

Horry Electric Cooperative, Inc.

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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

Power On

October is National Co-op Month



AS AN ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, our top priority is always to provide reliable, affordable energy to you, the members we serve.

Because we are a co-op, our mission is to enrich the lives of our members and serve the long-term interests of our local community. This mission has never been more critical than in recent months.

We are continuing to battle the ongoing pandemic. Last month, Horry County Council extended the face mask ordinance for another 60 days.

We are continuing to do our part to stop the spread of COVID-19, so we are continuing to require members to wear a face covering to enter our Conway and Socastee offices.

New style of Annual Meeting

On a good note, our early Drive-Thru Registration and Voting went great! We appreciate all of our members that came out to register and vote.

We know this year was different, but we thank you for adapting to all the changes. It was so nice to see so many faces!

Our virtual business meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 13. We hope you'll tune in to horryelectric.com to watch it.

We know you're excited about the prizes. We will notify winners by phone or mail following the virtual meeting, so please make sure we have your current contact information on file.

Breast Cancer Awareness Month

This month is more than National Co-op Month. It's also Breast Cancer Awareness Month. This is something that hits close to home. In the past five years, we've lost three employees to cancer, two from breast cancer.

You can read more about Tiffany Dixon and Bert Mazyck on page 12D of this issue.

We continue to pray for the day a cure is found for all types of cancer.

Concern for community

One of the seven principles that guides all co-ops is "concern for community." To me, this principle is the essential DNA of Horry Electric Cooperative, and it sets us apart from other electric utilities.

The communities we serve are our home, but electric co-ops across the country are also a close-knit community.

You may recall Hurricane Laura that made landfall in Louisiana and Texas on Aug. 27. Our sister cooperative, Jeff Davis Electric in Jennings, Louisiana took a major hit from the storm.

Following Hurricane Laura, Jeff Davis Electric reported 100% of their membership was without power. Horry Electric, along with five other co-ops in South Carolina sent a total of 14 crews to help with restoration efforts.

This highlights another cooperative principle: cooperation among cooperatives.

These men left their families and went to help a community in need without a second thought because it's the co-op way.

This is what National Co-op Month is all about. We all have faced so many challenges this year, but I'm thankful to see how everyone is pulling together when it matters most. Whether it's tackling a pandemic or a natural disaster, electric cooperatives continue to Power On.

DANIEL B. SHELLEY, III
 Executive Vice President and CEO

Co-op board member retires after 42 years

HENRY W. BOYD has spent nearly half his life serving on the Horry Electric Board of Trustees. Boyd (**pictured at right**) was appointed to the board in 1978 and he's served as the trustee for District 6. After 42 years, he's decided to resign his seat and step into the role of full-time grandfather and great-grandfather.

Boyd is a long-time member of Horry Electric—57 years to be exact.

Prior to his Horry Electric days, Boyd attended the Electrical School at Coyne College in Chicago, Illinois. His wife, Pearl, says his experience at Coyne helped him so much when he was appointed to the board.

Local people. Serving you.

Horry County is Boyd's home and he's served his community his entire life. To start, he served his country in the United States Army. He's worked for the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Horry Telephone Cooperative, and he's a retired self-employed farmer.

"I did tobacco farming, corn, hogs, all things that are typical of this area," says Boyd.

Boyd also served on the Loris School Advisory Board. He's still a member of the Loris Blue Pride, which supports



local student athletics.

Since Boyd was appointed to the board, he completed training through the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association to earn the status of Credentialed Cooperative Director. He also earned a Board Leadership Certificate and a Director Gold Certificate through NRECA.

"As directors, we are required to take educational courses related to the business of our co-ops. Mr. Boyd has always taken this requirement very seriously," says Board of Trustees President Johnny Shelley.

Boyd has previously served as a voting delegate to The Electric Cooperatives of South Carolina Board of Directors and to Cooperative Electric Energy Utility Supply (CEEUS). He's also served as a voting delegate on the Central Electric Power Cooperatives of South Carolina Board of Directors.

"It is hard to lose a board member with this much expertise," says Horry

Electric's Executive Vice President and CEO Danny Shelley.

The cooperative is part of him. "One thing I love about Horry Electric is the employees and the service," says Boyd.

A family man

Outside of the co-op world, Boyd is an everyday family man. He and his wife have been married 57 years and have two children, Sharra Bruton and Trenny Neff. They have five grandchildren (two boys and three girls) and three great-grandchildren, all boys.

Boyd is greatly involved with his grandchildren and great-grandchildren. He's their number one fan at sporting events. "He loved following the grandkids through all their sports and now he can't wait to do that with the great-grandkids," says Mrs. Boyd.

We wish you the best!

