



horryelectric.com

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

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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



New rate structure—one year later

Members save \$5.1 million on new rate

ONE YEAR AGO, Horry Electric implemented a new rate structure for three reasons. First, to give members control of their bill. Second, to align member bills with the way Horry Electric has always been billed. Third, for members to pay their fair share of the power they use in their home or business and their portion of the peak demand they put on the system.

Since announcing the new rate structure in May 2024, we have been working to educate members. We've spent hours on the phones answering questions and responded to thousands of emails. We've spoken at numerous civic groups, businesses and church meetings to help members understand the rate structure, how they are billed and opportunities to save.

The rate restructure was designed to be revenue-neutral across all rate classes, meaning Horry Electric would not bring in any additional revenue. As we've said from the beginning, this was not a rate increase.

We've been asked over the course of the past year if the restructure was successful. We needed a full year of data to definitively answer this question and I'm beyond excited to share with you it is working!

From October 2024 to September 2025, we have billed members 12 times on the new rate (one bill per month). In that time, members have saved a total of \$5.1 million dollars compared to the old rate structure.

Horry Electric has also seen a significant reduction in power costs, reiterating our point that if the members save, Horry Electric saves. To break down this number further, 54% of the Horry Electric membership has saved money



Winter Peak Hours

Nov. 1–March 31
6 a.m.–9 a.m.

on the new rate structure, confirming the revenue-neutral design.

We've spoken to a lot of members over the past year who don't realize they're saving on the new rate structure. Often, they reach out because their bill increased from the previous month.

When comparing bills, you have to compare from the same billing period last year because temperatures vary month-to-month and have a significant impact on your power bill.

When we get calls like these, we compare member use on the new rate structure to the old rate. Most of the time, members have saved. On page five, there are answers to three of the most common questions from members.

I have said this before, and I will say it again—the team at Horry Electric is here to help in any way we can. Even as costs are rising everywhere, Horry Electric is fighting to keep your rates as low as possible.

We want members to be mindful of their use during peak hours, and we want members to save on this structure.

If you have questions, I encourage you to call (843) 369-2211 or email service@horryelectric.com. You can also visit the Rate Center on horryelectric.com for more information.

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

Rate structure reminders

Here are answers to three of the most common questions from members about the new rate structure.

Q Am I charged \$12 per kilowatt (kW) for every peak hour in the month?

A No, the Peak Charge is for the single highest one (1) hour of energy used during peak hours in the billing period. This is not a daily charge.

Q Why did you pick these hours?

A The peak hours were chosen based on when electricity use in South Carolina is at its highest and most expensive (hot summer afternoons and cold winter mornings).

Q Do I have to turn all my appliances off?

A No. We are not saying members can't use electricity during peak hours. We encourage members to be mindful, and we recommend not using all major appliances at the same time.

Visit the Rate Center on horryelectric.com for more information.

Attention students!

Take advantage of one of these great scholarships or trips

HEC WIRE Scholarship

The \$1,500 WIRE Scholarship is for one academic year for a freshman entering Coastal Carolina or Horry-Georgetown Technical College.

Requirements:

- ▶ Be an active HEC member or dependent of an active member
- ▶ Live in the home with the member
- ▶ Be a freshman entering Coastal Carolina University or Horry-Georgetown Technical College

Future Accountants Scholarship

High school graduates looking to earn a degree in Accounting, Finance or Business can apply for financial assistance through The Daniel B. Shelley, III Future Accountants Scholarship, totaling \$1,500.

Requirements:

- ▶ Be an active HEC member or dependent of an active member
- ▶ Live in the home with the member
- ▶ Be a freshman entering a two-year or four-year Accounting, Finance or Business program at a South Carolina college.

FOR MORE INFORMATION on these scholarships, contact Susan Brown at (843) 369-6323 or susan.brown@horryelectric.com



Washington Youth Tour

The annual Washington Youth Tour is a week-long, all expenses paid trip to the nation's capital. Each summer, participants tour the sights, meet with lawmakers at the Capitol and meet hundreds of students from across the country.

Requirement:

- ▶ Open to Horry County high school juniors (rising seniors)

Cooperative Youth Summit

The annual Cooperative Youth Summit is an all expenses paid trip to South Carolina's capital. Each summer, selected youth representatives will tour the Statehouse, meet with lawmakers and see how co-ops are preparing for our state's energy future.

