

## Horry Electric Cooperative, Inc.

[www.horryelectric.com](http://www.horryelectric.com)

**Main Office**

P.O. Box 119  
Conway, SC 29528-0119  
369-2211



(to report power outages only)

**369-2212**

**Board of Trustees**

Johnny M. Shelley  
*President*

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

Eugene Harriott, Jr.  
*Vice President*

Ashley Anderson  
*Secretary/Treasurer*

Elaine D. Gore

Bobby E. Jordan

Franklin C. Blanton

Ronald H. Floyd

Henry W. Boyd

Frederick 'Freddy' Thompkins

**Co-op Connection Editor**

Penelope D. Hinson  
[penelope.hinson@horryelectric.com](mailto:penelope.hinson@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

# Electrical safety lessons for kids

**WE ALL KNOW** electricity plays a major role in our everyday lives, and it is a powerful resource that



should be respected. Unfortunately, our children often do not understand the dangers of electricity. At Horry Electric Cooperative, we encourage you to

share electrical safety tips and lessons with your little ones as often as possible. We understand attention spans run short, so here are a few creative ways to get them involved.

Depending on the age of your child, consider designating an "electronics deputy." The deputy should be responsible for pointing out overloaded outlets or other potentially dangerous situations such as electric appliances located too close to liquids. Reward your 'electronics deputy' for recognizing problems and reporting them.

### Drill safety home

Emphasize the importance of fire prevention with your children and create a family fire drill plan as an extra precaution. Reward those who follow the plan and make it *safely* out of the home.

While it is fun and engaging to turn safety into a game, it is important to make sure your children understand the risks they are facing if they do not practice electrical safety.

One of the most important safety tips you can give your kids is to avoid any downed power lines. A downed power line can still be energized, and it can energize other objects, including fences and trees. Make sure your kids understand the potential dangers of coming in contact with a downed

power line or low-hanging wire. If they come across a downed power line, be sure they know to tell you so that you or another adult can call Horry Electric and 9-1-1, if necessary.

Another important safety message we often share with kids is about our distribution transformers. They vary in size and style, but the most common type is the can-shaped steel tank you often see near the top of a utility pole. Another type is a 'pad mounted' transformer. They're usually found in neighborhoods where co-op power is delivered through underground lines. They are housed in large, green box-shaped metal cabinets.

### Avoid transformers, etc.

Distribution transformers reduce voltage for delivering electricity, normally 240/120 volts for most services. It is not unusual to find one rated 1,000 kilovolt-amperes (kva) or more serving a large user. A transformer for a new home is usually rated 10-15 kva (roughly 10 or 15 horsepower).

All electric equipment, including utility poles, should be avoided.

No matter how you choose to get your kids interested in staying safe around electricity, Horry Electric Cooperative is here to help. We even offer safety demonstrations to local schools, churches and community groups. To schedule one for your group, call Brian Chestnut, our safety coordinator, at (843) 369-2211. To learn more about electrical safety, visit [HorryElectric.com](http://HorryElectric.com)

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

## Nothing but blue skies—and berries



Thursday, July 21, was your typical Horry County summer day—hot and steamy, the kind of day when we're all grateful for non-stop air conditioning. Even so, *South Carolina Living* found a few hardy Horry souls out and about. At left, Addi Small, 2½, offered us a summer treat at Bert's Blueberries on Hwy. 19 near Hwy. 917. Addi is the granddaughter of HEC retiree Clayton Small. Nearby, we found Hunter Chandley practicing casting at the Bell farm. (It was too hot for the fish to bite, he noted.) The farm is near our new Midway substation (above). Hunter's grandmother, Delores Bell, tells us service is even better now, with fewer interruptions, since Midway came on line in June. It's sitting high and dry now—unlike when our field editor visited in January (below). HEC is now upgrading and building substations in Goretown and Cedar Creek, respectively. A new Green Sea sub is slated for 2017.



