

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
Elaine D. Gore
Secretary/Treasurer
Aaron C. Johnson
Franklin C. Blanton
Ronald H. Floyd
Jody D. Prince
Debbie Vereen Givens
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 not-for-profit, member-owned organization providing information and energy-related services on a fair and equitable basis.



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



Record-breaking Annual Member Meeting

THE 84TH ANNUAL MEMBER Meeting of Horry Electric Cooperative was a huge success! In order to conduct

the official business meeting, Horry Electric's bylaws require a quorum of 5% of the membership. The 2025 quorum was 4,115 members. Over the course of a day and a half of drive-thru registration and voting, we broke our record for the fifth straight year. We had 9,977 registrations and of those, 7,354 were members who registered and voted.

Thank you to each and every member who took the time to come to the event. We also appreciate everyone who watched the virtual business session on April 16.

Trustee election results

The business session agenda included the election of three trustee candidates, who are members of the cooperative, to serve on the board of trustees for a three-year term.

Candidates Elaine Gore (District 1) and Ronald Floyd (District 5) ran unopposed. Following the passing of District 7 incumbent Ashley Anderson, two candidates ran for the District 7 seat—Deborah "Debbie" Vereen Givens and Clay Ward. With 3,345 votes, Debbie Vereen Givens was elected to that seat.

The board of trustees elected officers at the May board meeting. Johnny M. Shelley remains as president with Eugene Harriott Jr. as vice president. Elaine Gore was named secretary/treasurer.

Prize winners

Prize winners for the 2025 Annual Member Meeting have been notified. The grand prize for this year's meeting

was a 2019 E-Z-Go electric golf cart, which was awarded to Christine Ponte. You can view her picture, along with snapshots from this year's event on page 5.

Important reminder

June 1 marked the beginning of hurricane season, which runs through Nov. 30.

Horry Electric is actively preparing for severe weather and we encourage members to do the same. Make sure you have a plan in place and an emergency kit ready with water, non-perishable foods, batteries and flashlights.

If you experience a power outage, there are multiple ways to report it:

- ▶ Text "OUT" to MyOutage at 1 (844) 369-2767.
- ▶ Call PowerTouch at (843) 369-2212.
- ▶ Download the free HEC Mobile app.
- ▶ Log in to your MyEnergy Online portal.
- ▶ Text "OUTAGE" to 352-667.

When it comes to power restoration, crews work from the substations out. Look for the graphic explaining the steps on page 12D of this issue or you can watch a video in the Outage Center on horryelectric.com. You can also find safety tips in the "Preparedness" section for storms, downed power lines and generator operation.

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

Annual Member Meeting photo recap



Horry Electric Executive Vice President and CEO Reed Cooper (right) catches up with Jamie Prosser, who retired from the cooperative as an advanced line technician in January after 35 years of service.



The 2025 Annual Member Meeting grand prize was awarded to Christine Ponte. She and her son-in-law, Louis Marconi, were excited to drive away on their electric golf cart!



Member Service Representative Kolton Wade is always a friendly face to members, smiling as they participate in drive-thru registration.



Christopher Curry of Nichols holds a seasonal peak times magnet as a token for registering at the Annual Member Meeting. He also received a dryer magnet.



Lanier Alford of Conway talks to Advanced Line Technician Chase Cox as he admires Alford's Chevrolet Corvette C8.



Carl Gasbarre from Loris brought his Pitsky (a mix between a Pitbull and Husky) named Mia to the registration and voting event.



Longs members Mike Morin and Carol Mruskovic roll through drive-thru registration on their motorcycle.

Leadership trips

Local teens headed to Washington, D.C. and Columbia

THIS SUMMER, nine outstanding Horry County students are preparing for the trip of a lifetime—two, in fact. These future leaders will take part in fully funded educational tours to Washington, D.C. and Columbia, courtesy of Horry Electric Cooperative. They'll get a firsthand look at government, history and the power of cooperation.

Both programs are part of Horry Electric's commitment to community and empowering the next generation of leaders. Whether at the steps of the U.S. Capitol or inside the South Carolina State House, students will gain insight and connections that will help shape their futures, with the goal of helping shape the future of our communities.

