

Horry Electric Cooperative, Inc.

horryelectric.com

MAIN OFFICE
P.O. Box 119
Conway, SC 29528-0119
(843) 369-2211



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

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Johnny M. Shelley
President
Eugene Harriott Jr.
Vice President
Ashley Anderson
Secretary/Treasurer
Elaine D. Gore
Aaron C. Johnson
Franklin C. Blanton
Ronald H. Floyd
Jody D. Prince
Frederick 'Freddy' Thompkins

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT & CEO
J. Reed Cooper, P.E.

CO-OP ATTORNEY
Kenneth R. Moss

CO-OP NEWS EDITOR
Jennifer A. Cummings
jennifer.cummings@horryelectric.com

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



Traditions that shine

EVERY CHRISTMAS SEASON, homes and streets throughout Horry County transform into a wonderland of lights and decorations. Behind every light bulb, there is a powerful story or sentimental tradition.

Christmas traditions revolve around love, joy, hope and togetherness. For Horry Electric, some of the traditions we uphold revolve around the seventh cooperative principle—concern for community.

Christmas card contest

Christmas cards are a treasured holiday tradition for most. That's why Horry Electric launched an annual Christmas card contest in 2022. Since then, we've asked kindergarten through fifth grade students to design the Horry Electric Christmas card.

This past year, we received more than 570 Christmas cards. The artwork, creativity and Christmas cheer incorporated into each card was wonderful to see.

In November, Annabelle Powers, a fifth grader at Aynor Elementary School, was selected by a panel of employees as the winner of the 2024 contest. One of Annabelle's hobbies is drawing, and art is her favorite class in school. Her mom shared with us that Annabelle designed



JENNIFER CUMMINGS

Fifth-grader Annabelle Powers of Aynor was the winner of the 2024 Christmas Card Contest.



Executive Assistant Susan Brown (left) proudly shows HCCOA's Amber Smith the 100 Shoeboxes for Seniors donated by Horry Electric employees.

three cards and asked her family to vote on which one to submit. Two things the cards had in common were a bucket truck and Christmas lights.

Congratulations to Annabelle and thank you to everyone who submitted Christmas cards. Horry Electric looks forward to continuing this tradition.

Shoeboxes for Seniors

Another treasured tradition Horry Electric takes part in focuses on senior citizens across Horry County. Employees donate money to fill shoeboxes with personal items, gloves, candy, puzzles and more. We wrap the boxes and give them to the Horry County Council on Aging (HCCOA) for their Shoeboxes for Seniors project.

This year, Horry Electric filled and wrapped more than 100 boxes. HCCOA received around 1,300 shoeboxes to help local senior housing and nursing centers.

Salvation Army Angel Tree

Employees also love sponsoring angels from the Salvation Army Angel Tree. Some departments get together to sponsor an angel while some employees choose to sponsor an angel on their own.

Employees shopped for six boys and four girls to give them the Christmas they deserve.

I am proud to work with a group of employees who keep the members at the center of everything they do. Members are the heart of the co-op, and I look forward to continuing these traditions for years to come.

J. Reed Cooper
J. REED COOPER, P.E.
Executive Vice President and CEO

Football rivals come together for good

BY JOSH P. CROTZER

HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL stars John Simmons and JacQari Witherspoon play different positions at rival Horry County schools, but their favorite thing about playing the game is the same: They get to hit people without consequences.

Last December, while preparing for their final game as prep players, they enjoyed a much different experience.

As selections to the Touchstone Energy Cooperatives Bowl, the annual all-star game at Doug Shaw Memorial Stadium, Simmons and Witherspoon were among 86 players from across the state who helped some deserving students have a better Christmas.

On the Thursday before the Dec. 21 game, 44 elementary school students from Myrtle Beach Elementary and Myrtle Beach Primary were matched with players from each team, North and South. The groups were equipped with a list of items that included a mix of the child's needs and wants and a \$150 gift card per child, provided by Horry Electric and other South Carolina Touchstone Energy Cooperatives.

"That was the most fun I had this week," says Simmons, a wide receiver at Myrtle Beach High School. "Helping put a smile on that kid's face also put a smile on mine."

Once the essential items, such as clothes, shoes and school supplies were checked off their list, Witherspoon's group hit the



PHOTOS BY JENNIFER CUMMINGS

South all-star John Simmons (right) makes sure the shirt is a fit for a Myrtle Beach Elementary School student during the child's shopping spree.

toy department. A football and basketball made it into the cart, but the players soon found out where their kid's passion lay.

"We spent most of our time in the Hot Wheels section," says the North Myrtle Beach offensive lineman. "He did love those cars."

The shopping spree wasn't the only thing that made game week special. The night before the bowl game, a line crew from Horry Electric set up hands-on demonstrations on the field so the players could explore careers as cooperative lineworkers. Players put on personal protective equipment and took turns using various lineworker tools.

"You can have weight room strength, but these guys are working strong," says Simmons. "They're craftsmen in what they do, and they do it for long hours. I have a lot of respect for them."

HEC's Brown connects with all-stars

AS A LINEMAN for Horry Electric Cooperative, Sean Brown likes making connections, especially the kind he makes the night before the Touchstone Energy Cooperatives Bowl.

Each December, Brown and other Horry Electric linemen engage with the game's all-stars, showing the football players some of their tools and equipment and telling the teens about their linework. This year, when Greenwood High School's Robert Stevenson and Abbeville High School's Altavious Patterson walked up, Brown knew he wanted to make a connection.

The destruction caused by Hurricane Helene had left thousands without power in those Upstate communities just a few months before. Horry Electric sent six line crews to assist Little River Electric Cooperative in the aftermath of Helene. Brown was one of them, helping to restore power to those co-op members.

"When I saw where they were from, I wanted them to know I'd been to their community," says Brown. "Helene really did some damage there, but I also saw what a great place it was. The people were so good to us. They brought us food and really encouraged us the whole time we were there."



For JacQari Witherspoon (middle, top) and John Simmons (middle, bottom), playing in the Touchstone Energy Cooperatives Bowl was a hometown affair where they got to spend time with linemen from Horry Electric Cooperative, including (clockwise, from top left) Collin Brown, Hunter Gardner, Sean Brown and Jamie Prosser.

Stevenson was glad that Brown spoke up.

"My power was out for about seven days. It was a hard time," says Stevenson. "He might have been one of the guys that got my power back on, and to see him put a smile on my face. It makes me feel good about the people that do that job."