

Horry Electric Cooperative, Inc.

www.horryelectric.com

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 (843) 369-2211



**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 non-profit, member-owned organization providing information and energy-related services on a fair and equitable basis.



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Save the date!

Drive-Thru Annual Meeting set for May 10, 11



EVERY COOPERATIVE IS required to conduct an Annual Meeting of its membership. The purpose is to hold the election for three positions of the board of trustees, share important financial information and participate in any other

business matters that may need to be addressed, including any necessary bylaw changes.

We are excited to announce, based on your feedback, our board of trustees voted to bring back the Annual Meeting Early Drive-Thru Registration and Voting event this year. We will hold Drive-Thru Registration and Voting at our Conway office, located at 2774 Cultra Road, on Monday, May 10, from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., and on Tuesday, May 11, from 7 a.m. to 11 a.m. The 2021 Annual Meeting will be held virtually on Tuesday, May 11, at 7 p.m. There is no need to attend the virtual meeting in person.

We have important information to share about the registration requirements. Members registering on Monday, May 10 will need to vote so their registration counts toward quorum. Also, only members who register in person on these two days during the scheduled hours are eligible to receive the registration gift, which is a \$20 electric bill credit.

Please note, due to the event, our Socastee office will be closed May 10-11. Our Conway office will also be closed May 10, but will re-open at 1 p.m. on May 11. Regular business hours for both offices will resume on Wednesday, May 12.

Please make plans to attend

We encourage members to come to early

drive-thru registration and voting. We feel our Conway office is in the center of our county and will be the most convenient location for the majority of our members.

As COVID-19 guidelines are still in place, you will remain in your car for your protection. Our staff will be ready to safely assist you during the registration and voting process.

Horry Electric's bylaws require a quorum equal to 5% of the membership in order to conduct an official business meeting. With a preliminary estimate of 70,091 members, we'll need to have a minimum of 3,505 members register. If we fail to meet quorum, then we won't be able to do business.

We will still have prize drawings, in addition to the registration gift for those who register. Members who register will also be entered in the Grand Prize Drawing for an electric golf cart. Winners will be notified following the virtual meeting.

Stay tuned, more to come

Logistics will remain the same for 2021. Please see Page 5 for details.

Registration postcards will be mailed to all members on record prior to the meeting. Make sure to bring your SpeedyPass registration card and photo ID with you to registration.

The April edition of *South Carolina Living* will be mailed to all members and will be your **Official Notice for Annual Meeting 2021**.

DANIEL B. SHELLEY, III
 Executive Vice President and CEO

Annual Meeting details

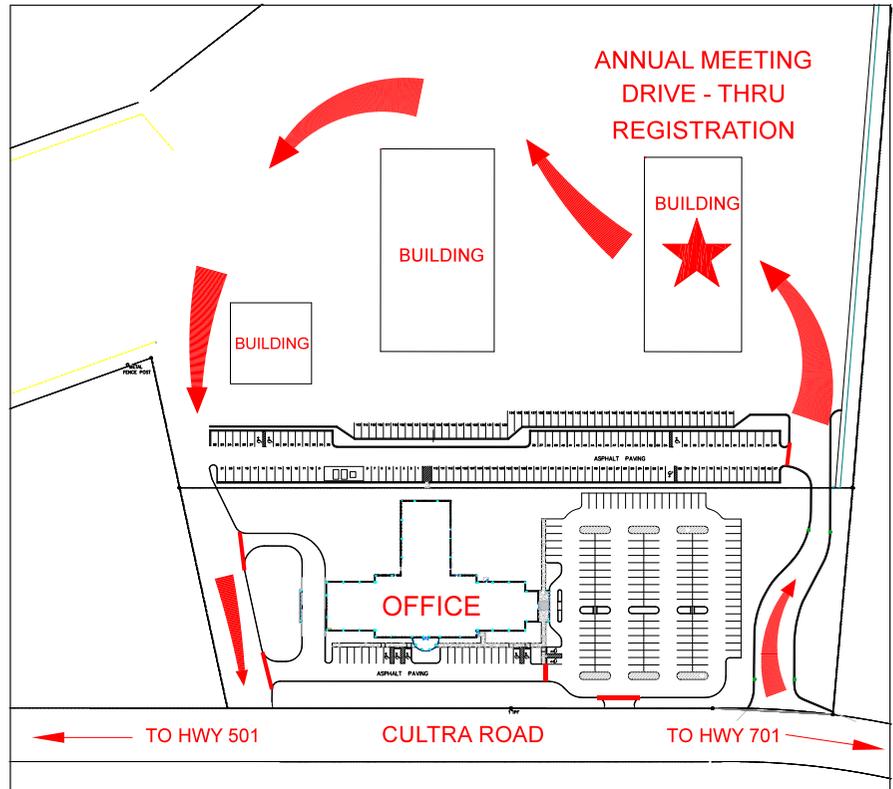
THE 2021 ANNUAL MEETING Drive-Thru Registration and Voting event will be held at our Conway office, located at 2774 Cultra Road.

