

Horry Electric Cooperative, Inc.

www.horryelectric.com

MAIN OFFICE
P.O. Box 119
Conway, SC 29528-0119
(843) 369-2211



**TO REPORT
POWER OUTAGES ONLY**
(843) 369-2212

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Johnny M. Shelley
President
Daniel B. Shelley, III
Executive Vice President and CEO
Eugene Harriott Jr.
Vice President
Ashley Anderson
Secretary/Treasurer
Elaine D. Gore
Aaron C. Johnson
Franklin C. Blanton
Ronald H. Floyd
Jody D. Prince
Frederick 'Freddy' Thompkins

CO-OP ATTORNEY

Kenneth R. Moss

CO-OP NEWS EDITOR

Jennifer A. Harmon
jennifer.harmon@horryelectric.com

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

Annual Meeting a success

Quorum met, two new trustees elected to board



ANNUAL MEETING 2021 was a major success! Based on the feedback we received from members in 2020, our board of trustees voted to bring back the early Drive-Thru Registration and Voting event. The Drive-Thru setup in 2020 allowed us to break our all-

time registration record set in 2013 at Coastal Carolina University.

On May 10-11, 2021, over the course of a day and a half, we broke the record again, registering 7,855 accounts. Of those 7,855 accounts, 5,996 were members who registered and voted.

Our bylaws require a quorum equal to 5% of the membership. We needed 3,521 members to register in order to transact business.

Thank you so much to everyone that took time out of their day to come to our registration and voting event. We also appreciate all of you who tuned in to watch our virtual business meeting on May 11.

Our 80th Annual Member Meeting is in the books and we are already looking forward to next year's meeting.

Trustee election results

The business session 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.

As mentioned in the May edition of *South Carolina Living*, Bobby Jordan retired from his District 2 seat. Aaron Johnson was elected to fill that seat. Franklin Blanton was re-elected for District 4. We had three candidates nominated for the District 6 seat. Jody Prince was elected as trustee for that seat.

The board of trustees elected officers at the May board meeting. Johnny

M. Shelley remains as president, with Eugene Harriott Jr. as vice president and Ashley Anderson as secretary/treasurer.

Prize winners

Prize winners have been notified by phone or mail. The grand prize for this year's Annual Meeting was a 2017 E-Z-Go electric golf cart. The grand prize winner is Foy Stone. Be sure to check out our upcoming July edition of *South Carolina Living* for a picture of the grand prize winner and a photo recap.

Another important note

June 1 marked the beginning of hurricane season. The season runs through November 30.

We are ready for any severe weather and we encourage all members to have an emergency plan in place. Also, get an emergency kit ready with water and non-perishable foods, plus batteries and flashlights.

If you experience severe weather, there are multiple ways to report an outage:

- ▶ Call PowerTouch at (843) 369-2212.
- ▶ Text "OUT" to MyOutage at 1 (844) 369-2767.
- ▶ Download our free Horry Electric mobile app.
- ▶ Visit MyEnergy Online.
- ▶ Text "OUTAGE" to 352-667.

Be sure to follow our social media pages, including Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. We also have storm preparedness tips on our website at horryelectric.com to help make sure our members are informed and safe.

DANIEL B. SHELLEY, III
Executive Vice President and CEO

Local teens selected for Virtual Youth Experience

THIS MONTH, local students will go virtual and meet with some of our state's leaders.

On June 21-25, nine high school juniors and sophomores selected by Horry Electric will participate in the Virtual Youth Experience (VYE), a week-long web conference hosted by South Carolina's electric cooperatives.

The student representatives selected are Laney Brown from Aynor High School; Madelyn Faircloth from Loris High School; Roshni Nandwani from Socastee High School; Cameron Butler from Conway Christian School; John Sumter from the Scholar's Academy at Carolina Forest; Jason Carmicheal from Aynor High School; and Lilah Ell from the Coastal Leadership Academy. Horry Electric also has two representatives from the county that were selected by The Electric Cooperatives of South Carolina. Those students are Lance Stephens from Conway Christian School and Garrison Gasque from Aynor High School.

The VYE event allows high school students from across the state to engage with state leaders from the safety and comfort of their homes, using computers and smartphones.

"The success of the Virtual Youth Experience is now being modeled across the nation," says Toni Gore, Virtual Youth Experience coordinator. "These interactions with lawmakers and leaders can be memorable and moving, even if they are only through the screens of smart devices. We're glad to be able to provide such an opportunity to these bright young students."

