

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



Save the dates!

Drive-Thru Annual Member Meeting set for May 9, 10

MARK YOUR CALENDARS for our 2023 Annual Member Meeting. The purpose of this meeting is to hold the

election for three positions on the board of trustees, share important financial information and present any other business matters that may need to be addressed.

This is a great opportunity for us to report our financial status, share our progress over the past year and announce any plans that will have an impact on you and your cooperative.

The Annual Member Meeting Early Drive-Thru Registration and Voting event is returning for the fourth year. We will hold Drive-Thru Registration and Voting at our Conway office, located at 2774 Cultra Road, on Tuesday, May 9 from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. and on Wednesday, May 10 from 7 a.m. to 11 a.m. The business meeting portion of the 2023 Annual Member Meeting will be held virtually on Wednesday, May 10 at 7 p.m. Attendance for the virtual business meeting will be online only. You will be able to access the meeting on horryelectric.com.

Registration requirements will remain the same as previous years. Only members who register in person during the scheduled hours are eligible to receive the registration gift of a \$25 electric bill credit.

Due to the event, our Socastee office will be closed May 9–10. Our Conway office will also be closed May 9, but will re-open at 1 p.m. on May 10. Regular business hours for both offices will resume on Thursday, May 11.

Please plan to attend

We encourage members to attend the

Drive-Thru Registration and Voting event. We have worked to make this experience as convenient and rewarding as possible.

Horry Electric bylaws require a quorum equal to 5% of the membership in order to conduct an official business meeting. With a preliminary estimate of 75,354 members, we'll need to have a minimum of 3,767 members register. If we fail to meet quorum, we won't be able to do business.

Since our first Drive-Thru Registration and Voting event in 2020, we have consecutively broken our registration record each year. I would love to see our members break the record again this year.

In addition to the registration gift, we will have prize drawings for those who register. Members who register will also be entered in the Grand Prize drawing for an electric golf cart. Winners will be notified following the virtual business meeting.

Stay tuned for more information

Drive-Thru Registration and Voting event logistics will be the same for 2023. We have additional details on page 5.

Registration postcards will be mailed to all members on record approximately two weeks prior to the meeting. Make sure to bring your registration postcard and photo ID with you to registration.

The April edition of *South Carolina Living* will be mailed to all members and will be your Official Notice for the 2023 Annual Member Meeting.

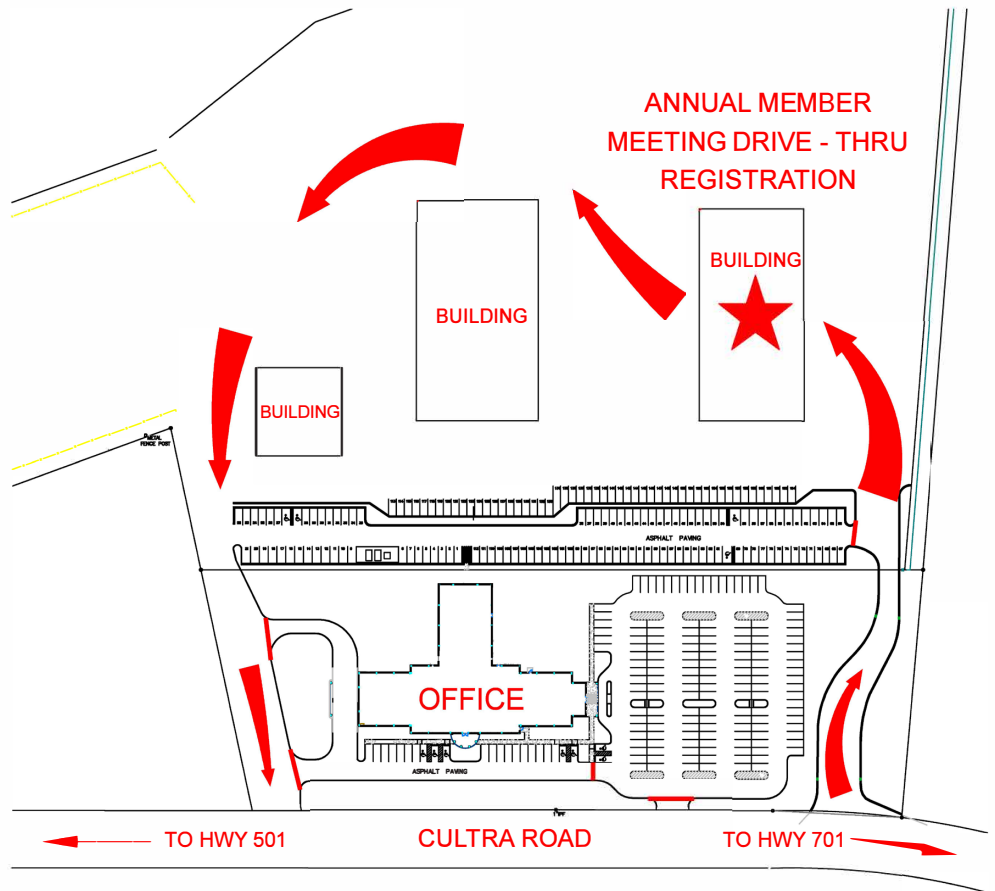
DANIEL B. SHELLEY, III
Executive Vice President and CEO

