

Horry Electric Cooperative, Inc.

www.horryelectric.com

Main Office

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369-2211



(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

Find out what you're missing at the Annual Meeting

DID YOU KNOW every cooperative is required to conduct an annual meeting of the membership? The



purpose is to hold the election for three positions on the board of trustees, share important financial information and participate in any other business matters that may need to be addressed.

Your annual meeting is set for Tuesday, May 9, 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. It's also a great example of the power of community. Very few organizations are uniquely positioned like Horry Electric to bring together people from all the different communities in Horry County.

Please come

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 2006 Chevrolet Trailblazer 4WD.

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 9 at CCU are eligible to receive the Registration Gift.

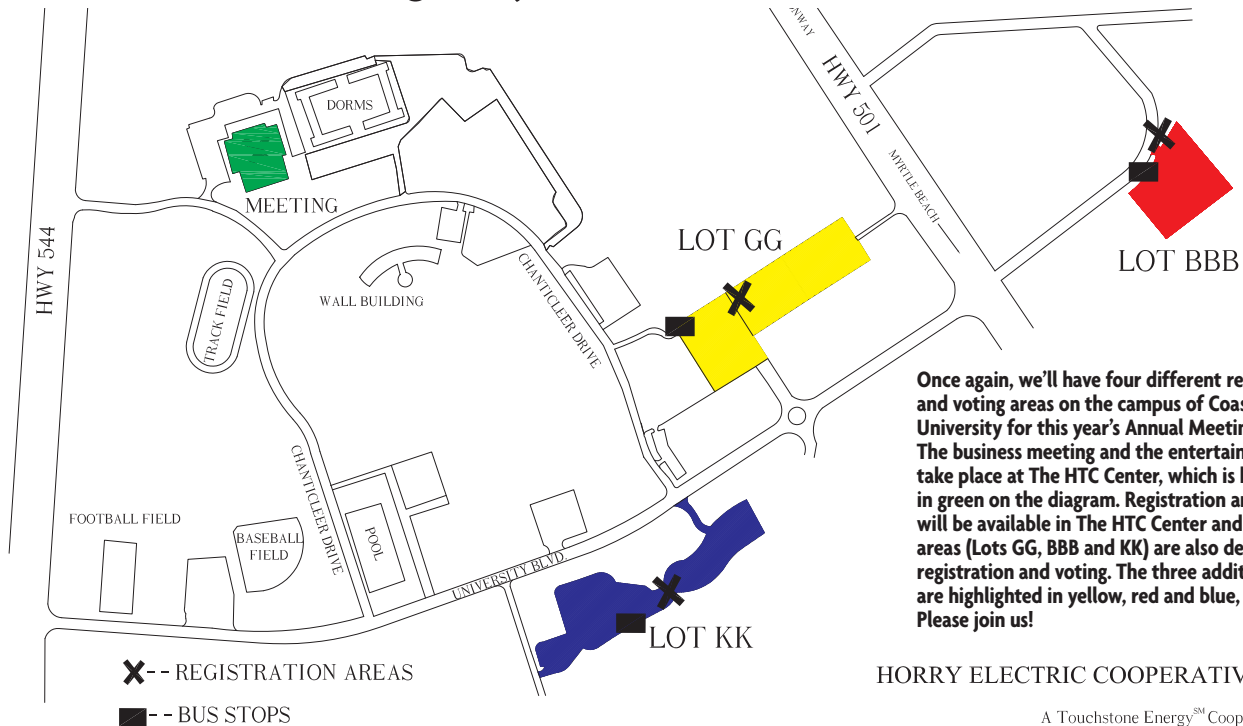
Each registered member will not only qualify to get the Registration Gift, but will also be automatically entered into the prize drawing. Registered members do not have to be present at the time of the drawing in order to win.

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

2017 Annual Meeting, May 9 at Coastal Carolina



GET THE MESSAGE!
Sign up today and help



LET'S SAVE ENERGY—TOGETHER.

Watch our video to learn more and sign up today at EnergySmartSC.org

We'll send you a message when we expect especially heavy electricity use on cold winter mornings or hot summer afternoons. You can save energy—and help us all save money—if we reduce peak power use.

You choose the type of message you want to receive:



'Faith, family and farming'

Janell Lewis becomes 39th Rural Lady of the Year

AS HEC CEO Pat Howle put it at a March 3 luncheon, the Rural Lady of the Year is about "the real hero behind agriculture—and that's the lady who makes everything happen."

This year, our hero is Janell Lewis, the 39th Rural Lady of the Year. Formally known as the Miss Leo G. Knauff Leadership Award, in honor of the co-op's late and long-

time home economist, the annual Rural Lady honor goes to a woman with deep roots—like Horry Electric—in the county's farming communities. Mrs. Lewis and her husband of 58 years, Floyd Lewis, have been members of Horry Electric for 57 years.

Bruce Johnson, a member of the Rural Lady Selection Committee, presented the award. He noted that Mrs. Lewis has been involved in every aspect of her family's 250-acre farming operation, including "pulling tobacco plants, suckering and cropping tobacco, weeding, transporting workers,

managing the farm records, and being the head cook—therefore, she is the most important person on the farm," Johnson said. "Her energies are devoted to her faith, family and farming."

