

## Horry Electric Cooperative, Inc.

[www.horryelectric.com](http://www.horryelectric.com)

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(to report power outages only)

369-2212

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**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

## Your Annual Meeting is May 10

**YOUR ANNUAL MEETING** is set for Tuesday, May 10, 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 the power of co-op membership. We encourage members to come to the meeting and try to make it as convenient and as rewarding as possible



for those who do. We have a quorum requirement, established by the South Carolina General Assembly, that must be met in order for business to be officially conducted. In the S.C. Code of Laws, Section 33-49-430, quorum is defined as five percent of all members. Registering and voting on cooperative business in person is part of the S.C. Code.

### Proven success

Registration gifts that are sure to appeal to a large number of people, entertainment and prize drawings for registered members have proven to be successful methods for electric co-ops to meet the quorum requirement. On top of that, we include a retired fleet vehicle as the grand prize. This year, it is a 2010 Ford F-15. As it has been for the past few years, the Registration Gift is an electric bill credit. The amount this year is \$15. Remember that only members who register, in person, to participate in the meeting between

the hours of noon and 7 p.m. on May 10 at CCU are eligible to receive the Registration Gift. Each registered member will not only qualify to get the Registration Gift, but will also be automatically entered into the prize drawing. Registered members do not have to be present at the time of the drawing in order to win.

### Stay tuned, more to come

Official Notice/Registration Postcards will be mailed to members prior to the meeting. Be sure to put it in a safe place. You'll need to bring it, plus some form of photo ID, when you come to the meeting. Members who bring their Official Notice and their ID will be able to take advantage of the Speedy Pass lines at registration. Shuttles will once again run in a continuous loop from the registration locations to The HTC Center, which is where the entertainment, business meeting and prize drawing will take place. The May edition of *South Carolina Living* will be mailed at about the same time as the Official Notice. It is your guide to your Annual Meeting and includes all the details you'll need for the big day!

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

## Horry Extra

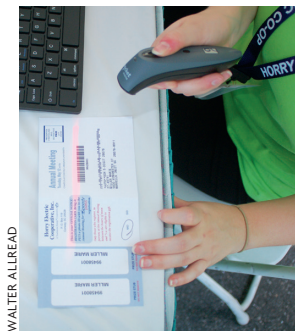
### 75 Acts of Kindness in full swing

Maxie Carmichael (left), owner of Aynor Tire Mart, teamed up to help with one of the 75 Acts of Kindness we'll complete this year. Chris Teems, manager of special services for HEC, presented the check for the cost of tires for the Lewis family, and Carmichael installed them at no charge. Read all about it and other ways that Kindness abounds on pages 20B and 20C.