WALTER ALLEARD

## Effective October 1, 2016

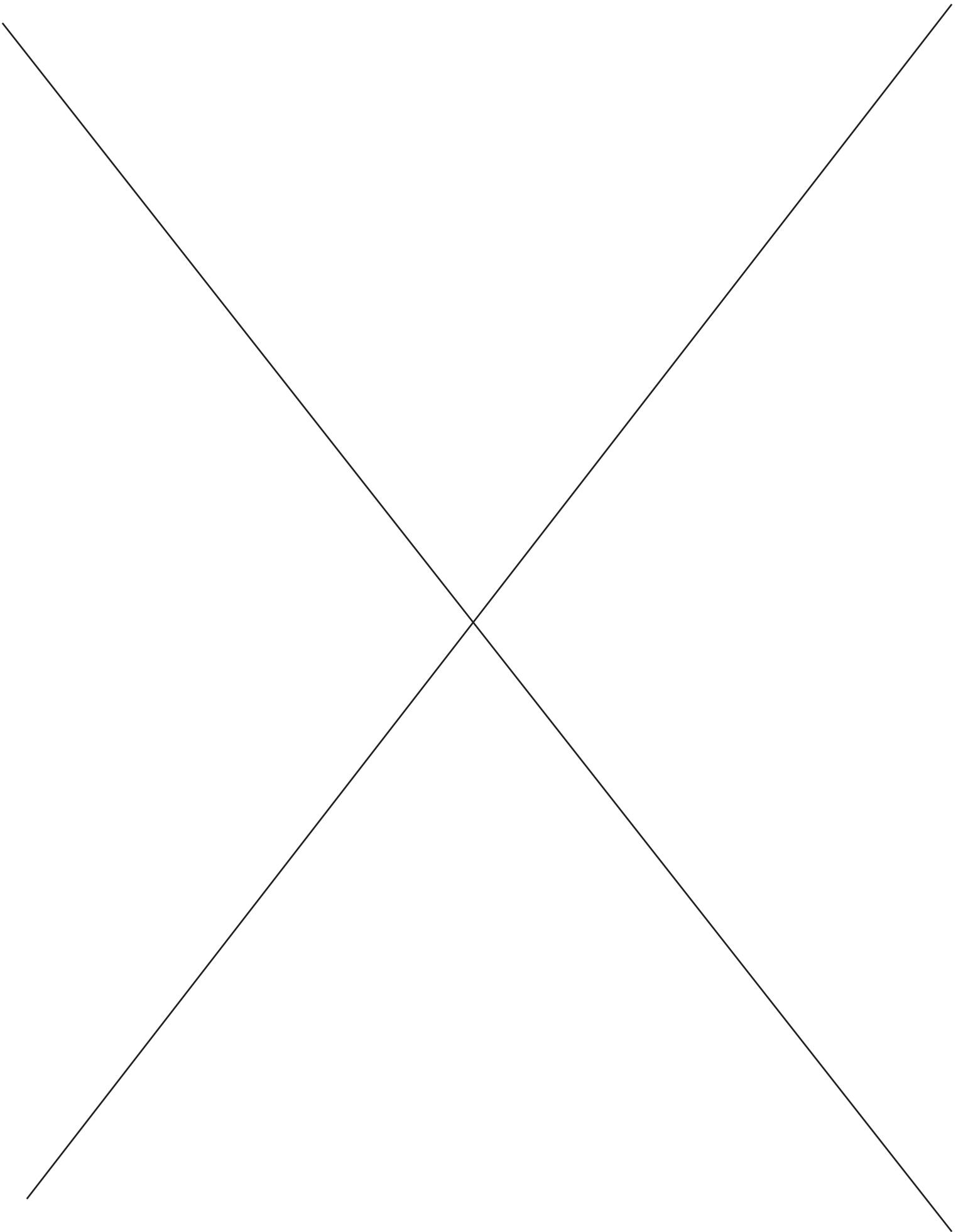
**THE FACILITIES CHARGE** for single-phase service will increase from the current rate of \$19 to \$20 per month. The charge for three-phase service will increase from \$29 to \$30. The extra dollar collected will go toward capital credit retirements paid in 2017.

