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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



Understanding your summer bill

AUGUST IS ONE of the hottest months in Horry County, and that can mean a higher electric bill. Members

routinely want to know why, but it isn't just one thing.

Your bill is based on several factors that combine to reflect the full cost of delivering reliable power to you every hour of every day.

The costs of power

A big driver of your bill is when you use energy. In the summer, your air conditioning unit is a large driver. When it's hot, your unit runs longer and, therefore, uses more energy. That's why cooling costs amount to more than half of your summer power bill.

Horry Electric works with other co-ops to buy electricity in bulk at reduced cost, but when extreme heat drives up energy demand, power supplies become more limited and costs rise. It's a matter of supply and demand.

Wholesale power isn't the same price all day long. During the summer, it's most expensive every afternoon between 3-6 p.m. when the day is hottest and air conditioning units run longest to keep up.

Meeting that peak demand often requires using more fuel and firing up additional power generation resources, and that comes with additional costs.

The service we provide

What the co-op provides isn't a commodity like groceries. It's a service, like having a personal shopper deliver the exact groceries you need the instant you need them.

We deliver the energy you need

instantaneously. That service comes with overhead costs as employees build and maintain a system spanning thousands of miles of power lines, substations and other facilities. We recover those costs through the account charge on your monthly bill.

It's important to mention that unlike customers of investor-owned utilities, your bill includes no payment to shareholders. Horry Electric is not for profit. You only pay for the cost of delivering power to you.

What you can do

Understanding your bill is the first step to lowering it. During the summer, the easiest way is by managing your thermostat. Set it a few degrees higher and use fans to stay comfortable while reducing your AC unit's energy use.

Shift the use of major appliances (electric water heaters, clothes dryers, pool pumps, EV chargers) outside of the 3-6 p.m. peak hours.

We're here to help

Horry Electric is here to help you understand your energy use and manage costs. Your MyEnergy Online account allows you to view your energy use along with weather data and sign up for daily use alerts. To sign in, click the "My Account" button on **horryelectric.com**.

If you have questions, call us at (843) 369-2211.

J. REED COOPER, P.E.

Executive Vice President and CEO

New chapter, new memories

BEHIND THE SCENES, you may not think about all the equipment and tasks that keep an electric system running. Aside from the poles and wires, it takes routine maintenance to make sure members receive the safe, reliable service they expect and depend on.

For nearly three decades, Steve Singleton has provided that maintenance.

Singleton started working at the co-op on March 24, 1997, as a field service representative. This position included going out to members' homes and reading their meters. For the past 12 years, he's served as the apparatus shop technician, which means every day is different. One week, Singleton maintains the substations to make sure they are free from any vegetation that could grow into equipment. The next, he works to test and repair various pieces of equipment, including transformers, regulators and reclosers.

"When it comes to equipment repairs and testing, I'm working in a controlled environment," Singleton says. "It's my responsibility to make sure any piece of equipment that goes back out in the field is safe for the linemen to operate."

That's his advice to the next person who steps into his role—watch over the people in the field.

Singleton's passion is helping people, which is also the legacy of his career. Any chance he has to help or make someone's day better, he takes it.

"When I write the tag to put a transformer back in service, I always put a smiley face on every tag I fill out," Singleton says. "You never know what someone is going through and that little gesture might make someone's day."

With that mindset, Singleton prides himself on starting each day on a happy note because every day is a new day.

"I get to wake up in the morning, get my paper, look at the beautiful sunrise and thank the Lord because he paints the best portraits in the world."

As he steps into retirement, Singleton says he is ready to explore the world God created. He's spent his entire life in Conway and now he's ready to make new memories.

On his bucket list, he and his wife of almost 41 years, Tanya, want to visit the Ark Encounter in Kentucky. He also wants to drive cross-country and cruise to Alaska to explore Anchorage. He's ready for any adventure as long as it's alongside his wife and three granddaughters, Macie (9), Quinn (8) and Evelyn (4).



