

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

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Henry W. Boyd

Frederick 'Freddy' Thompkins

Co-op Connection Editor

Penelope D. Hinson
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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

In case you missed it

Quorum met, another successful event

ANNUAL MEETING 2017 was a huge success. Our bylaws require a quorum—equal to 5 percent of the membership—in order to conduct an official business meeting. The number of members required for quorum at the 2017 Annual Meeting of Members was 3,128. Registration opened at noon and, by 2:20 p.m., we hit our quorum requirement.



When registration closed at 7 p.m., a total of 6,053 members had passed through the registration lines and received their \$15 electric bill credit.

In 2016, our total membership registration was 6,369. Attendance decreased by 316 members this year, but we still exceeded our quorum requirement.

Trustees re-elected

The meeting agenda included the election of three trustee candidates, who are also members of the cooperative, to serve on the board of trustees for a three-year term. Eugene Harriott (District 8) and Freddy Thompkins (District 9) ran unopposed. They were re-elected by acclamation during the business meeting. Incumbent Johnny Shelley defeated nominee Jimmy McLain. Shelley had 2,012 votes cast in his favor versus the 1,436 ballots cast for McLain. The board of trustees held a



Stephanie Vanderpool is now the proud owner of the 2017 Annual Meeting of Members Grand Prize, a 2006 Chevrolet Trailblazer FWD. Burroughs Nobles, manager of operations, handed the keys over to her when she came to claim her prize. There are more pictures from the Annual Meeting on page 20C and on Facebook. To keep up with everything at Horry Electric, like us on Facebook, follow us on Twitter and check us out on Pinterest. We've also added an Instagram account!

brief meeting following adjournment of the Annual Meeting of Members to elect officers. Johnny M. Shelley remains as president, with Eugene Harriott Jr. as vice president and Ashley Anderson as secretary/treasurer.

Gearing up for next year

We already have the date for the 2018 Annual Meeting set, and the plans are in progress. Please mark your calendars now for Tuesday, May 8, 2018. As always, we'll keep you updated on plans as they are finalized. We hope to see you next year!

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

It's hurricane season: Do you have special needs?

Hurricane season runs from June 1 through Nov. 30. We will be on alert for any severe weather and encourage members to do the same.

Members who have health problems requiring the use of special, electric-powered medical equipment should contact us as soon as possible to obtain a Special Needs Account Member Certification form.

The signature of a licensed health-care provider is required. Certification is valid for 91 days from the date of the signature of the licensed health-care provider. It is the responsibility of the member to renew certification.

As always, if you have questions, please call us at (843) 369-2211.

WIRE's gifts will comfort displaced seniors

DISPLACED RESIDENTS of South Carolina nursing homes will find a little comfort in their new homes, thanks to members of Women Involved in Rural Electrification (WIRE).

WIRE members from chapters affiliated with electric cooperatives across the state came together recently for their fifth annual Co-op Closet event at the offices of the state association of electric co-ops in Cayce. They filled 50 large canvas bags with personal supplies for displaced nursing residents, including blankets, clothes and toiletries, as well as special knitted and crocheted items contributed by a volunteer Horry County group, the Knit Wits.

The S.C. Council on Aging will distribute the bags to residents of nursing homes that are closed suddenly due to safety regulations or health compliance issues. Residents sometimes are evacuated with few or no personal possessions to take with them, notes Peggy Dantzler of SC WIRE, the coordinating body of the community outreach group.

When WIRE delivered this year's

donation, State Long-Term Care Ombudsman Dale Watson told Dantzler that officials at a facility housing 30 residents had just called a few days earlier to inform her office the facility was closing. "She said today's delivery was truly a blessing and perfectly timed," Dantzler noted.



WALTER ALLREAD



WIRE members from co-ops with one of the 50 bags they filled at the Co-op Closet event. Each bag included items donated by the Knit Wits group from Horry County, which includes Bev Grainger and Ann Gengler.

Co-op linemen shine at Lineworkers' Rodeo

THREE HORRY ELECTRIC linemen excelled at the 2017 Lineworkers' Rodeo recently at Horry Georgetown Technical College.

