



Power Points

www.diversepower.com

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diversepower

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

*Innovation through vision.
Quality through service.*

Joining our network

As Diverse Power expands and improves its radio network, our communities and electric cooperative peers gain opportunity to improve their own radio and emergency communications.

Joining Harris County as a partner on our network is Georgia Right of Way, a right-of-way maintenance cooperative jointly owned by Diverse Power, Rayle EMC in Washington, Snapping Shoals EMC in Covington and Walton EMC in Monroe. Each of these EMCS plans to add their own towers and potential tower sites to the network. Meanwhile, talks continue with other Georgia electric cooperatives, area municipalities and county governments that could benefit from this technology.

Inside:

Investing in youth..... Page 24B
Calling all cooks..... Page 24B
Apply for WYT, grants
and scholarships..... Page 24C
Building towers..... Page 24D

Expanding our radio coverage

Expansion of Diverse Power's radio network provides improved communications for employees, enhanced service for members and safer neighborhoods for all.

With an extensive fiber network already in place, Diverse Power in 2011 began acquiring radio channels that provide coverage across Georgia and into Alabama. Since then, Diverse Power construction crews have built a dozen new radio towers. Earlier this year, the cooperative signed on with the TETRA radio system, gaining the ability to significantly enhance communications, not only for Diverse Power, but for communities within its service area.

"For 20 years, TETRA radio has been the standard in Europe but only recently became available in the United States," says Diverse Power Vice President Randy Shepard. "This highly innovative technology allows for a much larger coverage area, exceptional sound quality and a potentially endless network of communications."

In the past year, Diverse Power has partnered with Harris County government and Dean's Commercial Two-Way in Cataula to provide radio communications throughout Harris County and Diverse Power's entire service area. With new towers con-

nected, Diverse Power now has exceptional radio service from Newnan to Cuthbert, and Harris County has county-wide radio coverage. Harris County's sheriff, police and fire departments—along with EMS and hospitals—each

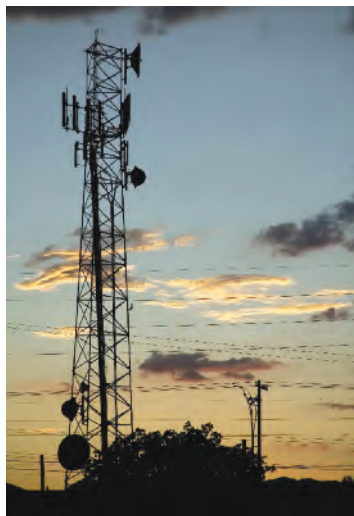
operate a separate, secure system but can access anyone on the network in case of an emergency.

"Without Diverse Power providing the backbone for this system, it would have been impossible to accomplish the cutting-edge technology we now have in place," says Harris County Manager Greg Wood, noting that the project marks TETRA's first public and largest application in the U.S. "Diverse Power's fiber-optic backbone gives us the redundancy and reliability needed

for a quality emergency communication system."

For Diverse Power, the enhanced radio connectivity is a dramatically advanced technology, compared to analog systems. In an emergency, crews now can conveniently communicate with each other, law enforcement and emergency responders.

"We are proud of what this project means to our employees because it makes their job safer and more efficient," says Shepard. "Our members benefit by improved service, and our communities who take advantage of this network can make their neighborhoods safer with enhanced communications."



Construction to improve radio communications continues.

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Diverse Power Incorporated provides electric-
ity 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 news-
letter of Diverse Power Incorporated and
is distributed monthly to all its members.**

Jackie Kennedy, *Editor*

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A Word from Wayne

Investing in our youth

Electric co-ops, like all cooperatives, are obligated to demonstrate concern for the communities in which they do business. At Diverse Power, we're happiest to help when it comes to supporting local youth and their education. We recognize that the investment we make in our young people comes back to our communities when students return as eager-to-serve, well-educated adults.

