

Horry Electric Cooperative, Inc.

www.horryelectric.com

MAIN OFFICE
P.O. Box 119
Conway, SC 29528-0119
369-2211

PowerTouch
TO REPORT
POWER OUTAGES ONLY
369-2212

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Johnny M. Shelley
President

James P. "Pat" Howle
Executive Vice President and CEO

Eugene Harriott, Jr.
Vice President

Ashley Anderson
Secretary/Treasurer

Elaine D. Gore

Bobby E. Jordan

Franklin C. Blanton

Ronald H. Floyd

Henry W. Boyd

Frederick 'Freddy' Thompkins

CO-OP CONNECTION EDITOR

Penelope D. Hinson
penelope.hinson@horryelectric.com

Horry Electric Cooperative, Inc., is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Horry Electric Cooperative, Inc. is a non-profit, member-owned organization providing information and energy-related services on a fair and equitable basis.



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Bitter cold brings higher bills



WHEN BITTER COLD HITS, energy bills jump. Horry Electric's rates didn't increase during the cold snaps we saw in January, but bills for energy use increased significantly. Members repeatedly told us they hadn't changed their thermostats and

questioned how on earth their electric bill could have possibly doubled.

As our service representatives and energy advisors explained to everyone, the increases we all saw were due to the extra amount of electricity it takes to keep the inside of a home at the temperature set on the thermostat when the outdoor temperatures are so severe. We actually set a new peak demand record on the morning of January 5 and then broke that record on January 7. The previous record of 405 megawatts (MW) was set in February of 2015. Our new record set on January 7 is 430 MW.

Here's how it happened

The amount of energy used by furnaces, heat pumps or baseboard heaters is directly related to how long they run. Because they are connected to a thermostat, they run when the temperature drops below the thermostat set point in your home.

When the outside temperature is colder than normal, more heat is lost through the ceiling, walls, floors and openings such as windows and doors. The thermostat

senses the extra heat loss and operates the furnace more often to keep up with the heat loss. The longer the unit operates, the higher the energy consumption, which results in higher electric bills.

A spike of higher consumption for a week or more due to colder weather significantly increases your total bill. We've been through more than one extended cold snap since Christmas and bills are going to be high.

Alerts can help members save!

Members on the Advance Pay program were very aware of how much their daily energy use was impacted by the colder temperatures. As part of the program, they receive daily updates on how much energy they use. Getting an energy alert is available to everyone on the Horry Electric system. If you have online access, you can sign up yourself through MyEnergy Online, our member service portal. If you don't have access, one of our service representatives will be glad to set your account up for alerts delivered via text, voice mail and/or email. Getting daily alerts will help you become more aware of your daily use, and, if you take action to make changes to reduce your energy use, it could help you avoid the shock of an extremely high bill!

JAMES P. "PAT" HOWLE
Executive Vice President/CEO

Unclaimed Capital Credits posted online

HORRY ELECTRIC MAILS capital credit checks to members who have received service in past years. Many of these checks are returned by the postal service. We hold them for those listed in a searchable database, which can be found on horryelectric.com.

You can find the database by using the search engine on the page or by selecting Capital Credits from the My Co-op tab on the home page. In addition to the online database, Horry Electric publishes the unclaimed capital credit list in The Horry Independent on an annual basis.

In order to claim funds, please contact Horry Electric Cooperative's main office in Conway between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. weekdays at (843) 369-2211. Please reference your call as concerning unclaimed capital credits.



Co-op Connections® Card: By the Numbers

\$18,631,820.00

Saved on prescriptions by
S.C. co-op members since 2007



You've saved more than \$878,000!

MEMBERS OF HORRY Electric and other Touchstone Energy Cooperatives in South Carolina saved almost \$1 million on prescriptions last year by using their Co-op Connections discount cards.

That's just part of the grand total of \$18,631,820.75 saved by S.C. co-op members since 2007, according to Touchstone Energy, the co-op alliance that coordinates the discount card program and other member benefits such as TogetherWeSave.com. Horry members, who pocketed \$35,577.88 in Rx savings during 2017, have now saved more than \$878,000 since the co-op connected with Co-op Connections in 2009.