Chase Cox placed first in the Co-op Division and second overall in the yard-light change-out competition. Wyman Boatwright finished third in the yard-light contest and third in fuse change-out. Ethan Avant topped the Co-op Division and finished second overall in fuse change-out.

The skills competition is open to lineworkers employed by state-owned utility Santee Cooper and member-owned electric co-ops around the state.

Horry native newest member of charitable trust board

RHONDA HYMAN has been appointed to the Operation Round Up Trust Board, the volunteer board that administers funds collected through Horry Electric Cooperative's charitable-giving program.



Rhonda Hyman

Hyman replaces Barbara H. Tindall, who resigned from the board early this year after 24 years of service. Trust President Daphne Hickman praised Tindall, with whom she had served since the co-op initiated Operation Round Up in 1993. "I'm about to cry," she said. "I hate to see her go."

Hyman, a lifelong resident of Horry County, and her husband, Greg

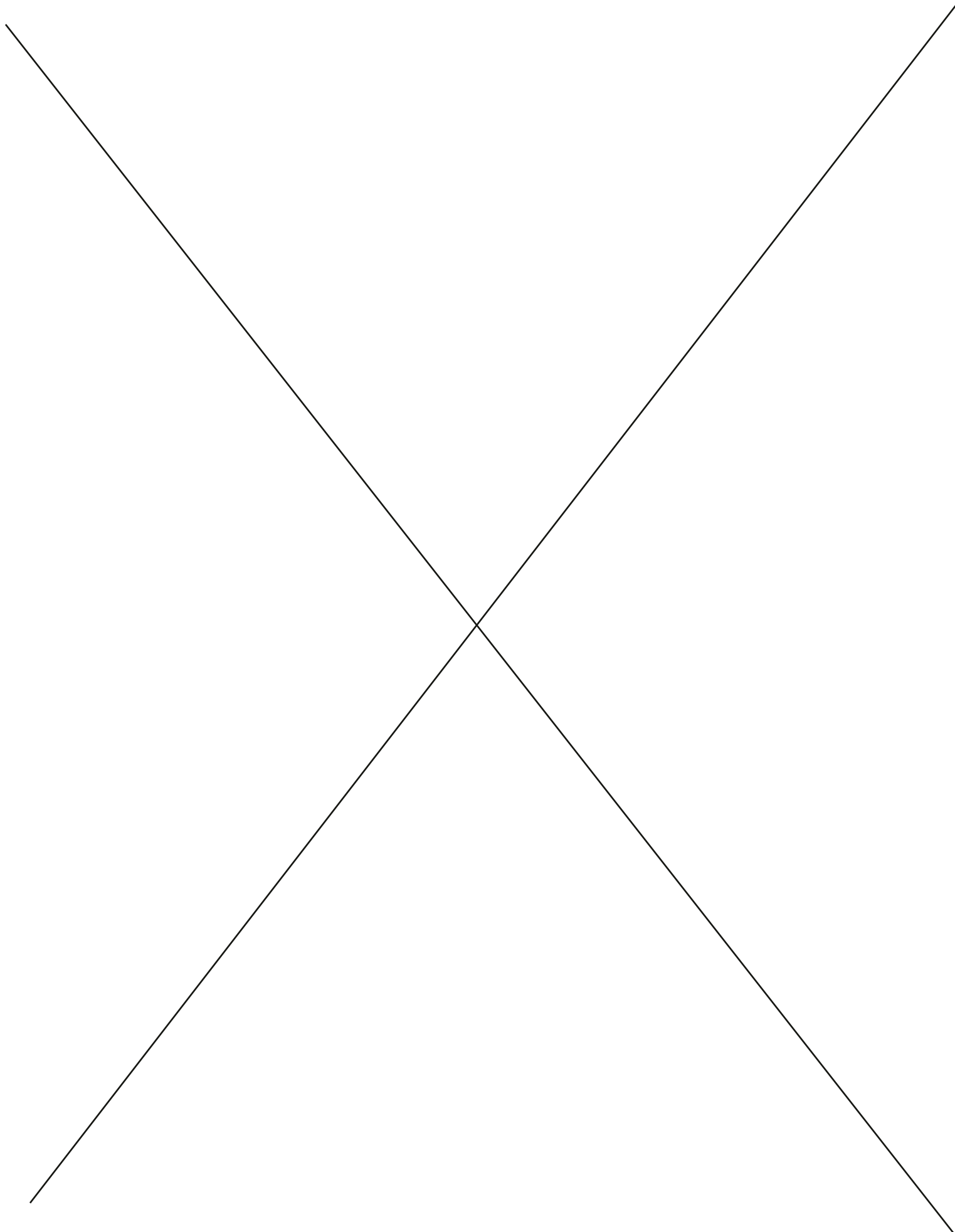
Hyman, have been HEC members since they were married 44 years ago. She worked in Family Court 1974-1978, when she took her "dream job" working for the late Circuit Judge Sidney T. Floyd, staying on until his retirement from the bench. Hyman retired from the state in 2001 and acquired a real-estate license, starting a real-estate company with her husband. In 2005, they opened Hyman Vineyards. She is a member of Juniper Bay Baptist Church.

