

## Horry Electric Cooperative, Inc.

horryelectric.com

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Horry Electric Cooperative, Inc. is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Horry Electric Cooperative Inc. is a not-for-profit, member-owned organization providing information and energy-related services on a fair and equitable basis.



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



PHOTOS BY ECSC STAFF

Horry Electric board trustees and employees meet with (left to right) Rep. Heather Ammons Crawford, Rep. Lucas Atkinson and Rep. Jeff Johnson in front of the State House as part of Co-op Day.



## Making your voice heard

**FOR HORRY ELECTRIC,** reliability is central to our mission and, quite frankly, our very existence. The last thing we want is to come up short in providing our members with

the power you need when you need it.

Of course, not everything is up to us. Acts of Mother Nature such as hurricanes and ice storms can wreak havoc on our system, no matter how well we prepare.

A less obvious factor is the availability of the electricity generated in the state. Until Christmas Eve of 2022, we haven't had to seriously worry about this. Previously, our state has historically had plenty of electricity to meet our needs.

However, the availability of electricity could become a challenge. Our power supply isn't growing fast enough to keep up with our state's rapid growth. South Carolina needs more electricity, especially for frigid winter mornings and sweltering summer afternoons when the power grid strains to meet peak demands.

Government policies and regulations play an important role in the energy that's available to us. They always have, from

legislation that allowed the creation of electric cooperatives in the 1930s to the government's role in hydroelectric power plant construction to recent regulations requiring the shutdown of coal-fired power plants.

Our co-op is fortunate that these elected officials are our friends and neighbors and that they understand the needs of co-op members and the communities we serve.

As a member-owned co-op, our service to you includes doing everything in our power to make sure our state and country's energy policies enable us to deliver the power you need, when you need it, and at a price you can afford.

That work is critical again this year as the S.C. General Assembly considers energy policies that will determine how we meet your energy needs.

On Feb. 13, a day we call Co-op Day at the State House, board members and employees joined other electric cooperatives in bringing your voice to policy makers. On behalf of the hundreds of thousands of co-op members across the state, we expressed a vision for a future that keeps electricity safe, affordable and reliable.

It is far from the end of our efforts to help shape our state's energy policies for the better. Rest assured your co-op is doing all we can to safeguard South Carolina's energy future.



Manager of Special Services/Government Relations Chris Teems (center) speaks with Rep. Lucas Atkinson (left) and Rep. Jeff Johnson (right).

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

# Lineworkers are wired for service

## National Lineman Appreciation Day April 18

**IN THE HOURS BEFORE SUNRISE**, while many of us are still asleep, lineworkers begin their day. They are dressed in flame-resistant clothing, hard hats, safety glasses, rubber gloves and steel-toe boots—gear they might still be wearing hours after the rest of us have returned home from work.

They are the individuals who epitomize dedication to service in its purest form. This is exactly why South Carolina Gov. Henry McMaster recognized and thanked the state's electric cooperative linemen during his State of the State address earlier this year. This month is also an opportunity to reflect on the essential role they play in our daily lives as we celebrate Lineworker Appreciation Day on April 14 and National Lineman Appreciation Day on April 18.

Amid towering utility poles and power lines, lineworkers exhibit a strength that goes far beyond the physical. Whether battling inclement weather, troubleshooting technical problems or navigating treacherous heights, lineworkers demonstrate resilience and a determination to keep the lights on, homes comfortable and our communities connected.

Horry Electric crews travel across Horry County, building, maintaining and repairing parts of the system. Their extraordinary skills ensure homes remain connected to the grid, businesses stay operational and emergency services remain accessible—a lifeline that connects us all.

In moments of crisis, when the lights go out and we find ourselves in the dark, lineworkers emerge as beacons of hope. Their quick response restores normalcy, offering reassurance in times of uncertainty. Whether repairing storm-damaged power lines or ensuring continuity during emergencies, their unwavering commitment illuminates life



YAN O'CAIN

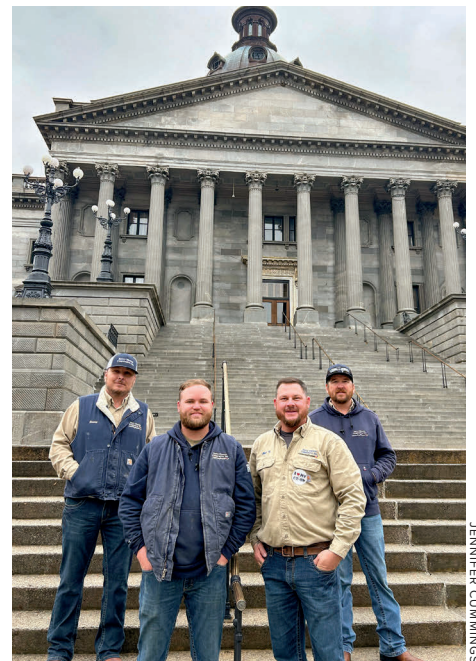
When storms impact sister co-ops, linemen often leave their families for days, or even weeks, to answer the call for help. Advance Line Technicians Chase Strickland and Scott Smith and A-Class Technician Ethan Johnson (left to right) assisted Little River Electric after Hurricane Helene.

when we need it most.

