

## Horry Electric Cooperative, Inc.

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

### MAIN OFFICE

P.O. Box 119  
Conway, SC 29528-0119  
(843) 369-2211



**TO REPORT  
POWER OUTAGES ONLY**  
(843) 369-2212

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### CO-OP NEWS EDITOR

Jennifer A. Harmon  
[jennifer.harmon@horryelectric.com](mailto:jennifer.harmon@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

# Annual Meeting countdown

Important information you need to know



**THIS EDITION** of *South Carolina Living* is the **Official Notice of Annual Meeting**. It includes a special outer wrap with details on the 2021 Annual Member Meeting.

You will receive your Official Notice/Registration Card in the mail soon. Please put it in

a safe place and bring it with you to our early Drive-Thru Registration and Voting.

Only members who register in person, between the hours of 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. on Monday, May 10, or between 7 a.m. and 11 a.m. on Tuesday, May 11, are eligible to receive the Registration Gift, which is a \$20 electric bill credit.

Early Drive-Thru Registration and Voting will be held at our Conway office, located at 2774 Cultra Road. This location is in the center of the county and we feel it will be the most convenient for the majority of our members.

The business meeting will be held virtually on Tuesday, May 11 at 7 p.m. You can watch the meeting online at [horryelectric.com](http://horryelectric.com).

## Process and logistics

With COVID-19 guidelines still in place, members will remain in their cars for registration and voting. In addition to social distancing, Horry Electric employees will wear face masks or shields and gloves.

Members will enter our employee parking lot and traffic attendants will direct vehicles into a registration lane. Each lane leads to a registration table under our truck shed. Our staff will be ready to safely assist you during the registration and voting process.

Once registration is complete, members will exit our parking lot toward Highway 501.

If you are experiencing any symptoms of COVID-19, please DO NOT attend the Drive-Thru Registration and Voting.

Please note, our Socastee office will be closed May 10-11. Our Conway office will also be closed May 10, but will re-open at 1 p.m. on May 11. During our Annual Meeting Registration and Voting event, the Conway office drive-thru lanes will be closed. Members will not have access to the night deposit box beginning Monday, May 10, from 5 a.m. through 1 p.m. Tuesday, May 11.

## Registration requirements

We have important information to share about registration requirements. Members registering on May 10 will need to vote so their registration counts toward quorum.

Horry Electric's bylaws require a quorum equal to 5% of the membership in order to conduct an official business meeting. With a preliminary estimate of 70,971 members, we'll need to have a minimum of 3,505 members register. If we fail to meet quorum, we won't be able to do business.

## Please plan to attend

The Annual Member Meeting is an opportunity to report our status, share our progress and announce any plans we might have. For members, it's your opportunity to participate in your cooperative.

With the business meeting being held virtually, if you have any questions for the Board or myself, please submit those questions in writing to my attention prior to May 1, 2021. This will allow us to address your questions during the virtual business meeting on May 11.

We hope to see you at Drive-Thru Registration and Voting!

*Daniel B. Shelley, III*

**DANIEL B. SHELLEY, III**  
Executive Vice President and CEO

## Official notice of Annual Meeting

HEC Conway Office, 2774 Cultra Road

**THE ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING** of the members of Horry Electric Cooperative, Inc., will be held virtually on Tuesday, May 11 at 7 p.m. We will hold two days of Drive-Thru Registration on May 10-11 at our Conway office, located at 2774 Cultra Road. Action will be taken on the following matters:

- ▶ The report of officers, trustees and committees;
- ▶ The election of trustees;
- ▶ All other business which may come before the meeting of members, including any necessary bylaw changes.

Drive-Thru Registration begins at 7 a.m., and each cooperative member is urged to attend. We also urge members to tune in to the virtual meeting.