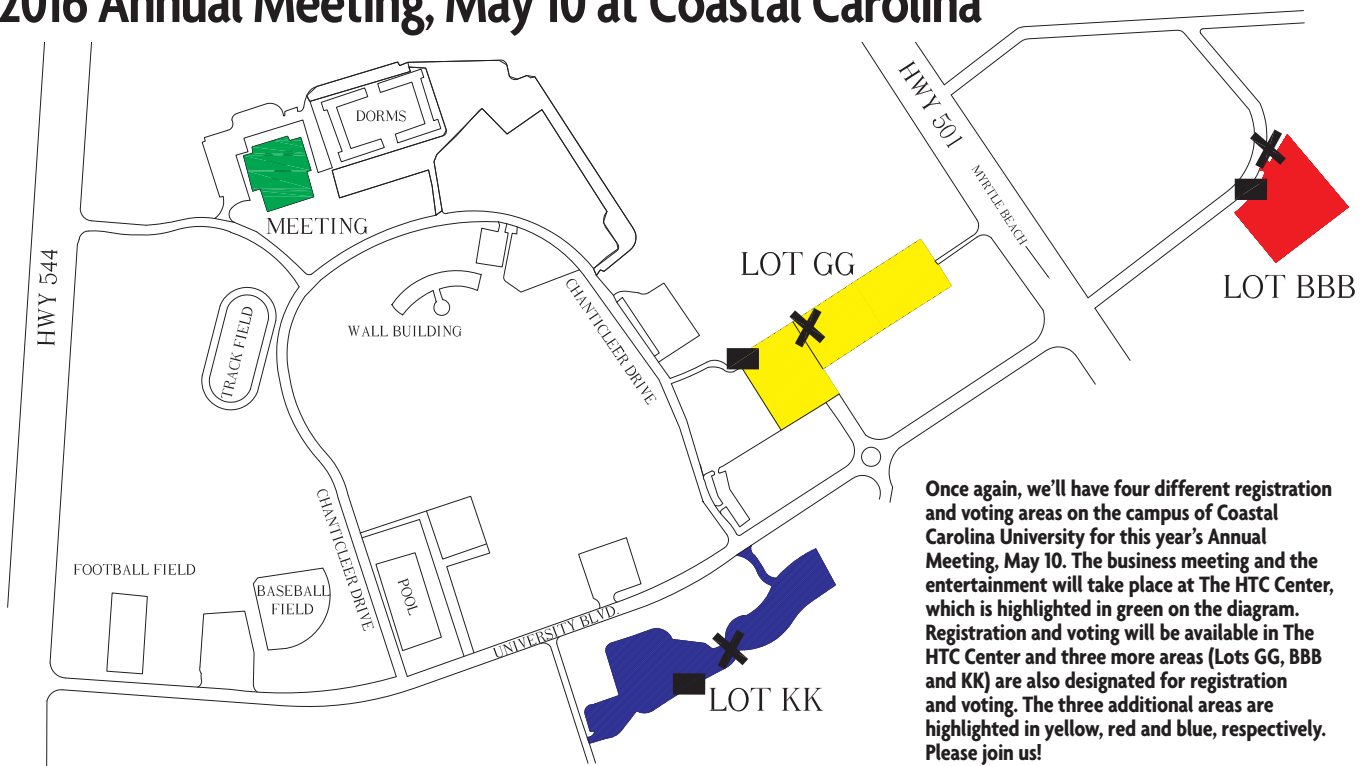


## Places, everybody! It's almost showtime

**WHEN IT COMES** to annual meetings, the HEC crew is one well-rehearsed ensemble, as these photos from last May show. Experienced remote-registration area supervisors such as Pam Boyd (right) see to it that her team—armed with the Speedy Pass system—keeps registration lines moving. Thanks to IT specialist Brian Swart (far right), employees can even use a special app for iPhones and iPads to register members who need special assistance, like Katherine DuBose, at their cars. And when it's over, folks like Chris Teems (lower right) help get members from the CCU Convocation Center onto the shuttles and back to their vehicles.



## 2016 Annual Meeting, May 10 at Coastal Carolina



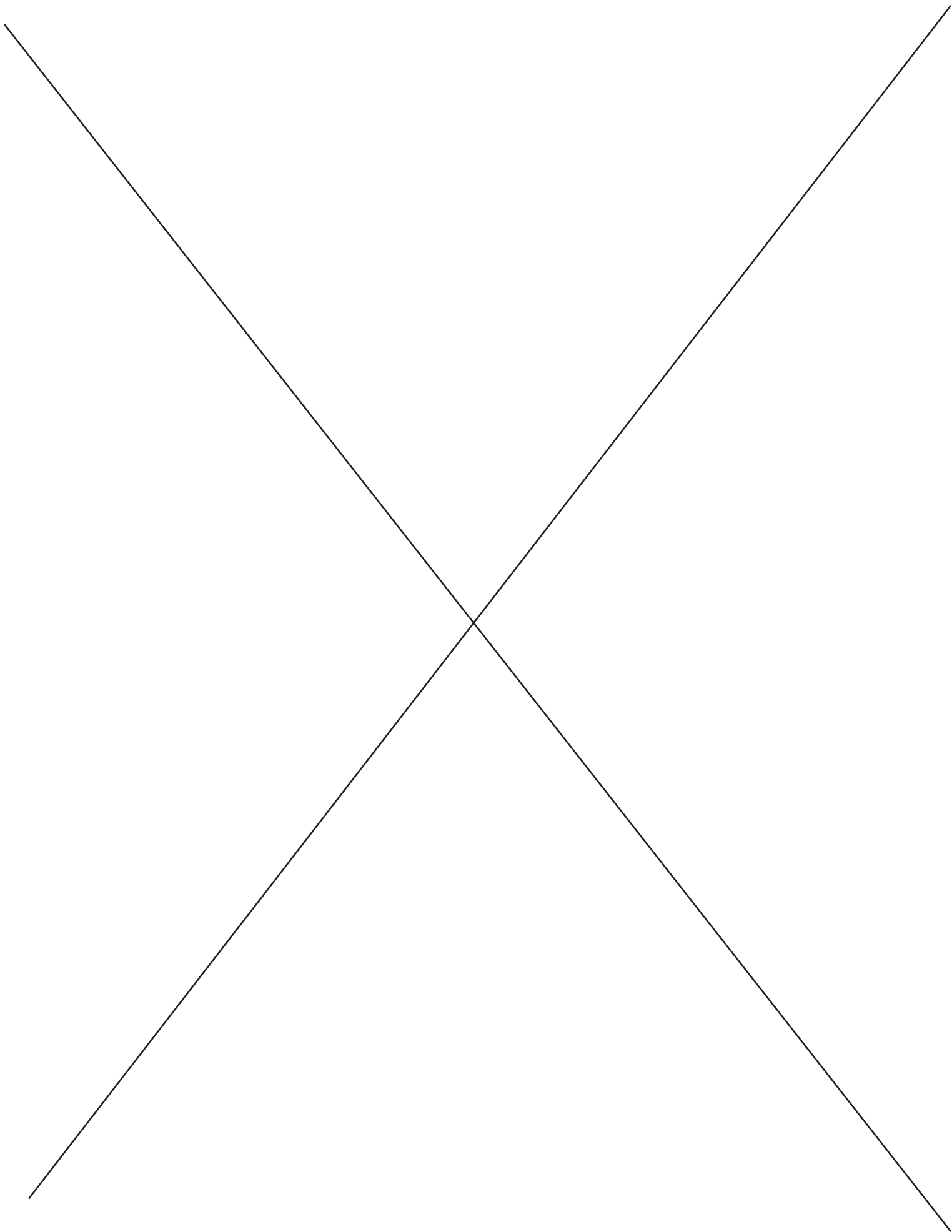
Once again, we'll have four different registration and voting areas on the campus of Coastal Carolina University for this year's Annual Meeting, May 10. The business meeting and the entertainment will take place at The HTC Center, which is highlighted in green on the diagram. Registration and voting will be available in The HTC Center and three more areas (Lots GG, BBB and KK) are also designated for registration and voting. The three additional areas are highlighted in yellow, red and blue, respectively. Please join us!