Following Hurricane Helene in September, once all Horry Electric members had their power restored, work didn't stop for our lineworkers. Four crews hit the road to assist Little River Electric Cooperative in Abbeville. Two more crews assisted Coastal Electric Cooperative in Walterboro and Palmetto Electric Cooperative in Hilton Head Island to help with power restoration efforts. Cooperation among cooperatives is one of our seven guiding principles and no one embodies this core commitment better than lineworkers.

This month, as we celebrate the remarkable men and women who ensure reliable power, let's recognize their unwavering dedication to the local communities they serve.

The next time you flip a switch, please take a moment to remember those who make it possible—lineworkers, who are wired for service and dedicated to powering your lives.



JENNIFER CUMMINGS

Advance Line Technicians Jeremy Ammons, Bryson Cooper, Chad Tyler and Bradley Floyd (left to right) met with Gov. Henry McMaster during Co-op Day at the State House.





Horry Electric Executive Vice President and CEO Reed Cooper (left) and special guest Miss South Carolina, Davis Wash (right), presented Smith her awards.

## Honoring leadership

### Genevieve Smith is the 45th HEC Lady of the Year

**SINCE 1979**, the HEC Lady of the Year, previously known as the Rural Lady of the Year, has celebrated leadership and service in the community. Named the Miss Leo G. Knauff Leadership Award, it honors a woman whose dedication mirrors that of Miss Leo, a visionary who empowered rural families through electrification.

Miss Leo was more than an electrification advisor at Horry Electric—she was a pioneer who turned obstacles into opportunities, teaching communities how to embrace and efficiently use electricity. Her impact extended beyond power lines, shaping a future driven by knowledge and innovation.

This year’s recipient, Genevieve Jordan Smith embodies that same spirit of perseverance and service. Born in Conway, she grew up in a large family with 11 siblings, learning the values of hard work, commitment and leadership on the family farm. She dedicated 44 years to Horry Electric, where she rose from an entry-level position to Supervisor of Accounting before retiring in 2012. Even while working full-time, she remained deeply involved in her family’s farm, instilling the same values in her children that shaped her own life.

A devoted mother and grandmother, Smith raised four children, including her son Anthony, who tragically passed away at age 17. Her three daughters, Michelle, Tammy and Ruth, along with her seven grandchildren, continue to be a source of pride and joy.

Beyond her professional achievements, Smith is known for her unwavering faith and dedication to her community. She’s

an active member of Juniper Bay Baptist Church. Always ready to lend a hand, she is beloved for her kindness, humility and generosity—especially in the kitchen. To this day, she continues the tradition of cooking a large Sunday meal for her family after church.

At the award luncheon in February, special guest Miss South Carolina, Davis Wash, spoke to the WIRE (Women Involved in Rural Electrification) group about resilience, reminding the ladies to always push forward despite challenges. In recognition of her lifelong service, Smith also received a special Joint Resolution from the South Carolina House of Representatives and Senate. Rep. Jeff Johnson read the Joint Resolution as the entire room applauded for Smith.

“Receiving this award was a big surprise,” says Smith. “I wasn’t expecting it, but it means a lot and I’ve worked hard.”

Horry Electric Executive Vice President and CEO Reed Cooper says Smith “exemplifies the values of hard work and dedication.”

“She has been part of the Horry Electric family for more than 50 years and we are proud to recognize her contributions to Horry Electric, as well as the community. She upholds Miss Leo’s enduring legacy—one of resilience, innovation and commitment to progress.”

**Interested in joining HEC’s WIRE chapter? Visit [horryelectric.com/wire](http://horryelectric.com/wire) to sign up. Contact Susan Brown, WIRE coordinator, at [susan.brown@horryelectric.com](mailto:susan.brown@horryelectric.com) for more information.**

## Co-op equipment needs space

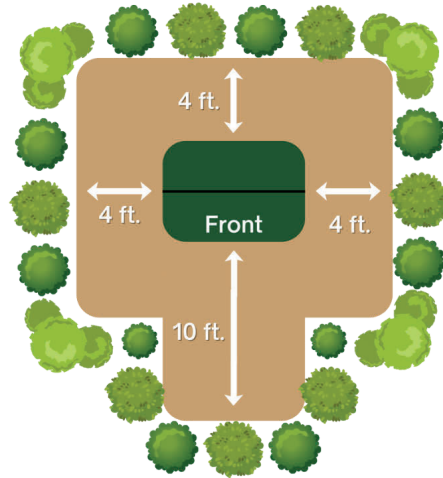
### Overhead and underground requirements explained

**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 bushes 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](http://horryelectric.com/vegetation-management).**

# Right Tree, Right Place

Do not plant any vegetation in the no tree zone. Heavy equipment and personnel need access during line repair operations.

