

Horry Electric Cooperative, Inc.

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(to report power outages only)

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



Your Touchstone Energy® Partner

We're almost ready

Annual Meeting 2014 stage is being set

IF YOU KEEP UP with your co-op through our social media outlets or through *South Carolina Living* magazine, then



you are already very familiar with some of our plans for the big event. It has been a major focus for all of us at Horry Electric for more than a year. We're holding to our promise to make adjustments to the plan from last year,

and we believe we've come up with something that will work for our members and allow us to continue to follow the guidelines we need to follow for the Annual Meeting of Members.

A few members have commented they have felt like they've been a part of the planning process. That's a good thing. We want members to be prepared for the event, and we hope you realize that all plans have been made with you, our members, in mind.

Make sure of the date

Your Annual Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 13, on the campus of Coastal Carolina University. We say it is *your* meeting, because it is one of the most important and best examples of how your membership matters. There is a quorum requirement in order for business to be officially conducted at the meeting. That's why we're doing everything we can to make attending the Annual Meeting of Members as convenient and rewarding as possible.

A few reminders

Please remember that only members who register, in person, to participate in the Annual Meeting of Members between the hours of noon and 7 p.m. on May 13 are eligible to receive the Registration Gift. There are absolutely no exceptions! The Registration Gift is an electric bill credit. This year,

the amount is \$15. Official Notice/Registration Postcards will be mailed to members prior to the meeting. Please put your card in a safe place when it is delivered. You'll need to bring it, plus some form of photo identification, when you come to the Annual Meeting. The registration process goes a lot faster and runs much more smoothly when members have their postcard and photo identification ready when they get to the front of the line. Speedy Pass lines will be set up for members who have their registration cards and photo ID ready to present for registration. That way, members who are prepared won't have to wait in line while employees manually look up accounts, which is sometimes a lengthy process.

Prize drawing entry automatic

Each member who registers, in person, at the meeting during the designated hours for registration, will not only qualify to get the Registration Gift, but will also be automatically entered into the prize drawing. Members no longer have to be present at the time of the prize drawing in order to win. Winners, if they are not present, will be notified by phone the following day.

This worked well for members last year. Concerns about traffic and safety were eliminated, and it increased the efficiency of the prize-drawing process.

Stay tuned, more to come

May 13 is going to be an exciting day for all of us at Horry Electric. We'll see you then!

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

Looking out for you

Multiple locations for registration/voting this year

WE LEARNED A LOT from our experience last year. Thankfully, we were able to quickly put a 'Plan B' into action to relieve the long lines and congestion caused by the large number of people who all showed up at the Annual Meeting of Members long before registration even began at noon.

