

Horry Electric Cooperative, Inc.

www.horryelectric.com

MAIN OFFICE

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Conway, SC 29528-0119
(843) 369-2211



**TO REPORT
POWER OUTAGES ONLY**
(843) 369-2212

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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



Reflecting on the growth and major events of 2022

Looking forward to 2023

THE HUSTLE AND BUSTLE

of the holiday season has arrived. It's hard to believe another year has come and gone, but it has certainly been a productive year. We started 2022 with 87,422 active meters and 5,596 miles of line. It looks like we'll finish the year with close to 90,000 active meters and 5,690 miles of line. The continuous growth throughout Horry County is substantial, which means additional infrastructure, meters and workload.

Looking back

As I reflect on the past year, two significant events come to mind. Only 20 days into the new year, Horry County was faced with Winter Storm Jasper. Our crews prepared for high winds and ice. Fortunately, we were blessed and the storm did not impact Horry County as predicted. Our crews responded to minimal outages and the system did not sustain any storm damage.

Fast forward to September when Mother Nature struck again. Hurricane Ian made landfall in Florida as a Category Four hurricane. After crossing Florida, Ian was forecasted to be a tropical storm by the time it reached South Carolina. Mother Nature had other plans. Ian strengthened back into a Category One hurricane and made a second landfall around Georgetown.

Our crews, alongside contractors and mutual aid crews from other co-ops, worked throughout the storm, battling high winds and heavy rain. Over the course of two and a half days, crews restored power to more than 35,000 meters impacted by Hurricane Ian.

Throughout both events, Horry Electric received an outpouring of support from the community. Our employees are proud of Horry Electric's system, so when a storm hits, they are eager to get to work.

I know I speak for everyone at the co-op when I say we appreciate your patience and prayers during these events. To simply say "thank you" is an understatement.

Bring on 2023

As 2022 comes to an end, rest assured that your co-op, its employees, management team and trustees are always looking out for you. Our primary focus is our members. We strive to provide safe, reliable and affordable electric service, along with excellent member service.

We are excited for 2023 and can't wait to see what the new year holds for Horry Electric's 83rd year of business!

This edition of *South Carolina Living* is a two-month issue, so you should receive your next magazine in January 2023. All of us at Horry Electric would like to wish you a Happy Thanksgiving, as well as a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

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 \$25 to \$26 per month. The charge for three-phase service will increase from \$35 to \$36.

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 include utility plant investment; operation and maintenance costs; administration and general costs such as billing and property taxes; and depreciation.

HEC employee receives Quilt of Valor

IN SEPTEMBER, the Conway Quilt Guild presented Advanced Line Technician Chase Cox with a Quilt of Valor during a ceremony at the VFW Post 10804 in Little River. Due to an illness, Cox was not present when the Guild presented six other Horry Electric employees with their quilts in July.

Founded in 2003 by Catherine Roberts, whose son was deployed in Iraq, the Quilts of Valor Foundation has presented a hand-stitched quilt to countless brave men and women who have served our nation.

Cox served in the Army from 2010 to 2015. He took part in Operation Enduring Freedom and was in Afghanistan for 11 months.

"It means a lot to me any time I'm recognized for my service," says

Cox. "I'm very grateful to have been recommended for this great honor."

Some of the awards Cox received for his time in the service include the Army Service Ribbon, Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Ribbon, Afghanistan Campaign Medal and many more.

"We are beyond proud to have veterans serving in our ranks at Horry Electric," says Executive Vice President and CEO Danny Shelley.

Cox says what sticks with him most is the brothers he's made. "The families that all became intertwined and the bond I still have with so many guys that I served with is incredible," says Cox.

As a reminder of his service, Cox plans on hanging his Quilt of Valor



Advanced Line Technician Chase Cox served in the Army from 2010 to 2015.

alongside his other Army awards and plaques.

NOTE: Read about the six other Horry Electric employees who received Quilts of Valor in the September issue of *South Carolina Living*.

Working Together for A Brighter Future!

Merry Christmas

and the happiest of holidays to
you and your family!

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Offices will be closed for the holidays Nov. 24–25, Dec. 23 & 26 and Jan. 2.

