

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



The cooperative spirit shines brightly

HEC employees assist sister co-ops following Helene

CATASTROPHIC DEVASTATION are the words I would use to describe what Hurricane/Tropical Storm Helene caused in South Carolina.

On Sept. 27, we felt the impact of Helene across our service area. Crews responded to outages throughout the day, restoring service to the more than 9,100 members who lost power during the storm. The majority of outages were caused by trees that fell on power lines. Crews restored power to all Horry Electric members in a single day. Horry County was truly blessed.

When the sun came out after the historic storm, our sister cooperatives across the state only began to realize the catastrophic damage Helene left behind. Nearly half the statewide system—425,000 co-op meters—went offline at the peak of the storm. More than 5,500 co-op poles were snapped. Dozens of transmission lines providing power to co-op substations were destroyed. Critical infrastructure had to be replaced. This wasn't simply a storm restoration effort, but a rebuild of South Carolina's electric systems.

I'm proud to say more than 50 Horry Electric employees stepped up to answer the call from our sister cooperatives.



PHOTO BY ASHLEY JOHNSON

Cooperation Among Cooperatives

As one of the seven cooperative principles, Cooperation Among Cooperatives is what we do. Following a severe weather event, we help other cooperatives by sending crews or other personnel to the co-ops in need. Our employees assist with power restoration, answering member calls and monitoring crews in the field.

On Saturday, Sept. 28, four HEC line crews hit the road for Little River Electric Cooperative, located in Abbeville just outside of Greenwood. Little River lost 96% of its system during Helene, leaving more than 14,000 members without power. Two additional HEC crews left Sunday, Sept. 29, to assist Coastal Electric Cooperative in Walterboro and Palmetto Electric Cooperative in Hilton Head Island.

As co-ops continued to assess damage to their systems, additional HEC employees were sent to Little River Electric, Blue Ridge Electric, Aiken Electric and CEEUS (materials supplier), to assist in other departments, from member service to supply/material delivery. Those employees included:



PHOTO BY BLUE RIDGE ELECTRIC

Member Service Representatives Kelli Carroll (left) and Colby Hunsucker traveled to Blue Ridge Electric to assist with answering member calls and emails.



PHOTO BY JENNIFER CUMMINGS

More than 50 Horry Electric employees answered the call to assist sister co-ops following the devastation of Hurricane/Tropical Storm Helene.



- ▶ **Little River Electric** — engineering personnel (Blake Stevens, Franklin Williams, Charlie Tindal, Bucky Jordan, David Anderson and Kevin Jordan)
- ▶ **Blue Ridge Electric** — member service representatives, dispatcher and contract crew (Kelli Carroll, Colby Hunsucker, Donald Hildenbrand and Paul Holt)
- ▶ **Aiken Electric** — warehouse technician (Trenton Spivey)
- ▶ **CEEUS** — supply/material technicians (Joseph Clardy and Josey Parker)

Line crew members included: William Lambert, Chris Lawson, Ashley Johnson, Jamie Spivey, Kelly Dix, Scott Smith, Chase Strickland, Sean Brown, Shawn Gore, Phillip McClellan, Chad Tyler, Jonathan Cartrette, Justin Cummings, Dawson Mishoe, Hunter Gardner, Bryson Cooper, Ethan Johnson, Gage Caines, Dalton Justice, Bryson Barfield, Bradley McCracken, Colby Ard, Collin Brown, Lucas McDowell, Kelly Jordan, Brandon Shelley, Jacob Riddei, Chad Mackey, Kenley Dunn, Aidan Hucks, Curtis Jordan, Tucker Barnes, Brian Thompkins, Jesse Hopkins, John Cameron Huggins, Tommy Spires, Carluss King, Bradley Floyd, Will Suggs, Jonah Elliott and Chandler Perry.

What makes co-ops special

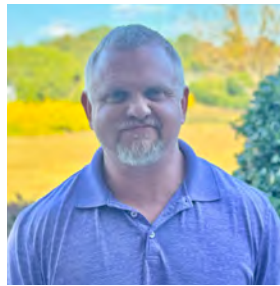
The moment disaster strikes, co-op employees hit the ground running. That's what makes cooperatives so special in my eyes. More than 3,200 lineworkers and contractors worked around the clock to

restore power after Helene. All 18 co-ops making up The Electric Cooperatives of South Carolina (ECSC) banded together for one of the largest storm restoration efforts in the state's history. Mutual aid from more than 20 states also came to help.