As Boyd embarks on his new journey, he says he can't wait to "sit back and watch Pearl do the work."

If you don't know Boyd, he has quite the sense of humor.

"We will miss Mr. Henry's smiling face, great disposition, friendly personality, and his sense of humor," says Danny Shelley. "You will be remembered for the great things you have done for Horry Electric, its members and employees. I hope you and Mrs. Pearl enjoy your new found freedom and make the most of it."

Henry Boyd (right) stands alongside other board members who have served in the military. (left to right) Freddy Thompkins, Eugene Harriott, Bobby Jordan, and former co-op attorney, W.T. Johnson, Jr.



PHOTOS BY JENNIFER HARMON

The cooperative spirit prevails

Horry Electric sends crews to aid in Hurricane Laura restoration

TWO WEEKS AWAY from home. That's how long our crews have been away from their families. It's the life of a lineman, but our crews don't view it as a job. They see it as an opportunity to help those in need.

On Thursday, Aug. 27, Hurricane Laura made landfall in Louisiana and Texas as a Category 4. While it was not a Category 5 like Hurricane Katrina, officials with the World Meteorological Organization say Laura was the strongest storm to hit Louisiana in more than 160 years.

The hurricane made landfall near Cameron, Louisiana, just south of Lake Charles. This is the service area of our sister cooperative, Jeff Davis Electric Cooperative. The co-op currently serves around 7,000 members and has more than 1,580 miles of line.

As of 6:30 a.m. on Aug. 27, Jeff Davis was reporting 100% of their members were without power. Horry Electric's Manager of Operations, Burroughs Nobles, knew that morning we had to get a crew on the road to Louisiana.

The Electric Cooperatives of South Carolina (ECSC) spoke with operations managers across the state to coordinate

sending crews. Fourteen crews from six electric cooperatives left for Jennings, Louisiana to help Jeff Davis, along with other crews across the country.

"Co-ops are like a big family and when we need assistance, they come to our aid. That's why we offer aid to other cooperatives when needed," says Nobles. "We help each other. We also like to send help, not only for the cooperative, but for the members they serve, to get power restored, so members can get back in their homes and start rebuilding."

The damage from Hurricane Laura caused challenges before crews even got on the road. "The extent of the damage was so severe, we were not able to communicate directly with the cooperative," says Nobles.

Horry Electric's first crew rolled out of the parking lot the evening of Aug. 27 ready to face the aftermath of the storm.

Our crews are working to rebuild lines and replace poles. In early September, a lineman recalled working in Cameron Parish, an area that was under water for days following the storm. He described it as devastating.

"It was bad. There was nothing left. These people lost so much, but they



An Horry Electric lineman works on taking material off of a crossarm so crews can begin replacing one of the many broken poles following Hurricane Laura.

had the best attitudes. They are so appreciative of the work the co-op is doing and they're just happy to be alive," says one lineman.

Helping is what cooperatives do. This demonstrates one of our seven cooperative principles: cooperation among cooperatives.

"They (Jeff Davis Electric) had a catastrophic impact on their entire distribution system, along with transmission in the area," says Nobles.

Right now, as long as weather and workload allows, Nobles says Horry Electric will continue to send crews to Louisiana in two-week intervals as long as the cooperative needs help. "There is not an estimated time frame on restoration, but it may be many more weeks," says Nobles.

No matter how long it takes, we continue to pray for Louisiana. To everyone who lost so much during Hurricane Laura, and to the line crews and employees who are working around the clock to restore power, our prayers are with you. This is truly what the cooperative spirit is all about.

An Horry Electric vehicle in front of a destroyed building in Cameron Parish in Louisiana. You can see the downed power lines hanging from the pole on the right.



PHOTOS BY Horry Electric

Loris woman wins WIRE Opportunity Scholarship

BY JOSH P. CROTZER

CHARLISS WILSON'S path to becoming a registered nurse was interrupted while she was raising her two young girls.

Daughters Chara and Xaviana Wilson are now young women and they, along with Wilson's 7-month old granddaughter, are the reason she has resumed her education.

"I've always had a desire to be a nurse," says Wilson, a resident of Loris and member of Horry Electric Cooperative. "I was going for my Licensed Practical Nursing (LPN) degree but had to quit when my children were younger. This is the time to go back and do this because this has always been a dream of mine. I want to be an example for them."

Xaviana just began her college education at Greenville Technical College and Chara is also in the healthcare industry as a pharmacy technician.

After earning her associate degree five years ago, Wilson had begun classes toward the LPN degree at Horry-Georgetown Technical College. She is now enrolled in the Marion County School of Practical Nursing in the Academy for Careers and Technology. She begins the fall semester with help from her electric cooperative.

