

## Horry Electric Cooperative, Inc.

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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



We know first-hand how dangerous electricity can be because we work with it every single day.

# Prioritize safety year-round

**AT HORRY ELECTRIC** Cooperative, we recognize Electrical Safety Month every May, but we emphasize safety year-round. From our crews to you—the members we serve—we recognize that everyone has a role to play in prioritizing safety.

According to the Electrical Safety Foundation International, thousands of people in the United States are critically injured or electrocuted as a result of electrical fires or accidents in their own homes each year. Many of these accidents are preventable. Electricity is a necessity, as it powers our daily lives, but we know first-hand how dangerous electricity can be because we work with it every single day.

To me, safety is more than a catchphrase. As Executive Vice President and CEO, it's my responsibility to assist in keeping co-op employees safe. One of the seven cooperative principles is education, training and information. We take pride in the safety education and training employees are given. We conduct routine monthly safety meetings and provide special training courses on everything from CPR to how to safely operate different pieces of equipment.

This month, I'd like to share a few practical safety tips.

**Frayed wires pose a serious safety hazard.** Power cords can become damaged or frayed from age, heavy use or excessive current flow through the wiring. If cords become frayed or cut, replace them, as they could cause a shock when handled.

**Avoid overloading circuits.** Circuits can only manage the amount of electricity they are rated for. Overload occurs when

you draw more electricity than a circuit can safely handle—by having too many devices running on one circuit.

**Label circuit breakers** to understand the circuits in your home. Contact a qualified electrician if your home is more than 40 years old and you need to install multiple large appliances that consume large amounts of electricity.

**Use extension cords properly.** Never plug an extension cord into another extension cord. If you “daisy chain” them together, it could lead to overheating, creating a potential fire hazard. Don't exceed the wattage of the cord. Doing so creates a risk of overloading the cord and creating a fire hazard. Extension cords should not be used as permanent solutions. If you need additional outlets, contact a licensed electrician to help.

**Make safety a conversation in your home.** I encourage you to talk with your kids about playing it safe and being smart around electricity. Teach them to be aware of overhead power lines and underground transformers near where they play outdoors.

As our motto states, safety is our first concern. We strive to provide uninterrupted service 24/7/365 while keeping the community and our employees safe around electricity.

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

# Apply now for 2022 WIRE scholarship

**JENNY BALLARD** was persistent in pursuing the things she felt needed to be accomplished. It's a trait that helped her, and women like her, launch Women Involved in Rural Electrification (WIRE), a service organization associated with South Carolina's electric cooperatives. It's also why a scholarship for women returning to school was named in her memory.

Sponsored by WIRE, the Jenny Ballard Opportunity Scholarship is a one-time \$2,500 award available to adult female members of Horry Electric Cooperative, whose pursuit of a college degree has been interrupted or delayed. The scholarship is based on need and personal goals. The recipient will



receive the scholarship for the fall 2022 or spring 2023 semester, with funds paid directly to the college or university.

Applicants must have graduated from high school or earned a GED at least 10 years ago. The applicant must also be accepted into an accredited S.C. college or university.

The application deadline for the 2022 Jenny Ballard Opportunity Scholarship is June 1. To apply, use the online form at [ecsc.org/wire](http://ecsc.org/wire).

JENNIFER CUMMINGS



A group of Horry Electric linemen display the American flag at the top of a power pole.

## Honor our veterans

**REFLECT AND HONOR** is something we should do throughout the month of May. In May, we observe Memorial Day to honor the brave men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice fighting for our great nation. May is also Military Appreciation Month and Americans are reminded to pay tribute to those who have sacrificed so much for our freedom.

Horry Electric is honored to have veterans working within our ranks. We are proud to have several veterans working for the co-op in various departments and serving on our board of trustees.

Throughout the year, we are grateful to serve veterans and their families in our community. Horry Electric is proud to be a part of an electric cooperative network that honors and supports veterans of all ages, ranks and branches of the military.

## It could be YOU

Sign up for your chance to win

**\$500!\***



Yes, YOU could be the WINNER! For your chance to take home a \$500 Visa® gift card, sign up for peak alerts:

- We'll send an alert before a projected peak use in electricity.
- Reduce your use for a few hours.
- This helps hold down wholesale power costs.