The Lewises have a daughter and a son, four grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren. As Mrs. Lewis proudly told the crowd, "I'm so thankful for my family and my husband—he's a farmer!"

Along with U.S. Rep. Tom Rice, state Reps. Greg Hembree and Jeff Johnson were on hand for the event. Hembree and state Rep. Kevin Hardee have introduced a joint resolution in the Legislature to honor Mrs. Lewis.

The speaker and entertainer at the luncheon, Miss South Carolina 2016 Rachel Wyatt, talked about her platform, assisting adults with special needs. Wyatt, a Clemson University student, says her lifelong love of dancing led her to the Clemson Life program, which helps adults with special needs live fuller lives. Wyatt performed a dance she also did at the Miss America pageant, an energetic interpretation of "Something in the Water" by Carrie Underwood. ☺



Janell Lewis with Miss SC 2016, Rachel Wyatt, after the Rural Lady luncheon.

WATER ALLREAD

H₂O Load Management Program

Receive a one-time \$50 electric bill credit for helping us take a load off!

Help control the future cost of power by reducing the demand for electricity in your home during peak hours. Members will receive a one-time \$50 electric bill credit from Horry Electric for each load management switch installed on qualifying water heaters* in your home.

Visit our website for complete details, www.horryelectric.com or call 843-369-2211.

* Water heaters must be a minimum 50 gallon capacity; electric; 5 years old (or less) and meet the ASHRAE Standard 90 or NAES.

Switches must be installed by an Horry Electric approved contractor.





It's like a shower of money!

Receive up to a **\$250** rebate when you install a new electric water heater*.



It's easy!

Members of Horry Electric Cooperative who replace or install a new **50-gallon (minimum) electric water heater will receive a \$125 rebate.**

Replace or install a new **80-gallon (minimum) electric water heater will receive a \$250 rebate.**

For details, visit www.horryelectric.com or call **843-369-2211**

*Water heater must meet minimum efficiency standards.



After-hours and weekends, we're still 'on call'

TROUBLE doesn't keep regular hours. It's always out there, working overtime.

Fortunately for Horry Electric members, the co-op is always on duty, too. Even after-hours, on weekends and holidays, the

cooperative's on-call lineworkers are on standby. And the folks in HEC's System Control department always have their backs, back at the co-op's Cultra Road headquarters.

System Control is staffed 24/7/365. Employees like Bernard Beatty constantly monitor Horry's outage management system as well as radios, phones and other co-op communications. Multi-taskers extraordinaire, HEC's six system controllers also have access to detailed digital system maps that help them



Co-op linemen replace a large pad-mount transformer on Saturday morning in Socastee back in 2015. On-call crew members had to disconnect and reconnect a gaggle of wires inside the transformer, which was hit in the early-morning hours by truck (inset). The driver abandoned the wrecked vehicle at the scene—ironically, a body shop. HEC's Billy Causey (below) arrived with a step-van full of gear to help replace and reconnect the apparatus.

and the on-call crews pinpoint just where trouble is lurking on Horry Electric's 5,100-plus miles of lines. And thanks to technology known as GIS, short for geographic information system, those maps include most of the electric distribution equipment along the way.

System Control is the nerve center of HEC's distribution system. As Beatty says, "This is where it all comes in, right here."

Lucky 13

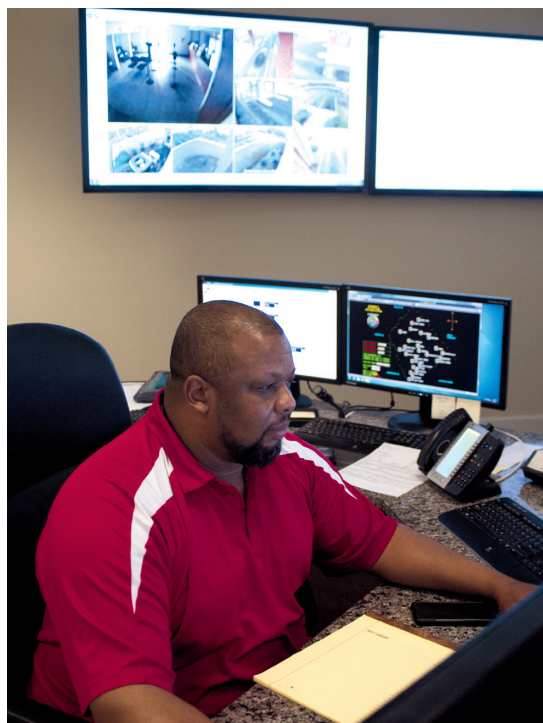
If trouble has a partner, it's bad luck. *South Carolina Living* visited System Control after hours on a Friday, the 13th, back in January. Trouble and bad luck seemed to be working in tandem again. Beatty was handling an outage that affected 13—yes, 13—HEC members.

Bad luck can be as simple as a squirrel making a fatal misstep on top of a transformer, causing a protective fuse to blow—and temporary outages. "We get a lot of squirrels," Beatty notes. "And people hitting guy wires, or backing into underground transformers."