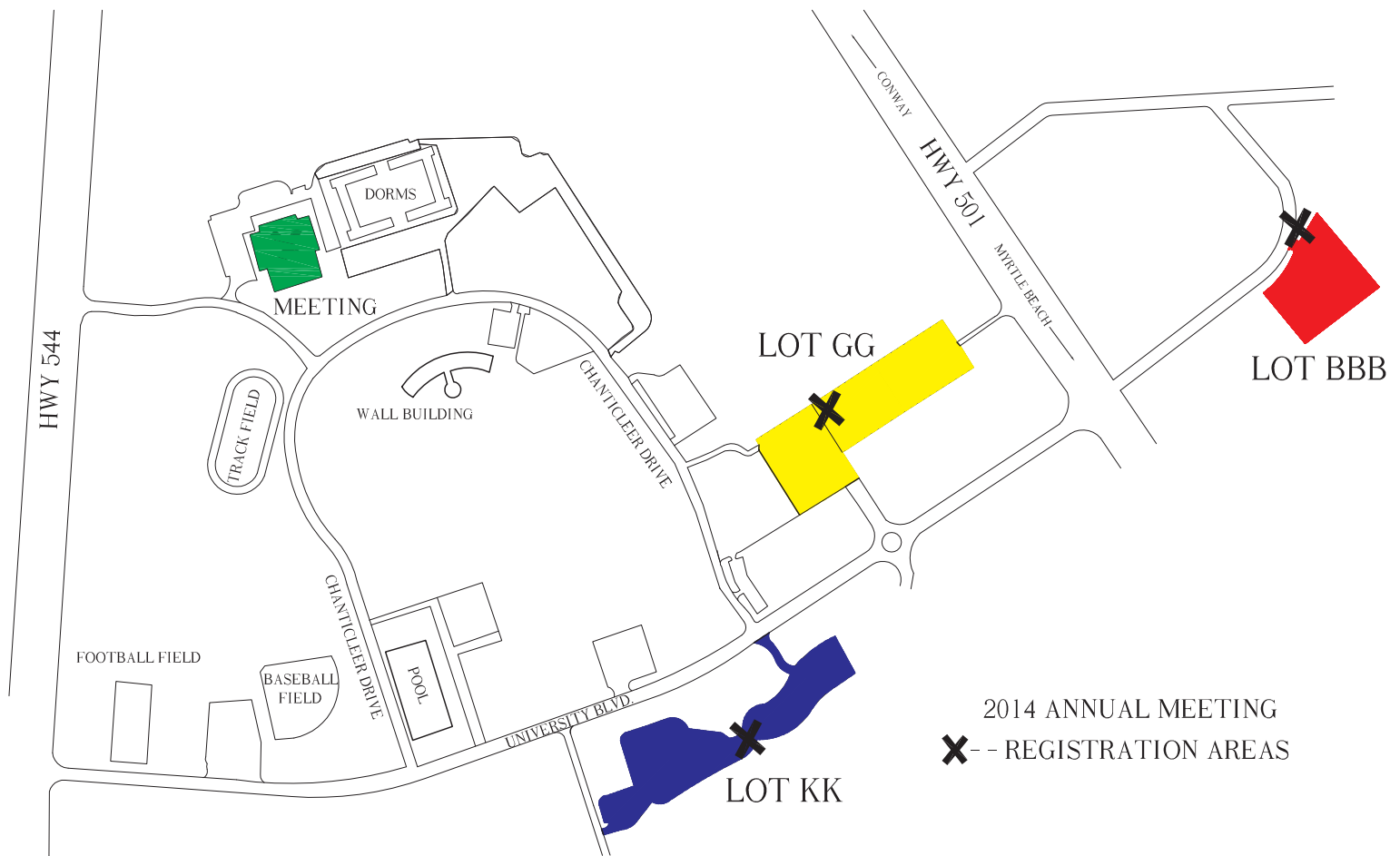
This year, we're making Plan B from last year our Plan A. We're setting up multiple locations for registration/voting rather than limiting it to just one. All locations are accessible for members with personal wheelchairs, Segways or scooters. Unfortunately, we are not able to provide this type of equipment.

