

Horry Electric Cooperative, Inc.

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**TO REPORT
 POWER OUTAGES ONLY**
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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

A year for the record books

Coronavirus response continues



WITHOUT A DOUBT, 2020 will be a year for the record books. We're experiencing a lot of 'firsts,' including having to invoke a provision in our bylaws in order to continue the Annual Meeting of Members to a later date. Unfortunately, as of the writing of this column, that

date is still unknown. Our cooperative, our members and our communities are still trying to figure out a way to carry on with our lives and stay safe from the threat of COVID-19.

Annual Meeting continued

Citing Section 3.07 of the bylaws of your cooperative related to the Order of Business for the Annual Meeting, the board of trustees met on May 12 at the appointed time to convene and then adjourn the Annual Meeting to another time and place. That action was out of consideration of the well-being of members, our community and our employees. No business other than adjournment of the meeting to another time and place was transacted.

We advised members in the April edition of *South Carolina Living* that attendance was not needed. We also posted it on our website and on social media. As promised, all Annual Meeting plans, including registration gifts, prize drawings, the election of trustees and voting on the proposed bylaw amendments will take place on a future date the board determines the meeting can be continued.

Because of uncertain schedules as Horry County begins to open back up for business, we have not yet been able to determine that date. Once it is established, members will be notified through all communications channels. Notification includes, but is not limited to, **REGISTRATION POSTCARDS** that will be mailed to all members.

Office lobbies reopened

We reopened our office lobbies on June 1, but we urge members to please use the drive-thru service and other options instead of visiting the lobby.

To help prevent possible spread of the coronavirus, we urge members to continue following the advice of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. We will be enforcing social distancing. The number of members allowed in the lobbies will be limited. Signs will be posted. If you have a fever or are displaying any symptoms, **DO NOT** come to our office. All business functions are available via the drive-thru or our website.

Disconnects/fees resume

Disconnects were held and late fees/ Wholesale Power Cost Adjustments/ Non-Sufficient Funds for checks were waived through the months of April and May. We urged members to continue paying bills as best they could while the state of emergency was in effect. We encouraged members having trouble keeping up to please call us to make arrangements.

In May, we mailed Notices of Delinquency to alert members at risk of eventually getting a Notification of Disconnection. This was to give everyone a little extra time to reach out to local agencies that may be able to provide assistance. Again, we urged members to reach out to us if they were having trouble paying their bills.

The only way we will get through all of this is to work together. This has been a tough time for so many in our community. Thanks, and please remain safe and healthy.

DANIEL B. SHELLEY, III
 Executive Vice President and CEO

Home Energy Advisor helps pinpoint ways to save

IF YOU'RE LOOKING for ways to save energy and money in your home, check out the Home Energy Advisor tools available on Horry Electric Cooperative's website. These interactive tools help you zero in on where you can save the most—and fast!

You can find the Home Energy Advisor under the “My Energy” tab. Click “Home Energy Suite” and inside the “Energy Advisor” you'll find these options and more:

- ▶ **The Home Energy Advisor**—This quick calculator provides an estimated breakdown of your energy use and costs by heating, cooling, water heating, refrigeration, lighting and appliances. Learn how much you can save in each area.
- ▶ **Bill Analysis**—Here the Home Energy Advisor goes one step further and incorporates your actual Horry Electric bill in its calculations. Just log into your account, click on the “My Use” tab and then click on “Analyze My Bill” to access your personal bill analysis.
- ▶ **Energy Forecast**—See the current weather's direct impact on your home's energy use and costs. Based on your area's weather, you can adjust

a “virtual thermostat” for heating and cooling and see the daily dollar impact. Complete the home profile to pinpoint more savings opportunities.

- ▶ **Lighting Calculator**—This tool quickly calculates and compares the operating costs of standard incandescent, halogen, compact fluorescent and LED lamps.

In addition, you'll find a complete Home Energy Library and a Quick Energy Home packed with more information and helpful tips.

Plus, check out the different calculators that help you estimate the cost of operating, including an appliance calculator, pool and spa calculator, and more.

Members can also contact our Trusted Energy Advisors for more energy saving tips.

June 20 marks the first day of summer, which means your air conditioning units will be running constantly to keep your home cool.

Horry Electric recommends keeping your thermostat on 78 degrees throughout the summer months. With members doing this, it helps lessen the load on our system, which in turn could mean saving money on your electric bill.



If you have any questions about the online tools or need to speak to a Trusted Energy Advisor about your bill, call our Energy Management department at (843) 369-2211 or send us an email at EnergyAdvisor@horryelectric.com.

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.

Include us in your plans

THE ELECTRIC SERVICE provided to your location is capable of handling the load requirement for which it was originally designed. If you are in the process of, or are planning on, making any changes 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.