The discount card program also features other Healthy Saving Discounts, helping members save on vision, dental, imaging and other health care services. The prescription drug benefit entitles Horry Electric members to discounts ranging from 10 to 85 percent off the cost of prescription drugs at more than 60,000 national pharmacy locations including CVS, Walgreens, Wal-Mart, and Target. More than 100 pharmacies in and around Horry Electric's service area participate.

Co-op Connections® Card

Horry Electric Cooperative, Inc.
A Touchstone Energy Cooperative



To find pharmacies that honor the Co-op Connections card, go to HorryElectric.com, click on the Co-op Connections card image to go to Connections.coop. Look under Healthy Savings Discounts and use the Locate Providers feature. Lost your card? No problem! Just print a new one from the website.

ATTENTION MEMBERS-VOTING AT THE ANNUAL MEETING OF MEMBERS

ONLY MEMBERS ARE ELIGIBLE to register and vote at Horry Electric Cooperative's Annual Meeting. An OFFICIAL NOTICE/REGISTRATION POSTCARD (mailed to members in advance of the Annual Meeting) and a PHOTO ID must be presented at the time of Registration at the Annual Meeting of Members.

A MEMBER of Horry Electric Cooperative is the person in whose name the account is held. In order to hold a joint membership, both spouses' names must appear as joint account holders on the account. In the event of a joint membership, either spouse (but not both) may register and vote. Being listed on the account, even if you are a spouse does not qualify an individual as a joint account holder. If you are unsure about your joint membership status, please call us at (843) 369-2211.

If any member is not present for any meeting, including an Annual Meeting, and wishes to have a vote cast on his or

her behalf, a Durable Power of Attorney, properly appointing the individual who intends to cast such vote as the attorney-

in-fact for the member, and valid in the jurisdiction in which it was prepared, must be presented to the business office of Horry Electric Cooperative, Inc., located at 2774 Cultra Road in Conway, South Carolina, no later than 30 business days prior to the scheduled meeting at which such vote is to be cast. For the 2018 Annual Meeting of members, the deadline is March 27, 2018.

If the Durable Power of Attorney does not meet the necessary criteria to be valid in the jurisdiction in

which it was prepared, or if the Durable Power of Attorney is not received in the business office of Horry Electric Cooperative, Inc. no later than 30 business days prior to the scheduled meeting at which such vote is to be cast, the vote on behalf of the member will not be allowed.



Horry Electric Cooperative's 2018 Annual Meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 8 at Coastal Carolina University. Registration begins at noon with the business meeting at 7 p.m.

One call prevents disaster

THERE'S A FOOTBALL-FIELD length of underground utilities for every person in the country, according to South Carolina 811, a.k.a., the Palmetto Utility Protection Service (PUPS).



Know what's below.
Call before you dig.

So call 811 before you dig. It's a free service to use, and it's the law! No matter how small the project, it's important to call 811 or request a locate at sc811.com.

Damaging a utility could result in costly fines, inconvenient outages, injury or even death.

Keep neighbors and yourself safe.

HORRY EXTRA

Helping homeless

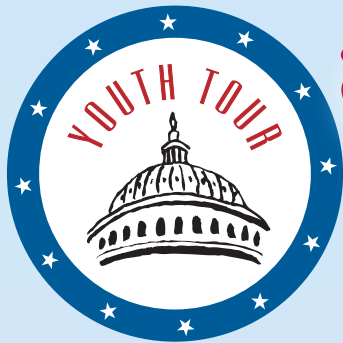
Members of Horry Electric's WIRE chapter joined other Women Involved in Rural Electrification from sister co-ops across the state to aid homeless students. You may



be surprised by how many homeless students there are. Learn more in this month's Horry Extra section, which begins on page 20A.

Just for High School Juniors...

You could be selected for one of these two unforgettable experiences.



apply now!

compete for both free trips with just one application

June 9–14, 2018



COOPERATIVE YOUTH

SUMMIT

July 10–13, 2018



2017 S.C. Washington Youth Tour Representatives

Experience Washington, D.C., with 1,500 high school juniors from across South Carolina and the country, meeting lawmakers and touring all the sights. Your electric co-op will cover your round-trip plane ticket, tours and meals. In other words, it's all free!