Each member who registers will receive a \$20 credit on his or her electric bill. **Only members who register, in person, on May 10 between the hours of 7 a.m. and 7 p.m., or Tuesday, May 11 between the hours of 7 a.m. and 11 a.m. are eligible to receive the registration gift.**

Members who register will be automatically entered in the prize drawings. Prize winners will be announced following the virtual meeting!

|                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| May 10, 7 a.m. – 7 p.m.  | Early Drive-Thru Registration and Voting |
| May 11, 7 a.m. – 11 a.m. | Early Drive-Thru Registration and Voting |
| May 11, 7 p.m.           | Virtual Business Meeting                 |



**ASHLEY ANDERSON**  
Secretary-Treasurer

### HORRY EXTRA

#### 2020 financials, board members and trustee candidates, capital credits

Be sure to see Pages 20A–20E in this month's magazine. You can review the cooperative's 2020 financials, see the board member district map, read bios of our trustee candidates and get information on our 2021 capital credit disbursement.

## Join us!

### Early Drive-Thru Registration and Voting

**Monday, May 10, 7 a.m. – 7 p.m.**

**Tuesday, May 11, 7 a.m. – 11 a.m.**

HEC Conway Office, 2774 Cultra Road

### Virtual Business Meeting

**Tuesday, May 11, 7 p.m.**

Watch the business meeting online on our website at [horryelectric.com](http://horryelectric.com).

### Registration Gift

#### \$20 Electric Bill Credit

Only those who register, in person, at the Horry Electric Cooperative Conway office on May 10 between the hours of 7 a.m. and 7 p.m., or Tuesday, May 11 between the hours of 7 a.m. and 11 a.m. are eligible to receive the annual meeting registration gift. No exceptions.

### Prize Drawings

**\$400**

First prize

**\$300**

Second prize

**\$200**

Third prize

Plus, drawings for more than 50 other door prizes! Prize winners will be notified following the virtual meeting.

### Grand Prize!

**2017 E-Z Go  
TXT electric  
golf cart**





## Horry Electric Cooperative, Inc.

### Statement of nondiscrimination

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

In accordance with federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its agencies, offices and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, or disability. Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g. Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at [http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint\\_filing\\_cust.html](http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html), and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed complaint form or letter to USDA by:

(1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights  
1400 Independence Avenue, S.W.  
Washington, DC 20250-9410

(2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or

(3) email: [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov)

## Board of Trustees



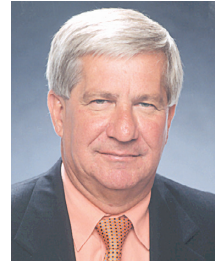
**Kenneth Moss**  
Co-op Attorney



**Elaine D. Gore**  
District No. 1



**Bobby E. Jordan**  
District No. 2



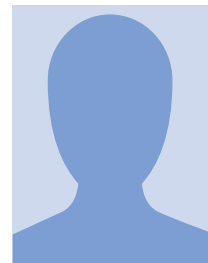
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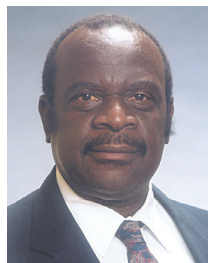
**Ronald H. Floyd**  
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**Vacant**  
District No. 6



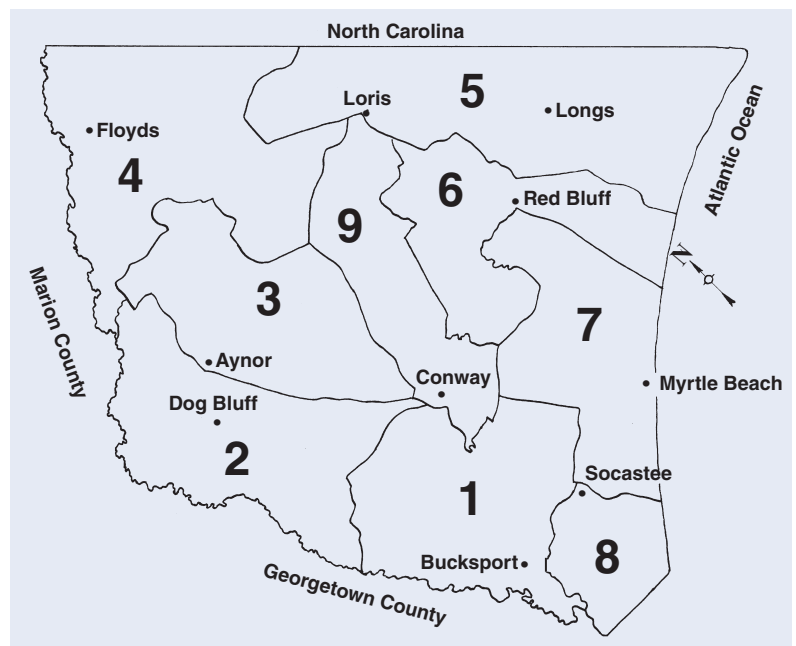
**Ashley Anderson**  
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Secretary and Treasurer



