

## Horry Electric Cooperative, Inc.

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

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(to report power outages only)

**369-2212**

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**Horry Electric Cooperative, Inc. is a non-profit, member-owned organization providing information and energy-related services on a fair and equitable basis.**



Your Touchstone Energy® Partner

## Annual Meeting 2013 to be in new location

**SINCE 1972, THE ANNUAL MEETING** of Members of Horry Electric Cooperative has been hosted at the



Myrtle Beach Convention Center. In the early days, we were able to hold the event in one exhibit hall. As our membership grew and we added activities to our event to encourage members to attend, we expanded our

event into a second exhibit hall.

The Convention Center has suited our needs well and space in the facility has never been a problem. The geographic location of the facility, however, has become a bit of a problem.

Our service area is primarily on the west side of the Intracoastal Waterway. The Convention Center is located just blocks from the Atlantic Ocean. Surveys of members in 2005 and again in 2008 indicated that traffic, the distance and the potential of traveling after dark were among the reasons members did not attend the Annual Meeting. We have been proactively searching for alternative locations for the past several years, but just couldn't find a venue available to meet the needs of our members.

### New venue for 2013

When Coastal Carolina University began talking about plans for a new Student Recreation and Convocation Center, we began talking to them about the possibility of hosting our Annual Meeting of Members. After careful consideration by our Board of Trustees and the leadership at Coastal Carolina University, the decision was made to move our event from the Myrtle Beach Convention

Center to the Student Recreation and Convocation Center on the campus of Coastal Carolina University.

### Stay tuned

Moving the location of the Annual Meeting of Members is a huge undertaking, and we have been working on plans since the decision was made.

We have one planning team focusing attention on parking, shuttle service and traffic logistics and another working on 'people traffic' for the registration and voting area, as well as the meeting space. As decisions are made and plans are put in place, we'll be keeping members informed through all of our communications outlets, including *South Carolina Living* magazine. By the time Tuesday, May 14, 2013, rolls around, members should be well informed about what to expect, how to get there and where to go once you get on campus.

We're excited about this change and are confident this will be a positive move in the long term. There is no doubt it is going to take a lot of work and coordination on our part and some patience on the part of our members for it to be a successful event. It won't be our first time planning an Annual Meeting, but it will be the first time at a new location. A few bumps along the road can be expected, but we hope to minimize that with a great deal of planning and a lot of communication, well in advance.

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

## Horry Electric's Power Sources

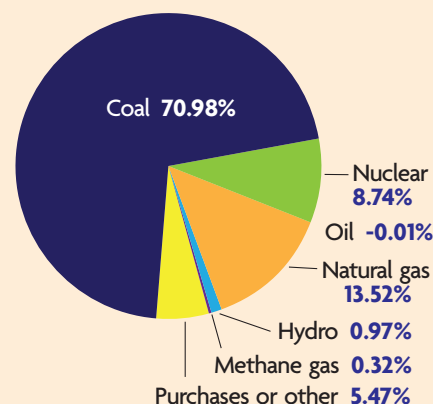


**YOUR ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE** gets most of the power it provides to members through Central Electric Power Cooperative. Along with other power system services, Central's job is to aggregate the supply for all electric co-ops in the state. Central's main source of power is through a long-term contract with Santee Cooper, the state-owned utility that operates a network of power plants. These plants are primarily coal-fired, but Santee Cooper also generates electricity in a variety of ways, ranging from hydro-electric dams to certified 'green power' generating plants that trap and burn the methane gas produced in landfills.

Santee Cooper's Green Power is greater than 99 percent landfill methane gas, less than 1 percent solar and less than 1 percent wind. For specific information about this form of electricity, call Santee Cooper at (800) 804-74274 extension 3204 or visit [santeecooper.com/greenpower](http://santeecooper.com/greenpower).

The Green-e Energy Program certifies that Green Power meets the minimum

**Power mix for Central Electric Power Cooperative**



environmental and consumer protection standards established by the non-profit Center for Resource Solutions. For more information on Green-e Energy certification requirements, call (888) 63-GREEN or visit [green-e.org](http://green-e.org).

