

ENERGIZER

A Statewide newsletter for
Citizens of Georgia Power

MAR
20
23



Leading
in Service



2023 State Board

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Southwest - Jonathan Blair
Coastal - Brandon Moore
Northwest- Carrly Lovvern
Central - Tina Presley
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Metro West - Eric Swann
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Community Investment Director
Kelli Newman

Club of Hearts Liaison
Charlie Ross

Ambassadors Liaison
Krista Pierce



State President's Message



JD Wilson

Citizens,

When I was a young engineer, I took part in a team building exercise that asked a simple question: What is it about our job that makes us unique? A variety of answers were shared from long hours to getting to work with people but the idea that stood out the most was simple: we are the ones who run into danger while others are running away from it.

When we think of service, you might immediately begin to think about collecting canned foods or distributing coats when the weather gets cold outside. Recently, I had a chance to work with a chapter who ran toward the trouble after a tornado hit a community. Not only were the volunteers there to serve immediately after the storm hit, but they continued to show up for their community for several weeks assisting with storm cleanup well after the attention of the event had worn off. What a wonderful legacy to leave: even after the immediate trauma of an event like that, we continue to be there for the community that needs us. This is just one reason why I continue to be so proud of the work that Citizens of Georgia Power does every day.

As my wife and I talk to our boys, one thing we have tried to teach them is sage advice from Fred Rogers: when things seem uncertain to "Look for the helpers." Thank you for choosing to help, thank you for choosing to serve and thank you for being the best part of Georgia Power.

In Service,

JD



Customer Care Center

The CCC Chapter celebrated Georgia Arbor Day with a seedling give-a-way. Georgia Power Greenkeepers partnered with CGP to give out Dogwood, Redbud and Crepe Myrtle seedlings for this year. It was a great turnout! Big thanks to Latonya Mills, Lanel Richardson and Preva Neal who handed out trees to over 50 members.



Carrollton

Chapter President and State Board member Carrly Lovvorn found time in her busy schedule to re-stock one of the many Little Free Pantry sites the chapter supports across Carroll County. Carrly reported the pantry was completely empty and that it goes to show the huge need this project fulfills!



A long-standing project with the Carrollton chapter continues to be the Greenbelt cleanup. Chapter volunteers work tirelessly to keep portions of this heavily used community amenity clean and beautiful. Carrly Lovvorn and Kathi Henson did their part this month. Thank you, ladies!



Joanna Isbell and Joe Sensenig represented Carrollton Chapter and manned an Aid Station for the West GA Track Club Road Race on Saturday. The race had about 160 runners and raised funds to allow the track club to promote and encourage movement and wellness throughout the community. They attend many local events and meetings in the community and encourage the use of the Greenbelt and moving for good health.



Retiree and Citizens member Joanna Isbell served as race director for the Step at a time 5k held Sunday March 5th. This race is a fundraiser for the West Georgia Domestic Violence shelter. The funds raised help to improve the lives of victims of domestic violence. This year's race was the 21st anniversary to help conquer domestic violence one step at a time. Joanna began a term to serve on the board of directors for the shelter beginning in January 2023.



Augusta Ambassadors

In partnership with Augusta Citizens, Karen Goff, First VP for Augusta Ambassadors, read to a classroom at Hephzibah McBean Elementary. What a great partnership between Citizens and Ambassadors this year. Thanks Karen!



Greenkeepers and Citizens of Georgia Power

Engineering Rep Joe Sanchez and his wife took advantage of the Arbor Day seedling give away hosted by Greenkeepers and CGP to beautify their yard. They started the seedlings in planters but according to Joe, "once they get nice and big, I will be planting them in their permanent location in my back yard!"

