



Innovation through vision. Quality through service.



Lewis Bryant

Oct. 3, 1925 – July 23, 2008

Longtime Diverse Power Director Lewis Bryant passed away on July 23, 2008, leaving a legacy of dedicated service to the local electric cooperative and its members.

“Lewis Bryant set a standard at Diverse Power that will not be matched for a long time,” says Charles Knight, vice chairman of the board of directors.

A Pine Mountain resident, Bryant served on Diverse Power’s Board of Directors for 52 years and 7 months, providing leadership and loyalty to the cooperative as it grew to provide electric power and other services to rural West Georgia. Of all the directors who oversee operations at Georgia’s 42 electric membership corporations, Bryant had the longest tenure of service to his local co-op, according to Diverse Power President/CEO Wayne Livingston.

In 2004, Bryant was named Distinguished Cooperator by the Georgia Cooperative Council. The prestigious award honored him for his outstanding contributions to cooperatives.

Along with serving Diverse Power for more than 52 years, Bryant, a retired dairy farmer, also served as board member of Harris County Farm Bureau, Harris County Commissioners, Harris County Board of Education, Troup Dairies Cooperative, Farmers Sales and Service Co-op and Wells Dairies and Dairyman Inc., Georgia Division. The same year Bryant joined the Diverse Power Board (then, Troup County Electric Membership Corporation), his family was named “Master Farm Family” by *Progressive Farmer* magazine.

During Bryant’s service at Diverse Power, he held offices as president, vice president and secretary/treasurer and served on various committees. He also served as a director for Diverse Communications Solutions, Inc. (DiComm), a subsidiary of Diverse Power.

Bryant is survived by one son, Alan Bryant of McMinnville, Tenn.; one daughter, Kathy Bryant Hennemuth of Burke, Va.; six grandchildren, Jim Bob Bryant of Pine Mountain, Alanna, Katie, Jon, and Sara Beth Bryant of McMinnville, Tenn., Libby Hennemuth of Burke, Va.; and one sister, Nancy Bryant Riley of Jonesboro.

Bryant will be missed by his family, friends and his Diverse Power family. He will be remembered as a quiet, kind and very caring man who lived life to its fullest.

October is Co-op Month

Electric cooperatives are private, independent electric utilities, owned by the members they serve. Democratically governed businesses, electric cooperatives are organized under the Cooperative or Rochdale Principles, anchoring them firmly in the communities they serve and ensuring that they are closely regulated by their member-owners.

Electric cooperatives began to spread across rural America after President Franklin D. Roosevelt created the Rural Electrification Administration (REA) in 1935. The executive order establishing the REA, and the passage of the REA Act a year later, marked the first steps in a public-private partnership

that has, over the last 70 years, bridged the vast expanse of rural America to bring electric power to businesses and communities willing to organize cooperatively and accept responsibility for the provision of safe, affordable and reliable electric power.

Today, more than 900 electric cooperatives power Alaskan fishing villages, Vermont dairy farms, and the suburbs and exurbs in between.

They provide reliable and technologically advanced service to 40 million Americans while maintaining a unique consumer-focused approach to business.

—National Rural Electric Cooperative Association



A smart way to keep the lights on

Demand for electricity nationally will increase by 40 percent during the next 22 years, according to the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE). Yet even with an optimistic projection of a 9 percent reduction in electricity consumption due to increased efficiency and an increase in renewable power sources, our nation will soon run out of excess generating capacity and needs to build more power plants and transmission lines to keep the lights on.

This raises a catch-22 situation. Unless significantly more power plants are placed into service soon, there's a good chance consumers could experience brownouts and even rolling blackouts in the not-too-distant future. But this generation will be the most expensive in history, coming at a time when prices for fuels to produce electricity and construction materials like steel, copper and

concrete are skyrocketing.

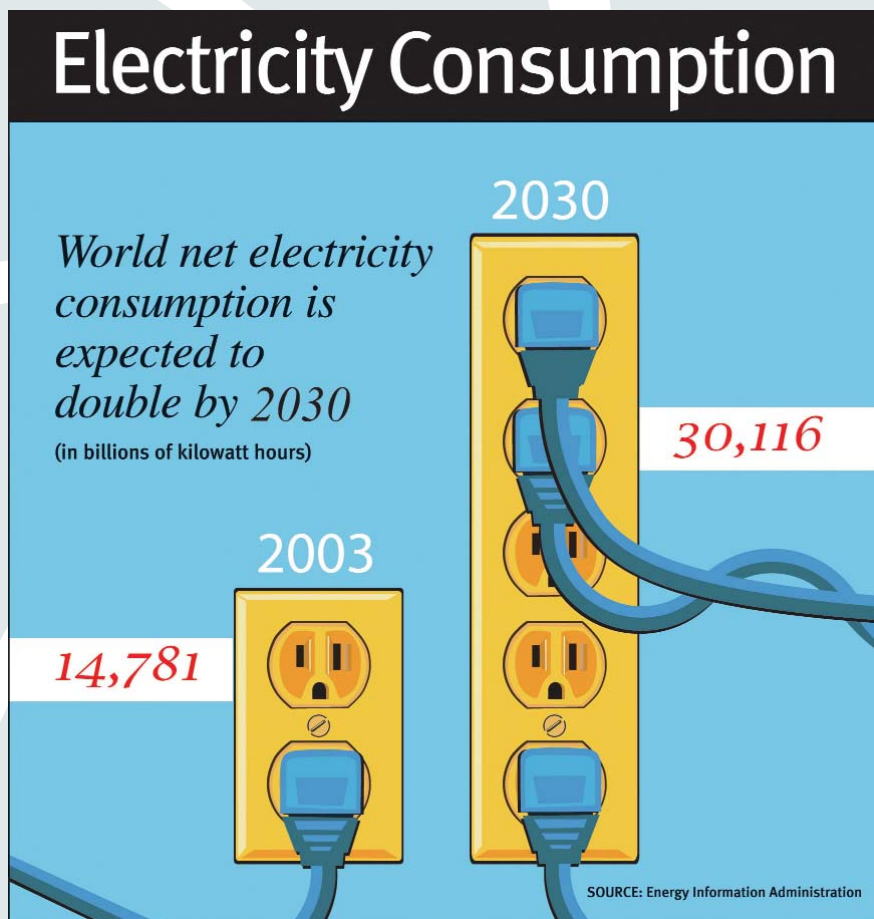
On top of it all, local, state and federal lawmakers are considering additional costs on power plants to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, notably carbon dioxide, blamed for contributing to global climate change.

