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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.



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



The power of preparation

September is National Preparedness Month

SEVERE WEATHER can impact our area at any time, especially since we're in the peak of hurricane season.

Our crews are ready to weather any storm. Are you prepared? During a prolonged power outage or other emergency, do you have enough food, water and supplies to last a few days?

September is National Preparedness Month and I want to remind members in our community about the power of preparation. There are several steps you can take to keep you and your family safe.

Preparing can help reduce stress, anxiety and lessen the impact of an emergency. Here are some general guidelines recommended by the Federal Emergency Management Agency:

Assemble an emergency kit Just as our trucks and warehouses are stocked with tools and materials to restore outages, you should have essential items ready for use in your home. Include items like nonperishable foods, water (one gallon per person, per day), batteries, flashlights, prescription medications, first-aid kit, a battery-powered radio and phone chargers. Organize your supplies so they are together in an easily accessible location that your family members know about.

Develop a communication plan

We work hard to keep our members informed of restoration progress on social media. Communication is important, so stay in contact with family and friends via call, text or social media to assure their safety and yours. Keep your contacts informed of your emergency plans as well.

Have cash available During a power outage, electronic card readers and cash dispensers may not work. You should

have cash on hand for emergencies. It's also a good idea to have a full tank of gas in your vehicle.

Protect documents Store important documents like birth certificates and property deeds in a safe place away from your home, such as a bank safe deposit box.

Caring for others Make sure family members with special medical needs have enough medication and supplies for a few days. If they don't live with you, arrange for a neighbor or someone to check in on them. If you have an infant or young children, make sure you have plenty of formula, diapers, medication and other supplies on hand.

Keeping pets safe You can create an emergency kit for your four-legged family members, too. Include shelf-safe food, bottled water and medication. Bring pets indoors at the first sign of a storm or other emergency. Pets can become disoriented and frightened during severe weather and they could wander off. Microchip your pet and ensure your contact information is up to date. Also, store any pet medical records on a USB drive or in an easy-to-remember location in your home.

At Horry Electric, we know severe weather and natural disasters are scary. Being prepared can keep a bad situation from getting worse. Planning for an emergency situation today can give you peace of mind to deal with severe weather and potential outages in the future. Remember, we are here for you and we will weather any storm together.

Daniel B. Shelley, III

DANIEL B. SHELLEY, III
Executive Vice President and CEO

Keep food safe when the power goes out

WIND, LIGHTNING AND WILDLIFE are some of the culprits that can cause the power to go out. Horry Electric understands power outages of any length can be frustrating, especially when your refrigerator is fully stocked.

Extended power outages are rare, but when they occur, it's important to understand food safety measures necessary to avoid illness. Here are a few food safety tips to keep in mind before, during and after a power outage.

Before an outage

As mentioned in this month's CEO Column, September is National Preparedness Month. When we talk about preparedness, we mention having nonperishable foods on hand. This includes canned goods, cereal, protein bars and powdered milk. Also, make sure to have plenty of bottled water in your kit.

During an outage

If an outage occurs, do not open the refrigerator or freezer unless it's absolutely necessary. An unopened refrigerator will keep food cold for about four hours. A half-full freezer will keep food frozen for about 24 hours, and a full freezer for about 48 hours. If it looks like the power outage will last longer than four hours, dry ice can be used to preserve food in the freezer or you can move important perishable items to an ice-filled cooler.

After an outage

If refrigerated foods have been exposed to temperatures higher than 40 degrees for more than two hours, the American Red Cross recommends discarding those items. If any foods have an unusual color, odor or texture, throw them away.

While most perishable foods should be thrown out after an extended outage, there are a few items that are safe to consume after a two-hour exposure to 40+ degrees: hard cheeses that are properly wrapped; butter or margarine that is properly wrapped; non-dairy sauces like taco, barbecue, soy, jelly, mustard, ketchup and relish.

The best way to avoid illness from spoiled food during or after an outage is to follow the four-hour rule of thumb. After an outage, always smell and inspect foods before consuming. Remember, when in doubt, throw it out.

To learn more about food safety after an emergency, visit [ready.gov/food](https://www.ready.gov/food).



Horry Electric keeps a pantry stocked with nonperishable foods so employees have food to eat while working during emergencies.



Jose Marcano

HEC member wins \$100 gift card

Sign up now for Beat The Peak

HORRY ELECTRIC member Jose Marcano of Longs is our Beat The Peak winner for the spring contest. Marcano was randomly selected from over 13,000 Horry Electric members enrolled in Beat The Peak.