**X** -- REGISTRATION AREAS

**■** -- BUS STOPS

HORRY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy<sup>SM</sup> Cooperative





## Honoring the 2016 Rural Lady of the Year

State Rep. Kevin Hardee (left), state Sen. Greg Hembree and state Rep. Mike Ryhal (right) present a framed legislative resolution to Helen Stephens, the 2016 Rural Lady of the Year.



WALTER ALFREDA

## She's 38th recipient of Knauff Leadership Award

**HELEN STEPHENS** became the 2016 Rural Lady of the Year at a luncheon March 4 at Horry Electric Co-op. Stephens, the 38th recipient of the honor, formally known as the Miss Leo G. Knauff Leadership Award, was praised for working on her family's farm for 20-25 years—often as the “COO,” presenter Bruce Johnson quipped. She also makes Horry County a better place, he noted, by cooking for Street Reach, a homeless shelter in Myrtle Beach.

Guest speaker Daja Dial (right), Miss South Carolina 2015, who competed for her crown for five years, stuck it out in order to win a scholarship from the Miss America organization. The Clemson senior, who sang “I Believe,” the inspirational song made famous by Fantasia Barrino, said she challenges young people, “Dream big, because ‘the impossible’ just hasn’t been done yet.”

After her speech, Daja Dial posed for photos with luncheon guests including two of Helen Stephens’ granddaughters, Kaylee Mikres and Anna Bratcher (right).





## How one of our 75 Acts of Kindness made a difference

**"CANCER FEARS ME,"** says a sticker on the window of Bailee Lewis' ride.

Bailee, who will be 13 in May, obviously doesn't drive, but the Lewis family car has been burning up the road to Charleston for more than a year. That's how long her mother, April Lewis, has been taking Bailee to the Children's Hospital at the Medical University at Charleston for chemotherapy and other cancer treatments.

Now, with Bailee's cancer in remission—and four new, high-tread tires on the car, courtesy of Horry Electric Cooperative—it's cancer that's on the run, for sure.

The \$500 grant to pay for the tires was part of 75 Acts of Kindness, the co-op's way of celebrating its history and a tradition of giving to the community during its 75th Anniversary celebration this year. HEC is doing 75 Acts of Kindness with a value of up to \$500 per act.

"It was perfect timing," April says. "We go to Charleston an awful lot. We really needed those tires!"

It's been a long journey, in more ways than one, for Bailee's family. Her mother remembers how it all began, back in November 2014: "One night, Bailee said her stomach hurt so bad, I took her to the hospital," April says. "They did an MRI. The doctor came in and said, 'There's a huge mass in her stomach. You need to go to MUSC tonight.'" The diagnosis was Burkitt's lymphoma.