Horry Extra

Small change, big difference

Want to do your part to help neighbors in need? Participating in Operation Round Up makes it easy! Learn how on page 20A.





Small change changes lives



IMAGINE THE OPPORTUNITY to help the less fortunate in our community with what amounts to little more than spare change. That's exactly what members of Horry Electric Cooperative do when they choose to participate in the Operation Round Up program.

What is Operation Round Up?

Members of Horry Electric Cooperative have the opportunity to participate in an innovative program that provides funding for all kinds of worthy projects here in Horry County. It's called Operation Round Up, and it is administered by the Horry Electric Trust, a board of community leaders who serve on a voluntary basis.

The bills of participating co-op consumers are rounded to the next-highest dollar each month. The extra cents we collect from each consumer go into the Round Up fund. The average consumer will contribute about six dollars a year. If all Horry Electric consumers join in, we will round up nearly \$440,000 annually!

Local needs

Operation Round Up funds stay right here in Horry County. The guidelines we use for awarding Operation Round Up funds address needs for food, shelter, clothing, education, health care and other vital community services. Because we're a Touchstone Energy Cooperative, we believe it's only right that we should work for positive change within the communities we serve. We consider it both a duty and a privilege to join with our members in leveraging the real power—the power of human connections—for the good of all.

Contributions to Operation Round Up are tax deductible. ☺



Yes, **I want to sign up for Operation Round Up.**

NAME (ON ACCOUNT): _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE NUMBER: _____

ACCOUNT NUMBER: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

SIGNATURE: _____

DATE: _____

Return by mail to HEC, P.O. Box 119, Conway, SC 29528-0119 or drop off at Horry Electric Cooperative's Conway office (2774 Cultra Road).

For more information about Operation Round Up, call your local Horry Electric Cooperative Office:

Conway: (843) 369-2211
Socastee: (843) 650-7530
www.horryelectric.com

The Touchstone Energy® symbol is your assurance that we're a community-minded cooperative providing high standards of service to customers large and small.