JENNIFER CUMMINGS

As Apparatus Shop Technician Steve Singleton closes the chapter on a 29-year career, he's ready to start making new memories with his family.



Christmas Card Contest

Requirements

- Please include the "Horry Electric Cooperative" logo or "HEC" on the cards.
- Cut-outs or computer designs cannot be used on the card.
- The card format is an 8 1/2" x 11" sheet of paper folded in half. Other sizes will not be accepted.
- Children in K5-5th grade may enter.
- Children will design the **front** and **inside right** of the card only.
- ALL entries must include the following information on the back of the card: student's first and last name, school name and grade level.

Design HEC's Christmas card

THE COUNTDOWN TO CHRISTMAS is on, which means Horry Electric is searching for an awesome Christmas card to send out this year!

We're looking for the help of students in kindergarten through fifth grade. We want students to be as creative and colorful as possible, while incorporating the electric cooperative into their Christmas card theme. This can include:

- ▶ Willie Wiredhand (co-op mascot)
- ▶ Power lines
- ▶ Bucket/line trucks
- ▶ Light bulbs
- ▶ Linemen/employees
- ▶ Co-op territory scenery

Horry Electric will present a \$100 cash award to the student whose card is chosen for the co-op to send out this Christmas.

Visit horryec.info/Christmas-card for the official contest rules and submission instructions. For questions, contact Jennifer Cummings at jennifer.cummings@horryelectric.com or call (843) 369-6331.

HEC awards \$22,800 to teachers

Bright Ideas grants support innovative projects

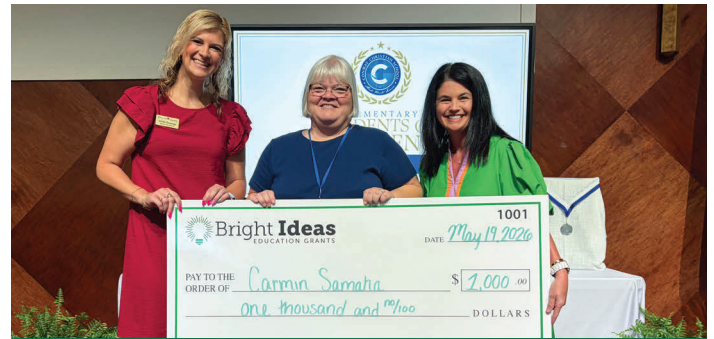
CELEBRATING TEACHERS and all the ways they help students excel is just one of the many reasons behind the Horry Electric Bright Ideas Education Grants program.

In April, Horry Electric held its first-ever Bright Ideas 5k. Through sponsorships and donations from race participants, the co-op raised \$19,973. This year, Horry Electric was able to award \$22,800 to teachers across Horry County, the most awards since the program started in 2007.

In honor of Back to School Month, Horry Electric is proud to feature the 26 teachers who were awarded Bright Ideas grants for the upcoming school year.



- ▶ **Emily Graham**, Pine Island Elementary
ENTRY: Printmaking Possibilities
AWARD: \$400
- ▶ **Rachel McFann**, Black Water Middle
ENTRY: Creative Writing Scrapbook
AWARD: \$500
- ▶ **Ellen Sanchez**, Waterway Elementary
ENTRY: Language Learning
AWARD: \$500
- ▶ **Jillian Westerfield**, South Conway Elementary
ENTRY: Innovation to Life with 3D Printing
AWARD: \$550
- ▶ **Danielle McColl**, St. James Intermediate
ENTRY: Literacy in Action
AWARD: \$700
- ▶ **Kayla Simonson**, Conway Elementary
ENTRY: Wee Rock!
AWARD: \$725
- ▶ **Brittany Hughes**, Pee Dee Elementary
ENTRY: Fidgeting Fifth Graders
AWARD: \$800
- ▶ **Emily Shirah**, Ten Oaks Middle
ENTRY: Language Launchpads
AWARD: \$825
- ▶ **Kristen Giraldi**, North Myrtle Beach High
ENTRY: Tree Huggers Greenhouse Project
AWARD: \$900
- ▶ **Angel-Inez Feschuk**, Myrtle Beach High
ENTRY: History through Artifacts
AWARD: \$950



Horry Electric's Jennifer Cummings (left) and Kelli McDowell (right) got to surprise Carmin Samaha of Conway Christian School with a \$1,000 Bright Ideas grant. The celebration happened at the school's awards day, so Samaha was completely taken by surprise.