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:

- a. Be a natural person;
- b. Have the capacity to enter legally binding contracts;
- c. 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;
- d. While a Trustee, and during the twenty-five (25) years immediately prior to becoming a Trustee, not:
 - i. Be, nor have been, convicted of a felony; or
 - ii. 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:

- a. 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
- b. 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. A Close Relative of any current Trustee, Cooperative employee, or Cooperative subsidiary employee;
- b. Employed by, materially affiliated with, or share a material financial interest with, any other Trustee;
- c. Engaged in, nor employed by, materially affiliated with, or have a material financial interest in, any individual or entity:
 - i. Directly and substantially competing with the Cooperative or any Cooperative subsidiary; or
 - ii. Possessing a substantial conflict of interest with the Cooperative or any Cooperative subsidiary.
- d. 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
- e. 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.

1. 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.
2. 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.



Peter Huber (left) with his students at Calvary Christian School, after being awarded a \$600 Bright Ideas grant.

HEC awards Bright Ideas grants

BRING ON THE SMILES! Horry Electric loves being involved with the community. That's one of the reasons why the co-op launched the Bright Ideas grant program in 2007. Innovation is one of the four core values that Touchstone Energy Cooperatives practice.

As part of celebrating Co-op Month in October, 10 grants totaling \$8,870 were awarded to teachers across the county.

"This is such a rewarding opportunity for us to give to our community and our schools," says Toni Gore, coordinator of the Bright Ideas program. "I'm so glad we were able to surprise these teachers in person this year, after doing this virtually the past two years."

Bright Ideas was created to provide funding for innovative classroom-based educational projects. The grants awarded are intended to fund projects outside of normal public and private school funding parameters. Any Horry County teacher of grades K-12 is eligible to apply.

"We always encourage teachers to apply! We love the opportunity to help turn a teacher's idea into a reality," says Gore.

Horry Electric is proud to present the 10 winners for 2022.

Peter Huber, Calvary Christian School

Entry: Static Generator

Award: \$600

Students will learn about static electricity, how to store static and how long charges can be held by using a static generator.



Megan Harmon proudly holds her Bright Ideas check after being awarded \$1,000 for her school project.

Megan Harmon, Kingston Elementary

Entry: Lighting Up Third Grade

Award: \$1,000

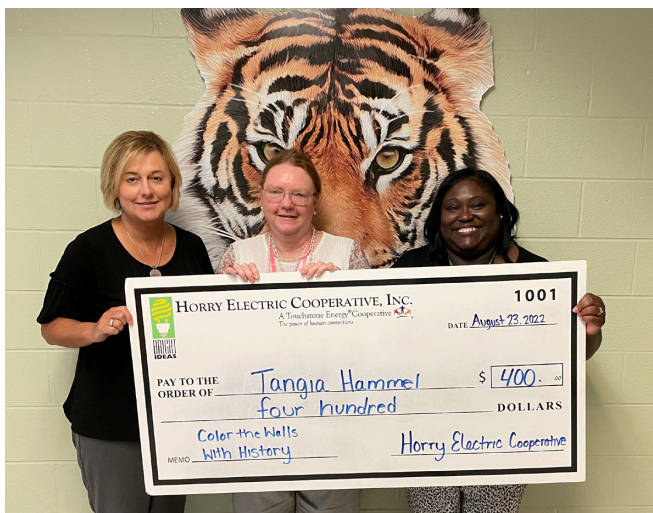
The project will use technology-based programs in the classroom to offer new, engaging ways for students to learn. Students will work in teams to complete digital learning projects, which will also promote team building.

Nicole Peters, St. James Intermediate

Entry: STEM Coding

Award: \$1,000

Students will be able to work with a drone that helps them with coding, while also teaching aerodynamics, electronics, cognitive development and critical thinking.



Tangia Hammel (center) is pictured with Horry Electric's Susan Brown (left) and Principal Regina Treadwell-Pertell.



Palmetto Bays Elementary's Brittany Stokes smiles as her students help hold the Bright Ideas check.



Sara Sorrows (right) and her students show their excitement after receiving a \$870 check from Toni Gore (left), HEC Bright Ideas coordinator.



With the Bright Ideas award, Maureen Oswald's students will build a library for their school.

Amy Saunders, Kingston Elementary

Entry: Cool Cat Learners
Award: \$1,000

Incorporating more opportunities for social learning through flexible seating options will allow students to grow emotionally and academically in a peer environment.

