

Horry Electric Cooperative, Inc.

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(to report power outages only)

369-2212

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Co-op Connection Editor

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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

In case you missed it

Quorum met, successful event

ANNUAL MEETING 2015 was a huge success. Our bylaws require a quorum—equal to 5 percent of the membership—in order to conduct an official business meeting. The number of members required for quorum at the 2015 Annual Meeting of Members was 2,917. Registration opened at noon and, by 3 p.m., we had 2,918 members registered. We had hit our quorum requirement.



When registration closed at 7 p.m., a total of 5,058 members had passed through the registration lines and received their \$15 electric bill credit.

In 2014, our total membership registration was 4,661. Attendance increased this year by 397 members. That's incredible!

Trustees reelected

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

Bobby Jordan, trustee from District 2; Frankie Blanton, trustee from District 4; and Henry Boyd, trustee from District 6; all ran unopposed. They were reelected by acclamation during



JESSIE HENDRICK

Ronald David Todd is now the proud owner of the 2015 Annual Meeting Grand Prize, a 2007 Chevrolet Silverado. There are more pictures from the Annual Meeting on Facebook. To keep up with everything at Horry Electric, like us on Facebook, follow us on Twitter and check us out on Pinterest!

the business meeting.

The board of trustees held a brief meeting following adjournment of the Annual Meeting of Members to elect officers. Johnny M. Shelley remains as president, with Eugene Harriott, Jr. as vice president and Ashley Anderson as secretary/treasurer.

James P. "Pat" Howle
Executive Vice President and CEO

It's hurricane season: Do you have special needs?

Hurricane season runs from June 1 through Nov. 30. We will be on alert for any severe weather and encourage members to do the same.

Members who have health problems requiring the use of special, electric-powered medical equipment should contact us as soon as possible to obtain a Special Needs Account Member Certification form.

The signature of a licensed health-care provider is required. Certification is valid for 91 days from the date of the signature of the licensed health-care provider. It is the responsibility of the member to renew certification.

As always, if you have questions, please call us at (843) 369-2211.

Not their first Lineworkers' Rodeo



BRIAN CHESTNUT

Watching the action at the 2015 Lineworkers' Rodeo is HEC team member Carluss King's daughter, Peyton King, a.k.a. "Pug." Pictured below after the event are (from left) HEC Manager of Operations W.I. Jones III and team members Nick Jordan, Carluss King and Matthew Savage with Sean Brown, a first-class lineman for HEC who served as a master judge for the competition.



Our guys rocked at the annual line technician skills competition

CONTINUING A TRADITION of strong showings in the statewide line technician skills competition, Horry Electric Cooperative's team took second place overall at the recent 2015 Santee Cooper Lineworkers' Rodeo at Old Santee Canal Park near Moncks Corner.

Teams from six in-state electric cooperatives, including HEC, and the state-owned utility Santee Cooper competed in both apprentice and journeyman events. Santee Cooper employees finished first overall in both categories. A team from Berkeley Electric Cooperative took third place overall. (BEC, like Santee Cooper, is headquartered in Moncks Corner.) A total of 37 apprentices and 10 journeyman teams competed in the 2015 Lineworkers' Rodeo.

HEC linemen also won the top spot for hurt man and pole-top insulator change-out and placed third in knot tying and cross arm change-out. They're number one in our hearts!



Visit Horry Electric Cooperative's Facebook page to see more photos of our team at the 2015 Lineworkers' Rodeo, plus a cool "overhead" video of the event.



Baldwin

Everitt

Fata

Sadler

Local students take the Hill

CAPITOL HILL, look out! Horry County's best and brightest will be in the nation's capital this month for the Washington Youth Tour. HEC is sponsoring local high school students Alicia Baldwin, Michelle Everitt, Nate Fata and Taylor Sadler on the expense-paid tour of Washington, D.C., June 13-18, along with 1,500 students from across America.



Follow their progress at YouthTour.org.

Making additions to your home? Include us in your plans

THE ELECTRIC SERVICE provided to your location is capable of handling the load requirements for which it was originally designed. If you are in the process of or are planning on making any changes or additions that may alter the load requirements of your service, please be aware that an upgrade in service may be necessary. Please call us during the planning stages of your project so we can advise you on any necessary upgrade costs before you begin construction.

Learn more about our programs and services at HorryElectric.com. Check under the My Co-op tab for information about New Services, Service Charges and Fees, and our convenient Bill Payment Options, including Bank Draft.

Horry Extra

A fresh crop of Young Farmers

Your local co-op news doesn't end here. Turn to 16B to read about the Young Farmers and Agribusiness Association, including HEC's Blake Stevens.

WIRE, Horry knitters help displaced seniors get cozy again

HORRY ELECTRIC'S chapter of WIRE recently worked with their peers at other S.C. co-ops to supply 50 bags of supplies for displaced nursing residents to the S.C. Council on Aging.