Wilson is one of two recipients of the 2020 Jenny Ballard Opportunity Scholarship for Women Returning to College. The \$2,500 scholarships are



JOSH P. CROTZER

Wilson resumed classes at the Marion County School of Practical Nursing on Sept. 8.

awarded annually to women who were unable to attend college immediately after high school or were unable to continue their higher education.

"Honestly, this scholarship is really going to help," says Wilson. "I have financial aid, but because I'm out of county, there is a lot that it doesn't cover. This scholarship is going to close that gap with all my fees and the cost of books. It's truly a blessing for me."

Wilson is a veteran of the Army National Guard where she was in the military police force. She is currently a caregiver at Anderson Oaks Assisted Living in Conway. She intends to continue working in elder care after obtaining her degree.

The Jenny Ballard Opportunity scholarship

Now that her daughters (from left) Chara and Xaviana are grown, Wilson can resume pursuing her nursing degree.

is sponsored by Women Involved in Rural Electrification (WIRE), a statewide community service organization established through The Electric Cooperatives of South Carolina. Local chapters, including the one at Horry Electric, raise funds for the scholarships and work in their communities to improve the quality of life in rural areas. The scholarship's namesake, Jenny Ballard, co-founded WIRE in 1981.

"Charliiss is a perfect model for whom this scholarship is for," says Susan Brown, WIRE coordinator at Horry Electric. "Her determination and caring spirit are an inspiration."

All members of Horry Electric are invited to join their WIRE chapter. Contact Susan Brown at (843) 369-6323 for more information. Applications for the 2021 Jenny Ballard Scholarship will be accepted beginning in January. Look for more details in the January issue of *South Carolina Living* magazine.



MEKA DOZIER

Myrtle Beach's Zincone named Youth Ambassador

AFTER HANNAH ZINCONE of Myrtle Beach was nominated to be the 2020 South Carolina Electric Cooperative Youth Ambassador, she was chatting with fellow nominee Zach Carter of Goose Creek. The two had begun a friendship during their initial days of the Virtual Youth Experience (VYE), a week-long web conference sponsored by Horry Electric Cooperative and other South Carolina electric cooperatives.

"Zach and I got close," says Zincone. "We were texting each other saying we wished we could both be the Youth Ambassador."

A tie vote from their fellow VYE participants made that happen. Both Zincone and Carter will speak with co-op leadership from across the state about what the VYE has meant to them and their fellow students.

"I'm really, really excited," says Zincone. "I'm appreciative that I have the title and the opportunity. I told them, I wanted them to vote for me only if they could see me as their ambassador."

Zincone is also appreciative of the opportunity to participate in the VYE,



Hannah Zincone describes herself as competitive, but she was happy to share her new title with a new friend.

which allowed her and her peers to engage with state leaders like Governor Henry McMaster, U.S. Senators Tim Scott and Lindsey Graham, U.S. Rep. Jim Clyburn, State Superintendent Molly Spearman and the state's chief

epidemiologist Dr. Linda Bell, among others.

"Senator Scott was my favorite," she admits. "I didn't really know a lot about his background, but I loved what he had to say and how he answered my questions."

Zincone also enjoyed the connections she made with the other VYE students chosen by their electric cooperatives. Weeks after the conclusion of the program, she says many of them are still in contact.

"We talk every single day," she says. "We have a group on Snapchat and I'm close with every single one of them."

Zincone is a senior at Carolina Forest High School where she is president of their chapter of the National Honor Society. She is also a member of the English Honor Society and the Spanish Honor Society. She is active in her community, visiting shut-ins, and volunteering at retirement homes and local elementary schools.

She hasn't yet decided on where she will attend college, but says she is excited about her future.

Two local students each win \$500 for podcasts

Laney Brown of Conway and Emily Rabon of Aynor have each earned a \$500 award in a podcast competition sponsored by Horry Electric Cooperative and other South Carolina electric cooperatives.



Laney Brown

Brown and Rabon were members of separate creative teams that created podcasts in the Virtual Youth Experience Podcast Challenge. Their podcasts were among four finalists judged by a panel of journalists that included Craig Melvin of NBC's TODAY show, Kenneth Moton from ABC's World News Now and Cindi Scoppe and Avery Wilks from *The (Charleston) Post and Courier* newspaper.

Each member of the winning team was awarded \$5,000 scholarships. There was a total of 20 competing teams comprised of high school students from across South Carolina. The students had been selected by their local cooperatives to participate in the

Virtual Youth Experience (VYE) June 19–25. Following VYE, each team wrote, recorded and produced the short form audio essays about how the COVID-19 crisis and other recent events have impacted their generation.

