

## Horry Electric Cooperative, Inc.

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

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**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

# Rural Development Act

What is it, what does it mean?



**EACH YEAR**, Horry Electric owes the state of South Carolina more than \$700,000 in property and gross receipts tax. The Rural Development Act (RDA) allows Horry Electric to give Horry County up to \$400,000, of the tax owed, to

be used locally for rural development.

In 2021, Horry Electric contributed \$400,000 to Horry County that will be used for land acquisition on a multi-sports and recreational complex.

### Why does Horry Electric pay this money to the county instead of spending it on the electrical system?

The RDA does not allow an electric cooperative to use the tax credit for actual expenses incurred in the construction and operation of any building or infrastructure owned, leased, managed, or operated by the cooperative. As a result, each year as Horry Electric is preparing to pay taxes to the state, the Board of Trustees makes sure that the maximum credit allowance of \$400,000 stays right here in Horry County. The remaining tax liability is then paid to the state of South Carolina.

### Legislative changes?

Rep. William H. Bailey (R-S.C.) has filed a bill to amend section 12-20-105. The amendment proposes an increase of the maximum annual tax credit amount from \$400,000 to \$600,000. It also proposes to provide additional annual tax credit amounts of \$50,000, \$100,000 and \$150,000, respectively, for qualifying projects located in counties classified for the Targeted Jobs Tax Credit as Tier I, II, III and IV counties, to provide additional eligibility requirements for these increased credit amounts and

to allow unused credits to be carried forward for three consecutive years.

Horry County is currently classified as a Tier III county. If S.C. Code Section 12-20-105 is amended as proposed, Horry Electric would qualify to increase its annual license tax credit contribution to Horry County from \$400,000 to \$700,000, if qualifying infrastructure and economic development projects are available.

Rural economic development is an investment in growing the local economy by promoting, attracting and retaining business and new industry. As your local electric cooperative, we believe it is our responsibility to support Horry County in its economic development efforts.

**DANIEL B. SHELLEY, III**  
 Executive Vice President and CEO

## The Rural Development Act

(S.C. Code Section 12-20-105) allows electric cooperatives and other utilities paying license tax under section 12-20-100 to apply for a credit against their tax liability for amounts paid in cash to provide infrastructure for qualifying projects. These projects consist of improvements to a building or land for water, wastewater, hydrogen fuel, sewer, gas, steam, electric energy, natural gas, telecommunication systems and fixed transportation facilities necessary, suitable, or useful to an eligible project. Eligible projects can also include office, business, commercial, or industrial parks owned or constructed by a city or county. For these projects, qualifying infrastructure can also include speculative buildings and the purchase and preparation of land by the county or city.

# Introducing the new MyEnergy Online member portal

**HORRY ELECTRIC** is excited to announce that the new MyEnergy Online portal is live on [horryelectric.com](http://horryelectric.com).

We launched the beta version in October and transitioned to the new portal in November.

The new MyEnergy Online portal is easier to use and offers a new Quick Pay feature, allowing

members to make a payment without having to log in to their accounts.

When members log in, they can manage account details, start or stop service, report an outage and much more!

You can also manage Bank Draft,

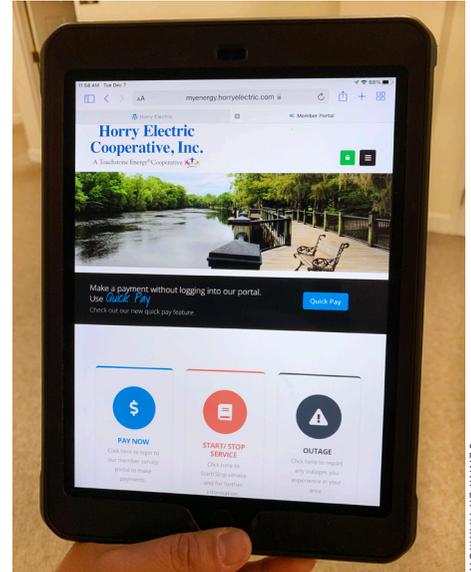
E-bill, account alerts and Operation Round Up.

This is a free service offered to all Horry Electric members.

Please note, if you have Horry Electric's old portal link saved as a favorite or bookmarked on your computer or smart device, you will need to update the link

with the new portal web address.

If you have any questions about the new portal, please call and speak to a member service representative at (843) 369-2211. You can also email [service@horryelectric.com](mailto:service@horryelectric.com).



JENNIFER HARMON

Photo shows the new MyEnergy Online portal and how it appears on an iPad.