These employees leave their families for days and weeks at a time, helping other co-ops and co-op members who have lost so much. The cooperative spirit shines brightly, even in the darkest times.

A new chapter

My time at Horry Electric Cooperative for the past 32 years has been nothing short of rewarding. For all the reasons I mentioned above, co-ops are truly special. Serving as the Executive Vice President and CEO since 2019 has been a blessing. I've watched the co-op continue to grow and I've watched employees shine, doing what they do best—serving you, our members.



This month, I am officially announcing my retirement. I would like to thank our members for electing a board of trustees that has allowed me to be your CEO for the past five years. I leave you in great hands with Reed Cooper, who will be the next CEO, and with an outstanding group of employees who are second to none.

It has been a pleasure serving you. Horry Electric will always be the best co-op in my book. Thank you!

Daniel B. Shelley, III

DANIEL B. SHELLEY, III
Executive Vice President and CEO

Member Spotlight: Frank's Ice

Horry Electric would like to say THANK YOU to Frank's Ice, part of Boulineau's, in Cherry Grove. On short notice, Frank's Ice donated 91 bags of ice to help Little River Electric Cooperative. With crews coming from out of town for storm restoration, Little River needed ice for crews to put in their coolers each day and to serve cold drinks with meals. HEC's Chris Teems and Paul Partin drove the cooler of ice to Little River Electric.

Frank's Ice is an Horry Electric commercial member working hard to control their energy use during peak hours on the new rate structure. Stay tuned for a member spotlight in 2025.

Advanced Line Technicians Hunter Gardner, Justin Cummings and Scott Smith (left to right) say "thank you" to Frank's Ice for helping! ▶



PHOTO BY JENNIFER CUMMINGS



Deborah Hartleroad often starts her day with friends and fellow volunteers at McDonald's for "social hour." So, it was only fitting that her award presentation was held there, with her closest friends looking on.

Counting her blessings

Long's woman named HEC's #WhoPowersYou winner

OVER THE YEARS, Long's resident Deborah Hartleroad has earned the nickname "Dollar Debbie" for her ability to sell raffle tickets for fundraisers. Last November, for example, she partnered with the 3001 Nightlife club in North Myrtle Beach to raise money to feed veterans and their families. She raised more than \$3,000 in one night.

Helping others is Hartleroad's passion. It's what she sets out to do each day. To honor her many years of volunteer work, Hartleroad was recently named the winner of Horry Electric's Who Powers You contest. As the local winner, she received a \$500 prize. She was also entered into the statewide Who Powers You contest for a chance to win \$2,500.

"We appreciate the caring ways Ms. Hartleroad is making a difference in the community," says Executive Vice President and CEO Danny Shelley. "We are grateful and proud to have members

like Ms. Hartleroad, who has a heart for veterans and the homeless."

Much like the cooperative business model, serving the community is engrained in Hartleroad. She started volunteering at 18 years old, helping raise money for a golf course in her home state of West Virginia. She moved to Horry County 21 years ago and immediately joined Little River Elks Lodge 2840. She helped raise money for the lodge's current building.

Hartleroad is also a member of American Legion Auxiliary 186, Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Auxiliary 10804 and a 52-year member of Eastern Star. Assisting veterans across Horry County is something Hartleroad holds near and dear to her heart. Her late husband was a Korean War veteran.

"I am a strong believer in community volunteering, so I try to transport veterans and their families to the grocery store and doctors' appointments," says Hartleroad. "I also bring them along with me to join in fellowship with my friends."

Helping veterans inspired Hartleroad's favorite outreach project—making "blessing bags" for veterans and the homeless. Each gallon-sized bag is filled with personal supplies, toiletries and snacks.

"In every bag, I put a toothbrush, toothpaste, shampoo, conditioner, hand sanitizer, soap, socks, Lance crackers and water," says Hartleroad.

When funds are available, a \$5 bill also goes in the bags as a surprise to the recipients. Hartleroad puts together these



PHOTO BY BILL LAMONTE

HEC's Jennifer Cummings (right) presents Deborah Hartleroad with her \$500 prize.

bags herself, with some help from local students in her community. To date, she's made more than 2,000 blessing bags.