Restoring service after the storm

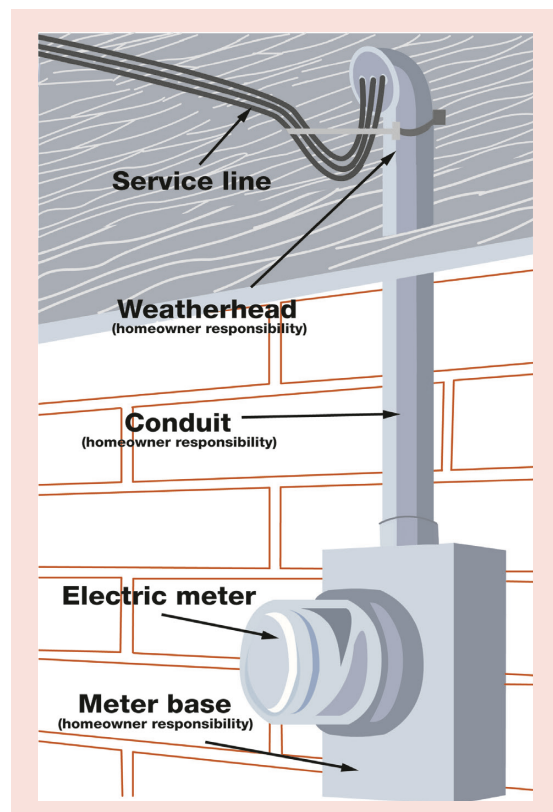
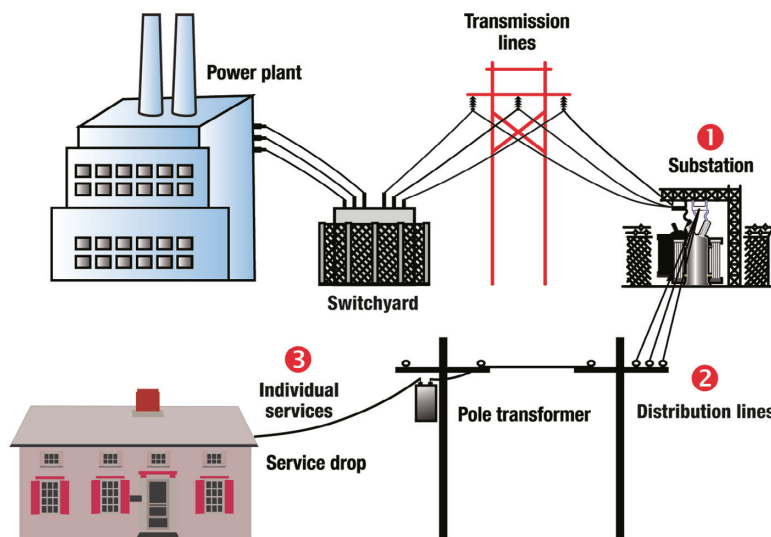
Goal is to get lights back on ASAP

RESTORING POWER AFTER a major outage is an enormous undertaking that involves much more than simply throwing a switch or removing a tree from a line.

The main goal is to safely restore power to the greatest number of members in the shortest time possible. Keep in mind if there is damage to power plants, switchyards or transmission lines, those facilities must be repaired by our power supplier before we can restore your service. Transmission lines seldom fail, but they can be damaged by lightning, ice storms, tornadoes and hurricanes. Tens of thousands of people could be served by a single high-voltage transmission line.

When those facilities are working, problems in your co-op's electric distribution system can be corrected. Three primary areas of our system must be addressed.

1—Substations are repaired first. A co-op may have several local distribution substations, each serving thousands of consumers. When a major outage occurs, the local distribution substations are checked first. If the problem can be corrected at the substation level, power may be restored to a large number of people.



2—Distribution lines are repaired. Main distribution supply lines are checked next, if the problem cannot be isolated at the substation. These supply lines carry electricity away from the substation to a group of customers, such as a subdivision. When power is restored at this stage, all consumers served by this supply line could see the lights come on, as long as there is no problem farther down the line.

3—Individual services are restored. The final supply lines, called service lines, carry power from the transformer on utility poles or underground transformers outside houses or other buildings. Line crews fix the remaining outages based on restoring service to the greatest number of consumers.

Sometimes, damage will occur on the service line between your house and the transformer on the nearby pole. This may explain why you have no power when your neighbor does. Your co-op needs to know you have an outage, so a service crew can repair it.

To report a power outage, call PowerTouch, 369-2212. ☎

If your electric service is damaged

If there is damage to the equipment where the service drop enters your home, you may need to get an electrician to repair it before the co-op can safely restore your service. The weatherhead, where service lines enter the conduit leading to your home's electric meter, is the responsibility of the homeowner. So are the conduit and the meter base. The co-op can replace or repair damaged meters or service lines, but if you see damage to your home's weatherhead, conduit or meter base, contact an electrician immediately to get repairs started.