Requirement:

- ▶ Open to Horry County high school sophomores (rising juniors)

FOR MORE INFORMATION on these programs, contact Jennifer Cummings at (843) 369-6331 or jennifer.cummings@horryelectric.com.



Catch Willie Wiredhand and the parade crew this Christmas!

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

Loris

Friday, Dec. 5 at 6 p.m.

Aynor

Saturday, Dec. 6 at 4:30 p.m.

North Myrtle Beach

Saturday, Dec. 6 at 5:30 p.m.

Murrells Inlet

Sunday, Dec. 7 at 3 p.m.

Conway

Saturday, Dec. 13 at 10 a.m.

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



Powering our communities with

Holiday Spirit

Wishing everyone

a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

...from all of us at

Horry Electric Cooperative

horryelectric.com

(843) 369-2211

Horry Electric will be closed for the holidays Nov. 27–28, Dec. 24 at 1 p.m., 25–26 and Jan. 1.



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 2026 is outlined below.

Item	Bylaw requirement	Action
Nominating Committee appointed	The nominating committee must be appointed at least 60 days before—Jan. 30, 2026—and not more than 150 days—Nov. 1, 2025—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 on Nov. 25 and will meet in December 2025/January 2026.
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 2025 and January 2026.
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 1, 2026.
Deadline for petition candidates and posting of report	Petition candidates must be submitted at least 45 days—Feb. 14, 2026—and not more than 60 days—Jan. 30, 2026—before the Annual Member Meeting.	The deadline to submit petition forms is Friday, Feb. 6, 2026, at noon. The petition candidates will be posted in the HEC main office by Friday, Feb. 13, 2026.
Credentials and Elections Committee Appointment	The Committee must be appointed at least 60 days—by Jan. 30, 2026—and not more than 90 days—Dec. 31, 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 1, 2026—and not more than 60 days—Jan. 30, 2026—before the date of the meeting.	Direct mail notices will be sent to all member-owners between Jan. 30, 2026 and March 1, 2026. Note: All board candidate nominations must be distinguished between those nominated by the Nominating Committee and those nominated by petition.



JOSH P. CROTZER

Horry Electric's 2026 Annual Member Meeting

Drive-thru registration and voting

- ▶ **Tuesday, March 31,**
7 a.m.-7 p.m.
- ▶ **Wednesday, April 1,**
7 a.m.- 11 a.m.

Virtual Business Meeting

- ▶ **Wednesday, April 1,**
7 p.m.

◀ **Members and four-legged friends alike are welcome to attend the drive-thru registration and voting event March 31-April 1.**



HOLIDAY FUN WORD SEARCH

Can you find all the words associated with holiday fun in the puzzle below? Use the word bank to check your work.



WORD BANK

Jingle bells

Santa Claus

Snowman

Candy cane

Mittens

Hot Chocolate



N	H	C	H	P	B	D	H	S	V	G	Z	H	T	M
A	C	C	F	Z	Z	A	T	F	N	V	D	Q	Z	Y
M	H	L	V	Y	M	J	N	P	D	E	T	V	F	S
W	P	W	H	F	W	I	H	K	S	C	T	G	B	K
O	Z	K	D	Z	L	N	O	K	K	H	Q	T	C	F
N	F	I	O	U	R	G	T	F	C	L	P	E	I	L
S	S	V	S	U	A	L	C	A	T	N	A	S	C	M
Z	C	V	P	C	E	E	H	R	P	W	U	A	Z	Z
F	C	F	J	C	H	B	O	G	C	Y	N	G	V	E
G	M	V	X	D	L	E	C	V	N	D	T	S	F	W
Y	A	X	V	N	U	L	O	H	Y	V	C	L	U	A
H	G	V	L	L	X	L	L	C	M	J	M	C	I	U
P	J	Y	F	E	R	S	A	Q	E	Y	G	H	C	A
D	W	O	R	D	T	N	T	Y	H	X	Q	L	E	S
U	W	H	R	U	E	V	E	B	Y	B	F	L	W	R



MERRY CHRISTMAS
FROM THE ENERGY
EXPLORERS!