Annual Member Meeting details

MEMBERS ATTENDING the 2023 Annual Member Meeting Drive-Thru Registration and Voting event will enter our Conway office (2774 Cultra Road) employee parking lot from either the Highway 501 or Highway 701 directions.

The map at right shows the exact route. Members will use the driveway that leads to the back warehouse and traffic attendants will direct vehicles into a registration lane. Each lane under our truck shed will lead to a registration table, where employees will be ready to assist members.

Once registration and voting is completed, members will exit our parking lot toward Highway 501.



Some members to receive second settlement payment

Checks, bill credits part of class-action agreement

IF YOU WERE A MEMBER of Horry Electric Cooperative for any period between Jan. 1, 2007 and Jan. 31, 2020, you may receive an unexpected bill credit or check this month.

These credits (for amounts of \$50 or less) and checks (for amounts greater than \$50) are the result of a class-action settlement involving the failed nuclear construction project at V.C. Summer Nuclear Generating Station. The funds are being paid by Santee Cooper, a state-owned utility that partially owned the project.

The lawsuit argued consumers should not have to pay for the nearly \$9 billion costs that were sunk into the failed project. Horry Electric was neither a party to the case nor had any ownership in the project. However, our members were affected because some of the power we deliver to you is purchased from Santee Cooper.

Before the lawsuit went to trial, the parties came to a settlement agreement that called for \$520 million to be returned to customers of Santee Cooper and members of South Carolina's electric cooperatives. This means some of our members are due a share of the settlement based on their power use during the referenced 13-year period. Eligible members have already received the first of two settlement payouts in 2020.

Horry Electric Cooperative did not calculate the payments. They resulted from a court-approved process after the settlement agreement was reached. Those who became members after Jan. 31, 2020 are not included in the settlement.

If you have any questions regarding the settlement process, you may contact the Settlement Administrator by calling toll free 1 (833) 947-0894 or emailing info@SanteeCooperClassAction.com.

Unclaimed Capital Credits posted online

Horry Electric mails Capital Credit checks to members who have received service in previous years. Some of these checks are returned by the postal service as undeliverable. We hold these unclaimed funds for members and they can be found in a searchable database on horryelectric.com.

You can find the unclaimed capital credits database by using the search engine or by selecting "Capital Credits" from the Members tab on the home page. In addition to the online database, Horry Electric publishes the unclaimed capital credits list in The Horry Independent on an annual basis.

In order to claim funds, contact Horry Electric Cooperative at (843) 369-2211, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Please reference unclaimed capital credits as the reason for your call.



Buddy Parker receives Lifetime Achievement Award

DEDICATION, INTEGRITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY are three traits that completely encompassed Buddy Parker's personality and workmanship. Parker served as Horry Electric's Vegetation Management Supervisor since 1999. Parker passed away in February after a courageous battle with cancer.

In late January, Parker received the 2023 Lifetime Achievement Award from the South Carolina Vegetation Management Association (SCVMA) for his contribution to the vegetation management industry. This esteemed award is reserved for those who have worked to advance the vegetation management industry in South Carolina.

Parker had over 50 years of experience in the industry. He started out working for a right-of-way contractor crew as a groundman and worked his way up to crew foreman.

A right-of-way crew works to cut, trim or mow the areas surrounding electric co-op equipment. Maintaining a clear right-of-way helps minimize outages, while also improving power quality, reliability and safety.