This program is completely voluntary and allows members to sign up for peak alerts. Once notified of a peak event, members can help lower the demand on our system by reducing the amount of electricity they use. Energy is most expensive during peak times. With each of us using less energy, we can save the cooperative and members money.

When you sign up for Beat The Peak, you can choose to be notified about a peak event via call, text or email. There are several ways you can help Beat The Peak during the summer:

- ▶ Raise your thermostat by three degrees.
- ▶ Avoid using any major appliances.
- ▶ If you have to do laundry, wash clothes in cold water.
- ▶ Turn OFF any unused lights.

If you have questions or want to hear about energy saving tips, contact your Trusted Energy Advisors at (843) 369-2211 or visit horryelectric.com. Also, stay tuned for our next Beat The Peak gift card contest!

JENNIFER CUMMINGS

A summer to remember

BY JOSH P. CROTZER

IT WAS QUITE A SUMMER for two local high school students, thanks to Horry Electric Cooperative.

Mackenzie Brown, a student at Aynor High School, and Lilah Ell of Coastal Leadership Academy took part in the Cooperative Youth Summit, a four-day journey of their state's capital and the surrounding area that went beyond the traditional field trip.

The students visited Riverbanks Zoo & Garden, explored electric vehicles and toured the State House, culminating with a visit inside the Governor's office. The students also learned about legislative advocacy from S.C. state Rep. Kirkman Finlay and John Frick, vice president of government affairs for The Electric Cooperatives of South Carolina.

Frick had the students create a basic public healthcare policy and present it to their peers. In the Blatt Building, where state representatives' offices are located, Ell presented on behalf of her group. The competing proposals eventually reached a compromise in order to "pass" their mock legislation.

"I've always seen politics as one-sided," says Ell. "But that really opened my eyes and put things in perspective. It keeps my faith in my country strong."

The students visited Newberry Electric Cooperative, where they heard stories of outages, learned about the co-op's solar array and saw an electrical safety demonstration. They also reached new heights as they were lifted in the bucket of a boom truck alongside a lineman.

On the final day, the students heard from Hannah Honeycutt of the South Carolina Access to Justice Commission. Honeycutt told the students that many citizens, especially in rural communities, are not able to effectively use the legal system to advocate for themselves and

their interests.

Cooperative Youth Summit students also had the unique opportunity to produce podcasts addressing the question, "Given the turbulence in our nation and around the globe, how can young people impact their local communities?" Brown's and Ell's podcasts will be available to listen to on Horry Electric's social media channels.

Throughout the trip, the students participated in the Soda Pop Co-op, which sold snacks and beverages. Some students served as a cooperative board member. Others were a part of

Mackenzie Brown (left) and Lilah Ell gained new perspectives during the Cooperative Youth Summit.



PHOTOS BY JOSH P. CROTZER



Mackenzie Brown and Lilah Ell are ready to take a ride in one of the Teslas the students got to experience during the Cooperative Youth Summit.

the management team. All students received cash back (known as capital credits) as their share of the end of the trip margins. The exercise allowed the students to learn first-hand how the not-for-profit co-op business model works.

Veterans honored with Quilts of Valor

THE PROMISE to support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic—that's the oath each person takes when they enlist in the armed forces. A promise they make, not knowing what lies ahead.

Ten veterans, including employees from Horry Electric, were honored in July with a Quilts of Valor ceremony. The Knights of Columbus started the ceremony with an explanation of the American flag. They explained what each fold means when an American flag is folded after the loss of a veteran who served our country.

Quilts of Valor history

Following the Knights of Columbus, the Conway Quilt Guild, who make Quilts of Valor for parts of Horry County, spoke about the Foundation. Quilts of Valor was started by Catherine Roberts in 2003. Her son was deployed in Iraq. "One night she (Roberts) had a dream of a young man sitting on the side of his bed, hunched over," says Deanna Holder of the Conway Quilt Guild. "She could see his war demons clustered around, dragging him down. Then as if viewing a movie, she saw him in the next scene wrapped in a quilt. His whole demeanor changed from one of despair to one of hope and well-being."

Each Quilt of Valor is a quilt of honor awarded to those

who have served. "This was a true testament that we were not forgotten and our service really meant something to the people we promised to serve and protect," says Ricky Curry, power control technician for Horry Electric.

Each quilt is made up of three layers—the top with many colors, shapes and fabrics; the middle batting for warmth; the backing for strength. When presented to a veteran, each quilt is stitched with a label noting the name of the recipient and the date presented. Also on the label are the people who pieced the top, who quilted it and who completed the binding.

