

Horry Electric Cooperative, Inc.

www.horryelectric.com

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**TO REPORT
POWER OUTAGES ONLY**
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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

Finishing out the year strong

Looking forward to 2022



I'M HONORED TO SHARE with you that Horry Electric Cooperative was recently recognized as a Horry County Legacy Business. This honor is awarded to businesses that have contributed to the economic heritage of Horry County for more than 50

years. Horry Electric was organized in 1940 and energized in 1941. For the past 81 years, the co-op has worked hard to provide safe, reliable and affordable electricity to the communities it serves.

Our communities have seen many changes in the last 81 years. 2021 alone was a year of substantial growth and expansion in Horry County. We started the year with 84,507 active accounts and we'll close out the year with just over 87,000. In an effort to serve these additional meters, we've added 93.42 miles of line to the system this year, bringing our total to 5,561 miles of line. As our communities welcome new homes, residents and businesses, we're working hard to ensure we provide the level of electric service you've come to expect from Horry Electric. We've energized two new substations this year to accommodate growth and demand. The Watson's Riverside substation came on-line earlier this year in the Socastee community and by year end the Highway 905 substation will be energized at the intersection of Highways 905 and 22.

Throughout 2021, Horry Electric worked to save money and cut back on operating expenses. I'm happy to share the hard work paid off! During the August board meeting, the Board of Trustees voted unanimously to pass these savings on to you, the members. The Wholesale Power Cost Adjustment (WPCA), which is calculated and charged monthly based on kilowatt-hour consumption, has been eliminated for four months, September to December

2021. These savings directly benefit every active account on our system. We will keep you informed about the WPCA as costs will be re-evaluated in the coming months.

As we head into the holiday season, I'm thankful for the legacy that is Horry Electric. I'm thankful for what it means to the community. I'm thankful for the growth and the ability to keep up with rising demands. I'm thankful for our Board of Trustees and how they always have the best interest of the member in the forefront of every decision. I'm thankful for the employees for all they give to their jobs and communities daily. I'm thankful for each member of Horry Electric and I wish you the happiest of holiday seasons.

This issue of *South Carolina Living* is the final issue of 2021 and you can expect to receive your next issue in January 2022. Thank you for 81 years of business and for a great 2021! Merry Christmas!

Daniel B. Shelley, III

DANIEL B. SHELLEY, III
Executive Vice President and CEO

Effective Jan. 1

The facilities charge for single-phase service will increase from the current rate of \$24 to \$25 per month. The charge for three-phase service will increase from \$34 to \$35.

The facilities charge is a monthly fixed amount charged to each meter at each service location, regardless of the amount of electricity used. It is for the expenses related to providing service to the meter, which includes utility plant investment; operation and maintenance costs; administration and general costs; depreciation; and administrative costs such as billing and property taxes.



Local student helps others nurture nature

BY JOSH P. CROTZER

THE BEST WAY TO LEARN is to teach.

That's something Roshni Nandwani experienced this summer as she took her newly acquired knowledge and skills and shared them with the Myrtle Beach community.

Nandwani, one of Horry Electric's representatives at the Virtual Youth Experience, had recently learned about the detrimental impacts pollution and waste have on the environment. When her co-op gave her the opportunity to do a community service project, she used it to teach young students what they can do about the problem.

Nature's Nurturers was an educational initiative developed by Nandwani, now a senior at Socastee High School. Over the summer, she taught local children about the importance of protecting the environment. Students attended four weekly meetings at Sharky's Restaurant

in July and August, learning about the importance of environmental sustainability, participating in hands-on tutorials like separating recyclables and helping clean the beach.

"Everyone, myself included, could be doing better to become more sustainable and increase the longevity of the environment—and not just on Earth Day," Nandwani says.

She developed the idea for Nature's Nurturers while working on a research project for her Spanish course. A study of Brazil made her realize the negative effect excessive waste and deforestation have had on that nation.

"A lot of it was a shock to me," she says of issues like water scarcity. "I thought, the best way to learn about things like this is to teach others."

Nature's Nurturers was part of Nandwani's participation in the Virtual Youth Experience, a week-long



JAAN NANDWANI

▲ Nandwani and two of her students learn about protecting the environment.

◀ The Nature Nurturers sweep the beach of litter.

web conference sponsored by Horry Electric and South Carolina's electric cooperatives. As one of Horry's VYE students, Nandwani was eligible to create a community service project and apply for the \$5,000 R.D. Bennett Scholarship.

Nandwani was not selected as the scholarship winner, but she did make an impression with her project.