The facilities charge is a monthly fixed amount charged to each meter at each service location, regardless of the amount of electricity used. It is for the expenses related to providing service to the meter which includes utility plant investment; operation and maintenance costs; administration and general costs; depreciation; administrative costs such as billing and property taxes.

### Horry Extra

#### What has a long neck and 'grazes' on trees?

No, it's not a giraffe—but you're close. A long-necked machine called a Jarraff helps keep your lights on. Read all about it on page 20A in this month's Horry Extra section.



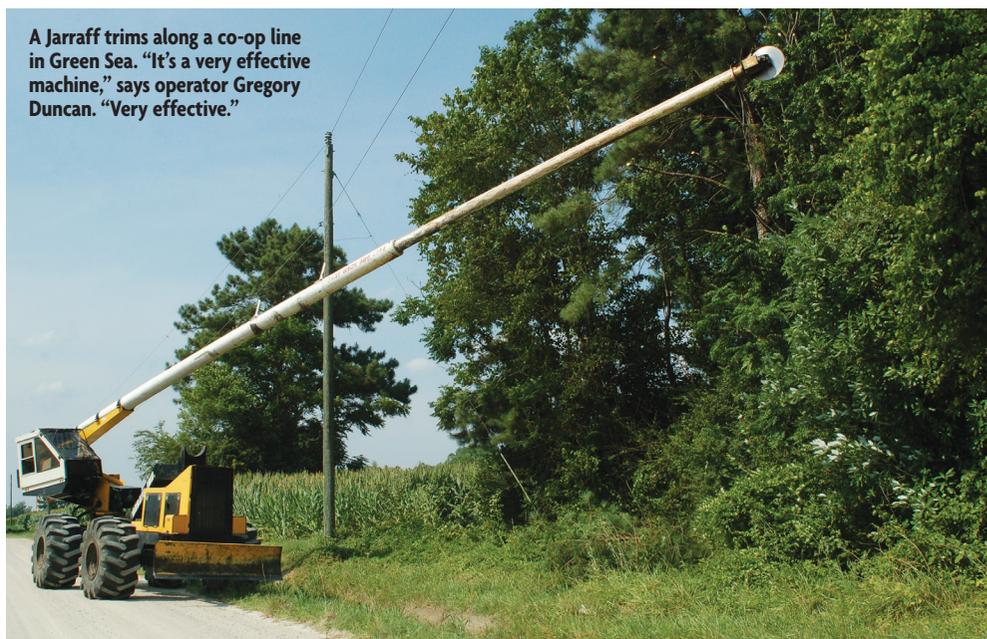
## What has a long neck and ‘grazes’ at treetops?

If you answered ‘a giraffe,’ you’d be close

**ACTUALLY**, we’re talking about a Jarraff All-Terrain Tree Trimmer. In Horry Electric’s service area, the contract right-of-way maintenance companies the co-op hires use two of these “beasts.”

Power Line Clearing Company (PLCC) keeps one working for HEC virtually non-stop. Carolina Tree Care brings a Jarraff in occasionally, according to Horry Electric’s right-of-way maintenance coordinator, Buddy Parker.

The Jarraffs help right-of-way crews trim hard-to-reach areas. Their mobility, combined with the advanced cutting capabilities, lets crews clear and trim faster and more efficiently than they could using traditional methods



A Jarraff trims along a co-op line in Green Sea. “It’s a very effective machine,” says operator Gregory Duncan. “Very effective.”

WALTER ALFREDA

alone. As Parker says, a Jarraff, “when it’s cutting right, should replace two bucket [trimming] trucks.”

According to PLCC’s

Jarraff operator, Gregory Duncan, “On a good day, we average probably 13 spans—from pole to pole.” Each span is about 280 feet; some are more than 300 feet, Parker notes.

