

Citizens of Georgia Power ENERGIZER

A statewide newsletter for Citizens of Georgia Power

September / 2022



2022 State Board

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State President's Message

Betsy Tillman

Citizens members Fall into Service! Hitting home runs across the State this Fall in a big way! Read the Energizer and Circuit for true inspiration!!

Greetings Citizens!

While Fall has officially begun and there is a crispness in the air that is quite enjoyable, many days it sure still feels like Summer! I know many of us are enjoying fall football games and supporting our favorite teams.

Just like Summer tends to hang on, baseball games are still hanging with us as well. Recently I had the pleasure of attending a Braves baseball game with co-workers/friends. Braves games are pretty fun to watch and are also a great example of teamwork. The same kind of teamwork that Citizens members and partners display as they hit "home runs" in their local community!

Some recent home run highlights include:

Athens chapter — contributed to a local organization as a result of their fund-raising efforts earlier this year — way to go Athens!

Heart of Georgia chapter — Raffle to support region efforts was very successful — Awesome work Heart of Georgia!

Metro South chapter — provided a new playground at a local school in memory of a former GPC Area manager — way to create a lasting impact Metro South!

Thomson chapter — sponsored a golf tournament to benefit a local community organization nature trail. Another tournament is planned soon! Amazing work, Thomson!

General Office chapter — recently filled backpacks for a back-to-school drive! They also partnered with other organizations on the beautification of a local camp. Tremendous job General Office!

Savannah Generation chapter — Their recent golf tournament was a tremendous success providing support for two local charities. Wonderful work, Savannah Generation!

Big THANKS to Plant Wansley Chapter - Chapter members have "hit it out of the park" on so many occasions for so many years! We are deeply grateful for all of their contributions in the local communities to make lives better!

It is an exciting time to be involved with Citizens — we are actively engaged in working on refreshing our structure to better align for the future. Now is a great time to get involved and be a part of the positive change!

Huge "Thank you" to ALL who engage in Citizens projects! As a reminder, you don't have to be a Citizens member to join in on projects, so feel free to get involved! Let us all finish the year strong and make a positive difference in our communities this Fall!

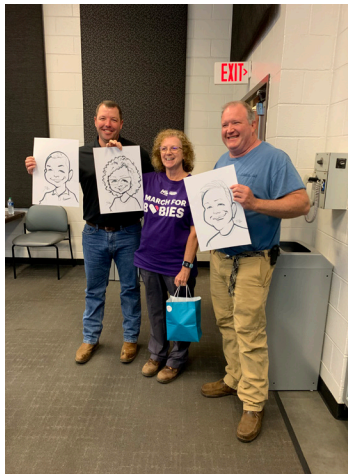
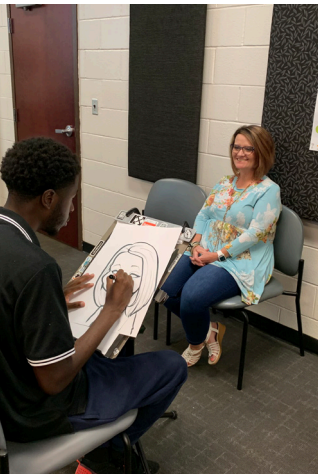
"Volunteers do not necessarily have the time. They have the heart." Elizabeth Andrew

Thanks to each of you for giving of your time and your hearts! The Beauty of Service is Virtually Everywhere!

Betsy Tillman

Plant Wansley

With the closure of Plant Wansley, their Citizens chapter hosted a farewell lunch to honor, celebrate, and remember all the great work they have done over the years. Although bittersweet, all enjoyed a wonderful lunch, and each member got their caricature drawn and received a commemorative candle holder. Chapter Treasurer Geneva Powell sent out a heartfelt note that read in part "It has truly been a pleasure and an honor to be a part of such a wonderful Citizens chapter! We had a great time today! Thank you to our Lead Team for their support and encouragement. And Thank you all for your volunteer hours, generosity, friendship, and memories!... Continue to be Citizens Wherever You Serve!" The community around the plant is better because of you all!

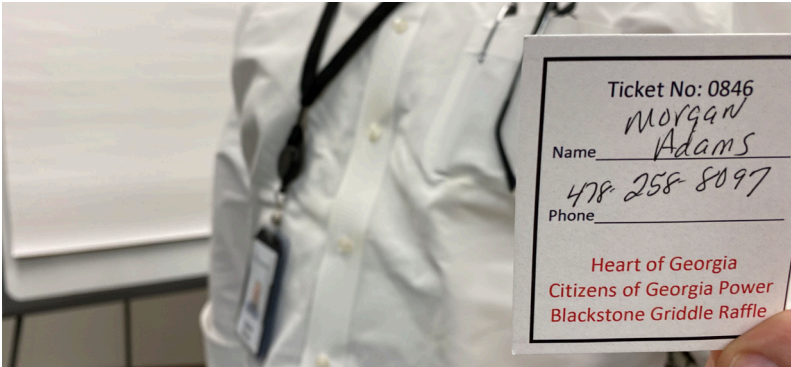


Athens

Athens Chapter members proudly presented the Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners a check for \$3,000 as a donation from their golf tournament that was held in April. These funds will be used to help open another satellite location in Bogart Georgia. Such a wonderful way to assist this organization.

