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**SANTEE ELECTRIC  
 COOPERATIVE NEWS**

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**SANTEE ELECTRIC IS AN EQUAL  
 OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND  
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A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



## Sharp as a tack

**HAPPY SPRING, EVERYONE.**

Thank you for helping to make our 2024 Annual Meeting a success!

This month, I'm excited to feature another of SEC's star employees. Joe Adams is our Engineering Services Manager and is responsible for designing a great deal of what your cooperative builds in Georgetown County.

Joe was born and raised in Carrollton, Georgia. He graduated from Carrollton High School and studied at The University of West Georgia. Joe initially went to work in his family's paving business, but got his first taste of utility staking and engineering in 1998 when he went to work for Southeastern Reprographics, Inc.

During the 1990's and 2000's, many electric utilities (SEC included) were working to digitize their old paper maps, and men like Joe would go into the field and inventory every pole, meter, line and device on the system. For seven years, Joe travelled all over the Southeast doing this work. SEC got to meet Joe when he managed our field inventory project. In 2004, we had an opening, and Joe was about to be assigned to a project in Arizona. We begged, and he moved to Georgetown instead!

Joe's wife, Annie, is a mortgage officer at Georgetown Kraft Credit Union. Annie is originally from California, but the two met when Annie's family moved to the Peach State and Annie's brother wound up in Joe's class. They have a son, Chandler, who is a junior at Georgetown High. Chandler is currently shopping for colleges and is considering USC, Clemson and The Citadel.

In Joe's spare time, he likes anything to do with the outdoors. Hunting turkey and the "3 D's" (deer, duck, and dove) and saltwater fishing are his favorites. Joe loves boating, McClellanville and the North Santee River.



NICOLE BENNETT

**JOE ADAMS**

I asked Joe what he likes best about his job, and he gave me what most people would say was the toughest! "I like the day-to-day challenges," Joe admitted with a smile. "I like the problem solving that goes along with these projects. I'm never bored!"

Well, I asked if that's what you like, then what's tough about your job? "Honestly, it's supply chain issues, recently," he replied. "Almost everything we need to build takes longer to get here and costs more when it does arrive."

"I really like the history of what we do here," Joe responded when I asked him what he thinks of SEC. "I love how we give back to the communities and the schools. I feel like we strengthen what the next generation will look like."

"Something I wish every reader knew is that our new rate structure is a tool, not a punishment. We know that decisions we make impact ratepayers, and we care a great deal about that. There is a lack of understanding, though, that gives a few people a negative perception. I wish they would ask if they don't understand instead of assuming it's meant to harm."

Joe and his family are a vital part of this community, particularly around Georgetown. He is as sharp as a tack and is always willing to help! I hope y'all have a great month!

**ROBERT G. ARDIS III**  
 President and Chief Executive Officer

# Representative Roger Kirby

## Q&A with District 101 Representative

BY JOANNA ARNSMEYER

**REPRESENTATIVE ROGER KIRBY** has always had a strong desire to serve his community. As he embarks on his sixth term in the South Carolina House of Representatives, he feels honored. He understands the responsibility that comes with serving his constituents. He believes bringing the rural perspective to the State House is crucial, and he is optimistic about the future of his community.

### Why did you go into public service?

I believe we are called to serve a public good and a higher purpose. We owe that to our society. So, when I had an opportunity arise to make a difference in our communities, I knew that was something I wanted to do.

I began in public service almost 28 years ago. I had the chance to serve on the Florence County Planning Commission and the Florence County Transportation Commission for 16 years. Then the opportunity came for me to run for the South Carolina House in 2014 and I have been fortunate to serve ever since.

### What's the most satisfying part of your role? The most challenging?

There is a lot of reward in helping people with issues they do not know how to navigate. Politics is local. We deal with things that cover a larger area of influence of course (at the State House), but our primary focus is on our constituents back home. We represent them and their interests.

For the most challenging part, it's the time spent away from home. My role requires a lot of time and energy, but I am blessed to have a family that supports me.

### What challenges face the rural communities you represent?

The biggest challenges are access to affordable healthcare, employment and educational opportunities. When I first entered public service, I wanted to find ways to help our area with these issues. Our work is focused on finding innovative solutions to ensure equity and support the growth of local communities.

### How are you encouraging economic development in Santee's service territory?

We have had great things happening recently. Santee Electric has been a great community and business partner for economic development and supporting activities in the community. The



JOANNA ARNSMEYER

Rep. Kirby (far right) with Santee Electric Trustees Dudley Musier and Andy McKnight during Co-op Day at the State House.

### Rep. Roger Kirby

**District 101:** Berkeley, Florence and Williamsburg counties

#### Committee assignments:

- ▶ Labor, Commerce and Industry
- ▶ Legislative Oversight

**Hometown:** Lake City, South Carolina

**Education:** Furman University, 1982

**Occupation:** Realtor and appraiser

**Family:** Wife, Pam Horton Kirby. Children: Amy Lee, Mary Katherine, and Elizabeth Ann

Scranton Industrial Park is something that we have supported throughout the process of building. Some other things are the infrastructure expansions in water, sewer and roads in Williamsburg and Florence counties. The federal dollars we have been given have enabled this. Our job is to coordinate those dollars to have the biggest impact in our region.

### Regarding the Labor, Commerce and Industry Committee, what is something you are excited about?

We are currently working on a significant project, Bill H.5118, which has the potential to bring about major changes in various areas. One of the essential aspects of this bill is the creation of baseload generation to serve growing demand in our state. I am enthusiastic about the prospects of this initiative and look forward to seeing how it develops. Our team is fully supportive of exploring ways to increase power generation in South Carolina.