As his contractor job responsibilities increased and developed, so did his expectations. Some of his previous co-workers shared with us that Parker had high expectations of every person on his crew, making sure they followed the rules and industry standards. When he joined the co-op, he continued upholding the high standards of the vegetation management industry.

Parker served as a SCVMA board member for over 10 years. His vast knowledge about the state's vegetation management industry helped educate hundreds of vegetation management professionals.

"The connections Buddy made over the years developed into lasting relationships for Horry Electric's vegetation management department," says Reed Cooper, manager of engineering. "Buddy was well known in this industry and his expertise was valued by countless people across the state."

"Buddy Parker was an employee that every company would have loved to have," says Horry Electric's Executive Vice President and CEO Danny Shelley.



Buddy Parker smiles during Horry Electric's 2019 Annual Member Meeting.

"Buddy was easy going, dedicated to his job, loved his coworkers and strived to meet company expectations on vegetation management, while working with members and addressing their concerns."

We thank Buddy for his hard work and dedication to Horry Electric for the past 24 years. Shelley says, "If I could see Buddy again, I would say 'Good job, my friend. We all love you and will miss you greatly!'"

2023 LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD



BUDDY PARKER

HORRY ELECTRIC
COOPERATIVE

FORMER SCVMA BOARD
MEMBER



Co-op equipment needs space

Overhead and underground requirements explained

YOUR HOME OR BUSINESS is powered by overhead or underground service. The electric co-op equipment serving you needs to be free from obstructions so power can flow through the lines and maintenance can be performed when necessary.

Horry Electric's vegetation management program ensures crews can safely access equipment to make repairs or upgrades. This means making sure trees, tree limbs and shrubs are not growing near or into power lines and other equipment.

Overhead requirements

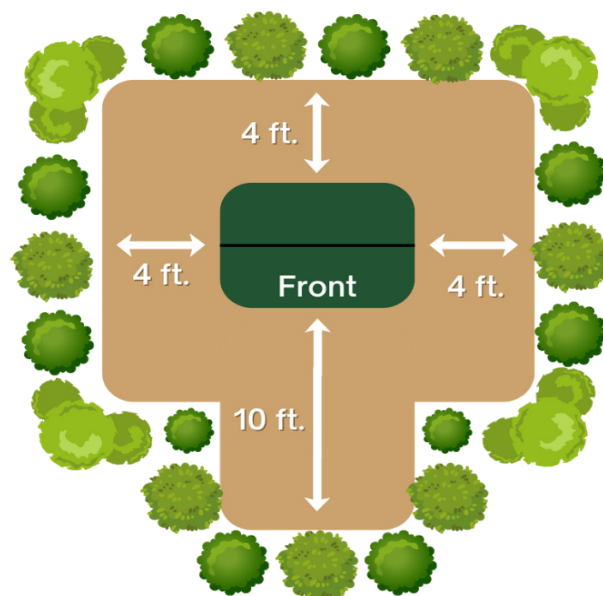
Trees and overhead power lines don't mix. Lightning, high winds, ice, heavy rains or extremely dry weather can cause a tree to fall or limbs to come in contact with a power line. When this happens, our system is designed to respond. This is why members experience a blink or an outage until the tree limb is cleared.

A 30-foot right-of-way (15 feet on each side) is required for overhead lines. If you're considering planting trees near overhead equipment, please choose the right tree for the right place (see graphic below). Horry Electric reserves the right to trim trees within the 30-foot right-of-way.

Right-of-way (ROW) refers to the corridor, or pathway, an electric line follows. This can be alongside the road or through the woods.

Underground requirements

Crews need access to underground transformers and



equipment 24 hours a day, so it's important to remember:

- ▶ Keep vegetation obstructions well away from the transformer.
- ▶ Never place anything closer than 10 feet from the front, or 4 feet from the sides of the transformer.
- ▶ Never allow children to play near the transformer.