Sign up to Beat The Peak by **June 30** for a chance to win a \$500 Visa® gift card (or a \$100 gift card)!

Visit [BeatThePeak.com/Contest](http://BeatThePeak.com/Contest).

\*Visa® gift card



## Applications due June 1

**HORRY COUNTY**

teachers, don't forget to submit your Bright Ideas



grant applications by 11:59 p.m. on June 1.

Public and private school teachers can apply for up to \$1,000 to fund a classroom-based project. The grants are intended to fund projects outside of normal funding parameters. Grants are available to all disciplines in grades K-12.

Teachers are limited to one application per year.

Apply online at [horryec.info/bright-ideas](http://horryec.info/bright-ideas). For more program details, email [Toni.Gore@horryelectric.com](mailto:Toni.Gore@horryelectric.com).

# Local nurses bid farewell to their own

BY JOSH P. CROTZER

WITH A WHITE ROSE on the casket, a knell vibrates over the otherwise silent space. There can be no answer to the final calls to duty. The mourning can only listen to the bell ringing three times before a life of service is deemed complete.

“It will give you chills down your neck and back,” says Windy Hucks, whose mother, a former nurse, died in December. “It was unbelievable.”

Claudine Robertson spent over 30 years as a nurse at Loris Community Hospital and inspired her twin daughters, Hucks and Cindy Cox, to follow her into the profession. Hucks was en route to finalize her mother’s funeral arrangements when she remembered that former co-worker and fellow Horry Electric Cooperative member Beth Edwards had been posting about the Nurses Honor Guard ceremony on Facebook.

The Nurses Honor Guard of South Carolina is a statewide collective of volunteers that honor fellow nurses with a brief tribute at their funeral or memorial service. Dressed in the iconic white uniforms and caps with blue and red capes from the World War II era, the volunteers—most of whom are retired—stand guard at the casket. The Nightingale Tribute is a brief ceremony that recounts their colleagues’ years of service and the impact they have had on the many lives they’ve touched.

The ceremony ends with the deceased nurse thrice being asked by name to “report for duty,” and each request accompanied by a tolling of a bell. Finally, the honored is thanked and released from duty. All the nurses in the honor guard bow to the casket and proceed out.

“It is awesome, what they do for nurses,” says Hucks. “I knew I’d wanted it for my mom, and I called Beth on my way to make the arrangements.”

Like Hucks, Edwards became aware of the ceremony through images on social media. A nationwide nonprofit, the first Nurses Honor Guard of South Carolina chapter was founded by Stormy Shealy in the Upstate in 2019.

“I thought, ‘Oh my gosh, we’ve got to get that in Horry County,’” says Edwards, who retired after 25 years in nursing. “It’s such an honor to be able to do this service. Nursing is a calling. It’s a way of living. We’ve all walked the same path, no matter what road you take in nursing.”

The Grand Strand/Pee Dee Chapter has quickly grown to 45 volunteers, who cover their own travel expenses to reach funerals anywhere from Horry and Georgetown counties to Chesterfield and Darlington counties. Last year, they participated in 17 funerals and memorials. Other chapters across the state have also sprung up, most recently in the Lowcountry, giving the Nurses Honor Guard statewide coverage with approximately 150 volunteers.

In addition to bidding a deserving farewell to their sisters and brothers in white, the ceremony is also a tribute to the loved ones they’ve left behind.

“It takes a strong family to stand behind that nurse,” Edwards says. “The hours are not great. You’re missing birthdays and holidays. The families take the brunt of that. We want to let the family know that that life meant so much.”



JOSH P. CROTZER

Charity Herring, a retired nurse and member of the Grand Strand Nurses Honor Guard of South Carolina, rehearses the Nightingale Tribute at Centenary United Methodist Church in Red Hill.

This ceremonial tribute is offered free of charge for any South Carolina resident who—active or retired—holds a nursing license in good standing with the Board of Nursing from their home state or the state of South Carolina. All South Carolina chapters are also looking for volunteers to perform the ceremonies in their respective area.