Crews working for the co-op trim from “ground to sky,” he says. Also, some spans require trimming on both sides of the power line.

Duncan says operating the Jarraff means working four or five controls at once. Plus, he notes, there’s a difference in how the operator must trim hardwoods, such as oaks, versus softwoods, such as pines. But Duncan, who has run cherry pickers and bulldozers in the past, says the Jarraff truly stands tall. “It’s a very effective machine as far as what

we do,” he says. “Very effective.”

Efficiency is important because Horry Electric’s distribution system includes more than 5,000 miles of power lines. The co-op has different areas trimmed on a rotating basis.

It’s a non-stop job but well worth it, Parker notes: Trimming trees and vegetation in rights of way helps reduce power outages and line loss. “If we’ve got a tree that’s slapping against a wire and it’s burning, then that electricity is gone—it’s wasted,” he says.

Trimming trees also keeps members and the public safer, Parker says. “Never let children climb trees near power lines,” he stresses. ☺

### RIGHT-OF-WAY MAINTENANCE SCHEDULE

Clearing rights of way helps keep your lights on. Here’s our current schedule:

**Shell**—Off Hwy. 905; Hwy. 19 from Shell substation to Hwy. 472, over to Hwy. 417, down Hwy. 905 to Hwy. 22 including Hwy. 66 and surrounding areas.

**Allsbrook**—Down and around W. Hwy. 19 to S. Green Sea Road to W. Hwy. 9 Business and surrounding areas. On Hwy. 45 from intersection of Hwys. 19 and 45 to Live Oak Church Road to Hwy. 9 Business. Also Dogwood Road and surrounding areas.

**Jones Road**—Hwy. 544 from the waterway bridge back toward Conway to Roscoe Road. Also down Millpond and Peachtree roads and surrounding areas.

**Green Sea**—Fairview Hwy. and Three Bend Road down to Hwy. 19. Down Bay View Drive and Mt. Olive Church Road, all surrounding areas.

**Quail Creek**—Hwy. 544 from Jackson Bluff Road back toward Conway. Down E. Hwy. 501 and Waccamaw Drive and all surrounding areas.

## Co-op helps WMU put women and children first

**AT GREEN SEA** Baptist Church, Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) members feel that one of their greatest missions is to help kids in need, says Wanda Grainger.

"Children are helpless," Grainger notes.

The WMU member wrote to Horry Electric early this year, after HEC introduced its 75 Acts of Kindness program in celebration of its 75th anniversary. She sought a donation to help Horry County kids who are being relocated to foster homes by the Department of Social Services.

"DSS has many children who

have no place to go in an emergency situation," Grainger wrote. "These children are in need of clothes and school supplies when they are removed from an unsafe home. God has blessed us greatly, and we want to give back some of our blessings, especially to these children.

"We gather clothes, diapers and children's supplies and deliver them to Fostering Hope in Conway. DSS workers are allowed to take any children removed from an unsafe environment to Fostering Hope and pick out clothes, shoes and school supplies for that child before placing them in foster care. Most of these children are removed quickly, and a great number of them leave home with just the clothes on their back."

Fostering Hope, she adds, is "a wonderful ministry." (See sidebar.)

### Women's Center aid

Green Sea Floyds Baptist's WMU also supports the Women's Center at Shoreline Behavioral Health Services in Conway. They supply hygiene items to women who are trying to get their lives back on track, getting off drugs and alcohol, Grainger noted. The WMU also supplies Christian literature, she notes. WMU member Faye Todd adds, "Last year, we had huge Santa Claus stockings for them."

### Missions near and far

In addition to these local efforts, Green Sea Baptist WMU members also support state and international missions of the WMU. Founded in 1888, WMU is a non-profit Christian missions organization headquartered in Birmingham, Ala., that supports churches worldwide. Green Sea WMU members hold bake sales, donate personally and even do couponing to support WMU missions, near and far.