Washington Youth Tour

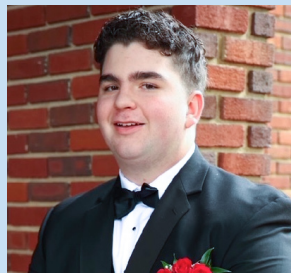
Four students will represent Horry Electric on Washington Youth Tour, taking place June 15–20. Those students are McCallie Brown of Aynor High School, Jonathan Bowers of Conway Christian School, Kimberlee “Kimmy” Hurst of the Scholars Academy and Tyler Johnson of Conway High School.

They'll join peers from across the country for a week in the nation's capital, exploring iconic landmarks such as the Lincoln Memorial, the Pentagon and the Smithsonian museums. The tour also includes a visit to Capitol Hill, where students will meet members of Congress and learn how democracy works up close.

Started under President Lyndon B. Johnson, Washington Youth Tour has been inspiring young people for decades, blending education with unforgettable experiences.



McCallie Brown
Aynor High School



Jonathan Bowers
Conway Christian School



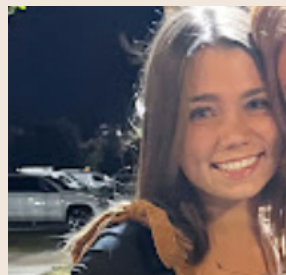
Kimberlee “Kimmy” Hurst
Scholars Academy



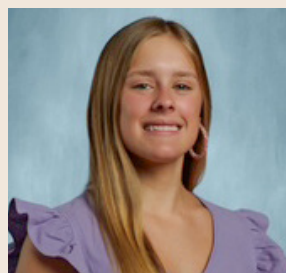
Tyler Johnson
Conway High School

Cooperative Youth Summit

Five students will participate in Cooperative Youth Summit, scheduled for July 14–17 in Columbia. Students are Riley Batson of Conway High School, Ava Braziel of Aynor High School, John Pratt of the Scholars Academy, Lillian “Lilly” Sheets of Aynor High School and Kylee Whittington of the Scholars Academy.



Riley Batson
Conway High School



Ava Braziel
Aynor High School



John Pratt
Scholars Academy



Lillian “Lilly” Sheets
Aynor High School



Kylee Whittington
Scholars Academy

Interactive tools available to members

HORRY ELECTRIC MEMBERS have access to a variety of free, interactive tools on the Energy Programs page of horryelectric.com. These tools can help identify potential savings opportunities, as well as helping you make informed decisions.

- ▶ **ChooseEV** Members interested in electric vehicles (EV) can find out if an EV is a good fit by using the ChooseEV tool. This allows you to choose an EV model, view your estimated monthly savings potential and find incentives and promotions.

The ChooseEV tool goes one step further to break down home charging cost information. You can also view a map pinpointing all public charging stations in your area.

- ▶ **Solar Calculator** If you're exploring the option of putting solar panels on your home, complete a brief rooftop solar assessment by using the Solar Calculator. This tool will ask a series of questions about your home, including the age of your roof and the direction it faces.