To find out more, visit [nurseshonorguard.com](http://nurseshonorguard.com) or email to [nurseshonorguardsc@gmail.com](mailto:nurseshonorguardsc@gmail.com).

# Lineman's Rodeo champions

HEC linemen Virginia bound to compete in Gaff-n-Go Lineworker Rodeo

**HOOKS, BELTS AND LINEMEN**—that may not be what comes to mind when you think of a rodeo. It's not a typical rodeo with bulls, horses and cowboys. The South Carolina Lineman's Rodeo is one made up of cooperative lineworkers across the Palmetto State who come to showcase and demonstrate the skills of their trade.

In March, Horry Electric hosted the second annual S.C. Lineman's Rodeo in Conway, after the event was postponed for two years. To kick things off, the rodeo opened Friday with a collegiate student showcase.

Horry-Georgetown Technical College and York Technical College brought students enrolled in their electrical lineman technician programs to face-off in a friendly competition.

"This was really a great experience for my students," says Scott Shoemaker, electrical lineman technician program instructor for HGTC. "It's fantastic to

get colleges together to compete, and it emphasizes safety in the workplace, especially for lineworkers."

## From the ground up

For months leading up to the rodeo, competitors start preparing from the ground up. "First, we have to build the rodeo site according to the specs provided to us by statewide (The Electric Cooperatives of South Carolina)," says Chase Cox, journeyman team competitor and advanced line technician.

"Once the site is built, then we can begin walking through our events," says Matt Savage, journeyman team competitor and advanced line technician. "That's a long process of trial and error to figure out what works best for each competitor, and what is the fastest way to safely do each event."

Different from the majority of everyday work, the rodeo events involve a

lot of climbing. "Most of our work is done from a bucket truck," says Tucker Barnes, apprentice competitor and B-Class line technician. "Most of the climbing events are structured to showcase how well we can use our hands and work with tools while on a set of hooks."

Eight apprentice competitors and one journeyman team, made up of three linemen, from Horry Electric competed against nine other cooperatives in a variety of events.

## Apprentice vs. Journeyman

The apprentice division is made up of linemen with fewer than five years of experience. Some of the events for this division included a written test, an obstacle course and the Hurtman Rescue, where climbers scaled a 40-foot pole to rescue a simulated injured worker.

The journeyman teams include three lineworkers (Chase Cox, Matt Savage,



Horry Electric's apprentice and journeyman team competitors (from left): Hunter Gardner, Tucker Barnes, Dawson Mishoe, Scott Smith, Ethan Johnson, Chase Cox, Matt Savage, Stokes Brooks, Brandon Shelley, Bryson Cooper and Cole Vaught.

and Brandon Shelley) with five or more years of experience. The events for this division require more steps and each team member is responsible for their own phases of the event. For example, the OCR Bell Change Out. “All three linemen have to be on the same page. This is an event where you have to concentrate on your job and have faith your other teammates are completing their jobs,” says Cox. Safety is another important aspect they have to keep in mind.

“We hold safety at the highest standard and I feel it speaks volumes that we have linemen capable of working safely, while under the pressure of being timed and judged, all while being watched and cheered on by fellow employees and members,” says Horry Electric’s Manager of Operations Burroughs Nobles.

One thing both divisions have in common is a mystery event. The competitors are kept in the dark until 24 hours prior to the rodeo. No preparation and no practice—competitors have to come up with their strategy on the fly.

For the apprentices, the mystery event was a mini excavator course. For the journeyman, they had to change two 600-amp disconnect switches with two men working in the bucket simultaneously.