Members will enter our employee parking lot from either the Highway 501 or Highway 701 directions. The map pictured on the right shows the exact route.

Members will use the driveway that leads to the back warehouse and traffic attendants will direct vehicles into a registration lane. Each lane, under our truck shed, leads to a registration table, where employees will be ready to assist members.

Once registration and voting is completed, members will exit our parking lot toward Highway 501.

During the Annual Meeting event, the Conway office drive-thru lanes will be closed. Members will not have access to the night deposit box beginning Monday, May 10 from 5 a.m. until 1 p.m. Tuesday, May 11.



Trusted Energy Advisors encourage action

Unpredictable temperatures this past winter could carry over into the spring and summer seasons. As temperatures start to climb, Horry Electric needs your help to Beat the Peak. Peak times occur when members use a lot of power, such as on cold winter mornings or hot summer afternoons.

Beat the Peak is a voluntary program. By joining, members can help prevent a heavy load on our system. Energy is the most expensive during peak times. By working together to reduce our demand during peak times, we can save the cooperative and members money.

Our Trusted Energy Advisors want to remind you the recommended temperature to keep your thermostat set on is 68 degrees in the winter and 78 in the summer.

When you sign up to Beat the Peak,



HEC energy advisors Eddy Blackburn, Garrett Gasque and Ricky Lowder (from left).

you can choose to be notified about a peak time via call, text or email. There are several ways you can Beat the Peak:

- ▶ Raise your thermostat three degrees (summer).
- ▶ Wash clothes in cold water, if you have to do laundry during a peak time.
- ▶ Avoid using any major appliances.
- ▶ Turn OFF any unused lights.

For more questions or tips, contact one of our Trusted Energy Advisors at (843) 369-2211. Visit horryelectric.com to sign up and help us Beat the Peak.

Unclaimed Capital Credits posted online

Horry Electric mails 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. You can find the unclaimed capital credit database by using the search engine on the page or by selecting Capital Credits from the My Co-op tab on the home page. 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's main office at (843) 369-2211, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Please reference unclaimed capital credits as the reason for your call.



Bright Ideas grants reward teachers



TOUCHSTONE ENERGY Cooperatives, such as Horry Electric, emphasize four core values including Innovation—and it's one we reward through the Bright Ideas grant program.

Also reflecting HEC's commitment to community, we've sponsored the Bright Ideas

program for Horry County teachers, providing funding for innovative classroom-based education projects since 2007.

"It's so exciting! HEC loves giving back to our community and our schools," says Toni Gore, coordinator of the Bright Ideas program at Horry Electric.

In 2020, 11 teachers across the county were awarded grant money, totaling \$10,000.

"It's rewarding to know that some of the classroom projects are just too much of an expense for one teacher to afford. To see the smile on their faces when they receive the grant for something they've only dreamed of doing for the students, but couldn't due to lack of funds, is priceless," says Gore.

Bright Ideas grants are intended to fund projects outside normal public school funding parameters and can be made available to all disciplines in grades K-12 in Horry County. A school may submit an application, and teachers are limited to one application per year. The maximum amount teachers can apply for is \$1,000.