Hartleroad has also worked to raise money for the Hutton House, now known as the Veterans Welcome Home & Resource Center, in Little River. She raised \$1,000 and was challenged to raise another \$1,000, then another. By the time she was done, Hartleroad raised \$6,600 on her own, nearly half of what South Carolina raised altogether.

"I love people, and I try to go above and beyond helping others," says Hartleroad. "I thank God every day for being alive and able. I'm a 19-year cancer survivor and have health issues, but I'm very blessed. I'm honored, thrilled and blessed to receive this award."

If you're interested in helping with blessing bags, supplies and donations can be taken to the VFW Post 10804 on Highway 57 in Little River.

PHOTO PROVIDED BY DEBORAH HARTLEROAD



One of Hartleroad's student helpers gives a blessing bag to a veteran.

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 nominating schedule on page 12C.**

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.

Board candidate nominating schedule

HORRY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE'S bylaws state that a cooperative member may be nominated as a candidate for the Board of Trustees by two methods—by the appointed Nominating Committee or by petition.

Each year, the cooperative's nomination process follows a set schedule. The schedule for 2025 is outlined below.

Item	Bylaw requirement	Action
Nominating Committee appointed	The nominating committee must be appointed at least 60 days before—Feb. 14, 2025—and not more than 150 days—Nov. 16, 2024—prior to the Annual Member Meeting. The committee must consist of at least five members.	The committee will be appointed at the November Board meeting and will meet in December 2024/January 2025.
Notice of the meeting of the Nominating Committee in local newspaper	No bylaw provision. A RUS requirement.	A notice will be published in a local newspaper in December 2024 and January 2025.
Posting of report from Nominating Committee	Nominees are announced at least 30 days prior to the Annual Member Meeting.	The announcement will be posted before March 16, 2025.
Deadline for petition candidates and posting of report	Petition candidates must be submitted at least 45 days—March 1, 2025—and not more than 60 days—Feb. 14, 2025—before the Annual Member Meeting.	The deadline to submit petition forms is Friday, Feb. 21, 2025, at noon. The petition candidates will be posted in the HEC main office by March 1, 2025.
Credentials and Elections Committee Appointment	The Committee must be appointed at least 60 days—by Feb. 14, 2025—and not more than 90 days—Jan. 15, 2025—before any meeting of the members. The Committee must consist of an uneven number of members and include at least five members.	The Credentials and Elections Committee will be appointed at the January board meeting.
Notice of Annual Meeting	The notice of the Annual Member Meeting must be delivered to members not less than 30 days—March 16, 2025—and not more than 60 days—Feb. 14, 2025—before the date of the meeting.	Direct mail notices will be sent to all member-owners between Feb. 14, 2025 and March 16, 2025. Note: All board candidate nominations must be distinguished between those nominated by the Nominating Committee and those nominated by petition.



Ashley Sosis of Myrtle Beach shows her love for her co-op at last year's drive-thru registration voting event. ▶

PHOTOS BY JOSH P. CROTZER

Horry Electric's 2025 Annual Member Meeting

Drive-thru registration and voting

- ▶ **Tuesday, April 15,**
7 a.m.-7 p.m.
- ▶ **Wednesday, April 16,**
7 a.m.- 11 a.m.

Virtual Business Meeting

- ▶ **Wednesday April 16,**
7 p.m.





JENNIFER CUMMINGS

Don't miss Willie Wiredhand and the parade crew!

Catch Willie Wiredhand and his parade crew this holiday season in the following Christmas parades:

Loris

Friday, Dec. 6 at 7 p.m.

Aynor

Saturday, Dec. 7 at 3 p.m.

North Myrtle Beach

Saturday, Dec. 7 at 5:30 p.m.

Murrells Inlet

Sunday, Dec. 8 at 3 p.m.

Conway

Saturday, Dec. 14 at 10 a.m.

Tag us in your pictures and videos on Facebook, Instagram and X (formerly Twitter).

A photograph of a young child wearing a red Santa hat and a red jacket, sitting in a chair and looking out a window. Outside the window, a sleigh pulled by reindeer is flying across a dark night sky with a bright star. The scene is festive and holiday-themed.

Merry Christmas to all...

...and to all peace and light!

Happy Holidays from all of us at

**Horry Electric
Cooperative, Inc.**

horryelectric.com (843) 369-2211

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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Horry Electric will be closed for the holidays Nov. 28–29, Dec. 24 at 1 p.m., 25–26 and Jan. 1.