## Powerful online energy tools customized for you

**TOGETHERWESAVE.COM**, an online portal to energy savings tips, is customized for members of Horry Electric Cooperative!

To access the information, visit [horryelectric.com](http://horryelectric.com) and click on the link to [TogetherWeSave.com](http://TogetherWeSave.com), our online portal to energy savings tips. Real dollar savings projections—based on your electric rate and our climate zone—are provided to see how small changes in behavior can add up to big savings.

Once you arrive at the site, enter your ZIP code to be redirected to the section customized for Horry Electric Cooperative members.

You can watch videos that provide detailed instructions about energy savings practices, add up your potential savings with a **Virtual Home Tour** and much more!

Live in a **manufactured home**? There's a separate Virtual Home Tour for you!

### Additional online sources just for members

In less than 10 minutes, you can learn more about your energy use than you ever imagined. To get started, all you need is your Horry Electric account number and access to [horryelectric.com](http://horryelectric.com). **BillingInsights** is a FREE service available to members of Horry Electric.



**MyUsage.com** is a FREE power awareness program for members that helps you save money and the environment by promoting energy conservation. With this tool, you can see the amount of energy you

use on a daily basis; view your daily use for the last 30 days, along with the average temperature and even set up email alerts for daily use and use that exceeds a limit you specify. No Internet access? No worries, call us at (843) 369-2211.



## Horry Electric Cooperative, Inc.

**Get paid to stay in hot water!**



Ready for a new water heater? Call Horry Electric.

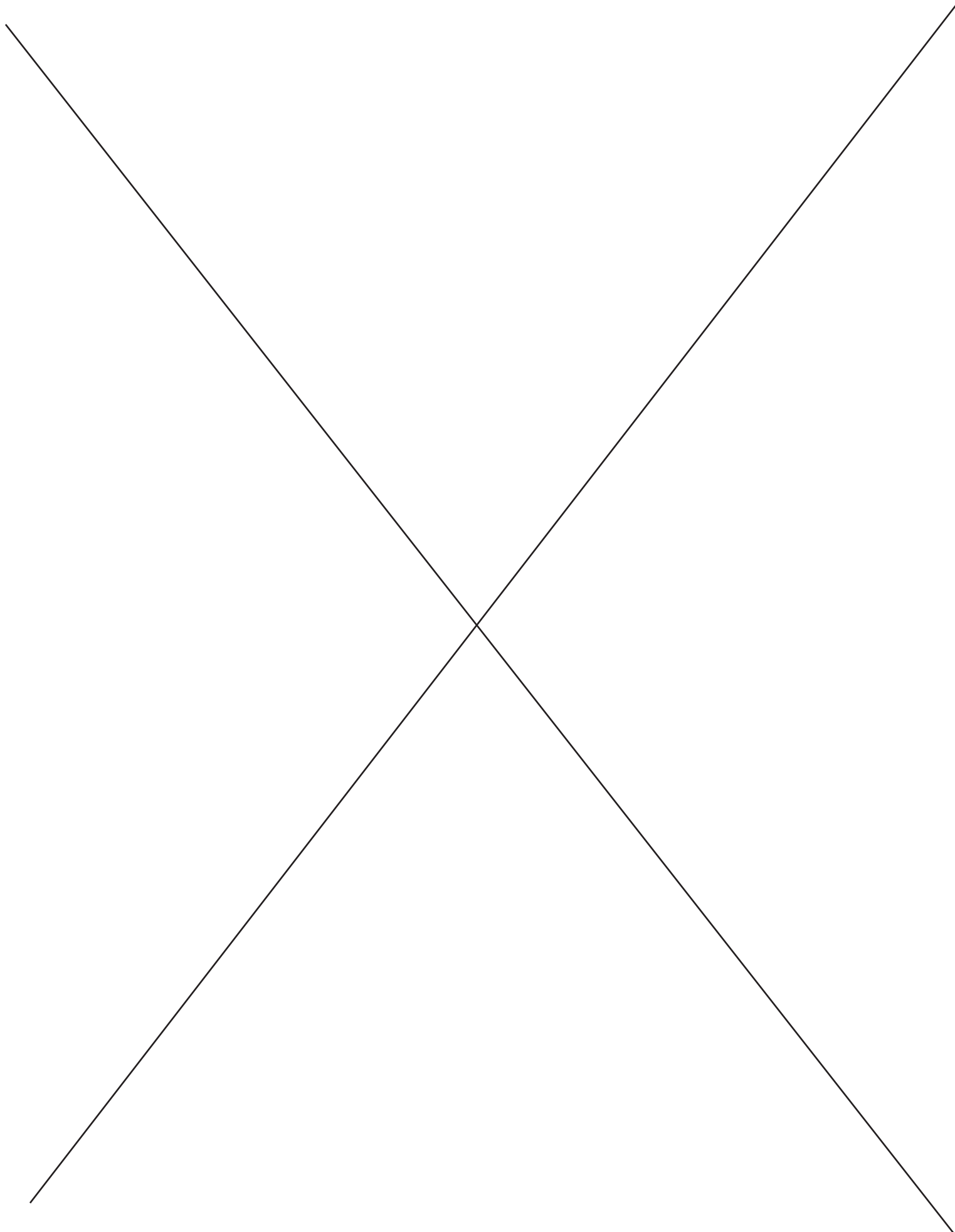
We offer rebates of \$125 and \$250 for qualifying installations. Qualification includes an agreement to allow load control on the unit.

