

Horry Electric Cooperative, Inc.

www.horryelectric.com

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



**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

Don't miss the 2018 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 8, 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 2005 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 \$20. Remember that only members who register, in person, to participate in the meeting between the hours of noon and 7 p.m. on May 8 at CCU are eligible to receive the Registration Gift.

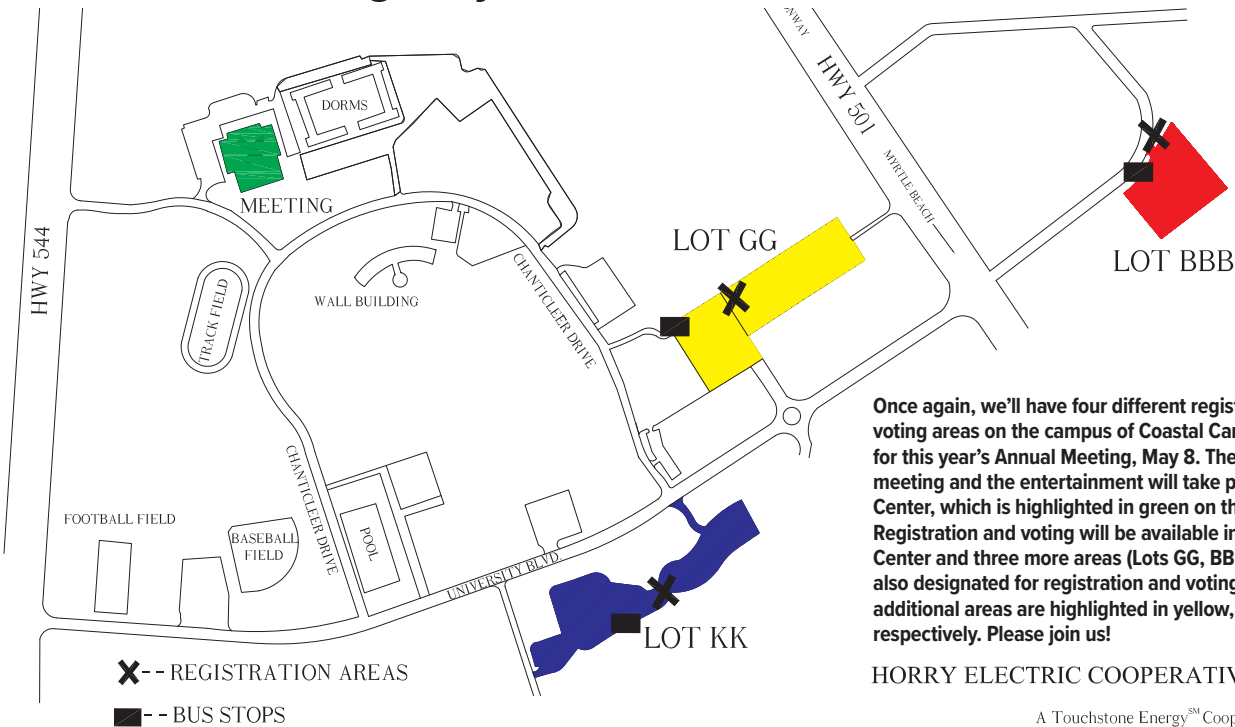
Each registered member will not only qualify to get the Registration Gift, but will also be automatically entered into the prize drawing. Registered members do not have to be present at the time of the drawing in order to win.

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

2018 Annual Meeting, May 8 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 8. 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!

HORRY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, Inc.
 A Touchstone EnergySM Cooperative

GET THE MESSAGE!

Sign up today and help

BEAT

THE

PEAK

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:



LET'S SAVE ENERGY—TOGETHER.

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

40th Rural Lady honored

Pansy Rabon receives Knauff Leadership Award

FOR THE 40TH YEAR, Horry Electric Cooperative recently named its Rural Lady of the Year, honoring Pansy Rabon as the 2018 recipient of the Miss Leo G. Knauff Leadership Award.

The award, named for an early home economist at HEC, annually goes to a woman with deep roots—like the co-op itself—in the county's farming community. "The Rural Lady celebrates the life and devotion of what farm life is all about and really brings the grace and the dedication and the love to farm life," HEC CEO Pat Howle said at the March 2 luncheon.