Fortunately for those 13 members, trouble and bad luck were outmatched

by another dynamic duo—technology and teamwork.

Using his GIS-enabled system map, Beatty helped on-call Serviceman Kevin Gore identify the line and pole where the problem was located: In overhead lineworker jargon, it was on



In the System Control office, HEC's Bernard Beatty monitors the distribution system on Friday, Jan. 13.





PHOTOS BY WALTER ALLREAD EXCEPT WHERE NOTED



"Triple N as in Nancy, pole 12—a dead-end pole."

Beatty points to a system map on his computer screen: "This is where the outage is, right there. This is where the fuse is."

And since Horry Electric service and line trucks have GPS, Beatty can watch Gore heading to the location. In short order, he has restored service for the lucky 13 members.

"I love the technology," Beatty says.

Tracking down trouble

Blown fuses, broken poles and bad luck aside, System Control sometimes tracks down trouble, only to find it is not actually on the co-op's system. "Outages" caused by tripped breakers in member homes are not uncommon.

That's why when their lights go out, members are asked to check their breaker panel first, and to see if neighbors' lights are on, before reporting an outage. Beatty notes that System Control operators can "ping" the meter—that is, send a signal to it—to determine if co-op power is on or not. "Most of the time, we can tell them, 'Ma'am or sir, you've got a tripped breaker.'"

Technology saves on a lot of manpower and fuel, he agrees. "It used to be that we'd just send a man out

to check it," he says. Such efficiencies reduce HEC's operating expenses—a benefit for all members.

Where you come in

Members can help by making sure that the co-op has their most current phone number for PowerTouch, HEC's outage-reporting system. The number you provide should be for the phone at the location for which you might report an outage or other service problem.



Then, when you call PowerTouch at (843) 369-2212, through your telephone number, you'll be linked to Horry Electric's outage-reporting system—and, by extension, System Control operators like Beatty, along with the on-call linemen and servicemen in the field.

Then, whether it's trouble, bad luck or some combination of the two, rest assured they'll do their best to get your lights back on ASAP. ☺



LYNDA GORDON



Taking a Saturday outage in stride, Horry Electric member Walter Gordon of Longs fries hush puppies on a gas grill while his brother David and sister-in-law Lynda Gordon wait. They were visiting Walter back in June 2015, when suddenly Lynda heard a crash outside on Hwy. 905. A car had left the highway and clipped the co-op pole near Walter's driveway. "We're thankful the pole was there," David said. It probably prevented the car from hitting their son's car in the driveway. An HEC on-call crew (below) was soon on the scene to replace the pole and restore service. It was all in a Saturday's work for (from left) Serviceman Perry Singleton and Linemen Landon King and Justin Lewis.



Co-op returning \$3.3 million in capital credits to members

THIS MONTH, Horry Electric Cooperative will return approximately \$3.3 million to members who had co-op accounts in 1995, 1996 and/or 2016.

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 1995, 1996 and/or 2016 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 1995, 1996 and/or 2016 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 \$3,000,000 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 2017

This year, members will be receiving a portion of the capital credits assignment for 1995, 1996 and 2016. The allowable retirement this year is \$3,763,892 less \$400,000 in estate payments. The total amount being distributed is \$3,363,892, which includes the \$1,535,097 balance of 1995; the \$1,528,795 balance of 1996 and \$300,000 of 2016.

If you were a member in 2016, you will receive 1.5% of your 2016 assignment. If you were a member in 1995 and/or 1996, you will receive the remaining unretired balance of your assignment for that year.

Example of 2016 allocation and retirement

You can calculate the approximate amount of your 2016 allocation and disbursement by using this example. Capital credit disbursements are made by the end of April.

If your 2016 electric bills totaled:	\$1,000	\$1,500	\$2,000	\$2,500
The 2016 assignment percent is: (multiply the percentage times your bills)	12%	12%	12%	12%
Your capital credit assignment for 2016 would be:	\$120	\$180	\$240	\$300
The 2016 retirement percentage will be 1.5% of your capital credit assignment.	1.5%	1.5%	1.5%	1.5%
Your general retirement refund for 2016 would be approximately:	\$1.80	\$2.70	\$3.60	\$4.50

It pays to be a member!

Not many businesses pay you for buying something you wouldn't want to live without—but electric cooperatives do.

Unlike other types of companies, cooperatives do not have shareholders, who expect to make money from the company's profits. Co-ops are not-for-profit businesses that exist solely to provide their members with a particular service, such as electricity. In a cooperative like Horry Electric, members are stakeholders.

"In a co-op, the net margins don't belong to the company; they belong to the consumers who paid their monthly electric bills," explains Jodi Jordan, office manager for Horry Electric.

When the co-op takes in more money than is needed to run the business, the owners are entitled to a portion of those margins. It's an example of the Cooperative Principle of Member Economic Participation.

Each year, money is allocated to each member's account, according to the amount of electricity the member bought, notes Ashley Anderson, secretary and treasurer of Horry Electric's Board of Trustees. "The more electricity purchased, the higher their share of equity. 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," Anderson says.

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

Jordan adds, "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."