That's why Diverse Power focuses so much support on youth, and it's why we're happy to announce (on page 24C) upcoming deadlines for applying for Diverse Power Foundation scholarships and grants, Walter Harrison scholarships and the Washington Youth Tour.

Each spring, the Diverse Power Foundation awards grants to area schools for innovative classroom programs and awards scholarships to high school seniors who plan to attend technical, two-year or four-year colleges.

We also participate in the Walter Harrison Scholarship program, a statewide endeavor that annually awards college scholarships to high school seniors. For each of the past two years, a student in

our service area has won this scholarship.

Each June, Diverse Power sends three high school students as delegates on the Washington Youth Tour, a week-long, all-expenses-paid leadership tour of the nation's capital. Year after year, our delegates call this event a "life-changing" experience.

In January, Diverse Power sponsors its annual Leadership Institute for High School Students, a one-day leadership seminar that packs the perfect midyear punch to motivate students who have shown leadership abilities or potential. In the summer, we send two students to the Georgia Cooperative Council's Youth Leadership Conference for even more leadership training.

We take our commitment to community seriously, and we think assisting our youth through educational and leadership initiatives is a great way to demonstrate that.

See page 24C for details on how to apply for these scholarships, grants and programs.



Wayne Livingston
President/CEO

This Month

Calling all cooks!

Do you have a favorite family recipe that's been passed down through the generations? Is there a recipe you clipped long ago from the pages of Diverse Power's newsletter or *GEORGIA Magazine* that you cherish? Have you recently discovered your favorite homemade dish or crafted your own unique recipe filled with fresh flavors?

If you answer "yes" to any of these questions, you're just who we're looking for!

Diverse Power is in the process of producing a cookbook that combines history of the cooperative, including our new Pataula District, with flavorful Southern recipes from throughout our service area. We're calling all cooks to share their favorite recipe for consideration. Recipe categories include: breakfast; appetizers; breads; soups, salads and sandwiches; meats and casseroles; vegetables and sides; desserts; grilling and game; special occasions; preserves and canning.

Share your unique recipe(s) by emailing jackiekennedy8899@yahoo.com or mailing Diverse Power Inc., ATTN: Cookbook, P.O. Box 160, LaGrange, GA 30241, by March 1, 2015.



Diverse Power Foundation funds creative classroom instruction

Educators throughout Diverse Power's 14-county service area are encouraged to apply for Diverse Power Foundation grants targeting new, innovative ways to teach students.

The educational grants are made possible through Operation Round Up®, a philanthropic program that rounds up members' electric bills to the nearest dollar, with the extra change earmarked for education. The pennies pile up fast. Since its first awards in 2003, the Foundation has provided \$869,158 in educational grants.

The Diverse Power Foundation's nine-member volunteer board assesses applications and awards grants each spring for innovative projects and programs geared toward instruction of students in grades 1-12. Schools are encouraged to request grants for specific projects that *show innovation in education or support curriculum through creative teaching skills*.

"Whereas our focus in past years was on helping schools acquire necessary technology, we've shifted that focus to concentrate on innovative, new instructional programs," says Jim Kelly, chairman of the Foundation's board of directors. "We're looking for creative programs and projects like those we funded last spring."

The three schools that received Diverse Power Foundation grants in 2014 are:

- Park Elementary School, Hamilton, \$8,000 for a handicapped-accessible playground;
- Lafayette Christian School,

JACKIE KENNEDY



Students with and without special needs play together at the new handicapped-accessible playground at Park Elementary School in Harris County.

LaGrange, \$2,500 for a solar power project; and

- Heard County High School, Franklin, \$1,167 for a water conservation program.

At Park Elementary, one of Diverse Power's Partner in Education schools, construction on the playground was completed a few weeks after school started in August. The new playground makes it possible for all children, with or without special needs, to play together, according to Park Elementary Principal Janice Owens, who says the "Play for All" playground is one in a long list of projects supported by Diverse Power and the Diverse Power Foundation through the years.