**Eugene Harriott Jr.**  
District No. 8  
Vice President



**Freddy Thompkins**  
District No. 9



# Meet the candidates

**THE MEMBERS** of the Nominating Committee, duly assembled, after giving full consideration to the district location, did nominate the following members of the cooperative as trustee candidates for a three-year term.



## Aaron C. Johnson

*Nominee*

1359 White Oak Lane  
Galivants Ferry, SC 29544

### DISTRICT #2

Aaron C. Johnson and his wife, Teresa, have two

children and one grandchild. The Johnsons are members of Mt. Hermon Baptist Church, where Aaron has served as a deacon, clerk, treasurer, Sunday School Superintendent, and Sunday School teacher over a span of 40 years.

Johnson retired from Aynor High School where he taught mathematics courses and served in various coaching assignments. After retiring from Horry County Schools, Johnson entered federal service in the Joint Operations Center in Columbia. There, he worked jointly with the South Carolina

Emergency Management Division to plan, respond and manage emergency response for all hazard incidents, such as hurricanes, impacting South Carolina.

Johnson attended the National Emergency Management Academy in Emmitsburg, MD, where he served alongside Georgetown County personnel. He participated in an exercise and test to refine and validate Georgetown County's all hazards response team plans. Johnson also graduated from the FEMA Fundamentals of Emergency Management Course. In addition, he is a graduate from the U.S. Army Defense Support to Civil Authorities Course, and the Operational and Strategic Planners Courses.

He served in the Army National Guard and the U.S. Army for 30 years, until his retirement in 2015. He trained in many countries over the years with foreign militaries. He was also deployed to Afghanistan. While serving in Operation

Enduring Freedom, he was awarded the Joint Service Achievement Medal, the Joint Service Commendation Medal and the Bronze Star Medal.

Johnson is a graduate of Aynor High School (1978), Coastal Carolina University (1982-Business Administration), Francis Marion University (1990 – Master in Secondary Mathematics), Grand Canyon University (2006 – Master in Educational Leadership/Administration).

Johnson is a member of the Disabled American Veterans, has served for years as the Aynor Post 81 American Legion Commander, and is a member of Gideon's International. He's also served as a volunteer driver for the Veterans Administration to assist veterans in accessing medical care.

As an avid learner, Johnson's personal interests include continuing his education through apprenticeships and classes, and outdoor fitness activities.



## Franklin C. Blanton

*Incumbent*

6386 Maplewild Road,  
Nichols, SC 29581

### DISTRICT #4

Franklin C. Blanton and his wife, Nancy, have been

residents of the Mt. Olive Community in the Floyds Township for 50 plus years. He serves as a member, trustee and Sunday School teacher of Mt. Olive Baptist Church. He is also a past deacon of his church. He and his wife have four children, eight grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Blanton has successfully completed training through the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association to earn the status of Credentialed Cooperative Director. He has also earned a Board Leadership Certificate and a Director Gold Certificate from NRECA, and served as a voting delegate to The Electric Cooperatives of South Carolina

Board of Directors and to The Cooperative Electric Energy Utility Supply (CEEUS).

An active member of the community, Blanton currently serves as a board member of the Coastal Carolina University Education Foundation and as a member of the Charleston Southern Board of Visitors.