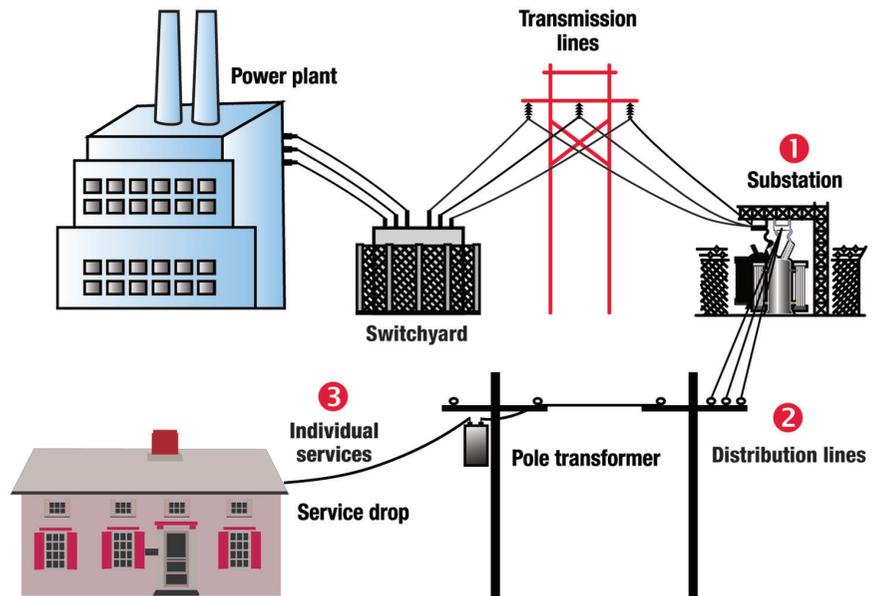
Restoring service after the storm

Goal is to get lights back on ASAP

RESTORING POWER AFTER a major outage is an enormous undertaking that involves much more than simply throwing a switch or removing a tree from a line.

The main goal is to safely restore power to the greatest number of members in the shortest time possible. Keep in mind, if there is damage to power plants, switchyards or transmission lines, those facilities must be repaired by our power supplier before we can restore your service. Transmission lines seldom fail, but they can be damaged by lightning, ice storms, tornadoes and hurricanes. Tens of thousands of people could be served by a single high-voltage transmission line.

When those facilities are working, problems in your co-op's electric distribution system can be corrected. Three primary areas of our system must be addressed.



1—Substations are repaired first. A co-op may have several local distribution substations, each serving thousands of consumers. When a major outage occurs, the local distribution substations are checked first. If the problem can be corrected at the substation level, power may be restored to a large number of people.

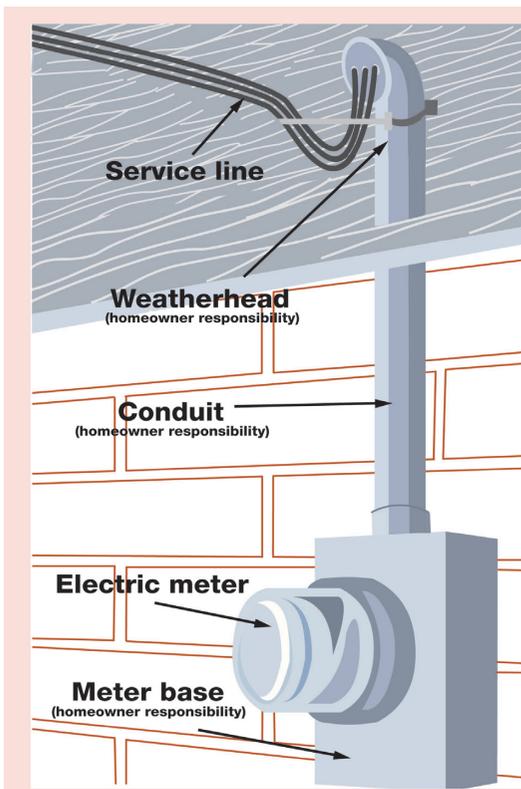
2—Distribution lines are repaired. Main distribution supply lines are checked next, if the problem cannot be isolated at the substation. These supply lines carry electricity away from the substation to a group of members, such as a subdivision. When power is restored at this stage, all consumers served by this supply line could see the

lights come on, as long as there is no problem farther down the line.

3—Individual services are restored. The final supply lines, called service lines, carry power from the transformer on utility poles or underground transformers outside houses or other buildings. Line crews fix the remaining outages based on restoring service to the greatest number of consumers.

Sometimes, damage will occur on the service line between your house and the transformer on the nearby pole. This may explain why you have no power when your neighbor does. Your co-op needs to know you have an outage, so a service crew can repair it.