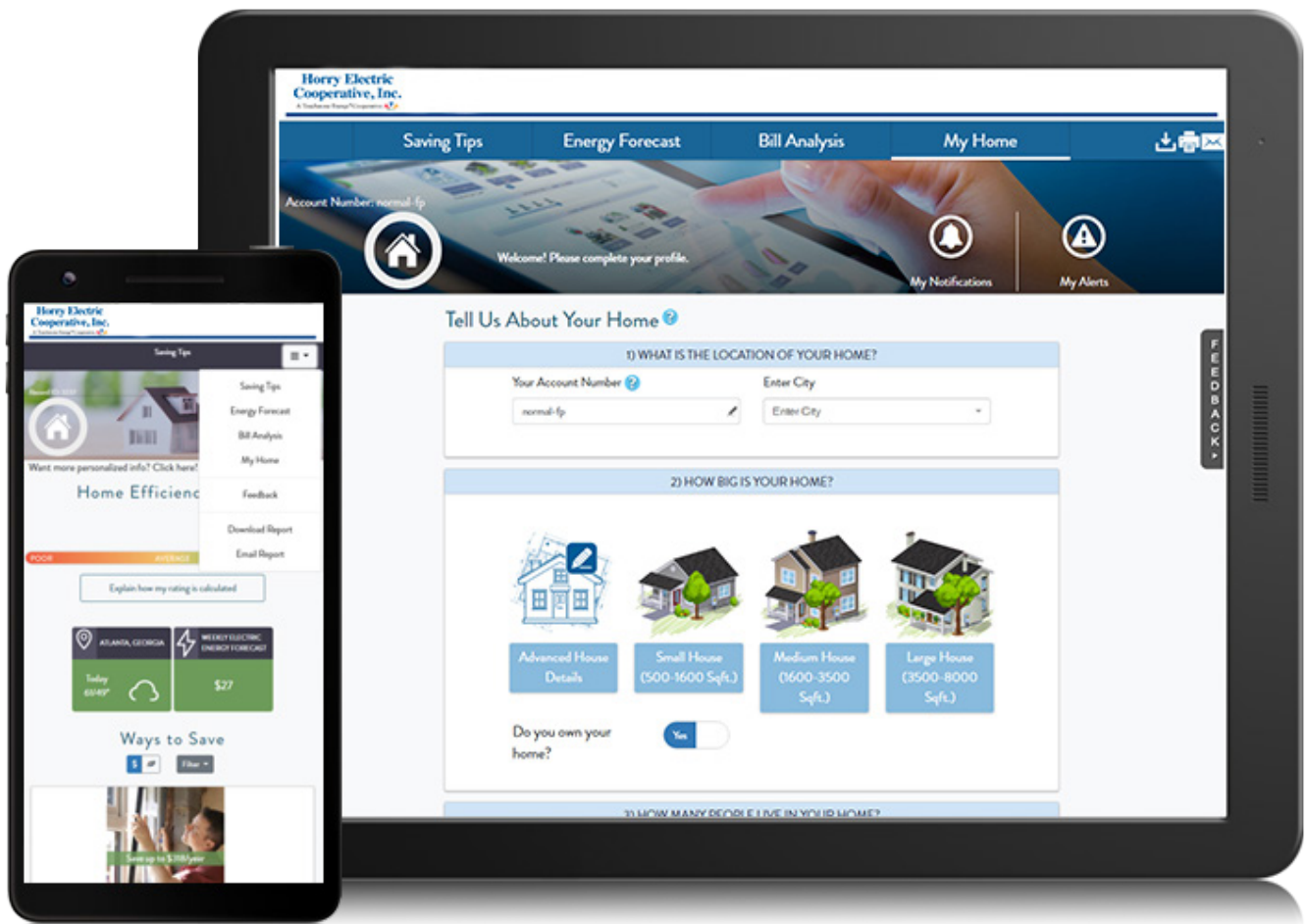
The Solar Calculator will provide an estimate of solar

generation potential, ongoing utility costs and the estimated payback period of a rooftop solar system.

- ▶ **Residential Energy Advisor** This calculator conducts a virtual energy assessment of your home and provides an estimated breakdown of your energy use and costs. Members will fill out information regarding home size, heating, cooling, refrigeration, lighting, appliances, pools and more.

Once you have completed your analysis, you can view or update information at any time. For example, if you move to a different home, you can reset your profile and begin a new one. If you install a new water heater or add a hot tub, you can update this information as needed and the tool will automatically adjust.

- ▶ **Savings calculators** Access a variety of calculators to find potential savings opportunities. The Water Heater Calculator compares estimated annual costs of your current water heating type to other water heating options. Other calculators examine your heat pump, appliances and even holiday lighting.



Watch out for our work zones

Distracted driving increases hazards for lineworkers

WHEN HORRY ELECTRIC LINEWORKERS are building or working on power lines, they have to be careful. High-voltage wires can cause serious injuries or fatalities if not handled properly.

However, that's not the only hazard they are dealing with, especially if the work is near a roadway. Then, it's drivers who can pose just as much danger. Distracted or reckless drivers could crash into a work truck, a power pole or even a lineworker.

This is a danger for anyone required to work near passing vehicles. In 2022, almost 900 people died and nearly 38,000 were hurt in crashes in work zones. Most of these accidents happened in places with clear warning signs, such as construction zones.