Blanton's previous community involvement includes service in the past as President of Loris Civitan; as Lt. Gov. and Deputy Gov. of Civitan of the State of South Carolina; as President of Loris Merchants Association; as Chairman of Horry County Board of Education; as a Director of Loris Healthcare Commission, and as advisory board member for McLeod Loris – Seacoast Hospitals. He was appointed by Governor David Beasley to serve on the first Ride 1 committee (Ride Improvement & Development Effort) for Highway 22. Blanton also served with Horry County Ride 111 committee to make recommendations for needed funds to upgrade roads in Horry County. He was the organizing Chairman for

the founding of the Horry County State Bank and served as President of the Independent Building Supply Association based in Smithfield, N.C. Blanton has received many honors including: Lifetime Achievement Award 2020 by the Loris Chamber of Commerce; Merchant of the year Loris Chamber; a Friend of Education by Horry County Education Association; and All State Board of South Carolina; and Community Leadership awards from the Woodmen of the World, as well as Horry County Soil and Water Conservation District; and Distinguished Service Award by Civitan State of South Carolina.

A 1962 graduate of Floyds High School, Blanton earned a Bachelor of Science degree in business administration from Campbell University in 1968. He serves as President of Blanton Supplies, Inc. in Loris and is President of Blanton Supplies of Little River, Inc., which deals with retail sales of building materials.



## Jody D. Prince

### Nominee

3090 Graceland Road  
Loris, SC 29569

### DISTRICT #6

Jody D. Prince and his wife of 24 years, Renee, live in the Mt. Vernon Community and are members of Mt. Vernon Baptist Church. They have one daughter, Kassidy.

Jody is the owner of Coastal Carolina

Remediation and is a licensed asbestos abatement contractor in both North and South Carolina.

Prince previously served eight years as District 10 Horry County Councilman. During his tenure, he served in several positions, including: County Council Vice Chairman and Chairman of the Infrastructure and Regulation Committee. He sat on the Public Safety Committee and the Interstate Railroad Committee. Prince also sat on the Board of Directors for the Waccamaw Regional Council

of Governments, which fosters regional programs to support the three-county region it serves.

Prince currently serves as Horry County Planning Commissioner for District 10 and sits on the Board of Trustees for the Mt. Vernon Community Center. He is a Past Master and current member of the Loris Masonic Lodge #205. He is also an Omar Shriner. He's a member of the Loris Blue Pride, which provides support to Loris High School student athletes.



## Devon Blackwell

### Nominee

3040 Cherry Hill Road  
Loris, SC 29569

### DISTRICT #6

Devon Blackwell and his wife of over 30 years, Debbie, live in the Beulah Community. They are members of Langston Baptist Church. They have one son, Hunter Blackwell, who is a 1st Lt. in the U.S. Army and is stationed at Fort Polk, LA.

After working on the family farm, Blackwell worked with Kraft Dairy Group in 1981, before beginning his career at Horry

Telephone Cooperative (HTC). He retired from HTC as Engineering Supervisor in 2016 after 35 years. Blackwell currently serves as the co-owner of Fingertips Nail Salon LLC & Rental in Conway and is the owner of Hunterfield LLC Home Rental in Loris.

Blackwell graduated from Loris High School in 1975 and attended the University of South Carolina—Coastal and Horry-Georgetown Technical College. There, he studied business, AC and DC Electronics and AC Wiring. Blackwell has also earned a Private R/W Certification from McCall-Thomas Engineering in Orangeburg.

An active member of the community, Blackwell served in the Conway Kiwanis Club, volunteered for the Salvation Army

and is a 10-year participant in the Helping Community Work Day, sponsored by Horry County United Way. Blackwell has been asked to serve on the board for "The Loris High School Salute to Loris Lions Scholarship Program." Blackwell is also an avid participant in his church. He has served as an ordained Deacon and Yokefellow. He's been a Sunday School teacher for 2nd grade boys and adult couples. He's also served as an usher and served on the church's finance committee.

Blackwell served Conway Leadership in 2001, and was a Little League basketball and baseball coach. He has also served on Horry Electric's Nominating Committee for 30 years.

In his spare time, Blackwell is an avid hunter, fisher, camper and he enjoys antiques.