To report a power outage, call PowerTouch, (843) 369-2212. ☎



If your electric service is damaged

If there is damage to the equipment where the service drop enters your home, you may need to get an electrician to repair it before the co-op can safely restore your service. The weatherhead, where service lines enter the conduit leading to your home's electric meter, is the responsibility of the homeowner as are the conduit and the meter base. The co-op can replace or repair damaged meters or service lines, but if you see damage to your home's weatherhead, conduit or meter base, contact an electrician immediately to get repairs started.

'I'll say it a thousand times—It's a blessing!'

CAST A LINE and you might get lucky and catch a fish, a bass in this case, or you might catch what Horry Electric's Advanced Lineman Carluss King did—a thousand blessings.

King has been a lineman with Horry Electric for 18 years this coming August, but he's also an avid bass fisher. He's part of a fishing group that got its start in Loris in 1981—the Swampfox Bassmasters. King currently serves as the vice president of the club. For him, it's more than that. To start, it's a family legacy. "My uncle fished with them (the Swampfox Bassmasters). Now, my dad is in the club with me. My little girl, as soon as she turns 18, she'll be in the club too," King says. In addition, the fishing club also has a legacy of its own—giving back to the community.

One of the Seven Cooperative Principles is Concern for Community and King is no stranger to lending a helping hand. Every year, on the fourth Saturday in August, the Swampfox Bassmasters hold their Annual Invitational Bass Tournament at Bucksport Marina in Conway. It's a day of fishing, but it's also a day to call attention to and raise awareness for a very special nonprofit—Camp Smiles.

'An answer to a prayer'

Camp Smiles is a nonprofit, formed in 2014, that serves children with rare disabilities, such as cerebral palsy and Down syndrome. It's a five-week summer program where children in first through 12th grade have the opportunity to grow alongside others facing similar challenges. Each week, the camp has a theme and the children get to participate in literacy, art, music therapy and adaptive physical education.

Four years ago, Horry Electric member Anita Howell, board president and "founding mom" of Camp Smiles, came to speak to the Swampfox Bassmasters. Howell's son, Ryan, has



COURTESY SWAMPFOX BASSMASTERS/CARLUSS KING



Integrity • Accountability • Innovation • Commitment to Community

cerebral palsy and is in a wheelchair, which posed a problem when they got to the building to speak to the fishing club. "There was no way to get his wheelchair in the building. Before I could say anything, several of the gentlemen of the fishing club picked Ryan up in his chair and carried him in," Howell says.

From that moment on, the connection between Camp Smiles and the Swampfox Bassmasters has only grown stronger.

Reeling in the donations

The Swampfox Bassmasters normally have monthly tournaments, but those have been put on hold due to the COVID-19 pandemic. However, the open tournament in August is their biggest day of the year, and the fishermen are catching more than fish—they're capturing the hearts of people across the Southeast.

The tournament is a massive fundraiser for Camp Smiles. "We raise money three different ways:

The Swampfox Bassmasters present the Camp Smiles officials with a check for \$23,700 from the money raised at the 33rd Annual Invitational Bass Tournament in 2019.

The tournament, sponsorships, and a raffle," King says. The club has sponsors from across the Lowcountry. "We have sponsors all the way from Little River to Darlington to Kingstree and Moncks Corner. It's not just right here in Horry County. We even have sponsors that mail in and we don't know who it's from, it's just a business card."

The raffle is another great opportunity for people to donate, especially the crowd that comes solely to watch the tournament. All the prizes are donated from local businesses. "We don't buy anything, because if we buy it, we're taking money away from the kids at Camp Smiles," King says.

Paying it forward

The Swampfox Bassmasters donate 100% of the money raised to Camp Smiles. "We donate every penny and if the grand total is \$23,560, we will round up to \$23,600. Our club will put up the rest of the money to make it even," King says with a smile.

If you ask King why, his answer is simple: "You'll get so many blessings just by helping."

Howell says Camp Smiles would be different without the group's support.

“So many of our children are highly involved and medically fragile. We need close to a one-to-one ratio, so every child is engaged in every activity. Our plan has always been about creating smiles, rather than simply being a childcare option,” Howell says.

In the past four years, the club has raised over \$80,000 for Camp Smiles. Howell says without the help from the Swampfox Bassmasters, the program could have been reduced to three weeks or less, but there’s currently a waiting list to attend. The same goes for the Swampfox Bassmasters. The club has

“So many of our children are highly involved and medically fragile. We need close to a one-to-one ratio, so every child is engaged in every activity.”

—Anita Howell, Camp Smiles board president

put a cap on the number of members because so many wanted to join, mostly to be a part of helping Camp Smiles.