Free financing is available. Horry Electric will make all the financing arrangements for you and provide no-interest, no-cost, upfront financing. This option is available to qualified members with a new minimum 50-gallon water heater with a load control device. The rebate is applied to the amount financed. Payments are spread equally over 12 months and are added to your Horry Electric bill.

To find out more about the H<sub>2</sub>O Select water heater program, visit [horryelectric.com](http://horryelectric.com) or call (843) 369-2211.



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## A career of service

From index cards to iPhones, HEC employee saw it all

BY WALTER ALLREAD

**GROWING UP** in Conway when Horry County was primarily an agricultural area, Genevieve Smith remembers well when her family got its first refrigerator and television on power supplied by Horry Electric Cooperative.

Later this year she'll retire as accounting supervisor with more than 44 years of service with HEC. Just 21 when she applied with Horry Electric, her first job was a part-time assignment helping set up continuing property records.

"Once that assignment was over they said they wanted to keep me but they didn't have anything open in the department where I had been working," says Smith, a 1965 Conway High School graduate. "They said they did have openings as a dispatcher and asked me if I'd be interested in that. I told them I guess I would, even though I was real shy! I took the dispatcher job and work orders and began my career."

That was 1968, and as one might imagine, not only was Horry County different demographically—according to a 2000 study by USC, Horry County recorded a state-leading 94.4 percent growth in population from 1972 to 1997—the workplace was significantly different technologically.

"There were no computers," says Smith, who by then had moved from dispatching to bookkeeping, where



Gen Smith with her grandchildren, clockwise from bottom: Lance, who's 7 this month; Cory Lynn, 13; Briggs, 14 in August; Dillon, 12; and Courtney, 19, a rising sophomore at USC.

she spent the majority of her career. "Everything was done by hand. I helped out with payroll, and counted cash and coins and put them into envelopes for each employee.

"We didn't get computers until 1973. That was a big change. I never imagined then how far the co-op would be now."

Horry County's amazing population growth also was reflected in both the numbers of members and HEC employees.

"When I went to work we had two construction crews, two meter readers and two servicemen," Smith says. "I think there were 13 of us in the office, counting everyone on down to the custodian. Now, there are 170 or so employees."

Smith says she plans to use her

retirement to spend time with her grandchildren. She plans to visit area shut-ins as well as a paralyzed uncle.

She's been serving others for a long time. "I really enjoyed my work with the co-op and the members," Smith says. "I have a lot to be thankful for." ☺

### 'She can really do the work'

Stepping into the shoes of someone with 44 years of service to Horry Electric Cooperative won't be easy for Kisha Roberts, but there's one person who thinks Roberts is the perfect choice to do it: the woman she's replacing.

"Kisha is a real hard worker," says Genevieve Smith, who is retiring as accounting supervisor after a 44-year career with HEC. "She's been with us for eight years, and in that time she's made an effort to try and learn about every job in accounting.

"She's done a real good job and can really do the work."