## Jeremy B. Todd

### Nominee

2141 Daisy Road  
Loris, SC 29569

### DISTRICT #6

Jeremy B. Todd and his wife, Shelley, live in the Daisy community of Loris. They have two sons, Avery and Jay Dalton, who are students in the Loris school system. They are members of Bakers Chapel Missionary Baptist Church,

located in Aynor, SC. Todd is a graduate of Coastal Carolina University with a Bachelor of Arts History degree, and Luther Rice College and Seminary with a Master of Divinity Ministry. He is currently finishing his studies at Luther Rice for a degree of Doctor of Ministry.

Todd is the pastor of Bakers Chapel Missionary Baptist Church, where he and his wife have served for 15 years. Before becoming a pastor at Bakers Chapel, Todd was the pastor of Gurley Baptist Church for two years. He also worked and co-owned Coastline Construction Company.

Todd served on the Loris School Advisory Board, and is a proud supporter of the Loris Blue Pride. He enjoys coaching youth football at the Loris Recreation Department, where he is able to spend time with and help develop future community leaders. Todd also serves as an assistant coach with the Loris Middle School football team. He worked with the Good News Club of the Greater Pee Dee at Daisy Elementary School for eight years. He is a supporter of and guest speaker for the Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

## Balance Sheet

### ASSETS

#### Utility Plant

|  |                             |
|--|-----------------------------|
| Electric Plant in Service - At Cost          | \$383,644,595               |
| Construction Work in Progress                | <u>\$8,145,177</u>          |
| Gross Utility Plant                          | \$391,789,772               |
| Less: Accumulated Provision for Depreciation | <u>\$121,374,557</u>        |
| <b>Utility Plant - Net</b>                   | <b><u>\$270,415,215</u></b> |

#### Other Property and Investments

|   |                            |
|---|----------------------------|
| Investment in Associated Organizations  | \$13,544,175               |
| Other Investments                       | <u>\$834,388</u>           |
| <b>Total Other Property Investments</b> | <b><u>\$14,378,563</u></b> |

#### Current Assets

|   |                            |
|---|----------------------------|
| Cash and Cash Equivalents               | \$53,486,759               |
| Accounts Receivable                     | \$16,556,849               |
| Accounts Receivable-Other               | \$1,950,647                |
| Materials and Supplies                  | \$5,064,700                |
| Other                                   | <u>\$1,685,623</u>         |
| <b>Total Current and Accrued Assets</b> | <b><u>\$78,744,578</u></b> |

#### Deferred Debits

**\$5,151,606**

#### Total Assets

**\$368,689,962**

### EQUITIES AND LIABILITIES

#### Equities

|                       |                             |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------|
| Membership Fees       | \$349,485                   |
| Patronage Capital     | \$143,249,834               |
| Other Equities        | <u>\$48,895,941</u>         |
| <b>Total Equities</b> | <b><u>\$192,495,260</u></b> |

#### Long-term Debt

|                             |                             |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| CoBank                      | \$69,501,723                |
| FFB                         | \$58,178,851                |
| CFC                         | <u>\$3,709,054</u>          |
| <b>Total Long-Term Debt</b> | <b><u>\$131,389,628</u></b> |

#### Other Noncurrent Liabilities

|                                 |                         |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Accumulated Operating Provision | <b><u>\$834,287</u></b> |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------|

#### Current Liabilities

|                                       |                            |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Current Maturities of Mortgage Notes  | \$7,252,725                |
| Accounts Payable                      | \$16,703,357               |
| Member Deposits                       | \$5,085,910                |
| Accrued and Withheld Taxes            | \$0                        |
| Other Current and Accrued Liabilities | <u>\$5,573,571</u>         |
| <b>Total Current Liabilities</b>      | <b><u>\$34,615,563</u></b> |