"Diverse Power plays an integral part in the success we experience here at Park Elementary," says Owens. "They have granted us funds for various initiatives which have directly impacted instruction of our students. They've never let us down."

Applications available, deadlines announced

- **Walter Harrison Scholarship** applications are due to Diverse Power by Jan. 16, 2015. Obtain an application for this \$1,000 scholarship from your high school counselor or by calling Diverse Power Residential Services/Marketing Coordinator Ken Pope at (706) 845-2000, ext. 347. Winners will be announced in March 2015.
- **Diverse Power Foundation grant and scholarship** applications are available at www.dpfi.org or by contacting Ken Pope at (706) 845-2000, ext. 347, or (800) 845-8362. Scholarship applications are also available in school counselors' offices. Send completed scholarship and grant applications to Diverse Power Foundation, Attn. Ken Pope, P.O. Box 160, LaGrange, GA 30241. Grant applications are due Feb. 6 and scholarship applications are due Feb. 20. Winners of grants and scholarships will be announced in April 2015.
- **The 2015 Washington Youth Tour** is set for June 11-18. Applications are available by calling Ken Pope at (706) 845-2000, ext. 347. The deadline for submitting applications is Feb. 27, 2015, and winning delegates will be announced in April 2015.
- **Georgia Cooperative Council's Youth Leadership Conference** is set for July 13-17. To apply, contact Ken Pope in May 2015 at (706) 845-2000, ext. 347.
- **The 2015 Leadership Institute for High School Students** will be held in January. Students exhibiting leadership qualities or potential are selected by their teachers to attend this one-day seminar at Troup High School. Interested? Ask your school counselor or principal how you can participate.

Community Connections

Increasing our communications footprint, one tower at a time

BY LISA BOOTH

A kin to stringing electric lines and restoring power after storms, building a radio tower is dangerous work, according to Dean Ginn of Dean's Commercial Two-Way in Cataula.

"A tower construction worker may spend an eight-hour day at the top of a 1,000-foot tower, mounting antennas and equipment, sometimes in windy weather," says Ginn, adding that rather than bringing workers down for lunch, their meals are usually hoisted up.

To connect the cooperative's communities—which stretch about 150 miles from south Coweta County to north Early County—Diverse Power has enhanced its radio system with new towers added at strategic locations. The cooperative purchased a tower in Manchester, constructed towers in Harris and Randolph counties, and added a network of towers already in place in Harris County and Phenix City, Ala.

In cases where new towers are built, sites are acquired and necessary permits obtained from the Federal Communications Commission (FCC)

and other governmental agencies. With assistance from a tower construction company, Diverse Power Vice President Randy Shepard designs new tower and site plans. Georgia Right of Way crews clear the site, and Diverse Power employees Keith Long and Tim Reeves prepare the site for construction. Ginn and his employees dig footings to form the tower base and three bases for

guy wires. A below-ground base constructed of concrete reinforced with steel rebar supports the weight of the tower while the guy wire anchor bases hold the tower upright and in place.

After footings are dug and the foundation is poured, a pre-fabricated concrete building is lowered by crane onto the concrete foundation. Finally, a tower construction company erects the tower, but the project is not complete until installation of wire, fiber and equipment that allow for connectivity and radio transmission.

"These towers are the lifeline that connects our radio signals from our base station to truck radios and handheld radios and connect us to other users on the network," says Shepard, adding that tower construction continues as Diverse Power strives to expand its footprint of radio connectivity. "This is another area in which Diverse Power is leading the way in the electric industry."

TOM CALLAWAY



Tower construction crew contractors set the first section into place at this Cuthbert site.

TOM CALLAWAY



Using a crane, the tower construction crew hoists the first section of tower into place. Sections are added, one by one, until the tower is complete.

TOM CALLAWAY