Horry Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 



2017 Cooperative Youth Summit Representatives

Experience South Carolina's capital like never before. Tour the Statehouse, meet lawmakers and see how co-ops are preparing for our state's energy future. Plus, there's plenty of fun with visits to popular Columbia attractions like Riverbanks Zoo & Garden. Your electric co-op will cover all of your expenses.



Apply by

February 28th.

**Application on Page 20D
and at HEC offices.**



WIRE members with the 120 bags of items they filled for homeless children during the 2018 Kids Closet event.

WIRE's gifts help homeless students

TEN DOZEN HOMELESS students around South Carolina will find life a little easier, thanks to members of Women Involved in Rural Electrification (WIRE).

Members from WIRE chapters affiliated with Horry Electric and other cooperatives across the state came together in Greenville on Tuesday, December 5 to put together bags of supplies for homeless youth. Each bag held personal hygiene items, as well as laundry detergent.

Minnieree Thompkins (right) of Horry Electric's WIRE chapter fills bags for homeless students with fellow WIRE members Cathie Ulmer (left) and Melinda Vaigneur (second from left) of Ridgeland-based Palmetto Electric Cooperative and Rita Worthy of Moncks Corner-based Berkeley Electric Cooperative.



The 120 bags the community outreach groups filled will be distributed to youth in need through the South Carolina Department of Education, which has identified recipients in school districts around South Carolina. For the project, called Kids Closet, members of each of the 12 WIRE chapters across S.C. filled 10 bags—five for girls and five for boys.

‘There are a lot of homeless kids in our state. Their families move about from place to place ... but they still want to go to school.’

“That’s 10 kids that will get helped in your area,” said Peggy Dantzler, of SC WIRE, the coordinating organization for cooperative chapters. “There are a lot of homeless kids in our state. I don’t mean kids in foster homes, although that’s tough, too. These are kids who have nowhere to live. Their families move about from place to place ... but they still want to go to school.”

Dantzler noted that local WIRE chapters already assist children and families served by electric cooperatives in other ways. Some chapters of WIRE

provide emergency assistance to families suffering after house fires or other catastrophes. Chapters also provide local scholarships to students in their area. Through SC WIRE, they all help fund annual scholarships for women who want to continue their education, the Jenny Ballard Opportunity Scholarship, named after a founder of WIRE.

Kids Closet is modeled after WIRE’s annual Co-op Closet effort, which for



WIRE members Lynn Elvis (right) of Horry Electric Cooperative and Denette Rimer of Mid-Carolina Electric Cooperative fill bags for homeless kids.



Susan Brown and Sandra Abdul-Hafiz of Horry's WIRE chapter double-team the effort.

five years has provided personal supplies for displaced nursing home residents. The S.C. Council on Aging distributes the items to residents of nursing homes that are closed suddenly due to safety regulations or DHEC compliance issues. This summer, some Co-op Closet supplies were given to victims of Hurricane Harvey in Houston, Dantzler noted.

Homeless students by school district

This fall, while preparing for Kids Closet, WIRE asked school districts around the state how many students had been identified as homeless. These numbers offer just a snapshot, school officials note.

Allendale 1	20	Florence	219
Anderson 5	145	Greenwood 51	10
Barnwell	19	Hampton 1	20
Beaufort 1	365	Hampton 2	56
Berkeley	350	Horry	60
Calhoun 1	7	Kershaw 1	10
Charleston 1	146	Laurens 55	211
Cherokee 1	74	Lexington 2	141
Chesterfield 1	3	Lexington 3	6
Clarendon 3	10	Oconee 1	14
Colleton 1	155	Richland 1*	1,000
Darlington 1	149	Richland 2	447
Edgefield 1	10	Spartanburg 4	1
Fairfield 1	68	<i>*last school year</i>	

Apply by June 1 for WIRE scholarship

WOMEN WORKING TO earn college degrees can apply by June 1 for financial assistance through the 2018 WIRE Jenny Ballard Opportunity Scholarship.

The annual scholarship provides a one-time \$2,500 award to a woman who is an electric cooperative member, who has been out of school for several years and who is ready to complete her education.