Thanks for attending our 2017 Annual Meeting!



Pamela Lee shows off her Beat the Peak coozies—a registration gift, along with the \$15 bill credit, that reminds members how to “save energy—together” by shifting energy use out of peak-demand times. Learn more at EnergySmartSC.org/Beat-The-Peak.

THANKS to the 6,053 members who attended our 76th Annual Meeting May 9. Here are just a few of the friendly faces we were pleased to see. ☺



Emery Coons and Madeline Cooper made it a date. Debbie Rowland came with Spencer Vanfossen and his friend, “Soldier Sam.” Prize winner Thomas F. Acker left with a new chainsaw.



Kanjane Eubanks (left) and her friend Yupin Camp have been HEC members for more than 40 years each.



WALTER ALLREAD

Of course, we couldn't have a meeting without the help of the Horry County Voter Registration and Election Commission, including volunteers like Rachel Williams (far right), her son Daniquel Williams, and daughter Colleen Williams, who make civic service a family affair.



They jumped at chance to purchase locally generated solar power



Let it shine on you!

Go solar without the hassle of rooftop panel installation!

UPFRONT CHARGE: \$100 per block. (Horry Electric is waiving this non-refundable charge for one block for the first 100 members to sign up for Community Solar.)

MONTHLY CHARGE: \$25 per block

MONTHLY CREDIT: Average of 150 kilowatt-hour (kWh)

HOW MUCH DO I NEED? The average residential HEC member uses about 1,200 kWh a month. Each block of Community Solar represents about 12.5 percent of an average home's monthly use.

Visit HorryElectric.com for details. On the home page, look under My Energy, then click on Community Solar.

Members take advantage of special offer, saving \$100—and it's still available!

RANDY OBERTON had read all about Community Solar in the March *South Carolina Living*. It's homegrown renewable energy, generated at Horry Electric's shiny, new solar array across Cultra Road from its Conway office.

The Aynor resident had already talked to his roommates about it—"We've been wanting solar power for the longest time," Oberton notes—when on March 6 he saw a special offer on HEC's Facebook page: The co-op is waiving the \$100 upfront fee on the first block of Community Solar for the first 100 members who subscribe.

"Oh, I jumped on it. You better believe it!" Oberton says. "I was the very first one."

Since then, at least 64 members have followed suit. Many, like Oberton, were no doubt worried about possible maintenance issues with rooftop solar panels: What if there's another hurricane? With Community Solar, Horry Electric handles all maintenance. As Oberton notes, "They take care of everything for you. If there's a storm, they take care of it."

Another early Community Solar subscriber, Julia Nightingale Born of Conway, had another concern: "Rooftop solar panels are very expensive," Born notes. "I think they're like \$10,000 or \$12,000." It could take six years to recover the cost of the

investment, Born figured. "I mean, come on!"

It's "fantastic" that her co-op offers members a more affordable option, Born says.

Add the incentive to save \$100, and it's even sweeter, says Paul Hemsing of Aynor. He and his wife, Teresa, signed up for the maximum-allowed five blocks of Community Solar the day they became Horry Electric members. "It worked out well, in that I get five shares for the price of four," Hemsing says. "I went full out as soon as I found out the maximum amount I could get, because I know if you can get in on the ground floor of something like this, it's going to take off." ☺



WALTER ALLREAD

Julia Nightingale Born and her husband, David, wanted to be more environmentally friendly and conscious of energy efficiency at their new Conway home. "We have our little windmill," she jokes, "but that's not going to produce any energy for us!" Seriously, Born notes that her neighborhood doesn't allow rooftop solar panels. "They consider them ugly—which they are," she says. She signed up for five blocks of Community Solar.



WALTER ALLREAD

Randy Oberton was the first HEC member to subscribe to Community Solar.



EDDY BLACKBURN

HEC Senior Member Service Representative Dana Bailey (center) with Teresa and Paul Hemsing, who bought five blocks of Community Solar when they signed up for service at their new home in Aynor.