- ▶ **Dana McCallum**, Academy for Technology & Academics
ENTRY: Ready for Work
AWARD: \$950
- ▶ **Rebecca Crute**, Aynor Elementary
ENTRY: Battle of the Books
AWARD: \$1,000
- ▶ **April Troglauer**, Aynor Middle
ENTRY: Performing Ensemble Needs
AWARD: \$1,000
- ▶ **Michelle Scott**, Carolina Forest High
ENTRY: Inclusion Literacy Lab
AWARD: \$1,000
- ▶ **Carmin Samaha**, Conway Christian School
ENTRY: U.S. History Research
AWARD: \$1,000
- ▶ **Gregory Johnson**, Conway High
ENTRY: Story to Artifact
AWARD: \$1,000

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Horry Electric's Kelli McDowell (left) awards Gregory Johnson (right) with \$1,000. Johnson proudly invited one of his students, who helped him with the grant application, to join him for the photo.

PHOTOS BY JENNIFER CUMMINGS/KELLI MCDOWELL

Stepping up in the capital

Local students gain memorable experiences on Washington Youth Tour

BY JOSH P. CROTZER

JOHN PRATT WASN'T PLANNING to run a business this summer. But he found himself in charge of the Soda Pop Co-op on short notice when the manager became ill.

"It was a lot of hard work, but I loved doing it and I gained a lot of knowledge," says Pratt, a rising senior at Horry County Schools Scholars Academy. Pratt took over running the student-led beverage and snack market set up to teach Washington Youth Tour delegates how a cooperative operates.

"I really like the model of how a cooperative works. The people who put into the business also get a lot out of it."

Pratt was one of four local students Horry Electric Cooperative sponsored on a weeklong trip to the nation's capital in June as part of Washington Youth Tour. They joined 63 other students representing South Carolina's electric cooperatives for a tour of historic sites, monuments and memorials.

Horry Electric's student delegation included Pratt; Mason Lee and Annabeth Hardwick, both of Conway Christian School; and Riley Batson of Conway High School. They were among 1,700 students from 44 states participating in the electric cooperatives' annual youth rally.

The South Carolina students visited George Washington's Mount Vernon, Arlington National Cemetery, the Pentagon 9/11 Memorial and the Smithsonian museums. They also toured the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, the National Museum of the Marine Corps and the National Museum of

African American History and Culture.

One of the week's highlights was a day on Capitol Hill, where the students toured the Capitol. They also visited congressional



Pratt, Hardwick, Lee and Batson visited Congressman Russell Fry's office, met members of his staff and sat at his desk with Buc-ee's Bucky Beaver.



Horry Electric's Washington Youth Tour delegation included (from left) chaperone Annette Harris, John Pratt, Annabeth Hardwick, Riley Batson, Mason Lee and chaperone Kent Donald.

offices, met staff and heard from Sen. Tim Scott and the late Sen. Lindsey Graham on the Capitol steps.

During a question-and-answer session with Scott, Lee and the rest of South Carolina's student delegation received some sage advice.

"Don't take offense from someone you wouldn't take advice from," Lee recalls the senator telling the group. "Those words just stuck with me."

The group's visit to the 9/11 Pentagon Memorial also stuck with Lee.

"Just being able to experience it and reflect upon what happened was empowering in a way," says Lee. "I was able to see that when bad things happened, our country united through it."

Batson had been to Washington, D.C. once before, but that was in the fifth grade. This time, she says, she got a lot more out of it, especially after visiting Arlington National Cemetery and the National Museum of the Marine Corps.



Mason Lee showed off his marksmanship at the National Museum of the Marine Corps.