Two co-op members benefitted from last year's WIRE scholarships. Bonnie Hill, a Little River Electric member, received \$2,500 to help fund her studies at Tri-County Technical College in Pendleton. York Electric member Patti Hansen also received \$2,500 toward her studies at York Technical College in Rock Hill.

Application forms are now available for the 2018 WIRE scholarship. The program is open to women who may not have been able to attend college after high school but now want to further their education. WIRE (Women Involved in Rural Electrification, a community service organization affiliated with the electric co-op in South Carolina) awards the scholarship based on financial need and personal goals.

An applicant for the WIRE scholarship must:

- ▶ be a member of a South Carolina electric cooperative
- ▶ have graduated from high school or earned her GED at least 10 years ago
- ▶ be accepted into an accredited S.C. college or university, and
- ▶ demonstrate financial need and personal goals.

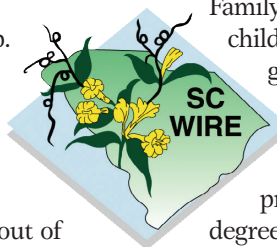
Women who have previously obtained a four-year college degree are not eligible. No applicant will be

selected as a recipient if that applicant is a family member of any electric co-op officer, director or employee.

Family members include spouses, children, grandchildren, great grandchildren, and the spouses of children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren.

Applicants may have previously earned a two-year degree or some college credits. The scholarship, which can be used for the fall 2018 or spring 2019 semester, will be paid jointly to the winner and her college of choice.

Applications are available at your local electric cooperative or by download from SCLiving.coop. Mail or fax your application by June 1 to Peggy Dantzler, The Electric Cooperatives of SC, 808 Knox Abbott Drive, Cayce, SC 29033, or fax to (803) 739-3055.



Horry WIRE offers \$1,500 scholarship

The Horry Electric chapter of the community outreach group Women Involved in Rural Electrification is once again offering a \$1,500 scholarship for HEC members and dependents of members.

The award is for one academic year for a freshman entering Coastal Carolina University or Horry-Georgetown Tech in the fall. The recipient will receive \$750 for the first semester. They must have at least a cumulative 2.5 GPR at the end of the semester to receive the other \$750. An essay is also required.

Applications are due by March 1. Mail to:

Mrs. Susan Brown
Horry Electric Cooperative, Inc.
P.O. Box 119
Conway SC 29528-0119
For details, call (843) 369-6323.



Keeping Horry County green

Sylvia Worthington, an Horry County Solid Waste Authority (SWA) employee and an Horry Electric Cooperative member at home, adds another Christmas tree to the pile at the SWA's Browntown Convenience Center off Four Mile Road on January 9. HEC and SWA co-sponsored the Grinding of the Greens December 26 through January 29. Christmas trees could be dropped off at various sites, including SWA convenience centers, to be chipped and recycled into landscaping mulch. The mulch will be available to all citizens while supplies last at the SWA landfill, four miles northeast of Conway, next to the SWA Administrative Office at 1886 Hwy 90. Grinding is usually done during the third and/or fourth week of February. When going to pick up mulch after the trees are ground, folks are asked to please be sure to take their own container. Last year, more than 5,100 trees were dropped off and ground into mulch. Visit SolidWasteAuthority.org/recyclingcenters for locations and hours.

HEC 2018 Washington Youth Tour and Cooperative Youth Summit

Application/Nomination Form—HIGH SCHOOL JUNIORS ONLY

Name (first, middle, last) _____ Name you go by _____

Date of birth (yy/dd/mm) _____ Social Security number _____

Address _____

Your phone numbers (home, mobile) _____

Email _____ T-shirt size _____

HEC account number _____ Congressional district _____

Parents/guardians _____ Their phone number _____

School _____ Guidance counselor _____ Their phone number _____

How did you find out about the Youth Tour and Youth Summit? _____

Recommended/Approved By _____

On a separate sheet of paper, list academic and athletic school activities, as well as civic and church activities. Applications must include a summary of the student's activities. Qualified applicants will be required to take a written test and participate in a personal interview. No essays will be accepted. Send completed applications to: Toni Gore, Youth Tour/Summit Coordinator; Horry Electric Cooperative, Inc.; Post Office Box 119; Conway, SC 29528-0119.

APPLICATION DEADLINE IS WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28