#### Regulatory Liabilities

**\$8,412,000**

#### Other Deferred Credits

**\$943,224**

#### Total Equities and Liabilities

**\$368,689,962**

#### What we took in:

\$170,795,809

#### What we paid out:

\$151,312,351

#### Patronage Capital and Operating Margins

\$19,483,458

#### Other Income and Equity

\$7,387,986

#### We had left:

**\$26,871,444**

**Horry Electric  
Cooperative, Inc.**  
Your Touchstone Energy®  
Cooperative 

## Comparative Operating Statistics

### GROWTH

|  | 2020     | 2019     | 2018     | 2017     | 2016     | 2015     | 2014     | 2013     |
|--|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Average Kwh per Residential Member per Month | 1,107    | 1,151    | 1,213    | 1,116    | 1,166    | 1,193    | 1,220    | 1,162    |
| Average Residential Bill per Month           | \$152.72 | \$159.25 | \$167.41 | \$155.70 | \$159.77 | \$162.05 | \$163.87 | \$155.53 |
| Meters on System                             | 84,507   | 81,919   | 79,747   | 78,127   | 75,984   | 73,879   | 71,697   | 70,321   |
| Miles of Line                                | 5,468    | 5,375    | 5,292    | 5,220    | 5,157    | 5,101    | 5,043    | 4,993    |
| Average Cost per Kwh sold (Cents)            | 13.6     | 13.7     | 13.7     | 13.8     | 13.5     | 13.4     | 13.3     | 13.3     |

### EXPENSES

|  |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |
|--|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Wholesale Power                            | 66%         | 66%         | 66%         | 66%         | 65%         | 65%         | 67%         | 66%         |
| Operating Maintenance and General Expenses | 21%         | 20%         | 20%         | 20%         | 21%         | 20%         | 18%         | 18%         |
| Depreciation                               | 7%          | 7%          | 7%          | 7%          | 7%          | 7%          | 7%          | 7%          |
| Interest                                   | 5%          | 6%          | 6%          | 6%          | 6%          | 7%          | 7%          | 8%          |
| Taxes                                      | 1%          | 1%          | 1%          | 1%          | 1%          | 1%          | 1%          | 1%          |
| <b>Total</b>                               | <b>100%</b> | <b>100%</b> | <b>100%</b> | <b>100%</b> | <b>100%</b> | <b>100%</b> | <b>100%</b> | <b>100%</b> |



# Co-op returning \$3.5 million in capital credits to members

**THIS MONTH**, Horry Electric Cooperative will return approximately \$3.5 million to members who had active accounts in 2005 and/or 2020.

These payments reflect a unique feature of cooperative businesses—capital credits. After the co-op has paid expenses for a given year, left over margins are allocated to members through capital credits. When finances allow, co-ops like Horry Electric retire capital credits and refund those retired margins to members. This spring, members who had co-op accounts in 2005 and/or 2020 will receive payments based on how much electricity they paid for 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.

“Individuals who were members in 2005 and/or 2020 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.”

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

### Capital credit disbursement 2021

The allowable retirement this year is \$4,053,003.51 less \$500,000 in estate payments. The total amount being distributed is \$3,553,003.51 which includes the \$3,253,003.51 balance of 2005 and \$300,000 of 2020.

If you were a member in 2020, you will receive 1.37% of your 2020 assignment. If you were a member in 2005, you will receive the remaining unretired balance of your assignment for that year.

| If your 2020 electric bills totaled:  | \$1,000 | \$1,500  | \$2,000 | \$2,500  |
|---|---------|----------|---------|----------|
| The 2020 assignment factor is: (multiply the percentage times your bills)       | 13.5%   | 13.5%    | 13.5%   | 13.5%    |
| Your capital credit assignment for 2020 would be:                               | \$135   | \$202.50 | \$270   | \$337.50 |
| The 2020 retirement percentage will be 1.37% of your capital credit assignment. | 1.37%   | 1.37%    | 1.37%   | 1.37%    |
| Your general retirement refund for 2020 would be approximately:                 | \$1.85  | \$2.77   | \$3.70  | \$4.62   |

You can calculate the approximate amount of your 2020 allocation and disbursement by using this example. Capital credit disbursements are distributed by the end of April.

## 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 electric 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,” Jordan 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.”