Endless blessings

The open tournament, Camp Smiles, the Swampfox Bassmasters, have all grown in the past four years all because of a simple meeting that turned into a blessing. King confirms that saying, “Man, has it grown, but when you put God first, that’s what happens.”

King says the thing he loves most about supporting Camp Smiles is the appreciation and happiness it brings to others. “At first, it was the kids who have the disabilities, but since I’ve learned and I know some of them, I love seeing how appreciative and happy the parents are for their other kids who don’t have a disability. For five weeks, they can take their kids to this camp and they can support their other children and give them attention.”

“Special needs parents will often say they feel invisible. I’ve certainly felt



COURTESY CAMP SMILES

Camp Smiles focuses on the one-to-one ratio between its staff and the children attending the summer program. The picture above is just one of the many moments where you can visually see the engagement and the bond forming, along with the smiles the non-profit strives for.

that way in the past. We have very few options outside of school for friendship and fun, which makes summers isolating. Seeing the club show such compassion and passion for our children makes us all feel less alone,” Howell says.

Each November, the Swampfox Bassmasters present the Camp Smiles officials with a check with all the earnings from the open tournament. In 2019, Camp Smiles was presented with a check for \$23,700. The Swampfox Bassmasters hope to be able to do that again this year and more, but the COVID-19 pandemic does still raise concern. Howell says Camp Smiles is moving forward as planned with having the camp, but does want people to know that it could be cut short or cancelled.

“It’s been a blessing to help Camp Smiles. I know I’ve said it a thousand times, but it truly has,” King says. His only wish is that Camp Smiles continues to grow, and he guarantees that anyone who donates to Camp Smiles will get thousands of blessings in return.

For more information, visit their website at CampSmilesGS.org or their Camp Smiles Grand Strand Facebook page.



COURTESY SWAMPFOX BASSMASTERS/CARLUSS KING

Carluss King holds up two of the bass he caught at the 2018 open tournament hosted by the Swampfox Bassmasters that benefits Camp Smiles.

Local students to have Virtual Youth Experience

Annual trips canceled due to COVID-19 pandemic

IN FEBRUARY, Horry Electric Cooperative selected seven local high school students to represent the cooperative and be part of two memorable summer experiences.

Four of those students are rising high school seniors that were headed for an all-expense-paid tour of the nation's capital, while three rising juniors were set to visit the South Carolina capital.

The winners selected for the Washington Youth Tour in June include: Jacob Frederick Bartlett of St. James High School; Emily Miller Rabon of Aynor High School; Dafne Mariana Santos of North Myrtle Beach High School; and Hannah Patterson Zincone of Carolina Forest High School.

The three students selected to attend the Cooperative Youth Summit in July include: John Blue Barnett of the Scholars Academy; Laney Andrea Brown of Aynor High School; and Anna Reece Williams of Conway High School.

Unfortunately, the COVID-19 crisis forced the cancellation of both events. However, the local students will still have the opportunity to connect with new friends and learn this summer. The Electric

HEC's student representatives (from left) Dylan Young, Mary Katherine Todd, Lucy Neff, JaNiya Livingston and Brianna Joyner on the 2019 Youth Tour.

Cooperatives of South Carolina will hold a Virtual Youth Experience for students selected by their local cooperative. The multi-day event is planned for June 22-25 and will occur over the web-conferencing platform, WebEx.

During this experience, the students will learn about cooperatives and how they are handling the COVID-19 crisis, hear from lawmakers on Capitol Hill and at the Statehouse, and learn from citizen leaders around the state about what is being done in response to the crisis. Students will also have the opportunity to earn a \$5,000 college scholarship by creating a video or podcast detailing how the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted their lives.

"During these times, we have to be innovative and practical in order to continue supporting our communities and members," says Toni Gore, Horry Electric's Youth Tour Coordinator. "We're disappointed that these students don't get to take the trips as they were originally planned, but we're glad that this experience is available to them. We think it will still be one they will always remember."

The Washington Youth Tour, originally started by President Lyndon B. Johnson, has never been canceled in its history.

Meet the Students



Jacob Frederick Bartlett
Washington Youth Tour

Parents:
Nelson and Susie Bartlett

Emily Miller Rabon
Washington Youth Tour

Parents:
Brian and Jennifer Rabon



Dafne Mariana Santos
Washington Youth Tour

Parents:
Jose and Tory Morales



Hannah Patterson Zincone
Washington Youth Tour

Parents:
Anthony and Hollis Zincone



John Blue Barnett
Cooperative Youth Summit

Parents:
John and Laura Barnett



Laney Andrea Brown
Cooperative Youth Summit

Parents:
Stevie and Andrea Brown



Anna Reece Williams
Cooperative Youth Summit

Parents:
Timothy and Lindy Williams