"What Roshni was able to put together is exactly the kind of impact intended with programs like Virtual Youth Experience and the Bennett Community Scholarship," says Jennifer Harmon, public relations and marketing coordinator for Horry Electric. "Roshni was already inspired in the classroom, and she brought that inspiration with her all the way through her summer experiences."

Nandwani says that she intends to take that inspiration further.

"In terms of the environment, that's something that I'm going to continue to advocate for," she says. "But the education part of it—teaching others—I'll definitely take with me. Before this, I didn't place much importance on mentorship until I was the one filling those shoes. That's something that I want to continue."

How to Become a Trustee of Horry Electric Cooperative, Inc.

EACH YEAR, Horry Electric Cooperative members elect three board trustees to serve on the co-op's nine-member board. As a member-owned electric cooperative, any member in good standing can run for a board seat that is up for election, as long as they live in that district.

If you are interested in running as a candidate for the election, please note the qualifications below. **See the schedule on 12D for the nominating schedule.**

I. QUALIFICATIONS:

1. General Trustee Qualifications. A Trustee or Trustee Candidate must:

- Be a natural person;
- Have the capacity to enter legally binding contracts;
- While a Trustee and during the 365 days immediately preceding the Trustee election, maintain their primary residential abode within the boundaries of the applicable residential Trustee District;
- While a Trustee, and during the twenty-five (25) years immediately prior to becoming a Trustee, not:
 - Be, nor have been, convicted of a felony; or
 - Plead, nor have pled, guilty to a felony.

2. Membership Qualifications. While a Trustee, and during the 365 days immediately prior to becoming a Trustee, a Trustee or Trustee candidate must:

- Be a Member using, receiving, and purchasing electric service from the Cooperative at the Trustee's or Trustee candidate's principal residence, as determined by South Carolina voter registration law; and
- Be current in all respects regarding payment to the Cooperative of Additional Payments and obligations, and not be subject to disconnection for non-payment of electric service at the Trustee

or Trustee candidate's primary residence.

3. Conflict of Interest Disqualification.

A Trustee or Trustee candidate must not be or have been:

- A Close Relative of any current Trustee, Cooperative employee, or Cooperative subsidiary employee;
- Employed by, materially affiliated with, or share a material financial interest with, any other Trustee;
- Engaged in, nor employed by, materially affiliated with, or have a material financial interest in, any individual or entity:
 - Directly and substantially competing with the Cooperative or any Cooperative subsidiary; or
 - Possessing a substantial conflict of interest with the Cooperative or any Cooperative subsidiary.
- Previously subject to an involuntary separation of employment from the Cooperative or any Cooperative subsidiary; or separation of employment from the Cooperative or any Cooperative subsidiary; or
- While a Trustee or during the five (5) years immediately prior to becoming a Trustee, employed by the Cooperative or any Cooperative subsidiary, or engaged contractually (as an employee, principal, owner, partner, or shareholder, except through passive investment) with a firm that contracts with the Cooperative or any Cooperative subsidiary as a prime or sub-contractor.

II. NOMINATIONS:

Below are the two methods that may be used for the purpose of being elected as a member of the Cooperative's Board of Trustees.

- A member may be nominated by the appointed Nominating Committee of the Cooperative as a candidate for the Board of Trustees from the Trustee District in which the member lives and for that District's seat. The Nominating Committee will meet at least thirty days prior to the Annual Member Meeting. For the exact date of the Nominating Committee meeting, call the office at (843) 369-2211.
- A member can also be nominated by petition as a candidate for the Board of Trustees from the Trustee District in which the member lives and for that District's seat. Official forms must be obtained from the Cooperative and must be signed by at least twenty-five active members in order to be considered valid. The deadline for petition candidates is at least forty-five days and not more than sixty days prior to the date of the Annual Member Meeting. The deadline is specified on the Official Petition Form.

III. ELECTION:

The following is how the election will take place at the Annual Member Meeting:

Members who have been nominated by the Nominating Committee or who have been nominated by Petition, and meet the qualifications, will have their names appear on the official ballot of the Cooperative. Trustees shall be elected by secret written or electronic ballot by the Members, with polling and early voting as required by state law; PROVIDED that in the event of an uncontested race, secret balloting may be dispensed with and the particular election may occur by acclamation.

For additional information on this procedure, please refer to the Cooperative's Bylaws, which are posted on horryelectric.com. For a printed copy of the bylaws, please visit one of our offices.

Co-op awards teachers with Bright Ideas grants

INNOVATION IS ONE of the four core values that Touchstone Energy Cooperatives practice. Horry Electric's Bright Ideas grant program is always a great example of innovation in Horry County.

In October, nine grants totaling \$7,225 were awarded to teachers across the county.

