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**SANTEE ELECTRIC
COOPERATIVE NEWS**
Joanna Arnsmeier, *Editor*
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A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



Understanding costs versus charges

WE RECENTLY RECEIVED a great question from one of our members about the reason for our facilities

charge. It made me think, if one member has this question, I bet others do too. Here is that explanation.

Santee Electric's costs can really be divided into three groups:

Energy costs Electric energy is our variable cost. It is measured in kilowatt-hours (kWh) and is what makes the stuff in your home or business operate. Think of it as the amount of fuel that had to be consumed at the generating station to power your light bulb or computer.

Demand costs Demand is the portion of the overall system's capacity that you require when your electric usage peaks. Think of this as the service on your property plus your share of the power lines, substations and generators necessary to turn that fuel into electricity and deliver it to you. This investment must be there whenever you need it, whether it is a home you live in 24/7 or an account that only gets used part of the year.

Fixed costs The final group of costs does not depend on the demand you place on the system or how often you use electricity. Santee Electric needs more bucket trucks, for example, as more consumers receive our service, not because of how much energy those consumers use.

Those are costs, but what about charges?

Historically, electric utilities have utilized higher energy charges to cover the fixed costs that have not been covered by low fixed charges. If everyone used the electric grid in exactly the same

way, this would not matter. This is not reality, though.

For example, imagine having a "man cave" or "she shed" that you occasionally use. If that extra building has its own electric service, it costs your cooperative roughly the same amount to provide service to your home and your cave/shed but your home's electric service will subsidize your low usage account because of the price structure. That might not matter if you are paying both bills, but what if it is your neighbor? Do you want to pay more for your home's usage so he can save on his man cave?

Your cooperative has been working to fix this. Over the past several years, we have been gradually raising fixed charges while lowering energy charges.

Your basic facilities charge has increased from \$18 per month to a little over \$23 in the past 5 years. Over this same period, your energy charge has dropped from 12.5 cents per kilowatt-hour to 11.4 cents.

When you consider SEC's average homeowner uses 1,300 kilowatt hours per month, that amounts to a \$14.30 decrease in variable charges compared to a \$5 increase in fixed charges.

There is more to come on this subject but know that your cooperative is working hard to make sure you do not have to pay more for your home's electric service so Cheryl can have a nicer she shed!

ROBERT G. ARDIS III
President and Chief Executive Officer

The power behind your power

April is Lineman Appreciation Month

YOU'VE LIKELY NOTICED Santee Electric's crews out and about, working on power lines and other electrical equipment in our community. In April, we celebrate Lineman Appreciation Month in recognition of the unwavering dedication of our line crews to keep power flowing to our members.

Santee Electric has 35 lineworkers that maintain over 5,000 miles of line

across four counties. It's no secret that a lineworker's job is tough. Lineworkers often work non-traditional hours, outdoors and in difficult conditions. During severe weather events, lineworkers are among the first to respond. In fact, being a lineworker is listed in the top 10 most dangerous jobs in the U.S.

Being a lineworker may not be a

glamorous job, but our lineworkers are essential to the life of our community. At Santee Electric, we like to describe them as Loyal, Important, Neighborly, Enthusiastic, Magnificent, Admirable and Noble.

Pictured are Santee Electric's hard-working line crews. Next time you see our linemen, thank them for the difficult work they do.



CHRIS FRYE

Manning area crew (left to right) Corbett Collins, Jeff Brand, Bobby Turner, Harry Dukes, Channing Matthews (Foreman), Russell Tedder, Dustin Shady.



CHRIS FRYE

Kingstree area crew (left to right) Benji Strickland, Hoyt Wood, Tyrone McCrea, Lynn Locklear (Foreman), Will Gaymon, DJ Smith, David Battle.



CHRIS FRYE

Georgetown area crew (left to right) Roger Boyd, Marshall Owens, Kevin Baylor, Gunter Grissom, Jim Wilson, Dwaine Floyd, Jamie Johnson (Foreman).



CHRIS FRYE

Lake City area crew (from left) Clarence Pressley, Scott Lee (Foreman), Chad Miles, Tyler Johanning, Roger Dale Miles, Kelly McCracken, Jason Floyd (not pictured).



CHRIS FRYE

Andrews area crew (left to right) Anthony McKnight, Stacey Tisdale (Foreman), Bill Price, Zachary Coker, Russell Floyd, Wayne Timmons (not pictured).



JOANNA ARNSMEYER

Chris Frye (left), Line Crew Superintendent and Adam Johnson, Vice President of Operations.