Green Sea WMU members, on

### Here's your chance to do your own Act of Kindness

In addition to indirectly aiding foster kids through its 75 Acts of Kindness grant to the Green Sea Baptist WMU, Horry Electric also made a direct grant of \$500 to Fostering Hope.

The non-profit organization provides goods and services to children in the foster-care system in Horry County. Tabby Shelton, executive director, says, "We can't thank them

enough. It's very important to

us. You never know when the kids are coming in, and it's wonderful for the child to have these items. We appreciate the co-op's support very much."

The Hygiene Packs include toothbrush and toothpaste, hairbrush or comb, shampoo and conditioner and body wash. Older children and teens also get deodorant and shaving supplies.

The bad news? Shelton says the Hygiene Packs that HEC paid for are all gone! Want to help? Learn how at [FosteringHopeInc.com](http://FosteringHopeInc.com).



At Green Sea Baptist Church (from left), Kristin McDowell, Jessie Faircloth, Wanda Grainger, Patricia Jackson and Faye Todd were just a few of the WMU members who find creative ways to assist foster children and women recovering from substance abuse.

WALTER ALBRECHT

behalf of the church, also support a Backpack Buddies program for students at Green Sea Floyds Elementary School. They're collaborating with other churches in the Waccamaw Baptist Association, Todd says, to provide school supplies for the kids. "It's a big endeavor," she says.

The WMU also helps with a church-sponsored food bank and works with their Green Sea Baptist brotherhood on an annual coat closet. Todd notes, "For anyone who needs a warm coat in the winter, they can go in and get one when they come in for the food bank." ☺



## A few more of our 75 Acts of Kindness

**HORRY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE** is celebrating its 75th anniversary by rewarding good folks in the community with 75 Acts of Kindness. We featured the first 28 awards in earlier editions of *South Carolina Living*. Here are more Acts of Kindness that our employees and board members have done this year:

**29—A \$500 BOOST:** The Loris FFA Booster Club provides two to six scholarships a year to Loris High School FFA members. Club president Chris Gerald says the funds help fund college educations for deserving students who hold FFA offices and participate in contests. HEC showed its support with a \$500 Act of Kindness.

**30—BUCKSPORT SENIORS:** Debra Alston, manager at the Bucksport Senior Center, likes to keep the place looking nice inside and out—and, most importantly, to give the seniors what they need, such as books, bingo gifts, plus “cream, coffee, sugar and snacks that are good for them. It takes a lot when you have anywhere from 25 to 30 people a day,” Alston notes. Horry Electric kindly donated \$500 to make life sweeter for our friends in Bucksport. “They enjoy so much getting out of the house during the day, so I just enjoy them being here, working together, laughing and talking,” she says. “Quilting is a big thing here, and it takes a lot of

supplies for quilting. We thank you so much for your help!” You’re welcome!

**31—PIZZA!** Rehabilitative Behavioral Health Services in Loris is a program with Horry County Schools that provides counseling and behavior intervention services to children with behavior and emotional issues. Many of the kids have difficulty being successful in the school environment due to these issues, wrote Shanda Strickland, the program’s clinical coordinator. Seeking support from HEC, Strickland thought a special show of compassion might help: “I would like to perform Acts of Kindness with the group,” she said. “I would like to award these students and allow them to experience things that they may not have an opportunity to participate in.” Things like hosting a game truck/pizza party event, she said, or sponsoring items in their treasure box, or to buy items to help teach social and life skills —toys, curriculums, crafts, school supplies. “These students aren’t as fortunate as others and struggle to earn opportunities and incentives like others,” she noted. HEC chipped in \$500 to show the students we care. Conswella Mitchell, the lead counselor with RBHS, picked up the check from HEC’s Penelope Hinson (below, right).