Heart of Georgia

Congratulations to Morgan Adams, winner of a Blackstone Outdoor Griddle! Dave Bonair drew Morgan's name as part of a fundraising raffle for our Heart of Georgia Citizens Chapter. The chapter raised nearly \$1,000 to support region efforts. Kudos! #EnergizingOurCommunities #WeHelpBecauseItsHome



Metro South

Last year, Atkinson Elementary School experienced widespread storm damage from a powerful EF-4 tornado that ripped through Newnan. As part of our commitment to being A Citizen Wherever We Serve, the Georgia Power Metro South Citizens team recently volunteered at the school providing a brand-new playground. This project was especially meaningful to the chapter. As part of the project, a memorial bench was dedicated to Craig Ogletree, former Georgia Power Newnan Area Manager, who passed away last year. Chapter members and employees were honored to spend time with Craig's wife, daughter, and niece, and all the Georgia Power volunteers. Craig is dearly missed, and Metro South was proud to honor his legacy through an act of service.





Thomson

Kerry Bridges, Evans Area Manager, David Kelly, Louisville Local Manager and Carla Cole, retiree, attended the Thomson YMCA Nature Trail (Phase 1) Ribbon Cutting on September 14th. The Thomson Citizens of Georgia Power chapter sponsored a golf tournament to benefit the Y. The Citizens donated over \$18,000 in funds raised from the golf tournament. Big thank you to Carla Cole for providing leadership and support for the project through the Citizens. On October 10th, 2022, the Thomson Citizens Chapter is sponsoring a CGP legacy golf tournament to benefit the Y and phase 2 of the Nature Trail. They would like to invite everyone to come out for a day of fun and fellowship and help them support this great effort!



General Office

The General Office Chapter Board wants to say, "Thank You" to all their members who helped them fill 30 backpacks for the Atlanta Mission's Back to School Drive! 2nd VP Chris Newton proudly delivered the backpacks. What a great way to start the school year!



Members of the General Office Chapter braved the rainy weather to participate in this year's Greater Atlanta Heart Walk at the Battery on Saturday, September 10. The Chapter partnered with the Work & Family Life ERG to raise more than \$1,000 for the American Heart Association.



Savannah Generation

Savannah Generation held its golf tournament at Crosswinds Golf Club on September 16th. The proceeds benefited the March of Dimes and Shriners Children's Hospital. This annual event had over 100 participants and everyone enjoyed themselves as well as the beautiful weather. The event brought in a little over \$18,000 that will be split between these two great charities!



Partnership

On August 28, members of the General Office Chapter joined ERG volunteers from ADAPPT, Amigos, TWIG, and Work & Family Life at Camp Twin Lakes in Rutledge to assist with the beautification of Camp Twin Lakes campsites. Volunteers helped with painting, landscaping, and construction around the facility in Rutledge. For almost 30 years, Camp Twin Lakes has delivered fully adaptive, medically supportive, and deeply impactful camp experiences to more than 10,000 of Georgia's children and young adults each year, helping each camper grow in their confidence and experience the joys of childhood. Thanks to all for partnering in this great effort!



Corporate Security

Daniel Veiga, Senior Security Specialist with Georgia Power, and Kingston Police officer truly embodies being a Citizen Wherever You Serve! On Friday September 2, Daniel and his fellow officers from the City of Kingston, Bartow County School Police and Bartow County Sheriff's Office met with students at the Kingston Elementary School in Kingston, Georgia. The students were treated to ice cream served by the officers. They spent time discussing with the students their roles as a police officer along with life lessons such as good decision making and benefits to doing the right thing. Officers also emphasized the importance of teamwork and caring for each other. The volunteers spent close to three hours with the 4th graders. The Kingston Police Department regularly spends time interacting with students of Kingston Elementary and other schools nearby to promote safety and security within the community. A huge thank you to Daniel and all the officers for choosing to make a positive impact on these young lives!





Club of Hearts Agency Spotlight – A Friend’s Place

A group ‘home’ for children in need since 1998

I recently received a request to visit A Friend’s House in McDonough to help them with some outdoor lighting needs. Their existing fixtures were the old High Pressure Sodium fixtures and they were in need of some brighter and better security lighting to enhance safety and security at their facility. Upon arriving... Something felt special about this visit. I could tell this was a divine appointment and that I was here for something much more important than new parking lot lights.

For those that don’t know, A Friend’s House (AFH) is a group home for children that have been displaced from their own home, due to a loss of a parent – or in some cases both parents, abuse, neglect, being relocated from foster care, or one of a host of other reasons that today’s society may challenge our youth with these days. AFH was established by a group of Henry County citizens in 1995 and opened its doors in 1998. Since that time, over 2,100 children have benefited from having a place to call ‘home’ when there may not have been any other alternatives.

