

## Horry Electric Cooperative, Inc.

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

### Main Office

P.O. Box 119  
Conway, SC 29528-0119

**Conway Office: 369-2211**

**Socastee Office: 650-7530**



(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](mailto:penelope.hinson@horryelectric.com)

**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

## What a difference a year makes



**AFTER HAVING HELD** the Annual Meeting in the same location for more than 40 years, we made the move to The HTC Center

at Coastal Carolina University last year for the 2013 Annual Meeting of Members. If you were among the 7,571 members who attended, you know it was quite an experience. We were surprised to see a few members beginning to gather at the entrance to the HTC Center as early as 10 a.m. on the day of the event. In the past, members didn't start lining up until about 11 a.m., and there was never a large number of them. That wasn't the case last year. We had an unprecedented response. The line of early birds quickly grew and, when the doors opened—on schedule—at noon, the line for Registration was already stretched out along University Boulevard.

Our planning team began working on the 2014 event in June of last year. We expanded the location of the Annual Meeting to include the entire campus of Coastal Carolina University, and we took advantage of a few large parking lots to set up five different Registration and Voting sites, including the HTC Center. We communicated our plans to members and reminded them the hours for Registration run from noon until 7 p.m. We discouraged early birds. We cannot begin Registration before noon, so there's really no advantage to arriving early. Since the Registration Gift is an electric bill credit, there is no danger of us running out of them.

### Beyond expectations

In my 42 years of professional experience with Annual Meetings, I have never seen one run as smoothly and as efficiently as our 2014 event. As I went from various Registration and Voting sites throughout the day, I did not see any long lines; did not speak to any frustrated members or witness employees working under extreme

pressure. There were smiles on the faces of members and employees. It was truly a successful Annual Meeting. Several members stopped me to let me know how much they appreciated the changes. I told them I appreciated them giving us another chance after their experience last year.

### The full report

Horry Electric Cooperative's bylaws require a quorum—equal to 5 percent of the membership—in order to conduct an official business meeting. The number of registered members required for quorum at the 2014 Annual Meeting of Members was 2,839. Registration and voting began on time—at noon—and ended at 7 p.m. We met our quorum requirement at 3:33 p.m. At the time registration and voting closed, we had a total of 4,661 members registered to take part in their Annual Meeting.

The meeting agenda included the election of three candidates, who are also members of the cooperative, to serve on the board of trustees for a three-year term.

Eugene Harriott, trustee for District 8, and Freddy Thompkins, trustee from District 9, both ran unopposed. They were reelected by acclamation of the membership during the business meeting.

Johnny Shelley, incumbent in the election for the trustee position for District 3, defeated Jimmy McLain, a nominee.

### Hope to see you next year

The date for the 2015 event has been set. If you didn't make it this year, mark your calendar for May 12, 2015, and make a plan to come celebrate the power of your co-op membership.

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

## Smooth sailing all the way



John Yopp (above) was one of 4,661 HEC members who registered at our 2014 Annual Meeting. With four registration sites, it was clear sailing all the way. Inside the CCU Convocation Center, the Hinson Girls (bottom) supplied bluegrass and crystal-clear harmonies, and prize winners like Sabrina Wilson (right) were clearly pleased as well.



### Horry Extra

#### Savings in bloom, a member's memories 'Of mules and men'—and more

In this month's Horry Extra, in the middle of the magazine, we've got more Annual Meeting photos plus a tip about a place where savings blossom with your Co-op Connections card. Then travel back in time with an old farm boy, now 95, who recalls how early members, mules and HEC linemen built your co-op.





## Savings in full bloom at Jordan's



Save on arrangements with Betty Jordan and her mother, Frances Singleton, at Jordan's 501 Nursery & Florist.

### Local discount

Show your card,  
get 10 percent off  
total purchase

Where: Jordan's 501 Nursery & Florist  
2452 Church St., Conway  
Phone: (843) 365-2036  
Fax: (843) 369-0935  
Website: [jordans501florist.com](http://jordans501florist.com)  
Hours: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Friday;  
8 a.m. to 12 noon Saturday.  
Closed Sunday.

### Co-op Connections® Card

Horry Electric Cooperative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



**WHETHER YOU PREFER** a look that is classic and traditional, modern and trendy, soft and romantic or unusual and offbeat, at Jordan's 501 Nursery & Florist, they customize floral arrangements with you in mind.

Jordan's is a local florist proudly serving Horry County for more than 14 years. HEC members Betty and Benjamin Jordan started with just a nursery back in the early '90s. It was in a little building where Fatz is now located, Betty notes. Now nestled next to a lake on Church Street, Jordan's business has really blossomed.

The growth spurt came

from a seed of an idea by Betty's mother, Frances Singleton, who had worked as a florist for many years.

Frances says, "People would want me to fix arrangements for them.

I was making things for people, so we got a cooler and went to work. We haven't stopped since!"

Today, Jordan's 501 Nursery & Florist is known for delivering courteous, professional

service and the highest quality floral and gift items around. These experienced designers can create floral arrangements that will complement any occasion and meet your budget and style expectations as

well. Jordan's also offers daily delivery service to all local funeral homes and hospitals.