"We encourage any teacher in the



PHOTO BY BRIGHT IDEAS WINNER

Benjamin Golden (third from left) receives his \$1,000 Bright Ideas check. With him are Josh Todd, Alyssa Caruana, Ashley Strickland, Penny Green and Sandy Carland (from left).

district to apply. We would love the opportunity to help fund any project a teacher may want to do for their classroom," says Gore.

The application deadline for 2021 is June 1.

EDITOR'S NOTE Teachers, download a Bright Ideas application at horryelectric.com. For program details, email Toni.Gore@horryelectric.com.

Apply now for 2021 WIRE scholarship

Women returning to school to earn college degrees have until June 1 to apply for financial assistance from the 2021 Jenny Ballard Opportunity Scholarship program.

Sponsored by Women Involved in Rural Electrification (WIRE), a service organization associated with South Carolina's electric cooperatives, the \$2,500 scholarship is a one-time award based on financial need and personal goals.

"This is a great opportunity and it's exciting to know one of our Horry Electric members was a recipient of this in 2020," says Susan Brown, WIRE coordinator at Horry Electric.

The scholarship is named after Jenny Ballard, who founded WIRE 40 years ago.



JOSH P. CROTZER

Horry Electric member, Charliss Wilson, was one of two recipients to receive the Jenny Ballard Opportunity Scholarship in 2020.

The Jenny Ballard Opportunity Scholarship program began funding education for women returning to college in 2004.

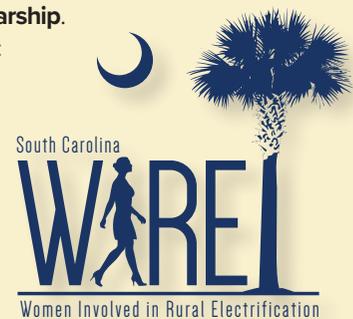
Application forms for the 2021 WIRE scholarship are available online at SCLiving.coop/scholarship.

Applicants for the program must:

- ▶ Be a member of Horry Electric or another South Carolina electric cooperative.
- ▶ Have graduated from high school or earned a GED at least 10 years ago.
- ▶ Be accepted into an accredited S.C. college or university.
- ▶ Demonstrate financial need and clear academic goals.

Recipients will receive scholarships for the fall 2021 or spring 2022 semester, with funds paid to the college or university.

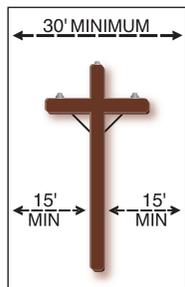
EDITOR'S NOTE Completed application forms can be attached to an email addressed to Peggy.Dantzer@ecsc.org, or mailed to Peggy Dantzer, The Electric Cooperatives of S.C., Inc., 808 Knox Abbott Dr., Cayce, S.C. 29033.



'I need space!'

SOCIAL DISTANCING is a fairly new term throughout much of the world. However, social distancing has been a common practice across co-op lines and equipment for many years. The overhead and underground equipment connected to your home or business needs space to do its job. The lines need space to keep power flowing safely and reliably. Equipment needs to be free from obstructions so we can safely perform maintenance. If tree limbs come in contact with an overhead line, our system is designed to operate. This means members will experience a blink or an outage until that limb is cleared. If you plant shrubs or build fences too close to underground transformers, technicians cannot safely do their jobs. We strive to provide reliable, uninterrupted service to every member, and you can help by keeping your distance. When you follow HEC planting and distance guidelines, you are doing your part to ensure co-op lines are safe and reliable. You can find more information on the space requirements for overhead and underground electric service in the Storm Central section of horryelectric.com.

Overhead: Help us help you



A 30-ft minimum clearance is required for overhead lines.

HEC's proactive tree-trimming program helps reduce the potential for outages. However, keeping up with tree growth in Horry County is a challenge. We need your help. If you're considering planting trees near our overhead equipment this spring, please choose the right tree for the right place. The graphic, above right, offers guidance. Our website also links to the handy South Carolina Urban Tree Species Guide. Remember: We reserve the right to trim trees within the 30-foot right-of-way near our overhead lines.