"This is something we look forward to each year," says Toni Gore, coordinator of the Bright Ideas program. "This is a rewarding opportunity where we are able to give to our community and our schools."

Since the program launched in 2007, Horry Electric has awarded teachers for bringing innovative ideas to the classroom. One of the seven cooperative principles is commitment to community. As part of the co-op business model, the Bright Ideas grant program was created to provide funding for innovative classroom-based educational projects. The grants awarded are intended to fund the projects outside of normal public school funding parameters and can be made available to all disciplines in grades K-12. Any Horry County teacher is eligible to apply, and teachers are limited to one application per year.

"We always encourage any teacher to apply! We love having the opportunity to help a teacher fund a project for their classroom," says Gore.

Horry Electric was not able to do surprise presentations in the schools this year due to the ongoing pandemic, but we're proud to present our nine winners for 2021.

Marissa Pipkin-Jones, St. James High School

Entry: STEM Light Up Headband Design
Award: \$1,000

Students will use STEM in Fashion and Fabric class by designing and creating a light-up headband with parallel circuits. This project will allow students to explore the concepts of conductivity

and electricity by lighting things up and being able to build different projects.

Rebecca Crute, Aynor Elementary

Entry: Rolling Into Coding
Award: \$1,000

Students will learn to program Indi robot cars to follow a sequence through colored cards placed on the ground. Coding creates thinkers and problem solvers. Through these Indi robot cars, students do not have to be able to read to understand and create programs for the robot.

Stacy Williams, Socastee High School

Entry: Plexiglass Rollercoasters
Award: \$700

Students will build marble rollercoasters to investigate energy changes out of the plexiglass previously used on their desks. Students will interact with each other to explore potential to kinetic energy and the loss of energy due to friction.

Sandra Matthews, Conway Elementary

Entry: Merge With STEM
Award: \$1,000

Matthews' project will bring science and engineering to life for kindergarten to fifth grade students. Students will use Merge Cubes to explore STEM through augmented reality, which creates a fun and interactive way of learning.

Franklin Powell, St. James High School

Entry: Digital Interactive Word Wall
Award: \$300

The Digital Interactive Word Wall will promote learning through technology. A Smart TV will allow students to use modern education in social studies to see changes in the world and changes in political geography.

Amy Saunders, Kingston Elementary

Entry: Cool Cats are RAZ Readers
Award: \$1,000

Cool Cats are RAZ Readers is a reading subscription program for kindergarten through second grade students. The goal is to expose students to as much reading material as possible to enable them to build their foundational literacy skills.

Crystal Reissman, St. James Intermediate

Entry: Galloping Towards A Better Tomorrow
Award: \$1,000

Reissman's program provides therapeutic horseback riding for four students. Students will be able to develop positive social interactions, as well as building relationships with horses and their peers.

Karen Collins, St. James High School

Entry: Microscale Chemistry
Award: \$225

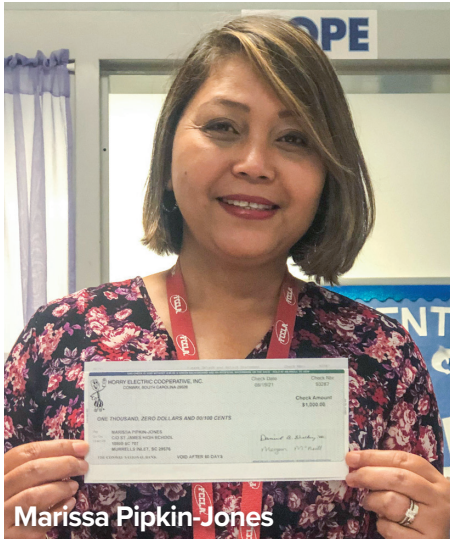
Through Collins' initiative, students will perform chemistry experiments on a smaller scale. Less chemicals and safer processes will allow more students to do hands-on chemistry experiments more often.

Lisa Sawyer, Kingston Elementary

Entry: Genius Hour
Award: \$1,000

Students will have a special hour to dedicate time to research and projects. Students must choose a topic and project idea of their own creation, and will be able to explore what they are interested in during the Genius Hour.