## January promotion

**WINTER STORM SEASON** is here, so now is a great time to prepare for any type

of power outage. Members can stay connected during outages by adding a cell phone number to their account.

By adding a cell phone number, members will be automatically opted in to Horry Electric's MyOutage program. This outage text alert program provides a convenient way for members to report outages without having to call us. Members can also request status updates regarding their outage.

The MyOutage number is 1 (844) 369-2767. Save this number to your contacts and text "OUT" to report an outage or "STATUS" for an update.

During the month of January, any member who adds a mobile number to their account to participate in the MyOutage program will be automatically entered into a prize drawing for one of five \$50 electric bill credits!

Members have until 11:59 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 31 to enroll. Call (843) 369-2211 to add a cell phone number. You can also update all of your contact information by visiting <https://bit.ly/3IHt0XK>. The winner will be announced in early February. Visit [horryelectric.com](http://horryelectric.com) for contest rules.



## Have you tried our payment kiosk yet?

**PAYMENT KIOSKS** are available 24/7 in the drive-thru lanes of the Conway and Socastee offices.

Cash, check and card payments are accepted. When making a cash payment, please insert the dollar amount that you wish to pay. The kiosk does not give back change.

There is no transaction fee for cash payments, but check and credit/debit card payments will be charged transaction fees consistent with the current fees for online and mobile app payments. Checks have a \$0.50 transaction fee. Card payments will be charged a transaction fee of \$2.95 per \$200 paid.

The payment kiosks are a great way to pay your bill if you're not able to visit one of our offices during regular business hours.

If you have questions, or need help using one of our kiosks, please call (843) 369-2211.



# Ready for an experience you won't forget?

Your co-op has two amazing trips planned this summer. Juniors: Apply for the Washington Youth Tour. Sophomores: Apply for the Cooperative Youth Summit.

**Juniors:** Experience Washington, D.C., with hundreds of students from across South Carolina and the country, meeting lawmakers and touring all the sights. Your electric co-op will cover your round-trip plane ticket, tours and meals. In other words, it's all free!

**Sophomores:** Experience South Carolina's capital like never before. Tour the Statehouse, meet lawmakers and see how co-ops are preparing for our state's energy future. Plus, there's plenty of fun with visits to popular Columbia attractions like Riverbanks Zoo & Garden. Your electric co-op will cover all your expenses.

We've made it easy to apply for either FREE trip. Apply today!



ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES  
OF SOUTH CAROLINA



Washington Youth Tour: June 18-23, 2022

Cooperative Youth Summit: July 11-14, 2022

Applications available: [horryelectric.com/youth-tour/](http://horryelectric.com/youth-tour/)  
Application Deadline: January 31, 2022

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## A new adventure begins

A new year, a new chapter. Four Horry Electric employees are embarking on a new journey as they retire. After years of dedicated service, these employees are sharing their stories and memories of their time at the co-op.

### Billy Ray Cox passes the torch to Blake Stevens

Horry Electric's Supervisor of Overhead Conversion and Right-of-Way, Billy Ray Cox, is retiring after 37 years. He's been in this position since 2001. Cox started at the co-op on April 2, 1984 as a meter reader. Since 1984, he's seen a lot of changes. "The biggest difference for the co-op that I've seen is the growth," says Cox. "There's a lot more people on our system now than when I started in '84."

Part of Cox's responsibilities includes the upgrading of Horry Electric's system, sectionalizing it and making sure all of the overhead right-of-way is cut and maintained.

As Cox retires, Overhead Staking Technician Blake Stevens will transition into the supervisor position. Stevens started at the co-op as a summer intern in May 2006 before being hired on in the engineering department in 2007.

Cox and Stevens were both born and raised in Loris, and they have farming backgrounds. As Stevens steps into his new role, he says he's excited for the challenge. "The idea of being in a position to help create and make a difference when it comes to our system is exciting," says Stevens. "I feel Billy Ray's best quality is his attention to detail. He has done a lot of work over the years to improve the reliability of the distribution grid. I definitely have some big shoes to fill."

Cox says his plans for retirement are going home to work in the garden, go fishing every now and then and taking care of his grandkids. "I'm going to miss the people though. There's a lot of good people that work here," says Cox. "I've met a lot of nice people in the community since I started working here and I've loved having the opportunity to meet new people and seeing this system grow."



Dee Parker

### Dee Parker retires after nearly 45 years of service

Barbara 'Dee' Parker has worked at Horry Electric most of her life. She started as a cashier in the service department on March 14, 1977. After 15 years, she transitioned into the accounting department. "My favorite thing about my job has always been the members," says Parker. "I enjoyed seeing them when I was a cashier. Back then, I got to know most of the members by name and even account number for some of them."