Initially, Bailee had to go to MUSC twice a week. "Now, it's once a month," April notes.

The new tires are a godsend, April says. "They're so much better. I feel so much safer driving down there now," she notes.

April was surprised—"I was actually shocked," she says—when she got word of the co-op's grant: "I didn't expect it.

A grant from HEC means the Lewis family has safe, new tires for their car—used to take Bailee Lewis (left) to Charleston for cancer treatments. Hanging out with Bailee at the old tire swing are her mother, April Lewis, and sister, Carissa.



WALTER ALFREDA

It was wonderful."

Horry Electric's Chris Teems presented her with the check at Aynor Tire Mart, where owner Maxie Carmichael had the tires installed for no charge.

April says she and her husband, Doug, are grateful. She adds, "Our church, Hickory Grove Baptist, has helped us out a lot, too."

April also established a Go Fund Me page to help cover Bailee's treatment costs. (Search under Bailee

Lewis or access [GoFundMe.com/hrwoz4](https://www.gofundme.com/hrwoz4).) "It seems like since she's been in remission, help has slowed down, but we're grateful for everything everyone has done," April says.

The support, including HEC's Act of Kindness, obviously means a lot to Bailee. "It feels good," she says shyly. But just look at the photo above. That bright smile speaks volumes. ☺

Visit [HorryElectric.com](https://www.horryelectric.com) for details about 75 Acts of Kindness and to download an application.





## Spreading Kindness via Facebook

WE'RE DOCUMENTING OUR 75 Acts of Kindness in a photo album on Horry Electric's Facebook page. Here are the first nine Acts we've spotlighted:

1. **BUCK CREEK FOOD PANTRY**—Each month, Doris Johnson, director of the Buck Creek Food Pantry, and her team coordinate services for as many as 300 families in need. The \$500 grant will help the pantry provide meals in the community each Tuesday between 3 and 4 p.m.
2. **CONWAY MIDDLE SCHOOL SIXTH GRADE**—How fitting that Conway Middle School's 6th grade class, which has their own ongoing Acts of Kindness program, became the second of Horry Electric's 75 Acts of Kindness. The school's effort encourages students to send a positive message to another student, teacher or school administrator as a show of appreciation and encouragement. The HEC grant of \$150 will help fund a reward system to further encourage students to be proactive with their Acts of Kindness.
3. **IN AS MUCH FOOD PANTRY**—a service of Langston Baptist Church, provides counseling services, clothing and food to needy individuals and families in the Conway community. The \$500 from HEC's 75 Acts of Kindness program will help fund their food program, which adds up to about \$400 a week. Clothing is usually donated. Janice Drum of In As Much Food Pantry accepted the grant.



4. **ALPHA DELTA KAPPA**—received \$500 to support an annual scholarship. An international honorary organization, Alpha Delta Kappa for women educators, awards a scholarship to a deserving local high school senior who plans to go to college and obtain a degree in education. Eugene Harriott, vice president of the Board of Trustees of Horry Electric, presented the \$500 check to Tara Valcourt, president of the local chapter of Alpha Delta Kappa at the Socastee office. With them are Courtni Day (left), district office supervisor, and Bert Mazyck, member service representative III.
5. **CROSSWAY CHURCH FOOD BANK**—Fundraisers and donations—now including HEC's 75 Acts of Kindness grant of \$500—helps Crossway Church Food Bank feed approximately 75 families a month. Crossway assists individuals and families in the Loris, Conway, Green Sea communities.
6. **WALK A MILE IN MY SHOES**—Roberta Bryan, a representative of Walk A Mile In My Shoes, accepted our sixth grant, for \$500. Walk A Mile In My Shoes has been working for the past four years to provide assistance to persons with disabilities in building ramps that are constructed at their homes.
7. **AYNOR MIDDLE SCHOOL**—Clara Curry requested an Act of Kindness for Aynor Middle School students. The funds will be used for Perfect Attendance Students and for those who participate in the school's annual Black History program. Our \$150 grant will help with the effort.
8. **SALEM UMC FRUIT BAGS**—Carolyn Lewis, a member of Salem Methodist Church in Conway, received a check for \$500 to help with the purchase of fruit for Christmas bags the church distributed at their annual special-needs luncheon in December. Lewis started the ministry 25 years ago. They serve around 350 adults and children over a two-day period.
9. **HOMELESS OUTREACH**—Michelle Smith, representing Christ United Methodist Church, received a \$500 check to go toward the church's Homeless Outreach Program. Penelope Hinson, manager of public relations, marketing and energy management for the cooperative, was on hand for the presentation. The funds will be used specifically for purchasing personal hygiene products and other much-needed items for individuals and families in need.