## Join the movement, you could win \$500

**THE MOVEMENT IS GROWING** and it's helping to keep power costs from doing the same.

More than 50,000 electric cooperative members across South Carolina have signed up to receive phone, email or text notifications that remind them to reduce their electric use during peak periods. We're hoping that number will continue to rise this spring, as we offer prize drawing incentives for members who enroll in the Beat the Peak program.

Horry Electric Cooperative members who register for the Beat the Peak notification program by June 30 will be eligible to win a \$500 Visa gift card in a statewide prize drawing. In addition, one Horry Electric member will win a \$100 gift card in a local prize drawing. If you are already participating in Beat the Peak, you're also eligible to win. You do not have to register again.

Members who register will receive an alert showing the projected time of a system-wide energy peak, typically occurring on cold winter mornings or hot summer afternoons. By voluntarily delaying the use of large appliances, adjusting

your thermostat or just turning off lights during that peak time, you'll help to lower wholesale power costs.

"The cost of wholesale power makes up approximately two-thirds of what our members pay for electricity," explains Executive Vice President and CEO Danny Shelley. "By reducing the peak demand, we're making a significant impact on our power bill and are able to pass those savings on to our members."

If you'd like to join the movement, sign up at **BeatThePeak.com** by completing a simple form on the website and indicating how you want to receive peak alerts.

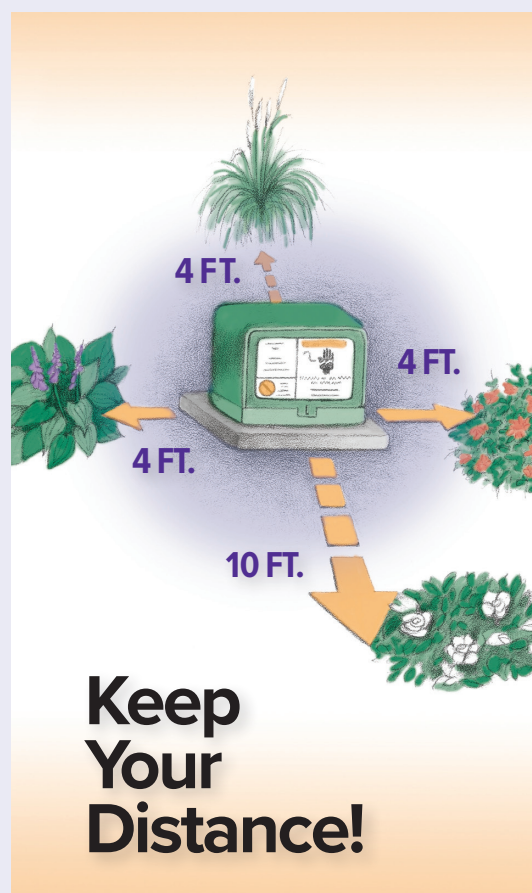


### Transformers need to be left alone

The green metal box in your yard contains an electric transformer for underground service. Horry Electric line crews need clear access 24 hours a day. Remember:

- ▶ The transformer is connected to underground power lines. Never dig anywhere in your yard without first calling Horry Electric at (843) 369-2211, or the Palmetto Utility Protection Service at 811, to find out where the cables are buried.
- ▶ Keep shrubs, fences and other obstructions well away from the transformer.
- ▶ Never enclose the transformer with fencing, shrubs or anything else with less than a 10-foot-wide gate or opening.
- ▶ Never place anything that gets closer than 10 feet from the front or 4 feet from the sides of the transformer. (The handle, lock and sticker are on the front.)
- ▶ If we have to conduct work at the transformer, we may need to remove obstructions from around our equipment. For your safety and that of our employees, please do not replace obstructions we remove.
- ▶ Never pour waste oils, chemicals or other liquids on or near the transformer. These liquids can seep into the ground and damage underground cables.
- ▶ Never allow children to play near the transformer.

For advice on how to safely beautify the area around your transformer, call Buddy Parker, Horry Electric's right-of-way coordinator, at (843) 369-2211.





