

APRIL 2014

🔀 diversepower

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 🔨

Innovation through vision. Quality through service.

Don't miss the fun!

Diverse Power Incorporated holds its Annual Meeting of Members on May 14, at 1400 South Davis Road in LaGrange, with a simultaneous broadcast televised in Cuthbert.

Registration begins at 11 a.m. with lunch, entertainment and door prizes followed by the business meeting. Entertainment will be provided by the Cross Ties Band of Waco, Ga.

Registered members will receive a gift and be eligible to win a door prize. Six grand prizes of a \$200 power bill credit will be presented. Diverse Power personnel will staff booths providing information about services offered by your electric cooperative.



Diverse Power Inc. introduces new outage notification system



Our new outage notification map allows you to immediately determine if power is out in your neighborhood.

n February, Diverse Power Incorporated rolled out a new outage notification system designed to keep members informed and up-to-date on power outages and restoration efforts in their communities.

"When we have substantial outages, a banner will appear on the Diverse Power website to inform you," says Senior Vice President/CTO Randy Shepard. "Click on the banner to navigate your way to the map."

The map is divided into approximately 80 communities within Diverse Power's service territory. As outages occur, communities are shaded from yellow to red, based on the severity of the outage, with yellow designating fewer outages, and red, the most.

"Members can go to the map and quickly see if the area in which they live is affected and how severely it's affected," says Shepard. "Then they can click on any community and find out how many members are experiencing outages in that community."

A link on the map provides opportunity to determine if your meter is included in those among the outages. If your power is off but not designated as such on the map, the link gives you a quick way to report your outage.

"Our hope is that this tool will give members the information they need to know when power is out and the progress we're making to restore it," says Shepard. "This gives members a quick way to know whether or not we know their power is out."

To view the outage notification map, visit *outages.diversepower.com* and load the map. The map won't include shaded communities unless there are outages, but other features at the site provide information on how your power is restored after storms and how to report an outage.



Diverse Power Incorporated, an Electric Membership Corporation

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

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A Word from Wayne

Our new, state-of-the-art radio system

mproved communications mean improved service to our members. With that in mind, Diverse Power is switching to a new radio system to cover our service territory.

In recent months, we have acquired several radio channels that can be used across Georgia and into Alabama. We are employing the TETRA radio system, which serves as the standard in Europe for all emergency and other governmental agencies and promises to provide clear and continuous radio coverage throughout our territory beginning this summer. The substantially lower frequency TETRA uses provides longer range, which enables coverage over a larger geographic area with fewer transmitters, resulting in decreased costs for infrastructure.

Our construction crews have built almost a dozen new radio towers across our 14-county service territory, and we are reviewing our maps to determine where others are needed. The signals from these towers will provide portable radio coverage with GPS location services, improving safety for our employees and service for our members. Portable radios will be issued to all outside em ployees and mobiles will be placed in all service trucks and in Georgia Right-of-Way trucks as well. For the first



Wayne Livingston President/CEO

time, our employees will be able to send texts. And, thanks to the GPS feature, linemen walking transmission lines at night in search of outage origins will know their exact location at all times. The result: Our employees will work more safely as they speed up the process of power restoration for our members.

By combining the fiber-optics network we have in place, the radio channels we have available and the TETRA system, Diverse Power will have the ability to assist communities with their radio needs as well. Already, Harris County has partnered with Diverse Power to share radio resources for their emergency services. If more communities, and even other electric cooperatives, join the same radio network, we'll be equipped to immediately assist each other when storms strike the electric distribution system.

Bottom line, this new state-of-the-art radio system enables us to get more coverage at less cost. It simply makes sense for all involved.

This Month

Springtime means outdoor cooking

As winter turns to spring, thoughts turn to grilling. Diverse Power offers outdoor cooking tools to make these meals memorable.

- Masterbuilt Fish Fryer, \$89.99: deep enough to fry a turkey, wide enough for a low country boil and, because it's electric, a convenient way to fry, boil and steam.
- Masterbuilt Electric Veranda Patio Grill, \$218.67: fits on the smallest patio or

deck and offers 200 square inches of cooking space.

 Masterbuilt 40-inch Digital Electric Smokehouse, \$311.11: a versatile smoker that delivers natural wood flavors, hassle-free.

Ask about Co-Op Connections[®] Card discount eligibility on these and other items at Diverse Power in LaGrange. For more items available at Diverse Power, visit *diverse power.com*.

Emphasis On: Energy Savings

Save energy, save cash, with tips from our

Home*Energy*Suite™

A virtual library of energy resources is available on Diverse Power's website, inviting you, our members, to discover multiple ways to conserve energy and, in turn, save money. Just visit *diversepower.com* and click on the "energy info" tab at right; then open the Home Energy Suite where you'll find the following resources, briefly described here:

Home Energy Calculator. Analyze the energy efficiency of your home with our Home Energy Calculator. Complete your own home energy profile by typing in information about your home size, the appliances you use and the amount of energy you consume. Learn why your energy costs vary from month-to-month and discover no-cost or low-cost ways to lower your power bill.

Interactive Energy Home. Scroll over our virtual home, room by room, to learn where and how energy is used and how you can use it to better advantage. Learn how some systems, like kitchen appliances, utilize energy directly while other systems, like windows and walls, indirectly impact energy use.

Home Energy Library. Hundreds of pages are available as resources to our members who crave information about energy-related topics. Learn everything from how your electric meter is read to how much energy it takes to power an electric blanket. If you have questions about home energy use, you're likely to find answers in this handy online library.