### The Horry Electric winners are....

Apprentice Division:

- ▶ Overall Apprentice Division Winner (1st Place): Scott Smith
- ▶ Overall Apprentice Division Winner (2nd Place): Bryson Cooper
- ▶ Overall Apprentice Division Winner (3rd Place): Dawson Mishoe

- ▶ Obstacle Course (2nd Place): Stokes Brooks
- ▶ Knots, Lifts & Ties (1st Place): Tucker Barnes
- ▶ Knots, Lifts & Ties (2nd Place): Scott Smith
- ▶ Mystery Event (1st Place): Cole Vaught
- ▶ Mystery Event (3rd Place): Bryson Cooper
- ▶ Written Test (3rd Place): Scott Smith

Journeyman Division:

- ▶ Overall Journeyman Division Winner (1st Place): Chase Cox, Matt Savage and Brandon Shelley
- ▶ Underground Event: 1st Place
- ▶ Knots, Lifts & Ties: 2nd Place
- ▶ OCR Bell Change Out: 2nd Place

Horry Electric’s competitors were in disbelief when their names were called as the winners. “I thought, ‘finally,’” says Savage. “I have been on a rodeo team almost every year since 2010 and we’ve come close to winning so many times but fell just short of the win. It was a great feeling and watching our young guys step up and compete was awesome.”

“It’s very exciting to know our hard work, practice and training is paying off,” says Scott Smith, apprentice competitor and A-Class line technician.

“I was beyond excited for everyone because it gave us a sense of accomplishment,” says Stokes Brooks, apprentice competitor and C-Class line technician.

“To win this, it requires a remarkable skill set, which is dedication, respect for safety, job expertise and a spirit of cooperation,” says Horry Electric Cooperative’s Executive Vice President and CEO Danny Shelley.



TRAVIS BELL

Cole Vaught, apprentice, works to rescue a simulated injured worker during the Hurtman Rescue event.

### Competition on the horizon

The competition is just heating up. As the winners of the S.C. Lineman’s Rodeo, the winners of the overall Apprentice Division (Smith, Cooper and Mishoe) and the Journeyman Division (Cox, Savage and Shelley) will be traveling to compete in the Gaff-n-Go Lineworker Rodeo in Doswell, Virginia. Brooks will also travel as an alternate for the journeyman team. The event is set for May 13-14.

The Gaff-n-Go is a rodeo for electric utility lineworkers across the East Coast. This is the first time Horry Electric has sent a team out of state to compete in a rodeo of this caliber.

We know our linemen are among the best of the best and we wish them the best of luck as they head to compete in the next rodeo.



PHOTOS BY JOSH CROTZER

▶ Apprentice competitor Tucker Barnes works to maneuver the mini excavator during the mystery event.

◀ Horry Electric’s Advanced Line Technicians Chase Cox (left) and Matt Savage (right) work to cover power lines with rubber hoses during the journeyman team mystery event.



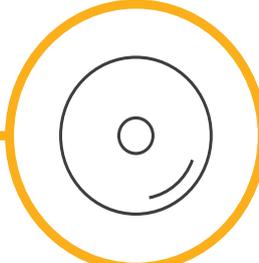
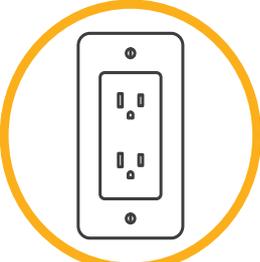
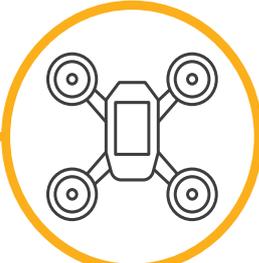
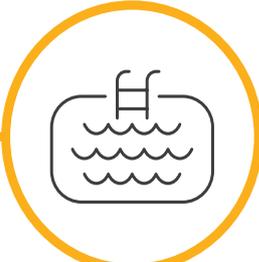
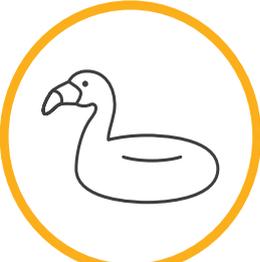
# SPOT THE ELECTRICAL HAZARD

After you complete this activity, color the items with crayons or colored pencils.



When combined, electricity and common items that seem harmless can create dangerous situations. Look at the items grouped below, then circle the two items that (when combined) create an electrical hazard.

Check your work in the answer key.

<b>1</b>			
	toaster	fork	bagel
<b>2</b>			
	hairdryer	electrical outlet	running water
<b>3</b>			
	drone	power lines	picnic
<b>4</b>			
	swimming pool	floatie	extension cord