# Thank a lineworker in April

**IF YOU WERE ASKED** to associate an image or a person with Horry Electric Cooperative, you might picture a lineworker. Perhaps the most visible employees of the co-op, lineworkers work tirelessly to ensure our community receives safe, reliable electricity.

“Lineworker” is listed as one of the top 10 most dangerous jobs in the U.S. This is understandable as lineworkers perform difficult tasks near high-voltage power lines. Regardless of the time of day, they have to brave stormy weather and other challenging conditions. Lineworkers must climb a minimum of 25 feet up a pole, often carrying heavy equipment, to get the job done. They also carry the responsibility of getting your power back on and getting home safely to their families.

Being a lineworker is not a glamorous or easy profession. It takes years of specialized training, ongoing education, dedication, and equally important, a sense of service and commitment.

Kelly Dix, advanced line technician, uses the bucket to access power lines.



► Linemen like Sean Brown have to wear their climbing gear, including hooks and a climbing belt, any time they have to climb a pole.

This dedication and sense of service to the community is truly what sets them apart. That's why we set aside the second Monday in April (April 12) as Lineworker Appreciation Day, to celebrate and recognize the men and women who work around the clock to keep the lights on. We also celebrate National Lineman Appreciation Day on April 18.

While lineworkers are essential, it's important to note there is a team of highly skilled professionals working behind the scenes. Engineers provide ongoing expertise and guidance on the operations side of the co-op. Member service representatives are always standing by to answer your calls and questions. Our information technology experts continuously monitor our system to help safeguard sensitive data. These are just a few of the people who work together to ensure we deliver the service and reliability you expect and deserve. Without them, our lineworkers wouldn't be able to “bring the light” to our community.

Our dedicated and beloved lineworkers are proud to represent Horry Electric, and they deserve all the appreciation and accolades that come their way on Lineworker Appreciation Day. Remember, you also have a dedicated team of professionals working behind the scenes at the co-op whose commitment to service runs just as deep.



JENNIFER HARMON

## You may get a survey from us

Completing it helps us provide you with reliable power

A modern electrical grid requires more than just sturdy infrastructure and dependable lineworkers to keep your power on. Delivering safe, reliable and affordable energy to you in the future will require an understanding of how you use electricity.

What kind of heating/cooling system do you have? Which large appliances do you use the most and how old are they?

Answers to these kinds of questions allow us to plan services and programs that can benefit you and the cooperative. They even help us understand how much power you'll use in years to come.

As part of our efforts to be your trusted energy provider, we will send survey information to select members of Horry

Electric Cooperative in April. This survey will either come as a paper copy, a postcard or an email. The postcard and email will direct recipients to an online version of the survey.

All mailings will be branded with the Horry Electric logo, but if you have any questions to ensure its legitimacy, please contact Jennifer Harmon at (843) 369-6331. Participants' names will not be associated with their responses and information is protected by privacy agreements.

# Use **PowerTouch** to get in touch...

**PowerTouch from Horry Electric Cooperative is the best way to help us get your lights back on quicker.**

This state-of-the-art outage management system lets you immediately report outages. When you call, your phone number will be matched to your name and address to ensure prompt service.

**Important:** We must have your up-to-date information for the phone number at your service address, plus any additional cellular phone number(s) (with area code) associated with your account in order for PowerTouch to work efficiently.

**Please fill out the attached form,** mail in with your bill payment or drop off at your nearest Horry Electric office.

You can also sign up online @horryelectric.com. Sign in on **MyEnergy Online** to update contact information and to automatically receive alerts and reminders.

**MyEnergy**  
*online*

**Horry Electric Cooperative, Inc.**

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Power Out? Call  
**PowerTouch**  
**843.369.2212**

Submitting this form gives Horry Electric Cooperative your consent to send automated messages to any telephone number(s) provided. Please note that Horry Electric will never share your personal information with a third-party source.



## **My Up-To-Date Phone Number(s) Where I Receive Service from Horry Electric Cooperative.**

Name on Account \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_  
(Where You Receive Service – No P.O. Boxes Please)

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_ Cell ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_  
(At This Address)

E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Horry Electric's Account Number \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_