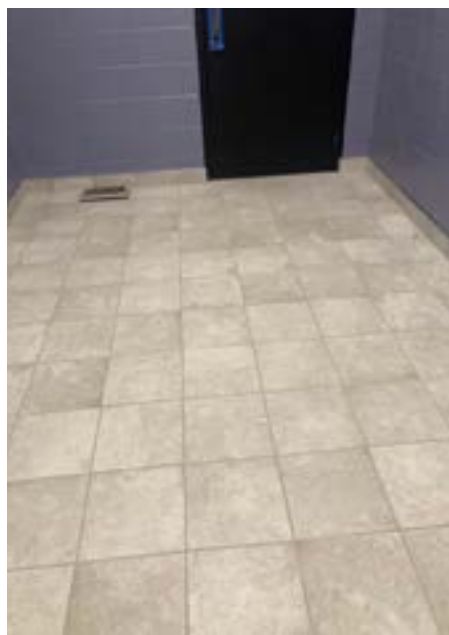
Drew Hammett and his son joined in the Arbor Day festivities and planted a tree at their farm near Waleska.





Valdosta

Valdosta Citizens volunteers are making great progress on their Legacy Project at the Boys & Girls Club of Valdosta. The first phase of the project involved renovating a boy's bathroom that nobody wanted to use. That's certainly not the case anymore! The chapter will tackle the girl's bathroom with phase two of this great project.





Metro West

The Metro West Citizens were proud sponsors and supporters of the Greater South Cobb Kiwanis Club Charity Tennis Tournament at Fair Oaks Tennis Center in Marietta. Volunteers for the event included Gretchen & Chip Haight, and Debbie & Coakley Pendergrass. Chip even joined in the fun by showing off his skills on the court. The event proceeds support Kiwanis programs at several elementary and middle schools, S. Cobb Early Learning Center, Laundromat Libraries and First Readers in the South Cobb area.





Heart of Georgia – Macon

Georgia Power took the legendary title from the Macon-Bibb Fire Department on Saturday, March 18, 2023, in the Bed Race at the Cherry Blossom Festival's annual event. Georgia Power's last win was in 2012. Congratulations to our team, Tristian Washington, Deion Stanley, Kaleb Wiggins, KJ Hunt, Alek Lopez and Lil Kenny Lakendrick. Thanks to their pit crew, Terez Harris, Kyle Presley and Tina Presley. In the words of team captain Tristian Washington, TEAMWORK MAKES THE DREAM WORK!

[Click here to watch video.](#)



Volunteer Services

Volunteer Services team members Krista Pierce and Cindy McLeroy hosted a table at the Wellness Fair at Noah's Ark Operating. Crews from Noah's Ark, Oakley, and Newnan showed up for this annual event. Krista and Cindy had plenty of give aways but more importantly kept folks at the table learning about Citizens and Club of Hearts while the attendees packed a toiletry bag for a local charity. Great idea and great job Krista and Cindy!



Brunswick, Statesboro, Savannah, and Valdosta

Friends,

I just wanted to say a HUGE THANK YOU for all of your hard work in helping see the Sapelo Island Legacy Project through to completion. What an amazing group of coworkers and friends. For those of you who remember Robert, you know this is a very special occasion for us to honor such an amazing human. For those who didn't know Robert, you get the next best thing in his son, Garion. I cant thank each of you enough for rallying the troops today to see this labor of love through. I'm so proud of what we accomplished today. We are definitely looking forward to the dedication with the SICARS and HHC groups this Saturday. BIG HUGS, Team!

— LBH





Sapelo Island Legacy Project

The Whole Story



THE WHY:

If you ever had the pleasure of meeting Robert Stokes, you know how much of a light he was to his team, his friends, and his community. Robert was the embodiment of being A Citizen Wherever You Serve. Sapelo Island is a coastal barrier island with a rich history. The Hog Hammock community on Sapelo Island is the last intact island-based Gullah-Geechee community in America. In 2016 there were a total of 37 full time residents on Sapelo Island of which every single one had a personal relationship with Robert and knew him by name. At that time anyone visiting Sapelo Island and wearing a Georgia Power Logo would be asked "Did you know Robert?" And of course, if you were in "his" area, you knew Robert and Robert knew you. He was a very special friend and leader.

In 2018, The Brunswick Chapter started learning more about Legacy Projects and how to use funds to impact communities. At that time we became aware of the growing number of children living full time on the island who had no real place to play. At the existing playground stood a 50+-year-old metal slide, a few swings on a rusted-out frame and rotten wooden picnic tables. We saw a community with little funding and minimal resources where our funds and labor could make a huge impact and of course, it would be for the Legacy of Mr. Robert Stokes.