Underground: Keep your distance



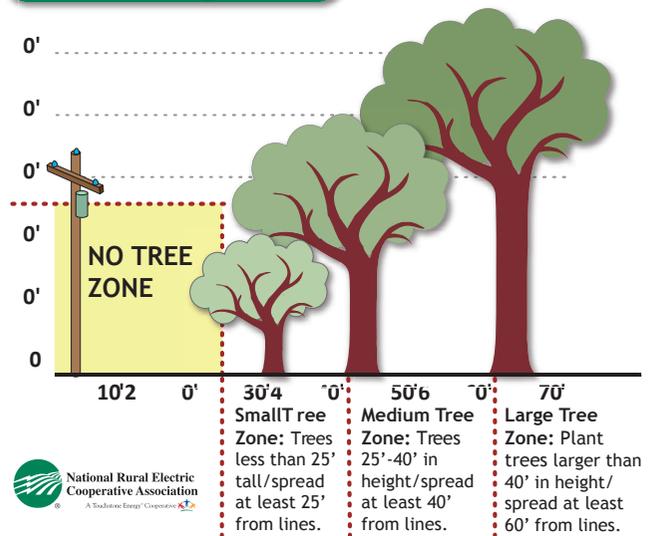
Know what's below. Call before you dig.

Call before you dig! If you're planning a home improvement job, planting a tree or installing a fence or deck, call 811 first! Use this toll-free hotline to have underground utilities on your property located, free of charge. Our underground transformer boxes—sometimes called “green boxes”—are something to steer clear of if you have one on your property. As our downloadable online brochure states, Please Keep Your Distance! Keep areas to the sides of and behind the transformer clear to four feet and in front clear to 10 feet. The Underground Service page at our website also answers frequently asked questions about landscaping around transformers. Now, folks, bear in mind: Space is healthy and being alone does not mean that you have to be lonely—especially if you are a green box. Like co-op poles and lines, they need space!



When he saw the photo at left, HEC Right-of-Way Coordinator Buddy Parker said, “I know right where that is! We have to give those trees a flat-top!” Don't plant in the No Tree Zone, Parker reminds members. See below.

Tree Planting Guide



GET MORE

Energy tips from HEC social media

SUMMER

PLANT ENERGY SAVINGS

WINTER

Plant deciduous trees to block heat from the sun in the summer and let sunlight in during the winter.

Follow Horry Electric on Facebook—or Instagram or Twitter—and you just might pick up some spring planting tips that will grow into energy savings!

Slow down, move over

Reckless driving risks the lives of Horry Electric line crews

EVERY YEAR, workers along the side of the road are injured or killed when a car crashes into them, despite the work zone being marked with bright cones and warning signs.

There's an easy way to reduce those incidents that harm first responders, road construction workers and utility crews. Slow down and move over. It's good advice to keep people safe. It's also the law in South Carolina and every other state.

In South Carolina, the law is clear. Work zones along roadways should be marked with cones, signage, barriers and other appropriate traffic control devices such as speed limit reduction. Driving recklessly through these zones or exceeding the speed limit can result in fines up to \$5,000 and imprisonment, the severity of which depends on whether there is bodily harm or a fatality.

As Horry Electric's motto states, "Safety is our first concern." Protecting line crews is a top priority and it's a safety measure everyone can help with.

"Our job is a very hazardous job; everything from the electricity we deal with on a daily basis to being

exposed to the elements of Mother Nature," says Chris Grainger, operation trainer. "Our job becomes even more dangerous when we fail to mitigate those hazards with proper training and equipment and using controls. The one thing we have no control over is the driver behind the wheel of a vehicle moving through our work zone. If you do your part, we will do ours to keep our employees and members safe."

Electric utility crews are especially at risk. The temporary nature of power line repairs can surprise motorists. Utility work can be finished in a matter of hours, or it can take several months to complete.

"Most of our work is conducted on the side of roadways. Crews could be setting poles for new lines to be installed, replacing equipment on existing poles, or dealing with weather related issues that caused damage to our system," says Brian Chestnut, safety coordinator.