The students will compete for \$5,000 scholarships by working in teams to create a podcast. This year's podcast challenge asks the students to finish the sentence, "My country is..." Participants in the Virtual Youth Experience will also have the opportunity to earn the R.D. Bennett Community Service Scholarship, also worth \$5,000.

Horry Electric will feature each representative on social media in June. Follow HEC's social media accounts for more details on these students and what's in store for VYE.

Meet the students



Laney A. Brown
Aynor High School
Parents: Stevie and Andrea Brown



Lilah M. Ell
Coastal Leadership Academy
Parents: Paul and Brenda Haywood



Roshni Nandwani
Socastee High School
Parents: Kenny and Nita Nandwani



Cameron E. Butler
Conway Christian School
Parents: Robert and Jennifer Butler



Madelyn G. Faircloth
Loris High School
Parents: James and Trudy Faircloth



Lance D. Stephens
Conway Christian School
Parents: Charlie and Tiffany Tindal



Jason W. Carmicheal
Aynor High School
Parents: James and Pattie Carmicheal



Garrison H. Gasque
Aynor High School
Parents: Garrett and Fara Gasque



John B. Sumter
Scholar's Academy at Carolina Forest
Parents: Gregory and Traci Sumter

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.

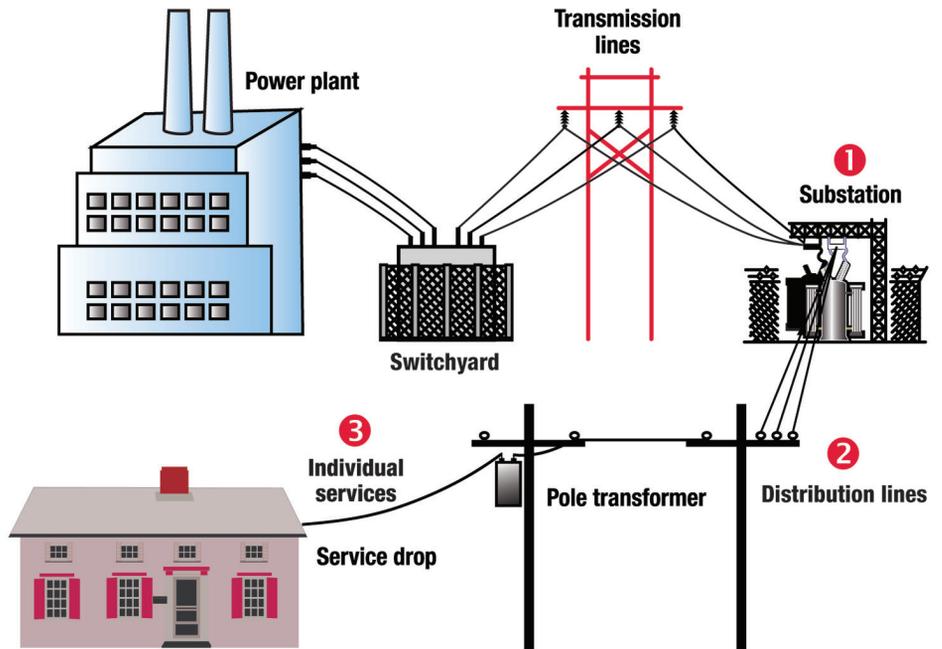
When those facilities are working, problems in your co-op's electric distribution system can be corrected. Three primary areas of our system must be addressed.

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.

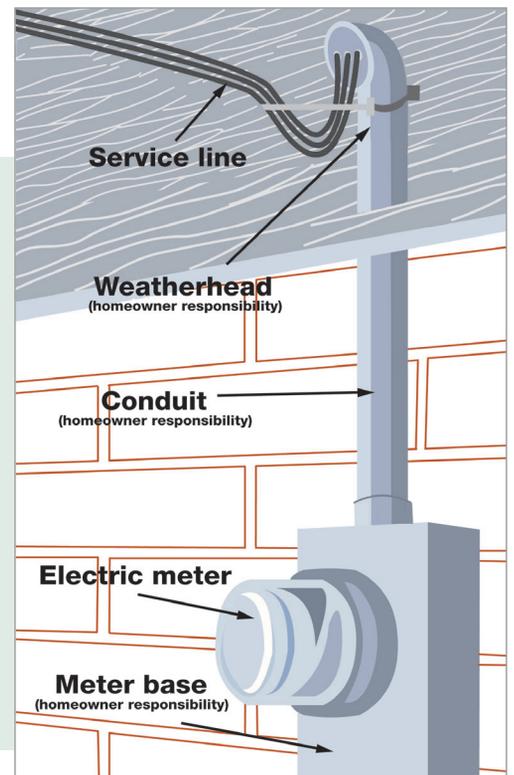
Sometimes, damage will occur on the

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.