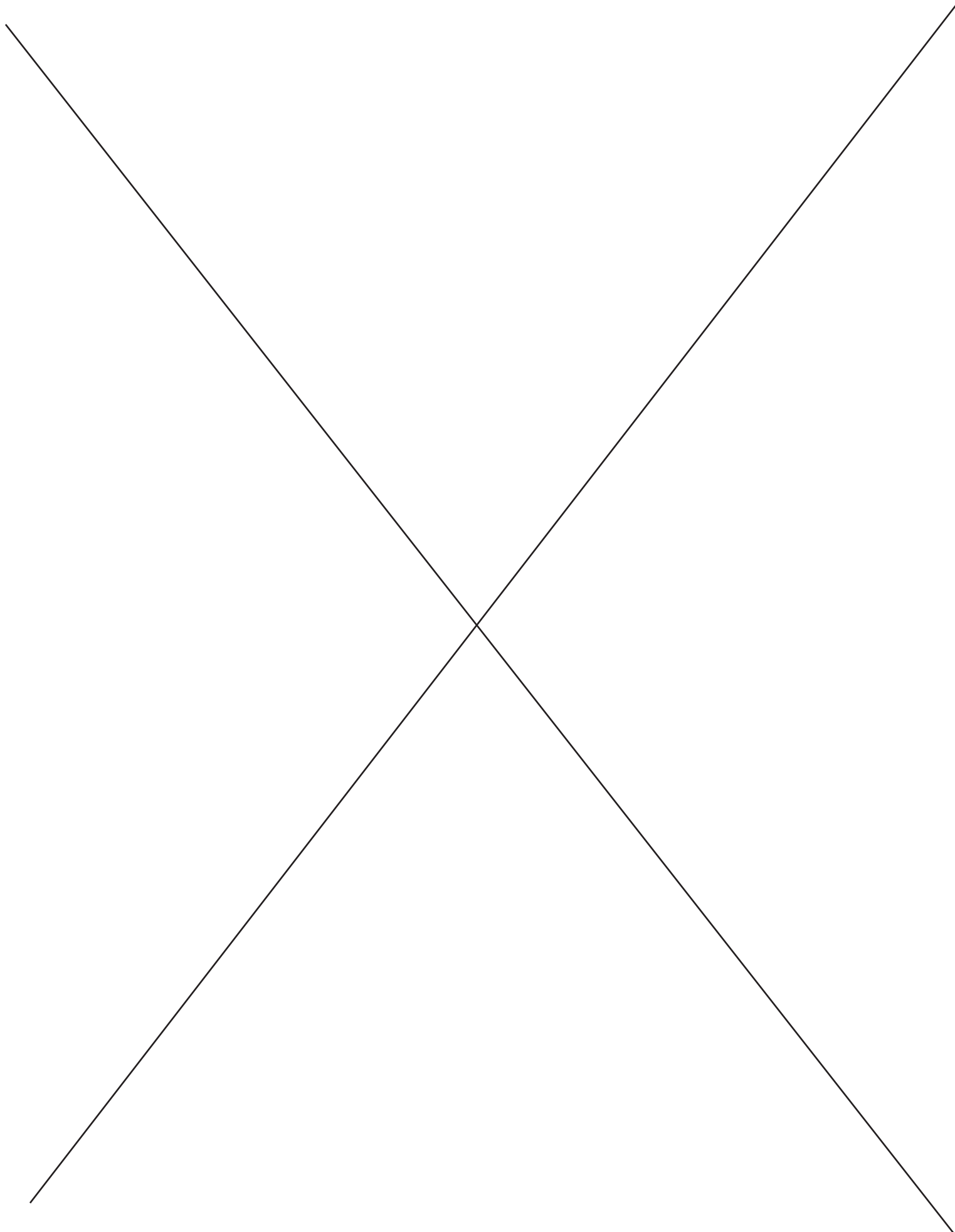
Designated parking for members with their Handicap placard displayed will be clearly marked in the parking lot registration/voting locations. There is Handicap parking already designated and marked around The HTC Center.

Convenient courtesy shuttles will be provided again this year, where necessary. The plan for the shuttles will be outlined in the May edition of *South Carolina Living* magazine. Shuttles will run in a continuous loop from the multiple registration/voting locations to The HTC Center, which is where the entertainment, business meeting and prize drawing will take place. To make it easier for members

to remember where they left their vehicle, each driver will be given a disposable bracelet, color coded specifically for the stop they boarded the shuttle.

Instead of just having one central location for registration and voting this year, Annual Meeting planners are making use of four different locations on the campus of Coastal Carolina University. The business meeting and the entertainment will take place at The HTC Center, which is highlighted in green on the diagram. Registration and voting will be available in The HTC Center, but three additional areas (Lots GG, BBB and KK) are also designated for the purpose of registration and voting. The three additional areas are highlighted in yellow, red and blue, respectively.





Across 'the river tap,' the longest wait



WALTER ALLREAD

HEC members Clayton (left) and Linda Faircloth stayed at home during a seven-day outage. Sirrena Riotto (second from right) took her four kids to her parents' Socastee home while her husband, Joe (not pictured), manned their house upriver. HEC's Lloyd Johnson (right) led crews down Hidden River Road to restore their power the night of Tuesday, Feb. 18.