THE WHO & THE HOW:

The Brunswick Chapter of The Citizens of Georgia Power knew that the scope of this project would exceed the \$10k grant from The Georgia Power Foundation and we recognized the impact Robert had on the community, Georgia Power, and anyone who knew him. The significance of this project needed to reflect his legacy. We decided to include other chapters of which Robert had been a member and reached out to Statesboro (Austin Bell-President), Savannah (Jimmy Brown-President), and Valdosta (Jack Schroeffer President) to ask them to join us in requesting Legacy Funds from the foundation for our project. They agreed to partner with us, and collectively we were able to make a \$40,000 contribution to remove trees and build a playground and full-size basketball court for the families at Sapelo Island.

THE WHEN:

The Brunswick Chapter started talking about this project in late 2019 knowing it would be a huge undertaking since Sapelo Island is only accessible by boat. Planning to determine needs, resources, and community impact began and then COVID emerged in early 2020. In 2021 each of the four partner chapters were able to secure a \$10k grant from the foundation. Because we were unable to gather in numbers and due to logistics constraints brought on by COVID, our project was put on hold. Even still, we continued communicating with our Sapelo Island partners to formulate a plan. On Friday, March 25, 2022, nine of our teammates met for the demolition of the existing playground equipment and prepared the grounds for installation. Shortly after that, our partners on Sapelo Island (Department of Natural Resources, Sapelo Island Cultural and Revitalization Society and Hog Hammock Community) were able to have the concrete poured for the new basketball court and install the basketball goals. Finally, in November of 2022, the playground equipment arrived, and we began to really start planning the installation. Our Sapelo Island Partners (DNR, SICARS, HHC) and residents helped with the concrete work so everything would be set before the big workday. On Thursday, February 23rd a total of 27 Georgia Power Citizens and Ambassadors were able to complete the installation of the playground and basketball court. On Saturday, February 25th, in conjunction with Sapelo Island's Black History Day Celebration, a dedication will be held to commemorate our work and Robert's legacy. This will mark the official opening of the playground.



OUR TEAM:

I cannot say enough about our team in Brunswick. Brandon Dowling, Mitch Chorba, Greg McCranie, Reggie Hall, Shaun Taylor, Rhonda Thomas, James Jolley, Craig Hubbard, Kyle Ramsey, Josh Giles, Jocelyn Vaughn, Alan Volskay, Garion Stokes, Jason Bennett, Leo Geer, Graham White, Warren Wagner, Matt Smith, Zack Strickland, Jared Strickland, Brandon Willis, Bobby Tippins, Tae Cruz, Hunter White and five of our Ambassadors (Teon Jackson, Annabelle Beasley, Marilyn Daly, Phyllis Strange, Janice Strange) along with Fred Hay from DNR, Joel Willis, Maurice Bailey, and other Sapelo Island residents: THIS IS THE TEAM THAT MADE THIS ALL HAPPEN, and I am so very thankful to work alongside such amazing people.

DATE	EVENT
20 Monthly	Energizer Chapter Submissions DUE
2/21/2023	State Board Meeting
2/22/2023	Leadership Summit
3/3/2023	State Office will verify financials and service hours
6/15/2023	Educational Loan Fund (ELF) Applications DUE
7/TBD/2023	Summer State Board Meeting
8/11/2023	State Officer Nomination forms due to the State Office
9/12/2023	Call to Annual Meeting TBA
10/5-6/2023	State Officers will go through selection process for committee chairs to serve on State Board during 2024
10/13/2023	Committee Chairs application due to State Office
10/27/2023	Chapter Information for Annual Meeting DUE to State Office
11/TBD/2023	State Board Meeting – 241 RMB
11/TBD/2023	Annual Business Meeting – Virtual Teams Meeting
12/8/2023	2024-chapter officer information DUE
12/15/2023	Chapter Surveys to be returned to the State Office
12/16/2023	All monies must be distributed to bring year-end balance down to \$100 and prepare books for audit and income tax forms
12/29/2023	All 2023 Service Hours entered into uBack