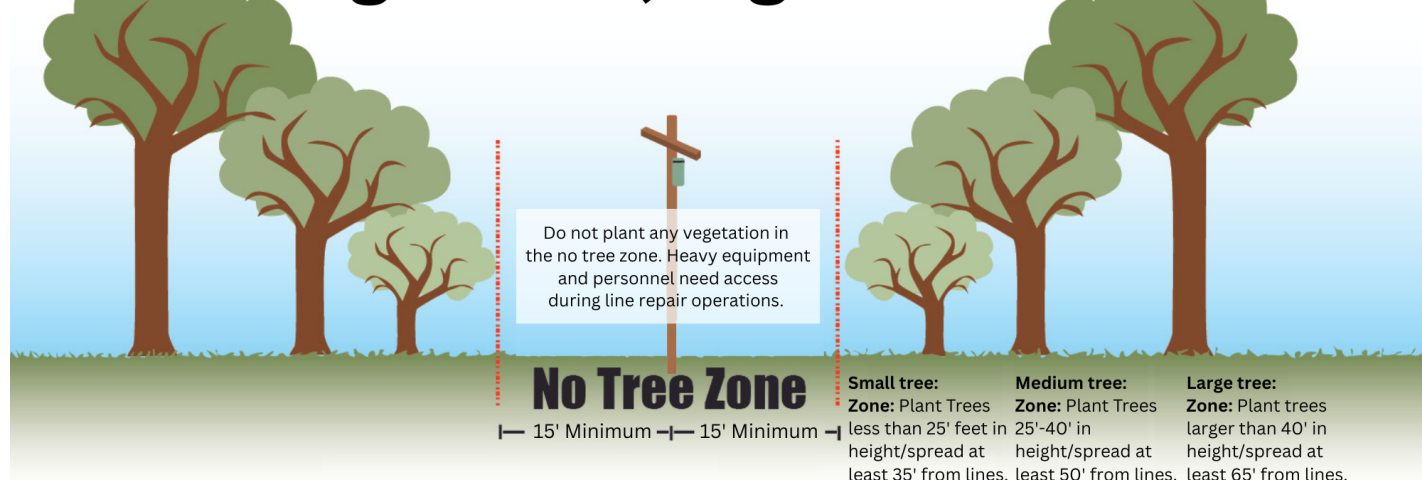
Landscaping tips

Horry Electric understands there is nothing pretty about underground transformers. However, there are some acceptable ways to landscape around them:

- ▶ Potted plants/planter boxes that two employees can pick up and move when needed.
- ▶ Benches are acceptable if they can be picked up and moved.
- ▶ Rock/mulch island to surround the transformer.
- ▶ Statues and decorative lawn flags can be used.

If you ever have questions regarding vegetation management or how to beautify the area around your transformer, contact our Vegetation Management department at (843) 369-2211 or visit horryelectric.com/vegetation-management.