For electric co-ops, experiencing 2.6 percent overall growth (twice the national average), we take our responsibility of maintaining a safe, reliable and affordable supply of power seriously. We also have an obligation to serve, and a special responsibility to protect you, our consumer-members, against dramatic and potentially crippling increases in electricity costs.

When it comes to meeting our nation's energy challenges, including climate change, electric co-ops believe answers can be found in a diversified mix of advancements in energy efficiency and technology;

renewable, nuclear and natural gas generation; and advanced coal generation. No magic "silver bullet" exists.

On the climate change front, electric co-ops believe recommendations developed by the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI), a nonprofit utility-sponsored consortium based in Palo Alto, Calif., whose members include electric co-ops, offer a workable framework for starting debate on solutions. EPRI has spelled out how U.S. electric utilities can slash carbon dioxide emissions below 1990 levels by 2030 (roughly 45 percent)—even as they take on about 40 percent more load through aggressive steps in seven principal areas: boosting energy efficiency, investing in renewable energy, expanding nuclear power capacity, capturing carbon produced by coal-fired power plants and storing it deep underground, improving the operating efficiency of coal-fired power plants, adding distributed generation resources and putting plug-in



hybrid electric vehicles on the road.

Consumer-owned electric co-ops have a great story to tell in how they're already tackling each of these ambitious goals, which provide the additional bonus of helping reduce the need to build as much new generation. Today, more than 80 percent of co-ops supply electricity produced by wind, solar, hydro, biomass (including landfill gas, livestock waste, timber byproducts and crop residue) and other renewable power sources.

Electric co-ops are also recognized industry leaders in promoting energy efficiency and wise energy use. Nearly half provide financial incentives—such as low- or no-interest loans for household improvements, leases on efficiency-related equipment, and ownership or maintenance of standby generators to reduce power use when consumption spikes—or include interactive energy-use calculators on their Web sites. More than 40 percent offer efficiency and weatherization services, including selling and installing high-efficiency lighting systems, electric water heaters, geothermal and air-source heat pumps, insulation and Energy Star appliances. And an electric co-op in North Dakota operates the only large-scale plant in the nation that captures carbon dioxide gas before it goes up a smokestack, compresses it, and then pumps it down into spent oil reservoirs for permanent storage.

Of course, implementing many of EPRI's ideas on a large scale will require a massive investment of government resources—similar to putting a man on the moon—and mobilization of every sector of the economy. But as consumer advocates and industry leaders, electric co-ops know what works. Tapping our varied resources, we can provide elected officials with expertise on what programs are technologically feasible and can be sustained economically—and politically.



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When it comes to energy, electric co-ops recognize that consumers ultimately pay the freight for whatever decisions are made. As our commitment to you, we will work to ensure that folks in positions of power understand this fact as well and seek out practical, long-term remedies based on new technology that will allow us to continue providing safe, reliable and affordable power in an environmentally responsible fashion. Through it all, the co-op drumbeat will be loud and clear: “we’re putting consumers first.”

—Source: U.S. Department of Energy, U.S. Energy Information Administration, and Arlington, Va.-based National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the service arm of the nation's 900-plus not-for-profit, consumer-owned electric co-ops.



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Touchstone Energy®
Cooperatives

The Seven Cooperative Principles

There's something special about the utility that brings electricity to your home: It's a consumer cooperative, and you're more than a customer. You're a member.

The hallmark of a cooperative business is its seven guiding principles. They are:

Voluntary and open membership.

Your electric cooperative offers membership to everyone who lives in its service area and wants to join.

Democratic member control.

Because you're a member of the cooperative, you're eligible to run for a seat on its board of directors and help the management make decisions. Don't have time to serve? You can still vote for others from your community who run for the seats.

Members' economic participation.

When you pay your electric bill, you're doing more than buying electricity. You're contributing to the financial health of your electric cooperative.

Autonomy and independence. Your electric cooperative doesn't sell stock to Wall Street investors. Cooperatives are owned and controlled by their members.

Education, training and information. You're reading this publication because your cooperative is committed to keeping its members up to date about what's going on at their utility. It also makes sure that the community members who serve on its board of directors—along with managers, employees and others—are trained and knowledgeable about the business of the cooperative.

Cooperation among cooperatives. If you've ever seen an out-of-town bucket truck after a storm, it's likely from a neighboring electric cooperative that has lent its crews to help out during an emergency. Likewise, your utility pitches in when other cooperatives need help.

Concern for community. The managers and staff who work for your cooperative also live in the community. So the utility takes a keen interest in the economic development and well-being of the neighborhoods it serves.



Scripture

James 1:17

Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.

—KJV