The agency will distribute the bags to residents of nursing homes that are closed suddenly due to safety regulations or DHEC compliance issues. Nursing home residents sometimes are evacuated with little or no personal possessions to take with them, so WIRE's bags fill a real need. For the third annual Co-op Closet event, WIRE (Women Involved in Rural Electrification) members filled sturdy canvas duffle bags with blankets, clothes, toiletries, pillows, towels and adult diapers as well as special knitted and crocheted items contributed by a volunteer Horry County group, the Knit Wits.

HEC member Bev Grainger and other Knit Wits knitted lap blankets, hats and scarves and crocheted slippers for this year's Co-op Closet. A retired nurse who has worked in several nursing homes, Grainger said the Knit Wits felt that seniors "needed something to let them know that somebody out there is thinking about them and wants to help them, even if it is just to make a scarf." ☺

Statewide, SC WIRE raised over \$6,440 for this year's Co-op Closet. Learn more about HEC's WIRE chapter at HorryElectric.com, under My Community.



HEC WIRE members (from left) Susan Brown, Jessie Hendrick, Lynn Elvis and Kelli McDowell at the Co-op Closet event with items donated by the Knit Wits group from Horry County, which included co-op member Bev Grainger (below).



Needed: Knit Wits

Once there were six. Now there is but one active Knit Wit, Bev Grainger. Sadly, her friend Peg Itzen—"She provided so much yarn!"—passed away in October. Two others, Jessica Westheimer and Caroline Lupo, moved out of state. New knitters can keep up their good work. "It's such an easy way to help someone," the HEC member says. Contact Grainger at (843) 358-0814 or bev@scscoast.net for details.



Dear friend,
This item was handmade and donated by a member of the "Knit Wits" from the Horry Electric Cooperative service area in Horry County.
It is given to you with a full heart in hopes that it will bring you some comfort. May God bless you and keep you!



Getting a charge out of education

Milagro Reigel has fun with static electricity at the EnlightenSC workshop held March 21 at HEC. A teacher at Socastee Elementary, she was one of the educators taking part in the energy/education workshop co-sponsored by Horry Electric Cooperative and other S.C. electric co-ops. Extending HEC's commitment to education, EnlightenSC will offer a free graduate-level STEM course for middle and high school teachers June 15–July 3 at the University of South Carolina. Seating is limited. Register today at EnlightenSC.org.



A fresh crop of Young Farmers



Young Farmer officers (from left) Blake Stevens, chapter president; Chris Stevens, secretary; and Lee Mayfield, advisor. The association helps young farmers network and stay up to date on the latest agricultural practices, Mayfield says: "We try to make sure they're up to speed on everything."

Virginia. Blake Stevens notes, "The perfect example of agribusiness is what Chris does, or what Lee does—not just what I do, which is tobacco farming."

The HCYFAA is, in a way, the FFFA—the Former Future Farmers of America, if you will. For these Young Farmers and Agribusinessmen, the future is now.

As Mayfield notes, "We try to do more than just teach our students. We also try to teach some of the farmers and some of the people in the agriculture industry in our area. The whole idea is to make sure that the farmers in our area are up to date on new technologies, new methods of doing things, new government policies. It's kind of an outreach for education of our members.

"As busy as they are, it's hard to keep up with everything," he says. "We try to make sure they're up to speed on anything that's going to make them more productive and efficient."

New opportunities, new technologies

Mayfield has witnessed an agricultural evolution firsthand: "I've been teaching there for

As the business of farming evolves, the Horry County Young Farmer and Agribusiness Association stakes out a different future

HORRY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE'S ROOTS in the agricultural community run deep—back to its origins almost 75 years ago, when farmers and other local leaders banded together to form their own rural electric utility.

In previously unserved or underserved areas, co-op power helped increase farm productivity and elevated the quality of life. Progress followed HEC lines into every corner of the county, paving the way for today's more diversified local economy.

Blake Stevens knows both sides of Horry County: "It's very diverse," he says, "On the east side of the Waccamaw, you've got the tourist industry, and on the west side, you've got farmland."

An overhead line staking technician for Horry Electric, Stevens is also a tobacco farmer, following in a family tradition. Even when he's in the field for HEC, he works with farmers regularly, designing lines so the power gets where it's needed without getting in farmers' way.

Stevens is also president of the Horry County Young Farmer and Agribusiness Association (HCYFAA), formed last fall. The HCYFAA, part of the South Carolina Young Farmer and Agribusiness Association, is a professional development organization for not only farmers but also for those involved in any sector of the agriculture industry as well.

Stevens says two of his fellow chapter officers, secretary Chris Stevens and advisor Lee Mayfield represent the changing face of agriculture: Mayfield is an agriculture teacher at Green Sea-Floyds High School; Chris Stevens is in the crop insurance business, a regional claims manager for the Carolinas and

A farmer at work in a different kind of field



19 years now, and used to, when I first started, there was a handful of kids that would go back to the farm. It seems less and less now," he notes, "but they're going into other areas of agriculture, whether it be landscaping or working on golf courses. Veterinarians come through FFA. There's still a lot involved in agriculture, it may just not be on the farm."