Substations are the ‘heart’ of power delivery

BY JOSH P. CROTZER

NO MATTER THEIR LOCATION, they are likely to stand out with their complicated mesh of steel, wires and strange objects protruding above high, chain-linked fencing. An electric substation’s visual complexity is matched by its function. What substations are and what they do can be difficult to understand for the average person.

But Horry Electric Cooperative’s Substation Supervisor Jeff Spivey explains their purpose in a way anyone with basic knowledge of human anatomy can understand.

“The substation is the heart,” says Spivey. “Transmission voltage is the blood. Our three-phase feeders are like arteries, tap lines are the veins and the lines going to the individual meters are the capillaries. If the heart isn’t pumping properly, then the blood isn’t getting to all parts of the body.”

In Horry Electric’s territory, there are 25 (soon to be 27) substations supplying

Safety is paramount at subs

Wherever high voltage currents are flowing, safety must be paramount. That’s why Horry Electric takes every precaution to protect its members and employees in and around its substations. Horry Electric’s substations are secured and monitored to prevent unauthorized personnel from entering. Fencing also keeps out debris and animals.

Even Horry Electric employees must take special precautions when entering, including notifying the operations center and wearing protective headgear and glasses.

Individuals should not be in contact with the outer fencing or attempt to enter inside it. If you see someone other than a cooperative employee attempting to enter a substation, alert Horry Electric immediately at (843) 369-2212.



JOSH CROTZER

power to meters from the Lumber River to Burgess. That’s 5,495 miles of line serving Horry County, the largest county in South Carolina by land area.

It’s Spivey and his team’s responsibility to make sure the co-op’s substations are healthy and delivering power efficiently to Horry Electric’s approximate 85,000 accounts. That requires looking after each substation’s network of equipment, monitoring the stresses that are placed upon it and anticipating when maintenance or upgrading is required.

Spivey says consistent checkups and analysis help his team stay on top of each substation’s condition. In addition to site visits, Horry Electric’s supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA) system provides real time alerts and information on every operation that takes place on the system.

“We thoroughly inspect every substation every month and get numeric values for everything in every station,” says Spivey. “We can’t stop or predict all equipment failure—especially when animals like snakes, birds and squirrels

▲ Horry Electric substations are often named after roads in the areas they serve. These roads are often the path the distribution feeders follow to deliver power to members.

cause trouble—but that data allows us to see potential vulnerabilities and plan what the subs need.”

It also helps in planning for new or upgraded substations, a necessity for Horry Electric thanks to the population growth and development the county has experienced in the last ten years. Spivey says the cooperative has built seven substations in the last six years. Two new substations will be completed by next year.

As more power users are added to the system, whether a home, business or industry, the load on the substation increases. As growth continues, the substation needs more capacity or new substations are built. New substations like Watson’s Riverside in Myrtle Beach or the one being built at the intersection of Highway 905 and Highway 22 outside Conway are planned for years before dirt is ever moved.

“You can’t play catch-up. There is

What happens at a substation?

A substation's primary function is to receive high voltage transmission power coming from distant generating sources like Santee Cooper and transform that power to a lower voltage so that it can be safely delivered to the meters it serves.

Transmission power enters Horry's Electric's substations at 115,000 volts or 115 kilovolts. The supply lines are connected to disconnecting switches in order to isolate the lines from the substation, allowing for maintenance and repair work. The power is then transformed, or stepped down, usually to 14.4 kilovolts at Horry Electric substations.

With a sophisticated network of equipment, a substation provides a switching point where multiple connections may be made to control the flow of electricity to protect against abnormalities such as fault currents, which can have dramatic destructive potential.