**32—WMU TO THE RESCUE:** Like the ladies at Green Sea Baptist, WMU members at New Hope Missionary Baptist Church have a soft spot for children. “One of our greatest missions is to see that children do not go hungry!” wrote Gail Leviner, director. They also helped with Backpack Buddies, a program of the non-profit Help 4 Kids, which supplies food for needy children on weekends and during the summer. “We collect items they suggest and deliver it to their office,” Leviner notes. “They use our donations to give a bag to these children who qualify on Friday before they go home from school.” Help 4 Kids supplies these bags to schools in Horry County who ask for this service. New Hope WMU also participates in the Angel tree at South Conway Elementary and helps needy families with students at Pee Dee Elementary School. Talk about kindness—the WMU also provided funds to the Carolina Baptist Association Flood Relief effort as well as the CAP (Churches Assisting People) outreach. “New Hope Missionary Baptist Church WMU and our congregation are always willing to help in the community, whether it is ours or located elsewhere,” notes Leviner, who accepted HEC’s \$500 check from our Kelli Carroll (above, left).

(continued on page 20D)

(continued from page 20C)

## More Acts of Kindness

**33—KEEP COOL:** A lady, who asked to remain anonymous, was living on disability and recovering from major surgery but had no heat and air at her home. “I get really sick upon exertion,” she noted, describing her arthritic pain as “debilitating.” HEC donated \$471.73 to pay for HVAC and ductwork repairs at her home.

**34—HELPING STUDENTS:** As school counselor at Green Sea Floyds Elementary, Dr. Hanna Smith sees many students doing without basic items. “We are a Title 1 school, which means that the majority of our students live in poverty. The students need underwear, socks and shoes. They constantly come to school without these items or with items the wrong size. It is difficult to focus in class when their feet hurt due to shoes being too small,” she wrote in her 75 Acts of Kindness application. Horry Electric donated \$500 to help the students. ☺



HEC member Neil James (left) talks with Mark Quinn after Quinn's presentation on solar energy. The manager of distribution operations for Santee Cooper, James is also a member of the Board of Education for Horry County Schools.

## Co-ops leading on solar, HEC members told

**S.C. CO-OPS** have been leaders in solar power development in the state, Mark Quinn, director of public and member relations for the state association of electric co-ops, recently told HEC members—and they're still innovating.

Speaking at the co-op's recent Member Service dinner, Quinn noted that the Colleton Solar Farm, a joint project of the state's co-ops, the state-owned utility Santee Cooper and TIG Sun Energy, was the largest solar installation in South Carolina's history when dedicated in January 2014. Colleton offers some valuable lessons, according to Quinn.

The facility has 10,010 photovoltaic (PV) panels on 15 acres of former farmland beside Interstate 95 near Walterboro. At peak generation, the 3-megawatt complex produces enough electricity to power more than 250 average-sized homes. “That's a lot of area and a lot of panels to power a medium-sized neighborhood,” Quinn noted. “If you start thinking about that and extrapolating out, how many 15-acre sites do we have to have to power South Carolina at this utility-size scale? We'd start running out of land.”

Solar installations at

homes can't meet our state's power needs either, Quinn added. “Forty-five percent of people in America can't put rooftop solar on their house,” Quinn noted. Neighborhood restrictions, poor exposure to sunlight, high installation costs, or homes with roofs that are unsuitable for solar—such as manufactured homes—limit many people's options, he said.

Smaller community solar projects, he says, could help. Most South Carolina co-ops, including Horry Electric, are looking into building local community solar projects. Community solar would offer all members a chance to buy solar power without leasing or spending \$20,000 to have a PV system installed—one that might “take 10, 12 or 15 years to get your money back. That's a big investment,” Quinn noted.

Without affordable energy storage options, solar has some growing to do before mass acceptance, he said. “Let's face it,” Quinn noted, “Unless you want to have batteries that take up this entire wall right here, you're always going to want that wire and pole from Horry Electric on your house.”

Visit [MySCSolar.coop](http://MySCSolar.coop), a website sponsored by HEC and other S.C. cooperatives, to learn more about solar energy.

**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 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.

**Horry Electric Cooperative, Inc.**  
Your Touchstone Energy® Partner

NRECA