Chris Stevens adds, "The turf-grass industry is probably one of the fastest growing sectors of the agricultural industry, especially in this area with all the golf courses."

In his work, Chris Stevens sees many younger farmers who have embraced "a different style of farming. They've learned to incorporate their smartphones and their laptops into their farming operation. They're more up to date on some of the technology changes. I believe they try to stay a little more informed on some of the changes."

Mayfield notes that technology like moisture sensors are in the field.

Another HCYFAA officer, vice president Brad Elliott, uses GPS technology and precision farming techniques on his family's farm in the Spring Branch community. The Elliott family is even growing organic tobacco.

But, as Blake Stevens notes, today's farmers face one of the same challenges that farmers have always faced—costs. "With all this technology, it takes a right large investment to be able to farm. I know the second meeting that we had, we had a man from Southeast Farm Equipment, which is a John Deere dealership, that actually came in and talked to us about GPS and also about wells to be able to irrigate large tracts of land. All of that's very expensive."

Working and networking

Mayfield says the Young Farmers and Agribusiness Association can help the next generation meet these challenges: "It's a national organization so in addition to having an Horry County chapter, we do things on a state level," he notes.

Members participate in summer tours of farm and agribusiness operations around the state, Mayfield says. "It gives us a chance to see how agriculture is done in different counties and to borrow ideas and network with other farmers around the state. They have that on the national level as well. We just came back from Louisville, Ky.," he notes.

Looking out for the next generation

For Elliott, as for Blake Stevens, farming is a family affair. (Both of their mothers, in fact, are former HEC Rural Ladies of the Year—Joni



Technology plays a big part in farming today. Brad Elliott (above) uses GPS technology and precision farming techniques at his family's farm in the Spring Branch community of northwestern Horry County. Elliott is vice president of the Young Farmers chapter.

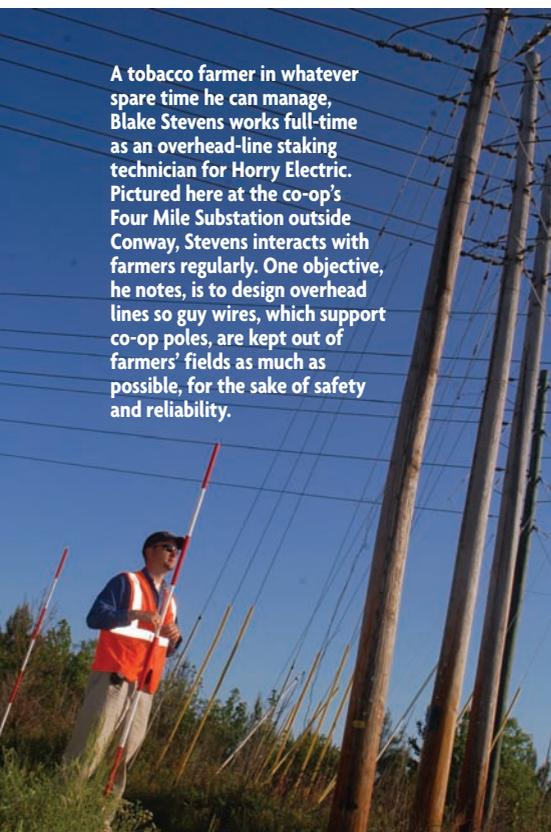
Elliott in 2008 and Toni Stevens in 2005.) The Elliott farm in Spring Branch is a shining example of cooperation, with four families teaming up. "We all have our own separate operations, but we all work together," Elliott notes. "We're all in the field working now [in April]."

Elliott hopes that his three boys, Raleigh, Asher, even baby Barrett, will follow in his footsteps. "That's all I've ever done and wanted to do," he says. "If they do, that'd be great."

"That's really why we work like we do, for them to have something, so they can get started with it if they want to farm."

The Horry County Young Farmers and Agribusiness Association aims to help those traditions continue, the chapter president notes. Blake Stevens credits Clemson Extension agronomy agent William Hardee for assistance with the HCYFAA. "He's been very helpful," Blake Stevens says. ☺

For more information about the HCYFAA, contact William Hardee at hardee@clemson.edu or call (843) 365-6715, ext. 116.



A tobacco farmer in whatever spare time he can manage, Blake Stevens works full-time as an overhead-line staking technician for Horry Electric. Pictured here at the co-op's Four Mile Substation outside Conway, Stevens interacts with farmers regularly. One objective, he notes, is to design overhead lines so guy wires, which support co-op poles, are kept out of farmers' fields as much as possible, for the sake of safety and reliability.

Skip on over to Skip's Grill and chill out!



CCU student Emily Rossi enjoys a cone at Skip's while Betty Skipper shows off her specialty, the hummingbird cake.



Skip's Grill and Chill co-owner Randy Skipper and his wife, Tammy, with their special downtown delivery vehicle. Their son, Brad, is also a co-owner. A visit to Skip's is a feast for all of the senses, especially for nostalgia buffs!



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