## Co-op returning \$3 million in capital credits to members

**THIS MONTH**, Horry Electric Cooperative will return approximately \$3 million to members who had co-op accounts in 1993, 1994 and/or 2015.

The payments reflect a unique feature of cooperative businesses—capital credits. When finances allow, co-ops like Horry Electric use capital credits to return to members any funds left over after the co-op has paid its expenses for a given year. This spring, members who had co-op accounts in 1993, 1994 and/or 2015 will receive payments based on how much electricity they bought during those years.

Jodi Jordan, office manager for Horry Electric, says the co-op refunds capital credits below \$10 to an active member's account in order to reduce the expense of processing and issuing checks. "Individuals who were

members in 1993, 1994 and/or 2015 who don't get a check, will see a credit on their electric bill," she notes.

Capital credit checks are expected to be delivered to members by the end of April.

"It's an exciting time for us around here," she adds. "Being able to return capital credits is a direct reflection of the financial strength and stability of your cooperative. We can all take pride in this accomplishment."

This year's payments extend a well-established record for Horry Electric. "Last year, the cooperative disbursed \$2,600,000 from the capital credit account," said Jordan. ☺

**The chart below is designed to help members calculate and estimate what their capital credit check might be. Questions about capital credits? Call the co-op at (843) 369-2211.**

### Capital credit disbursement 2016

This year, members will be receiving a portion of the capital credits assignment for 1993, 1994 and 2015. The allowable retirement this year is \$3,063,027.71 less \$700,000 in estate payments. The total amount being distributed is \$2,363,027.71, which includes the \$658,674.89 balance of 1993; the \$1,404,352.82 balance of 1994 and \$300,000 of 2015.

If you were a member in 2015, you will receive 1.7% of your 2015 assignment. If you were a member in 1993 and/or 1994, you will receive the remaining unretired balance of your assignment for that year.

#### Example of 2015 allocation and retirement

You can calculate the approximate amount of your 2015 allocation and disbursement by using this example. Capital credit disbursements are made by the end of April.

If your 2015 electric bills totaled:	\$1,000	\$1,500	\$2,000	\$2,500
The 2015 assignment percent is: (multiply the percentage times your bills)	11%	11%	11%	11%
Your capital credit assignment for 2015 would be:	\$110	\$165	\$220	\$275
The 2015 retirement percentage will be 1.7% of your capital credit assignment.	1.7%	1.7%	1.7%	1.7%
Your general retirement refund for 2015 would be approximately:	\$1.87	\$2.80	\$3.74	\$4.67

## OFFICIAL NOTICE OF PROPOSED BYLAW CHANGE

### Article IX NON-PROFIT OPERATION

**SECTION 9.02. PATRONAGE CAPITAL IN CONNECTION WITH FURNISHING ELECTRIC ENERGY.** Not inconsistently with Chapter 49, Section 33-49-460 of the Rural Electric Cooperative Act in the furnishing of electric energy the Cooperative's operations shall be so conducted that all patrons will through their patronage furnish capital for the Cooperative. In order to induce patronage and to assure that the Cooperative will operate on a non-profit basis, the Cooperative is obligated to account on a patronage basis to all its patrons for all amounts received and receivable from the furnishing of electric energy in excess of operating costs and expenses properly chargeable against the furnishing of electric energy. All such amounts in excess of operating costs and expenses at the moment of receipt by the Cooperative are received with the understanding that they are furnished by the patrons as capital. The Cooperative is obligated to pay by credits to a capital account for each patron all such amounts in excess of operating costs and expenses.

**PROPOSED ADDITION:** The Cooperative is obligated to pay by credits to a capital account for each patron all such amounts in excess of operating costs and expenses, subject to adjustment by reduction for any amounts incurred but not paid by the patron for services provided or credit given to the patron by the Cooperative.

**PURPOSE:** The addition of this language to the existing bylaw related to patronage capital establishes that the capital credit will depend on whether or not the member has paid what they owe to the Cooperative. This applies directly to bankruptcies and gives the Cooperative the 'Right of Recoupment'. It protects the Cooperative and its members against the risk of losing capital in bankruptcy situations where orders are granted that eliminate debts, liens, etc. ☺