Socastee. They returned in time to assist Faircloth and others removing trees and limbs blocking their pine-shrouded road. "Horry Electric would not have been able to get down the road had we not cleared it," she notes.

Over the water, residents cleared Big Gutter Lane. Consumers pitched in all over the county, in fact. "That was a big help," says Johnson.

HEC lineworkers and outside crews worked almost non-stop, into the night that week. Johnson says, "You'd be working and think, 'I'll do one more job.'" About 100 HEC poles were replaced.

Back at work that Wednesday, Johnson says, co-op linemen smiled knowingly and said, "I heard you worked the river tap last night."

Next time, the bird-dogger says, "I would do it in the daytime." ☺

A TAP LINE is an electric circuit with limited capacity extending from a distribution line. They usually serve just a few consumers.

Four homes on one of Horry Electric's "river taps"—lines that cross the Waccamaw—earned the dubious honor of being the last services restored after the February ice storm knocked out power to about 26,000 HEC meters. The residences, located on the aptly named Hidden River Road in Red Bluff, are on a river tap that starts at the end of Big Gutter Lane in the Shell community near Hwy. 905—10 miles away by the highway. Downed trees cut their power for a full week. For their trouble, each of the four account holders received a \$250 bill credit.

HEC Underground Projects Supervisor Lloyd Johnson, who helped "bird-dog" services for line crews, jokes how Hidden River Road is so remote that, "I told somebody down there,

'You might better buy a loaf of light bread and drop some crumbs, so we can find our way back out of here.'"

The road is gated in places and, at one point, Johnson parked and walked a half-mile to find a service. Complicating matters, a bridge on nearby Hwy. 31 East is being replaced.

Fortunately, co-op members Clayton and Linda Faircloth, Sirrena and Joe Riotto and the residents of two other homes are the hardy sort who relish what you might call Extreme Country Living. They're right on the water, about 4.25 miles down coquina lanes from 31 East.

The Faircloths, Horry natives who persevered without power for more than three weeks after 1989's Hurricane Hugo while living in Mount Pleasant, moved into their new home three weeks before the Feb. 12 storm. A camping enthusiast, Clayton said, "It didn't really

faze me that much. I've been living in the woods all my life."

Linda quickly adapted, cooking on a propane heater and catching rainwater and river water to wash dishes. When their power was restored at 8:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 18, her first thought was, "Oh, thank God! I'm going to the shower!" she recalls.

Sirrena says her husband, Joe, stayed behind to man their house while she took their four children to stay with family in

Off like a shot

It sounds like a shotgun going off or, as many people think, "a transformer blowing," but the blast you sometimes hear just before an outage is usually a protective device for electric circuits called a fuse. A fuse (inside the barrel-shaped enclosure) is what blew on this Big Gutter Lane "river tap" that serves the Hidden River Road homes across the Waccamaw. The device did its job after limbs fell on the line: It opened the circuit to limit the outage to services on that single tap line. Fuses are also installed atop co-op transformers, notes HEC's Lloyd Johnson, to reduce the likelihood of a real (and costly) transformer explosion.



BAD STORM, GOOD EXAMPLE

Co-op members, family melt the ice for linemen with biscuits, kindness

HORRY ELECTRIC MEMBERS Ken and Donna Richardson and their daughter, Christi Hucks, set a bodacious example with four children—and the world—after the ice storm.

They loaded up in a Suburban and delivered more than 75 Bojangle's biscuits to HEC and Santee Cooper line crews restoring power. "One crew would radio and tell us where the others were," Christi says. Adds Donna, "It was a lot of fun."

Especially so for Donna's grandchildren, Winn, 3, and Riles, 5. The Hucks brothers and their friends, sisters Clara and Wilson Harry, ages 6 and 8, respectively, enjoyed an educational outing with enough warm biscuits to feed an army of linemen.