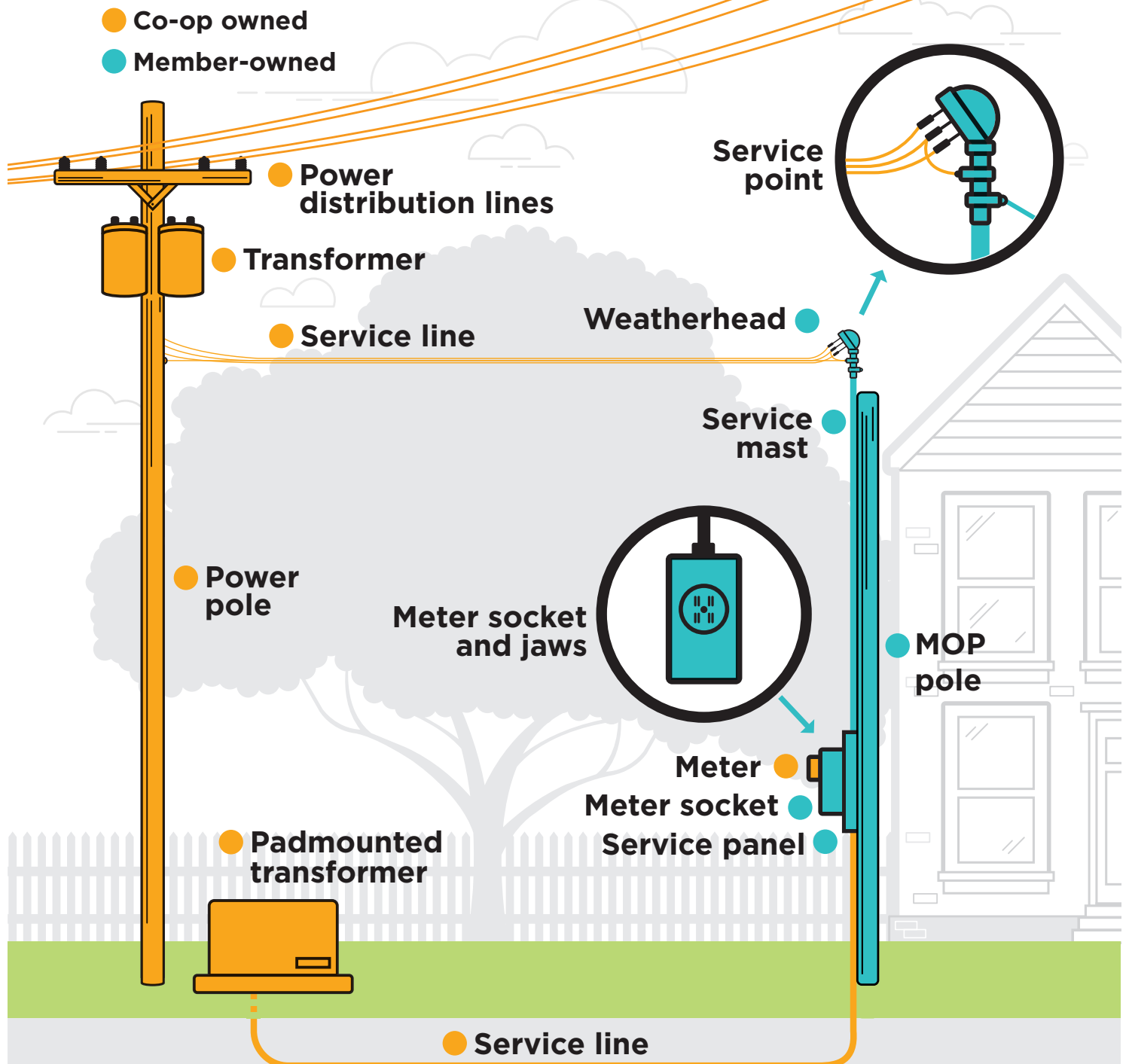
Right Tree, Right Place



Who Owns What?

Electric Co-op Owned Equipment vs Member-Owned Equipment

This graphic depicts equipment owned by the co-op (in **gold**) and the member (in **blue**). If a storm damages any equipment owned by the co-op, we are responsible for repairs. If a storm damages any member-owned equipment, the member is responsible for repairs. Members should hire a licensed electrician when making any repairs to member-owned equipment.



Note: This graphic depicts overhead and underground service. Please be aware of which type of service you receive at your home or business.

Bright Ideas grants available to teachers



INNOVATIVE IDEAS and projects are something Horry Electric loves to recognize through the Bright Ideas grant program. This program reflects one of the seven cooperative principles—commitment to community—as well as innovation, one of the four core principles of Touchstone Energy Cooperatives.

The grants are to fund projects beyond normal public and private school funding parameters, and are available to all disciplines in grades K-12. A school may submit an application, and teachers are limited to one application per year.

JENNIFER CUMMINGS



Sara Sorrows (right) and her students at Conway Christian School celebrate their \$870 Bright Ideas grant by holding the big check with Toni Gore (left), HEC's Bright Ideas coordinator.

Ten teachers across the county were awarded grant money, totaling \$8,870 in 2022. "This is a great opportunity to celebrate the teachers in our community who are educating our future leaders," says Toni Gore, coordinator of the Bright Ideas program at Horry Electric. "We love the opportunity to

help fund projects for our area schools."

All teachers are encouraged to apply. The application deadline for 2023 is June 1.

Apply online at horryec.info/bright-ideas or email toni.gore@horryelectric.com for more information.

Shop our Smart Solutions Store

ARE YOU SEARCHING for more energy efficient products to add to your smart home? Check out our Smart Solutions Store on BeatThePeak.com.

The store includes products such as LED light bulbs, electric vehicle chargers, smart home products, efficiency goods, tools and appliances.

To find the Smart Solutions Store, visit BeatThePeak.com and select "Smart Solutions Store" under the "Home Solutions" tab. With a simple click, shoppers are taken directly to the desired amazon.com product page.

"There are a lot of energy efficient and smart home products available," says Garrett Gasque, senior marketing and energy management representative. "These recommendations have been carefully curated to offer products that have been manufactured by dependable brands and come at a reasonable price."

If you have questions or concerns about any of the products, please contact one of our trusted energy advisors by calling (843) 369-2211 during regular business hours.

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