

## Horry Electric Cooperative, Inc.

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



## One-stop information hub

HEC website filled with tools, member information

**OUR LIVES** are filled with electronics. The great part about these devices is we have

access to unlimited information. As your trusted energy advisors, we take pride in providing members with a wealth of knowledge to make informed decisions. **Horryelectric.com** is a one-stop information hub divided into six key sections: Services, Members, Energy Programs, Community and News, Outage Center and Vegetation Management.

### Services, Members

In these sections, members will find information on payment options, service requirements, bylaws, service rules and regulations, capital credits and more. Explore service options, including our free Bank Draft program, which automatically drafts your monthly bill from your bank account.

Members can easily access their account through the MyEnergy *Online* portal. Here, you can make a payment, review prior bills, modify your service, view monthly board minutes and manage account alerts.

### Energy Programs

Access program details, frequently asked questions and contract agreements for energy programs, ranging from smart thermostats to surge guard protection to water heaters.

We recently added the Rooftop Solar Calculator for members interested in solar. Answer a short series of questions about your home and receive projected electric bill savings and payback period information. ChooseEV is another great tool for any member interested in purchasing an electric vehicle. View all things EV, including benefits, model comparisons, facts and public charging locations.

### Community and News

In the Community and News section,

you can find youth programs, scholarship and grant opportunities, archives of *South Carolina Living* magazine editions and our blog.

Being involved in Horry County schools is very important to us. Educational energy information is available to teachers and students through the EnlightenSC tab. Visit the School Involvement tab to have us participate in your school event or career day.

### Outage Center

This is a vital section for members. I encourage each of you to look through the storm preparedness and generator safety tips outlined in this section. While our goal is to keep your power on during severe weather and natural disasters, acts of nature may lead to power outages.

Outage reporting options are included on this page, along with a video that explains how crews restore power.

### Vegetation Management

Keep your distance when it comes to electric equipment. In this section, members can find the clearance requirements for the overhead or underground service to their home or business. These requirements ensure we have access to perform routine maintenance, while maintaining service reliability.

We also have a map detailing our yearly trimming schedule. Overhead and underground trimming schedules are color-coded, with estimated dates.

We strive to provide all the information you need on **horryelectric.com**. If you ever need additional information, please call (843) 369-2211.

*Daniel B. Shelley, III*

**DANIEL B. SHELLEY, III**

Executive Vice President and CEO

## In giving, we receive

**GIVING BACK** to the communities we serve is something the employees of Horry Electric love, simply for the abundance of joy it brings to others. One of Horry Electric's Seven Cooperative Principles is Concern for Community. In December, HEC employees donated to the Horry County Council on Aging (HCCOA) Shoeboxes for Seniors project.

District 1 Trustee Elaine Gore is the deputy director of the HCCOA and her team needed over 600 shoeboxes for senior citizens across the county.

Horry Electric employees collectively filled and wrapped 133 boxes of personal care items, gloves, socks, stamps, puzzle books, candy, hot chocolate and more.

"This was our third year participating in this project and we're wrapping more boxes every year," says Horry Electric's Susan Brown. "It is a blessing to us to bring smiles to those who may not be expecting gifts during Christmas."

"Can you imagine seeing a beautifully



CHRISTIAN GRAHAM

Horry Electric's Susan Brown (right) and Amanda Holt (center) proudly display 133 shoeboxes for seniors, alongside HCCOA's Amber Smith.

wrapped box handed to you, when you expected nothing?" says Elaine Gore. "A gift may be small, but the giving of that gift is immeasurable to others."

Altogether, the HCCOA received over 1,000 shoeboxes to deliver.

In addition to the Shoeboxes for

Seniors project, employees sponsored families from Horry County schools and the Salvation Army Angel Tree. Employees bought and wrapped clothes, games, personal care items, toys, bicycles and more for the angels to give them the Christmas they deserve.

## Apply now for \$1,500 scholarship

### HORRY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE'S

Women Involved in Rural Electrification (WIRE) chapter is accepting applications for the 2023 WIRE scholarship. Each year, this is awarded to a freshman entering Coastal Carolina University or Horry-Georgetown Technical College.

Applicants must be an active Horry Electric member or dependent of an active member with whom they live.

The recipient will receive \$750 for the first semester and must have at least a cumulative 2.5 GPA at the end of the semester to receive the additional \$750.

The deadline to apply is Wednesday, March 1, by 12 p.m.