For their mom, the trip was part of a personal quest.

Inspired to 'pay it forward'

On January 1, Christi had begun an online "pay it forward" campaign, The One Year Wardrobe Resolution. She pledged to forgo buying more "clothes and things that don't mean anything," seeking instead to "fill life with things that mean something."

Inspiration struck Wednesday, Feb. 12. Christi saw a Facebook post by a friend whose husband is a lineman: "He has been home once in 12 hours, and it was to grab something to eat

and change his socks," the friend wrote. "Please pray for them."

Christi talked with her parents, and soon, their mission of mercy was on. She mentioned it to her friend Jennifer Kiskunas, who is with Bojangle's. The restaurants matched Ken, Donna and Christi's 100 biscuits—and off they went. Along the way, the gang met good folks like Stacy and Chris Shelley, who delivered hot chocolate to crews—"an awesome thing," Christi says.



Winn and Riles Hucks (front) and Clara and Wilson Harry helped Winn and Riles' grandparents, HEC members Ken (left) and Donna Richardson, and their mom, Christi Hucks, deliver food to lineworkers.

Lessons learned

She's inspiring goodness via Instagram and Facebook. Her resolution has drawn more than 2,000 followers.

The online pledge helps Christi hold herself accountable, she says. For Lent last year she wasn't able to resist the all-"too-easy" lure of online shopping. (Robert chuckles, "Let me put it this way: UPS, they know where we live!")

Donna's rightly proud of her daughter's efforts. And Christi is proud of Riles. She says he recently announced: "Mom, I don't want these toys. You can give them to a kid that needs them."

Christi did just that—and then some: She uses The One Year Wardrobe Resolution to promote worthy organizations like the Thornwell Home for Children in Clinton.

It's another way, she says, to live by her resolution's motto—"Take less, give more, be blessed and inspired." ☺

Now it's your turn: Share your own "random act of kindness" at Christi Hucks' new blog, TheYearWardrobeResolution.com. Follow her progress on Instagram—@TheYearWardrobeResolution—and at Facebook.com/TheOneYearWardrobeResolution.



Robert and Christi Hucks with sons Winn and Riles and their grandmother, Donna Richardson.



Suddenly hungry for Bojangle's? Use your Co-op Connections card at any local Bojangle's and get a free 32-oz. iced tea with purchase of a chicken dinner—served with a smile by folks like Kaitlin Todd (left) and Sarah Gunter.

Carry the card

Yummy discounts
courtesy of Co-op Connections

WE APPRECIATE Bojangle's donation for helping to feed our lineworkers (see story at left) after the recent ice storm.

You can show your appreciation, too—and use your Co-op Connections card for a discount—by patronizing Bojangles. All Grand Strand locations of Bojangles offer a free 32-oz. iced tea with purchase of a chicken dinner for Co-op Connections cardholders.

You can also use your card for discounts at other local restaurants that have signed on with Horry Electric to participate in Co-op Connections.

- ▶ **Bellacino's Pizza & Grinders**, 1600 Main St., Conway—Show your Co-op Connections card and get 10 percent off your entire order. This offer is not valid with any other discounts, specials or coupons.
- ▶ **The Brentwood Restaurant & Wine Bistro**, 4269 Luck Ave., Little River—\$5 off entrees from regular menu.
- ▶ **Chestnut Hill Restaurant**, 9922 Hwy. 17 North on Restaurant Row—Free appetizer with dinner entree.
- ▶ **Crady's Eclectic Cuisine**, 332 Main St., Conway—Buy one dinner entree and receive the second for half-off.
- ▶ **Nalley's Pizza and Subs**, 2130 Hwy. 905, Conway—Show your Co-op Connections card and get \$1 off any regular-priced, large 16-inch pizza!
- ▶ **Peaches Corner**, 900 North Ocean Blvd.—20 percent off entire order, per table.
- ▶ **Prince Creek Diner**, 11907 Hwy. 707, Murrells Inlet—10 percent off any purchase.
- ▶ **Radd Dew's Bar-B-Que Pit**, 3430 Hwy. 701 South, Conway—\$1 off regular buffet price of \$11 and \$1 off to-go box price of \$9 on Fridays and Saturdays, 4–6 p.m. Must show Co-op Connections card to get discounts.
- ▶ **Thorny's Steakhouse & Saloon**, 600 South Kings Hwy.—Free appetizer (value of \$6.99) with minimum purchase of \$25. Not valid with any other coupons or discounts.