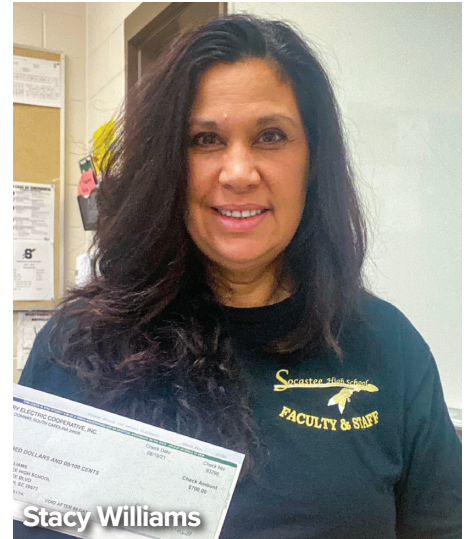




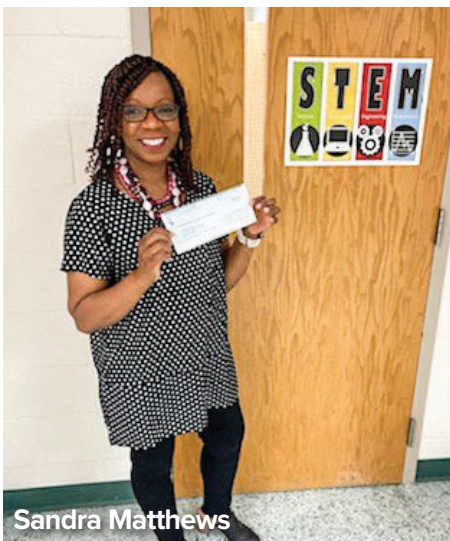
Marissa Pipkin-Jones



Rebecca Crute



Stacy Williams



Sandra Matthews



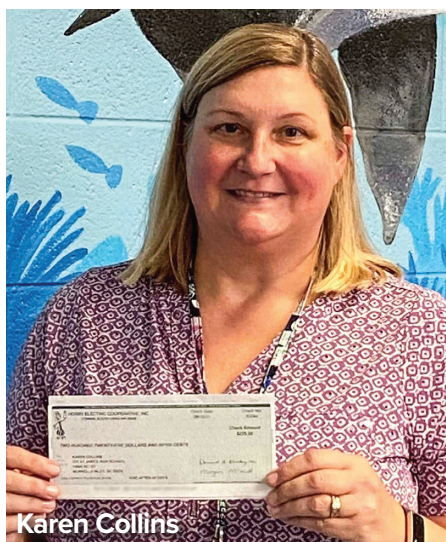
Franklin Powell (right) and St. James Principal Vann Pennell



Amy Saunders



Crystal Reissman



Karen Collins



Lisa Sawyer

Horry Electric's 2022 Annual Member Meeting

Registration & Voting: Tuesday, May 10 (7 a.m.–7 p.m.) and Wednesday, May 11 (7 a.m.–11 a.m.)

Virtual Business Meeting: Wednesday at 7 p.m.

| ITEM | BYLAW PROVISIONS | ACTION |
|---|---|--|
| Nominating Committee Appointed: | At least sixty (60) days before (3/12/22) and not more than one hundred fifty (150) days (12/12/2021) prior to the Annual Meeting of Members, consisting of at least five (5) members. | To be appointed at December Board Meeting to meet in January 2022. |
| Notice of Meeting of Nominating Committee in local newspaper: | RUS requirement (No Bylaw provision) | Published in a local newspaper December 2021/ January 2022. |
| Posting of Report of Nominating Committee: | Nominees: At least thirty (30) days prior to the Annual Meeting of Members | Post before 4/11/22. |
| Deadline for Petition Candidates and Posting of Report: | At least forty-five (45) days (3/27/22) and not more than sixty (60) days (3/12/22) before Annual Meeting of Members. | Deadline to submit Petition Forms is 3/11/22 (Friday) at 12 noon; Post in office by 3/27/22. |
| Credentials and Elections Appointment: | At least sixty (60) days—by (3/12/22) and not more than ninety (90) days (2/10/22) before any meeting of the members, and consisting of an uneven number of members, and of at least 5 members. | To be appointed at February Board Meeting. |
| Notice of Meeting: | Not less than thirty (30) days (4/11/22) and not more than sixty (60) days (3/12/22) before the date of meeting. | Direct mailers to all member-owners between 3/12/22 and 4/11/22. |

With names and addresses of all nominees, distinguishing between those nominated by the Committee and those nominated by petition.

Horry Electric Cooperative, Inc., P.O. Box 119, Conway, SC 29528-0119 | (843) 369-2211

Lighting Your Way This *Holiday Season*

At Horry Electric Cooperative, we want our members to always know that we are here not only to bring light, but to bring warmth, safety and dependable service to you and your loved ones now—and throughout the coming year.

*Merry Christmas and
Wishing You a Bright New Year!*

**Horry Electric
Cooperative, Inc.**

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



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horryelectric.com



Horry Electric will be closed for the holidays Nov. 25–26, Dec. 24, 27 and 31.