Applications can be found online at [horryelectric.com/wire-scholarship-form](http://horryelectric.com/wire-scholarship-form).

If you have questions, please contact Horry Electric's WIRE coordinator, Susan Brown, at [susan.brown@horryelectric.com](mailto:susan.brown@horryelectric.com) or call (843) 369-6323.



PHOTO PROVIDED BY SUSAN BROWN

Horry Electric's WIRE Coordinator Susan Brown (right) presents McCallie Jordan Day with the 2022 Horry Electric Cooperative WIRE Scholarship.

### HORRY EXTRA



### Lineman legacy

One of our Local People, Serving You, HEC Operations Trainer Chris Grainger is retiring after 36 years of service. The story on how he continued his family lineman legacy and what he's planning for the future is on Page 12A.



# Lineman legacy

Chris Grainger retires after 36 years of service

**WHAT DO YOU WANT** to be when you grow up? Whenever Chris Grainger was asked this as a kid, he never answered with the job his father had, the job that came with working nights, weekends, birthdays and holidays. His father was a lineman for Horry Electric from 1948 until 1980. “Back then, storms took a bigger toll on our system than they do now,” says Grainger. “When I was a kid, I can remember thunderstorms knocking out power for a few days, which meant my dad was gone that long.”

As Grainger grew up and worked other jobs throughout high school, his answer started to change. The thought of continuing the family legacy was something that meant a lot to Grainger, so when he graduated from Conway High School in 1985, he aspired to work for Horry Electric. He started as a groundworker in 1986 and worked his way up to being a foreman for both an overhead crew and an underground crew.

## New year, new opportunities

2018 brought a new year with new responsibilities. Grainger became the co-op's operations trainer. “My favorite thing about each position I've held at Horry Electric has always been to teach,” says Grainger. “I've always felt that anything I know, I want others to know.”

Being the operations trainer has allowed Grainger to do what he loves. He works with new linemen, teaching them to climb, moderating their work through the Northwest Lineman College program and preparing them to join a crew. He teaches and maintains CPR certification for all Horry Electric employees, in addition to making sure the co-op follows all OSHA (Occupational Safety and Health Administration) and safety standards.

**Chris Grainger (right) stands with his son, Brandon, holding a picture of his father working at Horry Electric between 1948 and 1980.**



JENNIFER CUMMINGS



JENNIFER CUMMINGS

**Chris Grainger gives a thumbs up after climbing his last pole.**

## Handing over the reins

This month, Grainger is retiring and handing over the reins to Brandon Chandley, an advanced line technician with Horry Electric for more than 16 years. “The thing I'm most excited about in this new position is the opportunity to learn more,” Chandley says.

Talking to people and getting to know them, is the thing Grainger says he's going to miss most when he retires, and Chandley says he's excited to for the opportunity to do more of that. Chandley says he has big shoes to fill, but Grainger says he'll always be a phone call away.

## What's next?

As Grainger begins this next chapter of his life, he says his number one job will be being a Papa to soon-to-be seven grandkids between him and his wife, Amy, a member service representative with Horry Electric. “Since I was born later in life, I didn't have grandparents to make memories with, so I'm excited for Papa to be my new full-time job,” Grainger says.

Trips to the mountains and exploring new places with Amy is also on the to-do list, along with some home projects. On Sundays, you'll be able to find Grainger preaching at Freedom Ministries at WillowTree RV Resort and Campground in Longs. He started preaching in 2000 and is excited to continue spreading God's word at his favorite vacation spot in Horry County.

You may ask about the family legacy. Grainger's son, Brandon, is a foreman with Sumter Utilities, working with Brunswick Electric, our sister cooperative in North Carolina. His daughter, Brandy, also shares the family co-op legacy, working for Horry Telephone Cooperative in Conway.

Chris, we thank you for your service and the knowledge you've shared with all of us at Horry Electric. We wish you all the best in your retirement!



## New friends, new experiences

Touchstone Energy Cooperatives Bowl players bring smiles to Horry County

**PICTURE A LINEMAN**—who comes to mind? Do you picture a football player or an electric lineman working on power lines? Now, picture a Friday night football game, but with a twist. This was the scene the weekend of the Touchstone Energy Cooperatives Bowl game in December. The day before the annual all-star game, 88 football players traded in their shoulder pads for rubber gloves and sleeves, two of the most fundamental pieces of personal protective equipment electric linemen wear daily.

