, at the Pataula District.



Kaylee King, a freshman at LaGrange High School, sang the national anthem to kick off Annual Meeting. Behind her were, from left, Master of Ceremonies Jack Morman, President/CEO Wayne Livingston, Board Chairman Bill Couch, and Directors Charles Knight, Roy Tollerson Jr., Jimmy Bailey and Larry Keith.



The youngest child in attendance was Emerik Wilkinson, 6 weeks old, the son of Emerik and Shantivria Wilkinson, of LaGrange, shown here with his mother.



The oldest woman in attendance was Julia Ellison, 96, of Durand, shown here with the oldest man in attendance, Robert Clausing, 95, of LaGrange.



Denny Sprayberry, of LaGrange, was winner of one of the dozens of door prizes distributed to members.



Members Kenneth and Glenda Butler, of West Point, were proud of their registration gift, a cutting board and knife.



LaGrange educator Jack Morman, left, served as master of ceremonies and shared humorous stories featuring his mother, Shirley Morman.



Robert and Lorraine Williams, of Pine Mountain, wed for 70 years, was the longest-married couple attending Annual Meeting.

Summertime Rule No.1: Don't mix water and electricity

If you don't want a jolt from your Jacuzzi this summer, remember one thing: It's electric.

Electricity and water don't mix, so when you're sitting in a steamy hot tub out on your deck, do not touch anything electric—including the outlet your spa is plugged into.

And, if the tub's temperature control is next to the plug (presenting the risk of touching the plug by accident while sitting in the pool), equip every outlet on your patio with a ground-fault circuit interrupter (GFCI).



A GFCI protects all devices that are plugged into it and cuts the electricity to them if they make contact with water. It also protects you if you touch an electrical device while you are wet.

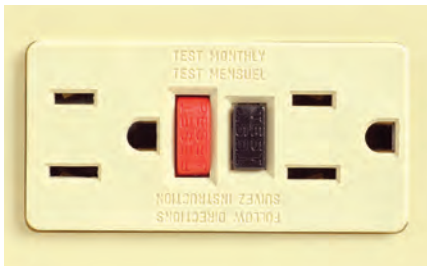
According to the Consumer Product Safety Commission, 14 people died last year from electrocutions in swimming pools. When combined with electricity, wet skin and wet surfaces increase the chance of electrical shock, and sometimes those

shocks result in death.

Look around your pool, spa and patio for underwater lights; pool pumps, filters and vacuums; power cords; extension cords; radios and TV sets; electrical outlets; switches; and overhead power lines. All are dangerous to touch when you are wet and can be deadly if they fall into a pool or hot tub. Take time out to remove these items from danger's way.

If while in the hot tub or swimming pool you feel a tingling sensation or suddenly can't move, it could be due to an electrical shock. If lights are on when they should be off, or if they are flickering, get everyone out of the water—without climbing a metal ladder. Turn off all power, and call 911.

Don't ignore the dangers of water combined with electricity. Be safe this summer.



Keep thermostat at a smart setting

Your house has been closed up all day with the thermostat set to a moderate temperature while everyone was away. Will your warm home cool off quicker if you turn the thermostat down to 50 degrees for a while?

The answer may surprise you: It's no.

Lowering the thermostat beyond the temperature you want for your house will force your air conditioner to run longer, not faster. That means you could pay more money for a house that's too chilly.

Instead, set the device to the desired temperature, and give it a chance to cool your home off slowly.

Here are a few other smart-

money, summer-cooling tips:

- Install a programmable thermostat, which you can set higher for hours when the house is empty but lower during your at-home hours. Program it to crank the air conditioning on about an hour before you're due back, and your home will feel comfortable when you walk through the door.
- Set the thermostat at 78 degrees. You'll save about 15 percent on your cooling bill over a 72-degree setting, while remaining comfortable.
- Move lamps, TVs and appliances away from the thermostat. The heat they produce can trick your air conditioning system into "thinking" the air is warmer than it really is, and it will keep running even when the



rest of the house is cool enough.

- Open shades and blinds on cloudy days, but close them when the sun is shining. That will keep the sun from overheating your house and forcing your A/C to work overtime.
- Check the seal around your room air conditioners for air leaks. If they don't fit snugly enough into window frames, they can let hot air into the house and undo the cooling benefits of the unit.