Find even more local discounts at Connections.coop, which you can access through the Co-op Connections link on the home page of HorryElectric.com.

Local Discount

Show your Co-op Connections Card to get 10 percent off all regular-priced entrees.

Offer excludes alcohol and no other discounts apply.

Where: Angelo's Steak and Pasta

2311 South Kings Hwy., Myrtle Beach

Phone: (843) 626-2800

Email: Angelos@sc.rr.com

Hours: Open for dinner daily (seasonal hours), early-bird buffet 3:30–6 p.m. daily.

Co-op Connections® Card

Horry Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner



'Best steaks ever!'—now at a discount

JUST ONE BITE and we knew that what a co-op friend told us about Angelo's Steak and Pasta was true: "They have the best steaks ever! They'll melt in your mouth!"

Under the influence of a single molten meaty morsel, we were convinced that Angelo's is indeed home to "The Greatest Steaks in the Universe," as their website says. "Our steaks are cut on the premises and perfectly aged, seasoned and served on a hot, sizzling platter. You will hear the steak before you see it. Try it with our garlic-bleu cheese butter for a delicious twist," it continues.

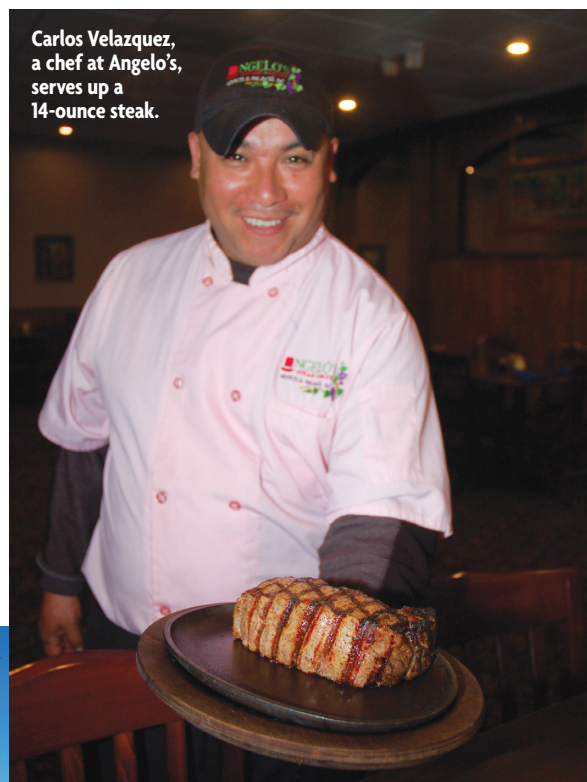
And, based on word-of-very-pleased-mouth advertising, we're also inclined to believe they have "the Grand Strand's finest 'All-You-Can-Eat' Italian Buffet," too.

Best of all, Angelo's offers Horry Electric Cooperative members a special discount: Just show your Co-op Connections card to get 10 percent off all regular-priced entrees. The offer excludes alcohol and no other discounts apply.

Angelo's has a full menu as well as two separate buffets, a full list of appetizers, full bar, early-bird menu, nightly specials and, as the website says, "the best and most tastiest desserts on the Strand. All of our entrees including the buffet is authentic family Italian recipes with our own personal touch. Our chicken Marsala is to die for." (Our co-op friend vouches for the Marsala and adds, "The fettuccini Alfredo is delicious, too!")