The high school all-stars explored careers as lineworkers during Lineman Demo Day at Doug Shaw Memorial Stadium. Each player had the opportunity to participate in four hands-on demonstrations where four Horry Electric linemen shared some of their trade skills. Players got to try on linemen climbing gear, manually drill

through a pole and change out a fuse.

In keeping with the football theme, players got to be in their element and throw a football. However, it came with a lineman twist, with the players having to wear rubber gloves. These gloves allow linemen to safely work on 14,400-volt power lines. In other words, these gloves are thick, so it wasn't as easy to hold and throw the football as some may have thought.

"This was my third year participating in this Lineman Demo Day and it gets better every year," says Sean Brown, advanced lineman for Horry Electric. "These players are always so respectful and show a genuine interest in what we're teaching them. I even had a few players tell me they wanted to go into the lineman field."



JENNIFER CUMMINGS

Nine-year-old Chandler Pfaff (center) shows off his favorite Target purchase with Bennett Judy of Hillcrest High School (left) and Jake Doty of Myrtle Beach High School (right).

TRAVIS BELL

### Shop 'til you drop

The days leading up to the bowl game are full of practice, but it doesn't come without excitement. In addition to befriending the linemen, players also made new friends with 44 students from Horry County elementary schools.

The annual tradition leading up to the all-star game is the Target shopping spree. South Carolina's electric cooperatives provided each student, chosen by school district officials, with a \$150 Target gift card. Each student had two big brothers for the afternoon. A football player from both the North

Nathan Thompson, an offensive lineman at Conway High School, helps Justice Barr pick out a Spiderman robe.



Players Jake Doty (left) and Nathan Thompson (right) stand with Horry Electric's linemen (from left) Sean Brown, Scott Smith, Matt Savage and Chad Tyler after Lineman Demo Day.

JENNIFER CUMMINGS



JENNIFER CUMMINGS





88 football players for the Touchstone Energy Cooperative Bowl stand with 44 elementary school students after the Target shopping spree.

and South team were responsible for manning the shopping cart as students crossed off items on their Christmas wish lists.

"This was an absolute blessing," says Jake Doty, wide receiver for Myrtle Beach High School, who played on the South team. "I've never participated in anything like this, but our friend (Chandler) got all the essentials."

Chandler Pfaff, a fourth grader at Myrtle Beach Elementary, checked lots of items off his list, but his favorite was

his Carolina Panthers shirt. "It was fun shopping with two older brothers, since I have two younger sisters at home," says Pfaff.

"This experience definitely goes beyond football. It's about giving back to the community," says Doty. Commitment to Community is one of the four core values of Touchstone Energy Cooperatives. It's also one of the seven cooperative principles that co-ops like Horry

Electric abide by.

"I'm super blessed to be involved in this North South game, but this is probably the best thing we will do all week," said Nathan Thompson, offensive lineman for Conway High School. "This event just really pulls at your heart strings."

Thompson said the shopping spree was an experience he'd never forget.

Sean Brown, advanced line technician, shows Colby Shaw (North Team player) what it would be like to be strapped to a power pole with lineman gear on.

JENNIFER CUMMINGS



JENNIFER CUMMINGS

Advanced Line Technician Matt Savage explains to a group of players how to change out a blown fuse, simulating what lineworkers do during thunderstorms.





# Ready for an experience you won't forget?

Your co-op has two amazing trips planned this summer. Juniors: Apply for the Washington Youth Tour. Sophomores: Apply for the Cooperative Youth Summit.

**Juniors:** Experience Washington, D.C., with hundreds of students from across South Carolina and the country, meeting lawmakers and touring all the sights. Your electric co-op will cover your round-trip plane ticket, tours and meals. In other words, it's all free!

**Sophomores:** Experience South Carolina's capital like never before. Tour the Statehouse, meet lawmakers and see how co-ops are preparing for our state's energy future. Plus, there's plenty of fun with visits to popular Columbia attractions like Riverbanks Zoo & Garden. Your electric co-op will cover all your expenses.

We've made it easy to apply for either FREE trip. Apply today!



ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES  
OF SOUTH CAROLINA



Washington Youth Tour: June 17-22, 2023



Cooperative Youth Summit: July 10-13, 2023



Applications available: [horryec.info/youth-trips](https://horryec.info/youth-trips)  
Application Deadline: January 31, 2023

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