Lightning arresters divert surge currents to the earth, protecting the conductors and substation equipment. Regulators keep voltage levels within acceptable ranges giving Horry Electric members the assurance that their electrical equipment will operate properly. Relays sense faults and send interruption messages to the circuit breaker which moves the contacts apart, avoiding any damage to the circuitry. Fuses are protective devices with circuit-opening fusible links that break as overcurrent passes through them. Switches isolate, interrupt and transfer service between different sources of supply.

The control house provides an environmentally controlled enclosure for some of this equipment. It also houses the SCADA system, batteries and most of the relaying, metering and control equipment at substations.

Electricity leaves each substation by way of multiple distribution feeders, three-phase lines that route to designated areas of service or circuits. Once the current is on the distribution lines, the voltage is stepped down further for the safe use in a home or business.



JOSH CROTZER

▲ Jeff Spivey, who has been with Horry Electric for 26 years and the substation supervisor for the past six, says fast advancing technology is helping power delivery to become more efficient and reliable.

no quick fix," says Spivey. "You've got to stay ahead of the growth. It takes millions of dollars and years of planning to build a substation for a community that's still growing."

Additional substations are not just a benefit for new residents. New substations increase reliability for everyone by allowing other substations in the area to feed meters in the event a substation or circuit is down. Horry Electric even has two mobile substations that are typically used during repair and maintenance work.

Mark Ford, a substation technician for Horry Electric, has his own substation metaphor that may be as good as his colleague's.

"A substation is the best neighbor you can have," says Ford. "The yard is always kept neat. It doesn't make any noise. And if the power goes out, you're the first to get restored."



The team that looks after the Horry Electric substations includes (from left) Rusty Cannon, Jimmy Baxley, Steve Singleton, Jason Benton, Jeff Spivey, Brian Johnson and Mark Ford.

JENNIFER HARMON

Myrtle Beach fourth grader wins book challenge

UNDERSTANDING SOLAR ENERGY can be difficult. Fortunately, Jillian Whalen—a fourth grade student at St. James Elementary School in Myrtle Beach—made learning about the renewable power source a lot easier for her classmates.

Whalen's informative children's book "What Do Solar Panels Do?" was Horry Electric Cooperative's winning selection in the EnlightenSC Children's Book Challenge, an educational initiative of the state's electric cooperatives. The competition challenges fourth- and fifth-grade students to write and illustrate stories that focus on the impact of electricity in their lives, communities and the state.

"We were really impressed with the book's creativity and information," says Horry Electric's Toni Gore. "You could tell that she put a lot of work into it."

Gore says the competition is meant to inspire students to learn more about energy in our state and spark a passion for critical thinking in the minds of tomorrow's leaders.

Whalen's book, created using the online platform Story Jumper, describes the advantages and practical functionality of solar energy. This year's competition marks the first time participants wrote and illustrated their stories exclusively online.

"There were times when writing and rewriting were hard, but I stayed with it," says Whalen.

Whalen thanked Horry Electric and her school's library media specialist Lisa Moniz, who helped with the project. Whalen and Moniz were each awarded \$50 and the book advanced to the statewide competition. On April 9, Madeleine Benner of Fort Mill was named the statewide winner.

"She is such a sweetheart and I'm really proud of her," Moniz says of Whalen. "We appreciate Horry Electric for giving the students this opportunity."

Jillian Whalen, a fourth grade student at St. James Elementary School in Myrtle Beach, won \$50 in the Children's Book Challenge.



PHOTO PROVIDED BY LISA MONIZ

Final days to sign up and win \$500

HORRY ELECTRIC members who register for the Beat The Peak notification program by June 30 will be eligible to win a \$500 Visa gift card in a statewide drawing. In addition, one Horry Electric Cooperative member will win a \$100 gift card from a local prize drawing.

More than 50,000 electric co-op members across the state have already signed up to receive alerts reminding them to reduce their electric use during peak periods.

Members who register will receive an alert showing the projected time of a system-wide energy peak, which is usually during hot summer afternoons or cold winter mornings. By voluntarily delaying the use of large appliances, adjusting your thermostat or turning off unused lights, you'll help to lower wholesale power costs.

If you'd like to join the movement, sign up at BeatThePeak.com by completing a simple form on the website and indicating how you want to receive peak alerts. If you're already participating in Beat The Peak, you do not have to register again to be eligible for the prizes.



It's hurricane season: Do you have special medical 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.



PIXABY

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 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.