"It was a great honor to receive a Quilt of Valor knowing each stitch was made with love and appreciation for my service to my country," says John Edwards, member of Horry Electric.

"This ceremony brought back a lot of memories of my time in the service that I don't think about often," says Jake Jensen, distribution engineer for Horry Electric. "I am grateful for this honor and the gift that was given. It's a reminder of a choice I made to serve our country a long time ago. A choice I am proud of and I am glad God allowed me to serve."

Honoring those who served

David Todd served in the Army from 1968–1970 in Vietnam and Panama. While in Panama, he provided jungle training to

The Quilts of Valor honorees (from left) David Todd, Lamar Teems, Jason Benton, Kent Donald, John Edwards, Freddy Thompkins, Ricky Curry, Pat Howle, Jake Jensen and Don Anderson pose with their quilts.



officers going to Vietnam, protecting the canals for ships to pass through.

Lamar Teems served in the Air Force from 1963–1985 as aircraft crew chief, and education and training superintendent. Awards: Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal with one oak leaf cluster, Air Force Commendation Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal and more.

Jason Benton served in the Army from 1996–2016. He served in Operation Enduring Freedom. Awards: Armed Forces Reserve Medal, National Defense Service Medal, South Carolina Active State Service Medal, South Carolina Mobilization Ribbon and more.

Kent Donald served in the Air Force from 1985–1994. He served in the Gulf War/Desert Storm and the Persian Gulf War. Awards: Air Force Commendation Medal, Air Force Achievement Medal with device, Air Force Good Conduct Medal with two devices, and National Defense Service Medal. Kent was assigned to security details protecting Pope John Paul II, President and First Lady Clinton and other dignitaries while working with the U.S. Secret Service.

John Edwards served in the Army from 1965–1967. He was in the 25th Infantry Division, 2/14th Golden Dragons Regiment, where he trained for the front lines of Vietnam. Awards: Vietnam Service Medal with one bronze star, National Defense Service Medal, Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal



Lamar Teems (left) takes a picture with his Quilt of Valor as Ricky Curry is presented with his.

and Combat Infantryman Badge.

Frederick Thompkins served in the Army from 1966–1968 as a member of the 1st Cavalry Division. Awards: Army Commendation Medal for Heroism with the V Emblem for Valor, National Defense Service Medal, Combat Infantryman Badge, Army Combat Badge and many others.

Ricky Curry served in the Army from 1984–1991 in the Gulf War/Desert Storm. He served in Fort Hood, Texas and Stuttgart, Germany.

Pat Howle served in the Army from 1970–1976 and from 1982–1989. He served during the Vietnam War.

Jake Jensen served in the Army from 1994–2002. He was deployed to Panama for Operation Safe Haven. Primary duty assignment in the 82nd Airborne Division in the 2nd/505th Parachute Infantry Regiment. Awards: Army Achievement Medal, Army Accommodation Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Army Service Ribbon and more.

Don Anderson served in the Air Force from 1981–2001. He served during the Cold War. Awards:

Meritorious Service Medal, Air Force Accommodation Medal, Air Force Achievement Medal, Air Force Outstanding Unit Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Air Force Longevity Service Award and more.

Honor and service

The ceremony ended on a patriotic note as everyone sang Lee Greenwood's "God Bless the USA." This inspired Horry Electric's Executive Vice President and CEO Danny Shelley. "Greenwood sings about if he lost everything he had and had to start over, he would start over in the United States, where his freedom is guaranteed. If he had to defend the USA today, he would proudly stand up and fight because of his love for this country," Shelley says.

"We increasingly live in a country where people don't appreciate what we have as Americans," says Don Anderson, apprentice staking technician at Horry Electric. "Our Constitution and military have been the cornerstones to preserve the freedoms we enjoy."

Each of these veterans plans to treasure their Quilt of Valor forever. Some have placed their quilts in a case, while others are wrapping up at night. "I've already used my quilt to wrap up in while watching TV, along with my cat, Ace," says Kent Donald, power control technician for Horry Electric.

A reminder of battle and service, this quilt was designed to provide comfort and healing. "It was truly an honor to have given 22 years of service to this great country," says Lamar Teems, Horry Electric member. "To be recognized with a Quilt of Valor and a special Vietnam War Veteran pin was an honor and a moment I will never forget."



The Knights of Columbus display the American flag before demonstrating the folding ceremony and explanation of the folds.

PHOTOS BY JENNIFER CUMMINGS

National Farm Safety and Health Week

Farm Safety and Health Week is September 18-24!
Whether you live on a farm or in the city, always play it safe near power lines and other electrical equipment.