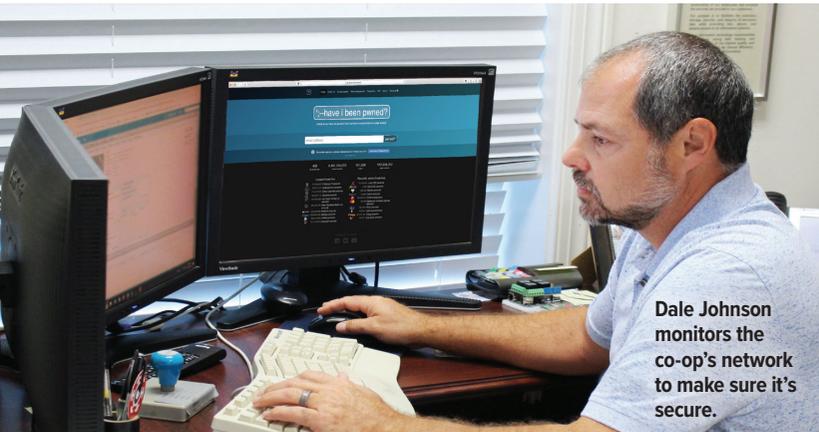


Emily Rabon

Horry Electric had a total of six students participate in VYE and the podcast challenge, including Jacob Bartlett and Hannah Zincone of Myrtle Beach, Lance Stephens of Conway and Dafne Santos of Little River.

All of the students' podcasts are available online at anchor.fm/ecsc or by searching Virtual Youth Experience Podcast Challenge on Spotify.





Dale Johnson monitors the co-op's network to make sure it's secure.

Dale's dynamic defenses

OCTOBER IS NATIONAL CYBERSECURITY Awareness Month and if you're a person that doesn't worry about your information getting out in the cyberworld, you should. Cybersecurity isn't a single thing; it's not just keeping hackers out or avoiding a phishing attempt. It's a combination of attacks that can come from anywhere.

Dale Johnson is Horry Electric's information technology manager and one of the people on the front lines of the co-op's cybersecurity. All of our information is out in the world somewhere, so Johnson has put together some tips to protect your information.

- ▶ **Hover over links** When you hover, the full link will pop up and show you where it's going. Do you see any weird characters or content not related to the email? If so, it's probably a phishing attempt.
- ▶ **Manually go to sites, don't click links** For example, you get a password reset email from your bank. Manually open a browser to go to your bank's website and it will prompt you. If not, you know the email was fake. Be aware of cloned sites via email links. Hackers are good at getting you to enter your info and redirecting you back to the real site before you can realize it was a clone site.
- ▶ **Use pass-phrases** Experts recommend 16 digits and longer now. Use phrases that are memorable for you. Something like EyeHe@rtH3C#1!
- ▶ **Never use the same password** If a site gets hacked, hackers will take your info and try to get into any accounts you have with that same password. Change the first or last parts of the password across online sites so nothing matches.
- ▶ **LastPass to remember passwords** A great resource app to store all your passwords. Remember to periodically change/update them.
- ▶ **Who has your information?** Want to know if your information is out there? Visit haveibeenpwned.com/. This will show if a hacker has your info. If the date is recent, change your password for the breached site. This is where using different passwords for different sites is important.

In October, we wear pink

THE POWER OF PINK is something we support throughout the month of October. This month is Breast Cancer Awareness Month and it's something we hold close to our hearts.

On Fridays this month, you can find most of our service department wearing special shirts (**pictured below**) to honor two Horry Electric member service representatives who passed away from breast cancer. They wear pink for Tiffany Dixon and Bert Mazyck.

Dixon started at Horry Electric in March 2004.

"She had such a wonderful personality. She was always willing to help show you how to do something," says Deborah Spivey, administrative specialist. "She loved our members so much."

"She was an extremely hard worker, dependable friend, and most importantly, a devoted mom and wife. She was genuine and had a heart of gold," says Moneek Stevenson, accountant.

Dixon passed away on July 15, 2015.

Mazyck worked at our Socastee office. "One thing that was different about Bert is she helped others more than she helped herself. Her personality was outstanding. She was an awesome, loving, Christian, kind-hearted person," says Barbara Dee Parker, deposit and member records clerk.

Mazyck was an active member of our Women Involved in Rural Electrification (WIRE) chapter. She loved helping the community.

Mazyck worked at Horry Electric for 26 years before she passed away on Aug. 4, 2017.

The co-op continues to honor their memories, especially around the holidays. You can find a breast cancer-themed Christmas tree at the Conway office each year for those we've lost and for those who have beaten cancer.

We miss Tiffany and Bert each and every day and we continue to pray for a cure.



PHOTOS BY JENNIFER HARMON