As the saying goes, change is inevitable. Parker has certainly seen her fair share of change during her time at Horry Electric. She's seen technology go from member books to computers. "The thing that sticks out the most is when I was a cashier. The service department had to type the names of all new members that moved onto our lines on a small piece of perforated paper. At the end of each day, service would bring those slips to the cashiers and we had this tall standing turn table. We had to add those new member slips to the turn table in alphabetical order, and that's how we found each person's membership."

Horry County has always been Parker's home. She grew up in the Sandridge community in Conway and graduated from Whittemore High School in 1967. In 1971, she married Gene Parker. Together, they have three children (Tina, Gretta and Allen) and two grandchildren (Joshua and Taylor).

While she's not sure how she will spend her retirement,



Billy Ray Cox (left) stands with Blake Stevens, who will be stepping into the role of supervisor of overhead conversion and right-of-way.

PHOTOS BY JENNIFER HARMON

Parker says she's going to miss everything about Horry Electric—her relationship with the members, staff at the local pay stations and agencies and her coworkers. A fun fact about Parker, she makes it a point to come and sing 'Happy Birthday' to any employee celebrating a birthday, which always makes her coworkers smile.

"I've loved every minute. It's been a wonderful journey. I've seen a lot, experienced a lot and learned a lot. Honestly, I'm not ready to go home, but at nearly 73 years old, I guess if you plan to do what you want to do, you have to leave. I'm truly going to miss it all."

### Deborah Spivey turns over the keys to Alison Jordan

Any member who has called Horry Electric has more than likely spoken to Deborah Spivey. She's been the co-op's administrative specialist since March 8, 2004. She's one of the first faces to greet members when they walk into the lobby of our Conway office.

A Conway native, Spivey has spent her life working with the people of Horry County. "My job responsibility is working with any member who walks through our doors," says Spivey. "Every member has a different need and I'm there to help point them in the direction of someone who can help satisfy that need."

Stepping into the role of administrative specialist is Alison Jordan, also a Conway native. Jordan started at Horry Electric in March 2006 as a cashier. After a short time, she transitioned to the service department and eventually moved to the call center. "As a member service representative, our number one goal is helping our members," says Jordan.

Jordan will continue providing excellent member service as the administrative specialist. "I'm excited to be able to see our members face to face again," says Jordan. "I'm looking forward to establishing an in-person relationship and connection with everyone who walks through our doors."

Spivey and her husband Freddy plan to travel a little bit

once she retires. "The first place we'll probably go is Huntsville, Alabama because that's where our son has lived for the past 20 years." Spivey, often called Momma Deb by her coworkers, says she's going to miss all of her other "children" at Horry Electric. "I'm truly going to miss working here. I just love it here and I love that every day is different."



Stan Dyson

### Stan Dyson hands over the reins after 31 years

He's one of the faces you might see in the field putting a meter on a new home, or turning off the electric service for a member that's moving off our system. Stan Dyson has been Horry Electric's lead field service representative for the last 13 years.

Dyson has worked in the Field Services department since he started at the co-op on Nov. 19, 1990. He started as a field service representative, otherwise known as a meter reader.

Another important aspect of Dyson's job is going out to remind members to come in and pay their bills. "When I first started, we actually collected money in the field," says Dyson. "We read meters four days a week and we collected money one day."

Born and raised in Aynor, you might know Dyson and his family from their "Four D Tack" business. He has 15 horses and a mobile tack store. "We go to horse shows every weekend. We sell saddles and other horse equipment. I've been doing this since at least 1992," says Dyson.

After 31 years of service to Horry Electric, Dyson says he's ready to go home and spend time with his wife (Pam), kids (Chad and Dixie) and two grandkids, five-year-old Jace and four-year-old Adyson. "My grandkids live right across the road from me. Jace, he's our farm manager and he keeps us going. My granddaughter, she's our little princess."

Aside from keeping the farm running, Dyson says he plans to do whatever he wants over the next year. "People ask what I'm going to do when I retire and I tell them I have a year to do anything I want. This time next year, my wife is going to retire and then it will be time for me to get on the 'honey-do' list."



Alison Jordan (left) stands with Deborah Spivey, who has served as Horry Electric's Administrative Specialist for the past 17 years.

PHOTOS BY JENNIFER HARMON

# Get Ready to Rodeo!



The 2nd annual  
South Carolina Lineman's  
Rodeo

**Saturday, March 26!**

Hosted at  
Horry Electric Cooperative  
in Conway

Watch electric cooperative  
linemen from across the state  
demonstrate their skills in a fun,  
family-friendly environment.

**See you there!**

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