Bruce Johnson, a Rural Lady Selection Committee member, noted that Mrs. Rabon assists her husband, Stevie, in many aspects of their farming operation, including bookwork. "That is

probably one of the biggest chores there can be on a farm," Johnson noted. The Rabons and their sons, Cody and Bradley, attend Berea Baptist Church in Aynor.

State Rep. Jeff Johnson and Sen. Greg Hembree presented Mrs. Rabon with a copy of a joint resolution in the Legislature to honor her. "The backbone of our economy is the family farm," Hembree noted.



Pansy Rabon with Miss SC 2017, Suzi Roberts, after the Rural Lady luncheon.

"The backbone of that farm, a lot of times, is the Rural Lady of the Year."

Miss South Carolina 2017, Suzi Roberts, entertained. In September, Roberts had placed in the Top 10 in the Miss America pageant, receiving several service awards. She was recognized as the largest-ever fundraiser for Children's Miracle Network hospitals, an honor Roberts credited to South Carolinians who supported her.

The Georgetown County native trained with the Royal Winnipeg and Houston ballets and performed with the Carolina Girls dance team at the University of South Carolina and the Atlanta Falcons cheerleaders. She treated the crowd to an athletic ballet demonstration to "I'll Stand by You" by Carrie Underwood.

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.



H₂O[®] Select

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.

How to be energy efficient in humid climates

WHY DOES A 95°F day in the Southeast feel hotter than the same temperature in the Southwest? Why do dry heat and humid heat feel so different, and how does this affect your strategy for home energy efficiency? While there are many common ways to achieve energy efficiency across all warmer climates, there are some important differences that vary by geography.

Heat and humidity vs dry heat:

Generally speaking, when there is more moisture in the air, the temperature feels hotter than it actually is because moist air is closer to saturation than dry air. On a humid day, when the air is saturated with water, evaporation is much slower. Simply put, high humidity will make the air feel hotter while low humidity will make the temperature feel cooler.

Heat reduction is priority one: In warm climates, the majority of energy used to make the home feel comfortable is spent on home air conditioning and cooling. The first priority is heat reduction. However, in humid areas, moisture reduction is nearly as important as lowering the indoor air temperature. If a home has too much moisture, indoor air quality can be compromised and mold and mildew problems can develop.

Energy efficiency for hot and humid climates: The first line of energy defense is to ensure that your home is properly insulated and sealed in order to keep the heat and humidity that surround the house from getting inside. Leaky ducts, windows and doors can cause energy loss, making the HVAC system work much harder to wring the moisture out of the air and exacerbate potential indoor air quality issues. Homes that are “sealed tight” are easier to keep cool and dry.

Next, make sure your HVAC system is the right size. The U.S. Department of Energy estimates that most current residential systems are oversized. If your

unit is too big, you will pay higher energy bills, and you won't get the efficiency level or comfort you want and expect. It is also likely that the unit is “short cycling,” constantly turning off and on, never achieving optimum efficiency. When the unit runs in short bursts, it will not operate long enough to eliminate all the humidity in your home. Damp, cool indoor air creates a muggy atmosphere that can lead to the growth of mold and mildew. This can be a particular concern for those who suffer from allergies, as many allergens thrive in damp conditions.

If you are considering a new HVAC system, consult one of Horry Electric's approved contractors to help you choose equipment that is the correct size and meets or exceeds the SEER (seasonal energy efficiency ratio) for the capacity requirement, such as Energy Star-rated systems.