Maureen Oswald, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic School

Entry: Creating a Library
Award: \$1,000

Students will work together to build shelves and acquire books to build a library for the school.

Sara Sorrows, Conway Christian School

Entry: New Teacher Classroom Resources
Award: \$870

Sorrows aims to build a classroom that fosters innovation and promotes critical thinking, problem solving and creativity.

Through the use of cool colors, less fluorescent lighting and organizational objects, students will work in a more inviting educational space.

Christine White, Palmetto Bays Elementary

Entry: PBE Loves Our Natural Environment
Award: \$1,000

The project's goal is to beautify the school's outdoor courtyard to make it an inviting, productive learning space for students and teachers. Students will also be able to learn about native plants and animals while using the courtyard.

Brittany Stokes, Palmetto Bays Elementary

Entry: iPad Pro for the Art Room
Award: \$1,000

Stokes will use an iPad to teach students how to create digital artwork using a variety of apps. Students will learn to use the iPad, apple pencil and

magic keyboard to create new concept design ideas.

Stacy Morgan, Green Sea Floyds Elementary

Entry: Help Us Hear
Award: \$1,000

The grant will provide kindergarten students with headphones to pair with their school devices. Headphones are an everyday tool students need to complete digital assignments.

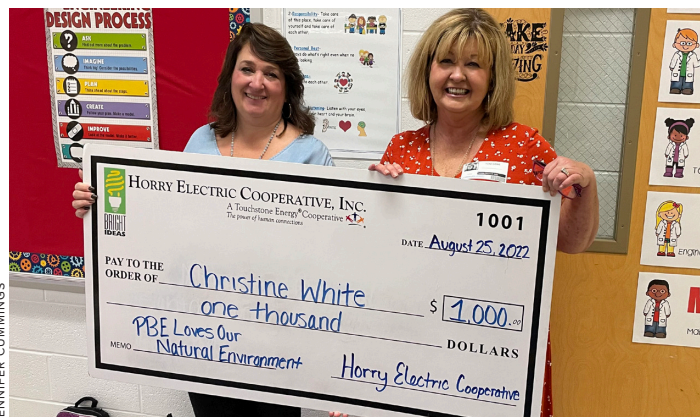
Tangia Hammel, Conway Middle School

Entry: Color the Walls with History
Award: \$400

Students will create colorful posters to line the classroom to represent each unit of history. By the end of the year, students will have a better understanding of what they've learned because their work will surround them.

See more pictures of our 2022 Bright Ideas grant winners on Page 12D.

Bright Ideas winners (continued)



▲ Christine White (left) with Horry Electric's Toni Gore.
▼ Nicole Peters (center in pink) with her students.



PHOTO PROVIDED BY NICOLE PETERS



▲ Amy Saunders (left) smiles alongside her students.
▼ Horry Electric's Susan Brown (left) with Stacy Morgan (right) and Principal Melissa Gause.



JENNIFER CUMMINGS

Horry Electric's 2023 Annual Member Meeting

Registration & Voting: Tuesday, May 9 (7 a.m.–7 p.m.) and Wednesday, May 10 (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 (3/11/23) and not more than one hundred fifty (150) days (12/11/2022) prior to the Annual Member Meeting, consisting of at least five (5) members. | To be appointed at December Board Meeting to meet in January 2023. |
| Notice of Meeting of Nominating Committee in local newspaper: | RUS requirement (No Bylaw provision) | Published in a local newspaper December 2022/ January 2023. |
| Posting of Report of Nominating Committee: | Nominees: At least thirty (30) days prior to the Annual Member Meeting. | Post before 4/10/23. |
| Deadline for Petition Candidates and Posting of Report: | At least forty-five (45) days (3/26/23) and not more than sixty (60) days (3/11/23) before Annual Member Meeting. | Deadline to submit Petition Forms is 3/10/23 (Friday) at 12 noon; Post in office by 3/26/23. |
| Credentials and Elections Appointment: | At least sixty (60) days—by (3/11/23) and not more than ninety (90) days (2/9/23) 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 (4/10/23) and not more than sixty (60) days (3/11/23) before the date of meeting. | Direct mailers to all member-owners between 3/11/23 and 4/10/23. |

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

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