A flagger is sometimes necessary for a road job. The flagger is one of our crew members, put in a visible area to



JENNIFER HARMON

Advanced Line Technician Jonathan Cartrette shows the stop/slow paddle to demonstrate what people may see while driving through a road job.

control traffic. "South Carolina DOT (Department of Transportation) requires that if we encroach on or block a lane of traffic in any way, we must notify vehicles through signage and utilize a flagger, or flaggers, in some cases to direct vehicles around the work area," says Chestnut.

It's important to slow down if you see a crew in the roadway. "Slowing down saves lives," says Burroughs Nobles, manager of operations. "If you are traveling too fast, you can't react in the event something happens."

An important fact to keep in mind—stopping sight distance increases with speed. "According to the sight distance table in the SCDOT Flagger Handbook, the sight-to-stop distance for a car traveling at 55 miles per hour is 495 feet. A car traveling at that speed will be completely through our work zone before they are able to stop, should something happen," says Grainger.

We understand slowing down or stopping may add a few seconds or minutes to your commute, but at the end of the day, it's a preventative measure that keeps everyone safe. "We can all do our part to protect ourselves and each other by slowing down and not being distracted by other things while driving," Chestnut says. "We can all go home safe at the end of the day."

Kevin Crave, advanced line technician, directs traffic safely through a Horry Electric work zone.

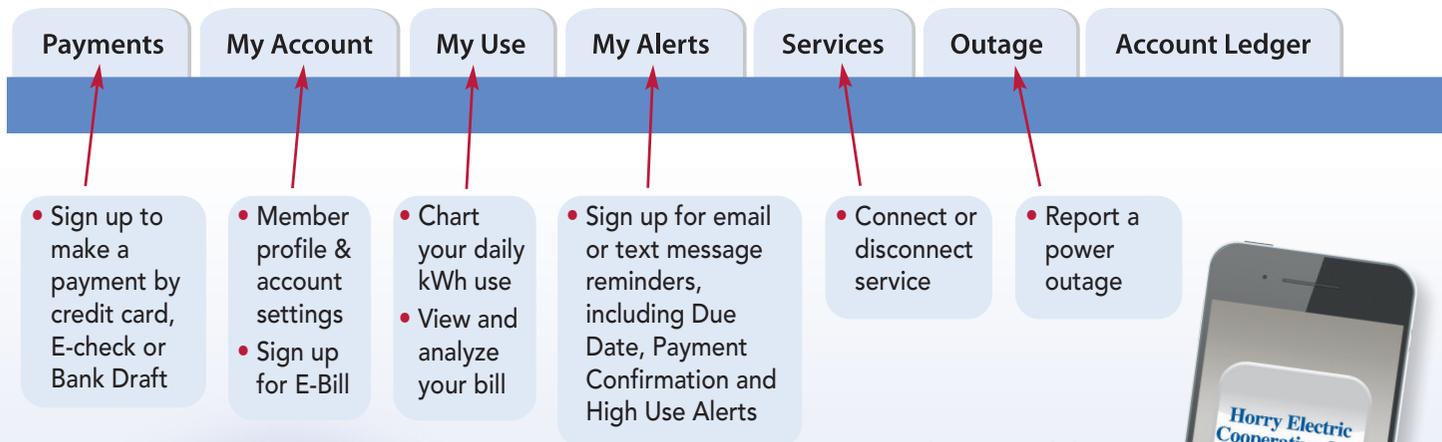


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MyEnergy *online*

is a helpful service from Horry Electric Cooperative

that significantly expands your account management options. Simply go to www.horryelectric.com, click the MyEnergy Online icon, and you'll have access to an informative, user-friendly site designed with you in mind. It's a virtual service representative—24 hours a day—7 days a week—365 days a year.



Horry Electric's **Mobile App** offers you another way to manage your account anytime, anywhere. Download for FREE from the App Store or Google Play.



MyEnergy Online is safe and secure. You will need your account number and password to login.

If you have not set up your MyEnergy Online Account, click on My Account and create a User ID.

For more information about MyEnergy Online, call us at 843-369-2211.

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