**No Tree Zone**  
|— 15' Minimum —| |— 15' Minimum —|

<p><b>Small tree:</b> <b>Zone:</b> Plant Trees less than 25' feet in height/spread at least 35' from lines.</p>	<p><b>Medium tree:</b> <b>Zone:</b> Plant Trees 25'-40' in height/spread at least 50' from lines.</p>	<p><b>Large tree:</b> <b>Zone:</b> Plant trees larger than 40' in height/spread at least 65' from lines.</p>
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# Crews conduct inspections

## What to know if you see crews in your area

**ROUTINELY INSPECTING** the cooperative's electrical equipment is essential to delivering safe and reliable service to members. Horry Electric crews work year-round to inspect equipment across our service territory. If a piece of equipment needs to be repaired or replaced, crews respond quickly to make the necessary repairs or upgrades.

Horry Electric also has contractors who work throughout the year on various jobs, including building power lines, boring and vegetation management.

### What you will see

When Horry Electric crews are in your area, you will see:

- ▶ Employees in Horry Electric uniform (each employee has an ID badge for identification).
- ▶ Employees on your property.
- ▶ Horry Electric vehicles/side-by-sides/golf carts.
- ▶ Machines working.

Contractors who work with Horry Electric also have ID badges for identification.



PHOTOS BY JENNIFER CUMMINGS

Advanced Line Technician Jacob Riddei checks the condition of a power pole by performing the hammer test. Riddei has to listen for a distinct sound to ensure the pole is not rotting or decaying.



Advanced Line Technician Chad Tyler (left) and Crew Foreman Heath Hardwick drive on a side-by-side to inspect underground co-op equipment in a Myrtle Beach neighborhood.

### Important reminders

Horry Electric does not allow any sort of attachments on any piece of electric co-op equipment. Horry Electric's Bylaws and Service Rules and Regulations state members have to grant the cooperative access to electric equipment. These rules and regulations are in place to keep everyone safe. System inspections allow us to continue providing safe, reliable electricity to members.

It's important to remember the vegetation maintenance requirements for overhead and underground service, in addition to the meter base(s) at your service location.

On Page 20B, you will find these requirements explained in detail. Meter bases cannot be in an enclosed space. These must be on an exterior wall or in an approved meter room. Plants and shrubs must be planted at least three feet from the meter.

### Contact us for questions

Horry Electric wants to remind members that personnel/crews can be in your area at any time. If you ever have questions regarding system inspections or daily jobs, call (843) 369-2211.

## HEC returning \$5.5 million in Capital Credits

**THIS MONTH**, Horry Electric Cooperative will return approximately \$5.5 million to members who had active accounts in 2009 and/or 2024.

These payments reflect a unique feature of the cooperative business model—capital credits. Unlike other types of companies, cooperatives do not have shareholders who expect to make money from the company’s profits. Co-ops are not-for-profit businesses that exist solely to provide members with a particular service, such as electricity. In a cooperative like Horry Electric, members are the stakeholders.

After the co-op has paid expenses for a given year, left over margins are



allocated to members through capital credits. This is an example of the cooperative principle of Member Economic Participation. When finances allow, co-ops retire capital credits and refund those retired margins to members.

This spring, members who had active accounts in 2009 and/or 2024 will receive payments based on how much electricity they paid for during those years.

Capital credit refunds below \$100 will be applied as a credit to the member’s account. Refunds exceeding \$100 will be mailed as a check. Checks are expected to be delivered to members by the end of April.

The chart below is designed to help members calculate and estimate what their capital credit refund might be. If you have questions about capital credits, call the Member Service Department at (843) 369-2211.

## Unclaimed Capital Credits posted online

**HORRY ELECTRIC MAILES CAPITAL CREDIT** checks to members who have received service in past 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](http://horryelectric.com).



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

In order to claim funds, contact Horry Electric at (843) 369-2211, Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m.–5 p.m. Please reference unclaimed capital credits as the reason for your call.

## Capital Credit Disbursement 2025

**THE ALLOWABLE RETIREMENT** this year is \$6,804,757.23 less \$1,295,000 in estate payments. The total amount being distributed is \$5,509,757.23 which includes the \$5,109,757.23 balance of 2009 and \$400,000 of 2024.

If you were a member in 2024, you will receive 1.09% of

your 2024 assignment. If you were a member in 2009, you will receive the remaining unretired balance of your assignment for that year. You can calculate the approximate amount of your 2024 allocation and disbursement by using this example. Capital credit disbursements are distributed by the end of April.

If your 2024 electric bills totaled	\$1,000	\$1,500	\$2,000	\$2,500
The 2024 assignment factor is: (multiply the percentage times your bills)	18.45%	18.45%	18.45%	18.45%
Your Capital Credit assignment for 2024 would be:	\$184.50	\$276.75	\$369.00	\$461.25
The 2024 retirement percentage will be 1.09% of your capital credit assignment	1.09%	1.09%	1.09%	1.09%
Your general retirement refund for 2024 would be approximately:	\$2.01	\$3.02	\$4.02	\$5.03