KENT DONALD

JOSH P. CROTZER



PHOTOS BY CANYON DURHAM

George Washington's Mount Vernon was the perfect setting for one of delegation's group photos.

"I found that all of the museums are so much bigger than I expected," says Batson. "I'm able to appreciate how important our veterans really are."

The experience wasn't just about seeing granite statues and strolling through museums. Travelling with peers from across South Carolina

and engaging with other student delegates from around the country—the youth tourists traded state pins, enjoyed a dinner cruise along the Potomac River and participated in a national rally at the Gaylord Hotel—also made an impact on them.

"I'm not a very outgoing person," says Hardwick. "So, this was a big opportunity for me to get out of my shell and to be more comfortable talking to people."

The trip also helped Hardwick understand the impact her cooperative has on her community and that she can be a part of it.

"They are a lot more involved than I thought," says



John Pratt (left) said one of the reasons he signed up for Washington Youth Tour was to "meet great people" from other parts of South Carolina.



Riley Batson (third from right) and the rest of the South Carolina contingent joined 1,700 other students from across the nation for a sometimes noisy, sometimes inspirational evening at the Gaylord Hotel on Youth Night.

Hardwick. "When you're from a little city like Conway, you don't think you can make such a big impact. But travelling all the way to Washington and meeting other people, I realized that I'm a part of something that's big."

Horry Electric and South Carolina's electric cooperatives send rising high school seniors on Washington Youth Tour each year. Pratt intends to encourage his younger classmates to apply this winter.

"I'm going to tell them they should absolutely do it," he says. "I've gained so much from this trip. I've not only become a better person, but a kinder person and a smarter person."

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Conway High School's Marcel Marina (center) shares his \$1,000 Bright Ideas grant with his students. He's excited for the opportunity to provide a hands-on math experience for both mainstream and special education students to increase their understanding in geometry.

- **Marcel Marina**, Conway High
ENTRY: Shapes, Space and Data
AWARD: \$1,000
- **Wendy Savoca**, Forestbrook Elementary
ENTRY: Panther Creation Station
AWARD: \$1,000
- **Vickie Grant**, Myrtle Beach Elementary
ENTRY: Peace Growing Garden
AWARD: \$1,000
- **Robert DeCerbo**, Myrtle Beach STEM Academy
ENTRY: Voices of Horry County
AWARD: \$1,000
- **Emily Scheffler**, Pine Island Elementary
ENTRY: Life Skills Lab
AWARD: \$1,000
- **Elizabeth Intrieri**, Socastee High



Myrtle Beach Elementary's Vickie Grant (middle right) was presented with her \$1,000 grant for her Peace Growing Garden to help students with various exceptionalities. Alongside her are Principal Kristie Hamilton (right), Assistant Principal Tami Elswick (left) and HEC's Jennifer Cummings.



Christina Bowers celebrates receiving the \$1,000 Bright Ideas grant from Horry Electric's Kelli McDowell (right). Her idea, Sensory Seeking Energy, is to provide her moderate to severe disabilities class with adaptive and sensory learning tools.

- ENTRY: Cultural Celebration
AWARD: \$1,000
- **William Jung**, Socastee High
ENTRY: Keys Across Curriculum
AWARD: \$1,000
- **Lucia Watson**, Socastee High
ENTRY: Pharmacology
AWARD: \$1,000
- **Christina Bowers**, Waterway Elementary
ENTRY: Sensory Seeking Energy
AWARD: \$1,000
- **Wendy McDonald**, Whittemore Park Middle
ENTRY: A Novel Idea
AWARD: \$1,000

LEARN MORE Read more about each of these grants on Horry Electric's social media channels during the month of August.



Wendy McDonald (right) from Whittemore Park Middle School applied for \$1,000 to turn her sixth graders into published authors. Her project, A Novel Idea, will allow students to take writing beyond the average assignment. Pictured with her are Horry Electric's Jennifer Cummings (left) and Whittemore Park Middle Assistant Principal Brittany Parade.