Jordan's on-site nursery gives customers many choices from a colorful selection of blooming plants, green plants and dish gardens. The shop also

offers fruit and gourmet baskets, gift baskets, baby gifts, candy, greeting cards, home decor, scented candles, silk flowers, stuffed animals and more.

Stop by and visit or call to place your order. Don't forget to show your Co-op

Connections card! ☺



WALTER ALLREAD



## Faces in the crowd



Many made HEC's 2014 Annual Meeting a family outing: Patricia Heaven and her son, T.J. Deas, 8, with T.J.'s grandmother, Josephine Brown. T.J. picked up a copy of *The Super Energy Saver's Fun Book*, featuring Touchstone Energy mascots CFL Charlie and LED Lucy. Alaina Reynolds, four months old, rode papoose-style with mom Amanda Reynolds.



Exercising his right as a member to help choose the co-op's leaders from among his peers, John Orlando votes in the board election.



When she saw our photographer, member Sue Bennett couldn't resist cutting up with HEC's Kolton Wade and Lee Hucks at registration.



Jasenya Butler, 6, shares a lovely smile. JROTC students from St. James High School present the colors as the business session of the meeting begins. CEO Pat Howle reminds members to support Operation Round Up. The Gentlemen of Bluegrass entertained, joining the Hinson Girls for a few numbers.







## You didn't have to be present to win—but they were!



Registered members now don't have to be present to win the prizes at Horry Electric's Annual Meeting but some folks would rather not wait—and maybe, we like to think, they like to hear reports from co-op leadership during the business session of the meeting, which precedes the prize drawing. At any rate, several members were on hand and got instant gratification, including (clockwise from above): Martha Cooper, who won \$100 cash; Janice Williamson, who left with a DVD player and a cap; George Boyd, who scored a \$25 Lowe's gift card; and Allison Keel-Vereen and her husband, Lacy Vereen, who claimed a 30-inch Kingsford charcoal grill. Sabrina Wilson (pictured on page 5) won the 52-inch LG LED Flat Screen TV. There were 53 prizes plus four grand prizes—the top one being a 2006 Chevy HHR—and other winners were notified by the co-op. The full list of winners was posted the morning after the meeting on HEC's Facebook page. So be sure to “like” us there—you might like what you find!



WALTER ALLREAD





Francis Floyd, 95, in front of his family's home place in Galivant's Ferry.

## Of mules and men

HEC member recalls how farmers helped their co-op build lines

BY WALTER ALLREAD

**WHEN THE LIGHTS** went on for Horry Electric Cooperative member Francis Floyd, the work was done the old-fashioned way: The poles were set by hand by co-op linemen and the lines themselves were often pulled into place by local farmers.

"A lot of farmers had mules, and so they'd use the mules to pull the lines and tighten them up," says Floyd, 95. "I remember one old farmer with a foul mouth cussing his mules as he pulled those lines up.

"What happened back then was a fellow would come around to wire the house, and he'd put one drop cord in every room and on the porches. You had one plug. If you wanted to have a refrigerator, you used that. The rest of the house was on drop cords."

For Floyd, electricity came too late for his father, Ben, a lifelong farmer.

"He died in 1941 right before the lights came on; the house was already wired and everything. After he died, they turned the current on. Before, we had old Aladdin kerosene lamps, and you could see your way around pretty good, but when we got those 25-, 35- and 40-watt bulbs, for us that was so bright you couldn't stand to look at it! Now, with a 40-watt bulb, I couldn't hardly see to read anything."

Floyd grew up with four sisters and two brothers. A 1936 graduate of Aynor High School at the age of 15, his early years were spent helping on his father's farm.

"We had sweet potatoes and sugar cane; we made syrup every fall," says Floyd. "You'd take the cane to the cane mill. They'd hitch a mule to it, and it'd go 'round and 'round. Then a man would take the juice, go pour it in a pan and cook it.

"We'd get 25, 30 gallons, and it'd last you through the winter. We'd also take the extra and go to the beach and trade it with the fisherman for a couple hundred pounds of fish that we'd salt down for the winter."

As an adult, Floyd worked in the tobacco market in Mullins for about 30 seasons of the "golden leaf."

He also worked as a compliance supervisor in Conway with Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS) until late 1973 and then delivered mail on the old Galivant's Ferry Route 3 until he fully retired in 1984.

Today, the Aynor United Methodist Church member carries fond memories of life before co-op power and other modern conveniences. "It wasn't always an easy life—we worked hard, and we worked from before sun-up to near midnight sometimes—but it was a good life," Floyd says. ☺

## Remembering 'when the lights came on'

Electric cooperatives across the country are celebrating their 75th anniversary. Aiken Electric Cooperative, formed in 1938, last year became the first of South Carolina's 20 distribution co-ops to reach that milestone.

Horry Electric Cooperative was organized April 24, 1940, and our system was energized January 7, 1941. We will mark our 75th anniversary in 2016. Leading up to the celebration, we're interviewing co-op members and former employees who recall "when the lights came on."

Please let us know if you, or someone you know, might have bright memories of those days. And tell us if you have vintage appliances, electrical items, memorabilia or photographs from the early days of rural electrification. Contact Gayle Addy at (803) 739-3032 (email [addy@ecsc.org](mailto:addy@ecsc.org)). She is employed by The Electric Cooperatives of S.C., Inc., the state association of co-ops, including Horry Electric Cooperative.