Fundamentals of Electricity. All of your questions regarding the generation and distribution of electricity are answered here. Learn about the electric industry and how it delivers power to customers. Frequently Asked Questions covers everything



from defining voltage to discovering why some electric cords are fatter than others.

Kid's Korner. What's a watt? That and a multitude of other questions are answered in this colorful and content-filled section that's fun for kids and informative for adults. Energy-themed games make learning an adventure, and our teacher lesson plans are designed to help educators meet curriculum standards.

Governor's Energy Challenge. Take the challenge by plugging in your energy use info and discover ways to save on monthly electric bills, increase the value of your home and protect the environment. This unique initiative is designed to help Georgians conserve energy and track how much we can all save together by reducing our energy use.

Special Purpose Calculators. A variety of calculators are designed to help you get a handle on how much energy individual household items use. Learn how much it costs to operate various appliances, different types of televisions and electric space heaters. The Lighting Calculator compares the purchase price and cost to operate compact fluorescent lightbulbs versus incandescent bulbs.

An App for You

With the Diverse Power mobile app, members can pay their bill with a couple of clicks, access account information or report a power outage from a remote location. By downloading the mobile application to your cellphone or iPad, you can simplify the way you do business with us.

Available as an Apple[®] or an Android[™] application, the Diverse Power mobile app has received rave reviews since launched in 2012.

"We know that many of our members conduct much

of their daily business from their mobile phone or iPad now," says Diverse Power Senior Vice President/CTO Randy Shepard. "This is a tremendous tool and just another way we strive to effectively communicate with our members."

The mobile app allows members to review their account, check daily and hourly power use and launch the new power outage map. To launch the mobile app, visit *diverse-power.com*.



Community Connections

Introducing Pataula Director Cheryl Meadows

Diverse Power Board of Directors member Cheryl Meadows has a long history with the Pataula District, which Diverse Power now serves. Her father, James Grubbs, was on Pataula EMC's board for 30 years.

Beginning November 2011, Meadows served as the Pataula representative for Cobb EMC, which acquired the Pataula dis-

tribution system in 2005. On Jan. 1, Diverse Power acquired this distribution system, along with responsibility for its 5,600 member accounts, bringing total membership of Diverse Power to approximately 34,600 accounts.



Cheryl Meadows, Pataula Director Located in Southwest Georgia, the Pataula District includes Calhoun, Clay, Quitman and Randolph counties and parts of Early, Stewart and Terrell counties.

A resident of Cuthbert, in Randolph County, Meadows has enjoyed working with fellow Diverse Power directors and the staff at the LaGrange headquarters and introducing them to the

Pataula District, where farming is the biggest industry, along with agriculture-related businesses like those her family operated, including a chemical, fertilizer and seed operation; cropdusting service; and peanut-buying point. Meadows retired as assistant airport director at Southwest Georgia Regional Airport in Albany in 1995 and worked with her father until his death in 2005.

Farming at Pataula centers largely around peanuts, cotton, corn, wheat, rye, pecans, chicken and cattle, according to Meadows, who says area school students are active in 4-H and FFA clubs.

Diverse Power crews currently are working with Pataula farmers in converting irrigation systems from diesel to electric, a transition that will save the farmers costs over time. In addition, Diverse Power's closer proximity than Cobb EMC to Pataula will provide more efficient line maintenance and customer service, according to Meadows.

Co-op Connections Card Automotive partners

A pproximately 100 area businesses participate in Diverse Power's Co-op Connections[®] Card program, which offers money-saving deals to our members and increased business to our partners.

Co-op Connections Card partners who provide Automotive services, and the deals they offer to Diverse Power members who present the card, include:

Auto & Truck Ambulance Inc.

LaGrange, Ga.....706-884-8625 5% off on \$100 cash purchases only. Ball's Tire Service

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Hogansville, Ga.....706-637-8441 Free oil change with purchase of 4 tires.

Brad Norris Body Shop

LaGrange, Ga......706-884-8300 5% discount on work totaling \$3,000 or more. Fryer's Tire and Service Center

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LaGrange, Ga.....706-882-0033 25% off tire rotation and balancing.

Goodyear Tire Pro Inc.

LaGrange, Ga......706-884-4691 Free 4-tire rotation with purchase of oil and filter change (same invoice). Half-price alignment (free balancing included) with purchase of 4 new tires (same invoice). 10% off labor on service with purchase of \$101 or more regularly priced merchandise.

Hubbard & Spinks

Hogansville, Ga.....706-637-6379 \$10 off alignment with purchase of four tires (tires and alignment, same day).

LaGrange Auto Parts

LaGrange, Ga.....706-882-3581 5% discount, minimum \$50 purchase, excluding deliveries. Livingston Bumper to Bumper Auto Parts

Livingston bumper to bumper Auto Part

LaGrange, Ga.....706-882-7707 10% discount with \$25 minimum purchase. LTR Glass Inc.

LaGrange, Ga.....706-883-8285 10% off auto glass.

Parkway Mitsubishi

LaGrange, Ga.....706-882-2990 10% off service, parts and labor; 4 free oil changes with auto purchase.

Stanford Automotive and Repair

LaGrange, Ga......706-882-0186 10% off tow bill up to \$55; 10% off car wash.



Weathers Honda

LaGrange, Ga......706-884-7327 10% discount on after-market parts and accessories with \$50 purchase; some exclusions may apply.

Williams Automotive

LaGrange, Ga......706-883-8724 \$20 off any repair over \$100.

Xtreme Rider Motorcycle Shop

Warm Springs, Ga.706-655-2463 706-402-1593 10% off regularly priced, in-stock merchandise.