Individual dining rooms for large groups are available, so, HEC members, get up a group and get rolling to Angelo's. Don't forget your Co-op Connections cards! ☺

Carlos Velazquez, a chef at Angelo's, serves up a 14-ounce steak.



WALTER ALFREDO

It pays to be a member!

BY PENELOPE HINSON

NOT MANY BUSINESSES pay you for buying something you wouldn't want to live without—but electric cooperatives do.

The 'payment' happens through something known as 'capital credits'. Capital credits come from the money a cooperative has left over after paying all of its expenses in a given year. At the end of the year, that money is allocated to each member's account, according to the amount of electricity the member bought.

When finances allow, Horry Electric Cooperative returns capital credits to its member/owners in the form of a capital credit check. "Last year, the cooperative disbursed more than \$1.5 million from the capital credits account," said Jodi Braziel, office manager for the cooperative. "This year, we're proud to announce we'll be distributing approximately \$1,625,000."

A different way of doing business

Unlike other types of companies, cooperatives do not have shareholders who expect to make money from the profits generated by the company. Cooperatives are not-for-profit businesses that exist solely to provide their members with a particular service such as electricity.

"In a co-op, the net margins don't belong to the company; they belong to the consumers who paid their monthly electric bills," said Braziel.

In effect, the members of a cooperative are the stakeholders. Because of that, when the cooperative takes in more money than is needed to run the business, the owners are entitled to a portion of it.

How do capital credits work?

A member's 'equity' in the cooperative is based on the amount of power the customer has purchased during the year.

"The more electricity the customer

buys, the higher their share of equity," says Ashley Anderson, secretary and treasurer of the board of trustees of Horry Electric Cooperative. "The co-op sets up a credit account that shows on the books the share of the year's net margins belonging to each member."

Generally, the members don't receive a check the same year they earned the capital credits. "That's because electric cooperatives use their members' equity to fund system improvements," said Anderson.

"If we couldn't get the operating capital from member payments, we'd have to borrow from the bank or some other source, which would cause electric rates to go up," said Braziel.

As new member equity funds come in year after year, the cooperative is able to 'retire' its older capital credit funds, issuing members their share in the form of a capital credit check.

Due to the expense of processing and issuing checks, capital credit refunds below \$10 will be credited

to the individual's electric account. "So if you don't get a check, you'll see a credit on your electric bill," said Braziel.

Capital credit checks are expected to be delivered to members by the end of April. "It's an exciting time for us around here," said Braziel. "Being able to return capital credits is a direct reflection on the financial strength and stability of your cooperative, and that's something in which we can all take pride."

"To help members calculate and estimate what their capital credit check might be, we created the chart at the top of the page," said Braziel. "If you still have questions, please don't hesitate to call us." ☎

Capital credit disbursement 2014

This year, member owners will be receiving a portion of the capital credits assignment for 1990 and 2013. The allowable retirement this year is \$1,625,000 less \$300,000 in estate payments. The total amount being distributed is \$1,325,000, which includes the \$1,118,762.69 balance of 1990 and \$206,237.31 of 2013.

If you were a member in 2013, you will receive 1.6% of your 2013 assignment. If you were a member in 1990, you will receive the remaining unretired balance of your assignment for that year.

Example of 2013 allocation and retirement

You can calculate the approximate amount of your 2013 allocation and disbursement by using this example. Capital credit disbursements are made in the form of a capital credit check, which will be mailed to you by the end of April.

If your 2013 electric bills totaled:	\$1,000	\$1,500	\$2,000	\$2,500
The 2013 assignment percent is: (multiply the percentage times your bills)	9%	9%	9%	9%
Your capital credit assignment for 2013 would be:	\$90	\$135	\$180	\$225
The 2013 retirement percentage will be 1.6% of your capital credit assignment.	1.6%	1.6%	1.6%	1.6%
Your general retirement refund for 2013 would be approximately:	\$1.44	\$2.16	\$2.88	\$3.60

Member economic participation is one of the seven cooperative principles, and it's another way your cooperative is looking out for you.