Once setting foot on site, I quickly recalled that my time in the Customer Care Center here at Georgia Power involved regular mention of volunteer opportunities at AFH. So, I asked Ms. Kim Smith, Director of Operations at AFH, if those activities were still going on today. Unfortunately, I quickly found out that – due to the pandemic – volunteer activities and donations, had fallen off pretty dramatically over the last few years. My inner voice told me with a great clarity, why I was here on this particular day. We need to reignite the awareness, volunteerism, and charitable giving for A Friend’s House!

I spent some time visiting with Kim, as well as Morgan Barnwell (Director of Development) and Ms. Tracie McCollough (Executive Director) to learn more about their mission, motto, and some of the struggles and challenges that they face - and blessings they provide - on a daily basis.

In some ways, AFH is not much different than other non-profit organizations today. Meeting their budget while providing food, clothing, staffing, and simply meeting all the needs of today’s teenagers is very difficult in the current economy. Add to that the arduous tasks that can show up with children who may have behavior issues, social challenges, deep rooted anger issues, or those who have had a lack of basic structure in their early childhood, and you can quickly see just how tall of a task it is to raise a ‘family’ of 24 kids as they transition into a strange and new environment. Stack on top of all that... building maintenance, utility bills, medication for the children, school supplies, etc., and you can quickly see that the task is ginormous!!!! The phrase, “It takes a village” brings on a literal meaning at AFH.

The things that are different at AFH though, are many. You can absolutely feel the love from the staff that is exhibited to the kids at AFH. These kids are not their own... but you'd never know it from the energy and emotion that is invested in these children's current situation, as well as their future. To listen to the staff's efforts to provide structure, education, emotional support, and a basic sense of normality, will just about move you to tears. Tremendous effort goes into stretching the dollars and minutes that are invested in building a solid foundation for these children. A solid foundation that they can learn from, stand, and reflect on as they move from a group home into their next stages of life and adulthood.

One, of the many, great examples that the staff has developed to incent positive behavior and social skills is the "AFH Bucks" program. When children are caught in the act of doing a good deed or exhibiting a great attitude, they're rewarded with AFH Bucks that can be exchanged for real dollars to

spend on themselves during weekend outings or other special events. On the flip side, those bucks can be lost just as easily when things may not go as desired during a normal day at AFH. This program helps instill that there are rewards... as well as consequences for one's own choices and behaviors. The buy-in from the children has been well received and the AFH Bucks have been a great tool to help lead these young minds in a positive direction.

I could go on for pages describing my visit and time with the folks at A Friend's House, but I'll summarize with some facts to help drive home the need for support from the community:

- ▶ The state only provides \$690 annually per child to help meet all their material needs o (If you have kids... you know this doesn't go very far)
- ▶ 43% of AFH's budget is acquired through fund raising
- ▶ Providing healthy weekend meals for 30 folks is ALWAYS a challenge. Donations appreciated!
- ▶ AFH relies heavily on grants and gifts from the community to help keep the doors open
- ▶ Simple items to donate that are greatly appreciated include things like:
 - Laundry detergent (regular & sensitive skin), Herbal Essence Hair Products
 - Noise cancelling head phones, books & study material – ages 12-18
 - Gift cards, gas cards, games, sports gear, bed linens w/ comforters for twin sized beds
- ▶ And of course, the almighty dollar helps keep this critically important home operating daily

As Georgia Power moves into our Club of Hearts campaign season, if you're looking for a phenomenal charity to share your blessings with, consider A Friend's House as you give of your time, talents, and financial support. You'll feel very rewarded... and so will the kids. Thanks for taking time to read and share this experience.

'For the children...'

Joe Cobb
Lighting & Smart Service
Georgia Power



DATE	EVENT
20 Monthly	Energizer Chapter Submissions DUE
2/9/2022	Virtual State Board Meeting
2/24/2022	Virtual Leadership Summit
3/18/20212	State Office will verify service hours and financials
6/15/2022	Educational Loan Fund (ELF) Applications DUE
7/20/2022	Summer State Board Meeting
8/12/2022	State Officer Nomination forms due to the State Office
9/9/2022	Call to Annual Meeting TBA
9/23/2021	Committee Chairs application due in State Office
10/6-7/2022	State Officers will go through selection process for committee chairs to serve on State Board during 2021
10/7/2022	Annual Meeting reservations/delegate - TBA
10/7/2022	Chapter Information for Annual Meeting printed program DUE to State Office
11/10-11/2022	State Board Meeting – TBA
11/12-13/2022	Annual Meeting – TBA
12/9/2022	2023-chapter officer information DUE
12/16/2022	Chapter Surveys to be returned to the State Office
12/16/2022	All monies must be distributed to bring year-end balance down to \$100 and prepare books for audit and income tax forms
12/30/2022	All 2022 Service Hours entered into uBack