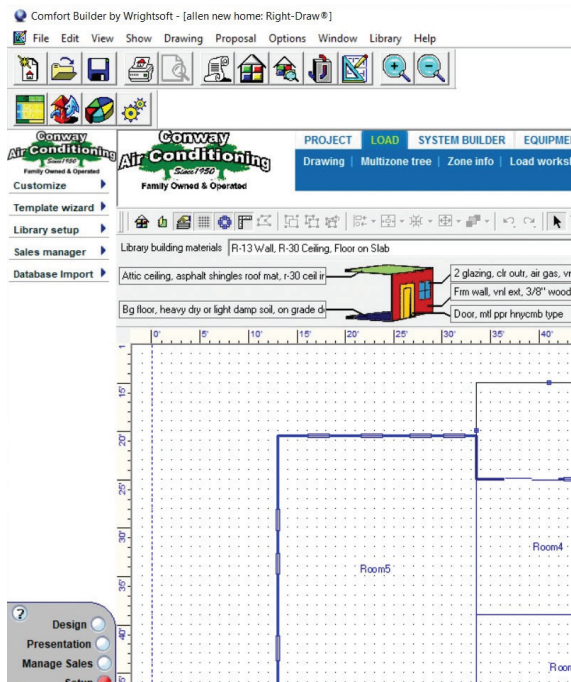
DIY humidity reduction: There are some basic steps you can take to lower the humidity in your home to help make it feel cooler and more comfortable. Start by reducing the humidity you are already producing. The kitchen and bathrooms are the biggest contributors to higher humidity levels. Check to ensure that your range hood is ducted to the outside, as recirculating range hoods are not effective in controlling moisture (or odors). When cooking, and especially when boiling water, run the vent fan. In the bathroom, run the vent fan when bathing or showering. Keep the fan on up to 30 minutes after you have finished in order to eliminate the residual moisture in the air.

If you can reduce the indoor humidity level, you may be able to maintain a comfortable indoor temperature with a higher thermostat setting and ceiling fans. The air movement from the ceiling fan will create a “wind chill” effect,



Andrew Seeley, a technician for Conway Air Conditioning, one of HEC's approved contractors, checks a control device for damper actuators (inset) used inside an HVAC ductwork. Dampers control airflow in HVAC systems; actuators are the interface between the control system and the mechanical system. HEC-approved contractors are up on the latest technology and can help you make your home more comfortable and energy efficient. By the way: Seeley is an Horry Electric member at his own home.

lowering the temperature and increasing comfort. If you would like more information about how to save energy, contact our Energy Experts at Horry Electric Cooperative.



HORRY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE—APPROVED ELECTRICIANS, HVAC CONTRACTORS, PLUMBERS

As a service to our members, Horry Electric maintains lists of approved electricians, HVAC and plumbing contractors. In addition to required licenses and certifications for each trade, listed with each category here, HEC has on file proof of Worker's Compensation Insurance and Certificate of Insurance for each approved contractor.

APPROVED HVAC CONTRACTORS

Contractors here have S.C. Mechanical Licenses and NATE (North American Technician Excellence) certifications in HVAC installations and service, plus documents listed above.

Conway AC & Metal Company

300 Smith St.
Conway, SC 29526
Phone: (843) 248-4111
Website: conwayac.com

East Coast Air

Owner: Michael Scirocco
475 E Sandy Lane
Surfside Beach, SC 29575
Phone: (843) 997-5579
Fax: (843) 997-5579 (shared line)
Email: eastcoastairllc@aol.com
Website: eastcoastairllc.com

Jake's Heating and Cooling

Owner: Tony King
4201 Sea Mountain Hwy.
Little River, SC 29566

Phone: (843) 249-6789
Email: tony.king@oceandriveair.com
Website: jakesac.com

J & J Air, LLC

2310 Hwy. 9
East Longs, SC 29568
Phone: (843) 281-9595
Fax: (843) 281-9596
Email: info@jandjair.net
Website: jandjair.net

King Mechanical Heating and Cooling

Owner: Danny King
259 Willie James Road
Conway, SC 29526
Phone: (843) 446-7843
Email: ucla@sccoast.net

North Strand Mechanical

220 Industrial Way
Myrtle Beach, S.C. 29579
Phone: (843) 272-4915
Website: nsmhvac.com

One Hour Heating & Air Conditioning

677 Robert Grissom Parkway
Myrtle Beach, SC 29577
Phone: (843) 448-6867
Website: onehourheatandair.com

Tech Services

Owner: Tracy Davis
6729 High Point Church Road
Conway, SC 29526
Phone: (843) 488-2121
After Hours: (843) 450-8686
Email: techserviceinc@yahoo.com
Website: techserviceofmyrtlebeach.com

Craig Causey Plumbing

Owner: Craig Causey
105 Kingston Oaks Drive
Conway, SC 29526
Phone: (843) 458-4715
Email: causey6017@hotmail.com

Grainger Electric Heat & Cool

Owner: Paul Grainger
209 Amber Lane
Conway, SC 29526
Phone: (843) 241-0546
Email: Graingerelectric@aol.com

Rooter Express-LeGrandes Plumbing

Owner: LeGrande Todd
209 Labonte St.
Conway, SC 29526
Phone: (843) 349-1776
Website: rooterexpressmb.net

APPROVED ELECTRICIANS

All electrical contractors on this list have a S.C. Business License and copies of documents listed above on file at HEC.