Line crews, especially those from Horry Electric, often work alone on quiet roads, in bad weather or in places where drivers can't see them well. The risk is even higher in rural areas where power lines run along curvy roads. It's those areas where drivers tend to speed, not expecting a work zone around the corner.

These crashes don't just put lives in danger. They can also destroy expensive work trucks, slow down power repairs



When approaching a work zone, pay attention to signs and signals from lineworkers. Advanced Line Technician Kevin Crave signals with two fingers for drivers to drive slowly through the area.

and knock over power poles. In addition, lineworkers need to focus completely when fixing high-voltage lines rather than being distracted by fast-moving vehicles.

Even when in their trucks, lineworkers still face risks. They often drive slowly on the side of the road, looking for broken power lines at night or in bad weather. Drivers who aren't paying attention might not see them until it's too late to slow down or stop.

How to keep lineworkers safe

Keeping lineworkers safe is something everyone can help with. A little extra caution on the road can help prevent tragedies, protect workers and keep the power on for everyone. Drivers should always:

- ▶ Slow down and move over when passing work zones.
- ▶ Stay alert, especially on curvy roads.
- ▶ Be cautious in bad weather or low-visibility conditions.

Forestbrook students win Children's Book Challenge

Writing about electricity might sound simple, but turning it into a children's book? That takes creativity, curiosity and a spark of imagination.

That's exactly what Forestbrook Elementary students Michael Wagner, Katherine Pope and Joumana Elmouzdahir brought to the 2025 Book Challenge. The contest is sponsored by Horry Electric and South Carolina's electric cooperatives.

This year's theme encouraged fourth and fifth grade students to write and illustrate original books focusing on the importance of electrical safety and the role of electric cooperatives in their communities.

Wagner, Pope and Elmouzdahir wrote and illustrated *Facts about Electricity*, which talks about the various ways to generate electricity and ways to stay safe around each of those.

In March, Horry Electric employees Kelli McDowell and Garrett Gasque visited Forestbrook Elementary in Myrtle Beach to surprise the students with a cash prize for being named the local winners.



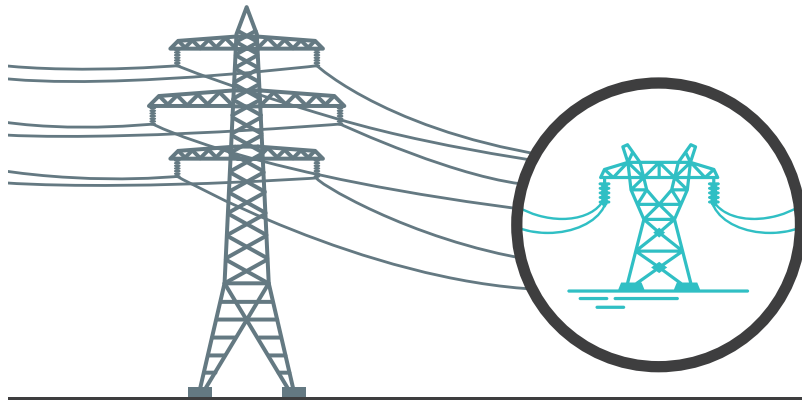
Forestbrook Elementary's Wendy Savoca celebrates her students (from left) Katherine Pope, Michael Wagner and Joumana Elmouzdahir (not pictured) winning the 2025 Children's Book Challenge. Horry Electric's Kelli McDowell and Garrett Gasque presented the cash prize.

Their teacher, Media Specialist Wendy Savoca, also received a prize.

The Children's Book Challenge is part of a broader mission by South Carolina's electric cooperatives to educate students about energy, safety and the vital services co-ops provide.

The Steps to Restoring Power

When a major outage occurs, our crews restore service to the greatest number of people in the shortest time possible – until everyone has power.



1. High-Voltage Transmission Lines

These lines carry large amounts of electricity. They rarely fail but must be repaired first.



2. Distribution Substations

Crews inspect substations, which can serve hundreds or thousands of people.



3. Main Distribution Lines

Main lines serve essential facilities like hospitals and larger communities.



4. Individual Homes and Businesses

After main line repairs are complete, we repair lines that serve individual homes and businesses.