Roberts started at HEC as a cashier in March 2004 before moving to accounting in 2005. She holds a bachelor's degree in accounting from Coastal Carolina and has been married to Andy Roberts for 11 years. Together, they have a 9-year-old son, Heath, who attends Aynor Elementary. Roberts says working for Smith has been a learning experience in every way.

"She has been a blessing to me and my family," Roberts says. "She has been a very dedicated, hard-working individual. She has shared her knowledge with me that I will be able to use throughout my career at HEC.

"I do wish Gen the very best in her retirement, and I hope to serve HEC and its members as well as Gen has the past 44 years."



Kisha Roberts with her husband, Andy, and son, Heath. Of her predecessor at HEC, Gen Smith, Roberts says, "She has been a blessing to me and my family."

COURTESY KISHA ROBERTS





## Respecting the power of energy

Air Force retiree touts electrical safety

BY WALTER ALLREAD

**THE PHOTOS** are too graphic to share here, even though Jim Latour thinks we should.

Latour, an Horry Electric Cooperative member and retired Air Force electrical superintendent/manager, is still as passionate today about energy safety as he was during a 30-year military career and 15 more in the private sector. The photos in question show the extreme physical damage electricity can do to a human body, and they are a disturbing reminder that in our daily lives, extreme caution when dealing with power sources should always be our guide.

"People will believe a picture more than a sentence written out," Latour says. "People have a tendency to try and protect other people and children from gory pictures about electricity,

but in doing that sometimes they don't convince the other people or the children that it's dangerous to go into that area.

"I think in our society we've leaned toward protection more than education. Maybe we need to scare more people. A substation has a fence around it for a reason, and it's not just to keep the wire in there."

Latour knows more about electrical safety than merely encouraging it. In the Air Force, Latour was both an instructor and supervisor at Shepherd Air Force Base in Texas where he not only taught the courses, he eventually oversaw writing the service training manuals themselves.

"I taught and became the block supervisor, then was responsible for generating the curricula for my career field in diesel generator operations, all

Latour's expertise in diesel generators comes in handy at home, where he has a backup power unit. Of course, it has safety features that prevent the power it generates from backfeeding onto the system, where it could injure lineworkers or anyone else who mistakenly thinks the lines are not energized.

the way from the position descriptions to writing the career development course and the promotion test."

Latour says in education he learned the value of simple sayings people can remember to keep themselves safe when dealing with electricity.

"We had tons of them," he says. "Things like, 'Don't play with pretty copper things,' and another good one, 'There are old electricians and there are bold electricians, but there are no old, bold electricians.'"

"We'd repeat those kinds of things all the time, because if it sticks with you, you'll probably live longer."

Latour, who regularly attends HEC annual meetings, said the cooperative is to be commended for its safety outreach efforts at such events.

"HEC goes out of its way to educate members about safety," Latour says.



HEC members Jim and Jane Latour bought these coasters (and matching mugs) that say something about “fault finding” electricians and “100% qualified” engineers. Latour also likes to quote old safety slogans like, “There are old electricians and there are bold electricians, but there are no old, bold electricians.”

“People don’t know why they shouldn’t plant bushes and trees within four feet of the equipment, but you need working room for electrical technicians to work safely. The same goes for transformers [underground transformer cabinets]. People want to try to hide them, but they should never do that because workers need to find them quickly and work safely on them in power outages.

“People don’t always like to think about it, but they should never forget that when it comes to working around power sources, electricity doesn’t take prisoners.” ☺

**Jim Latour talks with HEC’s Kathy Martin at the co-op’s annual meeting in April. He says Horry Electric does a good job raising member awareness of the dangers created when copper grounding wire is stolen.**



WALTER ALLREAD

# Horry Extra

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

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


This outage management system lets you easily report an outage from your home telephone, or from another location by entering your meter or account number.

**Important:** We **MUST** have your **up-to-date telephone number** where you receive service for PowerTouch to work most effectively.

*Please fill out the attached form, mail in with your payment or drop off at your nearest co-op office.*

Now use **PowerTouch** to get in touch at  
**369-2212**

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### **My Up-To-Date Phone Number and Service Address.**

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

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

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Your Co-op Account Number \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_