Grainger Electric Heat & Cool

Owner: Paul Grainger
209 Amber Lane
Conway, SC 29526
Phone: (843) 241-0546
Email: GraingerElectric@aol.com

Robert Richardson Electrical

Owner: Robert Richardson
6295 Lundy Shortcut Road
Conway, SC 29527
Phone: (843) 450-5880

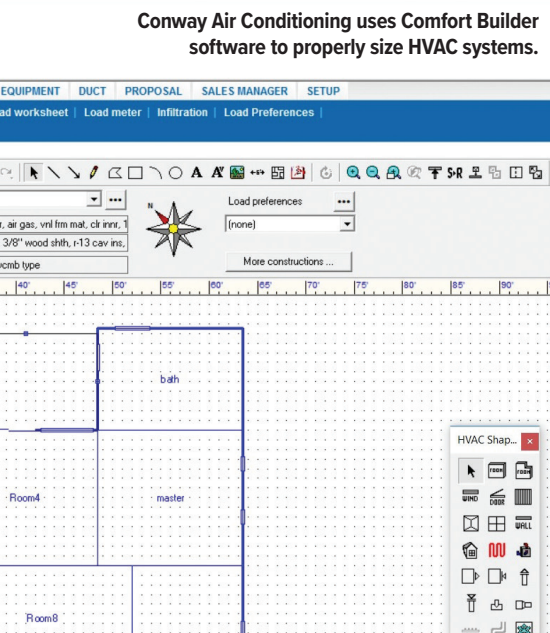
Summit Electric Co., Inc.

Owner: Brian Campbell
& Ken Gause
2248 Emery Road
Loris, SC 29569
Phone: (843) 756-0423

APPROVED PLUMBING CONTRACTORS

All contractors on this list have a S.C. Business License, plus the documents listed above, on file with HEC.

Ryan Brown, owner of Conway Air Conditioning, uses an infrared camera to check the density of foam insulation in an attic. He's pointing to a hot spot where the insulation is not as thick.



Co-op returning \$3.2 million in capital credits to members

THIS MONTH, Horry Electric Cooperative will return approximately \$3.2 million to members who had co-op accounts in 1997, 1998 and/or 2017.

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 1997, 1998 and/or 2017 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 \$100 to an active member's account in order to reduce the expense of processing and issuing checks. "Individuals who were members in 1997, 1998 and/or 2017 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 record patronage retirement trend for Horry Electric. "Last year, the cooperative disbursed \$3,300,000 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 2018

This year, members will be receiving a portion of the capital credits assignment for 1997, 1998 and 2017. The allowable retirement this year is \$3,778,431.81 less \$500,000 in estate payments. The total amount being distributed is \$3,278,431.81, which includes the \$1,416,543.66 balance of 1997; the \$1,561,888.15 balance of 1998 and \$300,000 of 2017.

If you were a member in 2017, you will receive 1.9% of your 2017 assignment. If you were a member in 1997 and/or 1998, you will receive the remaining unretired balance of your assignment for that year.

Example of 2017 allocation and retirement

You can calculate the approximate amount of your 2017 allocation and disbursement by using this example. Capital credit disbursements are made by the end of April.

If your 2017 electric bills totaled:	\$1,000	\$1,500	\$2,000	\$2,500
The 2017 assignment percent is: (multiply the percentage times your bills)	10%	10%	10%	10%
Your capital credit assignment for 2017 would be:	\$100	\$150	\$200	\$250
The 2017 retirement percentage will be 1.9% of your capital credit assignment.	1.9%	1.9%	1.9%	1.9%
Your general retirement refund for 2017 would be approximately:	\$1.90	\$2.85	\$3.80	\$4.75

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."