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**SANTEE ELECTRIC
 COOPERATIVE NEWS**
 Joanna Hayes, *Editor*
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**SANTEE ELECTRIC IS AN EQUAL
 OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND
 EMPLOYER.**



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



Meet Mary Wheeler

I AM THRILLED to share another featured employee with you this month. Mary Wheeler is our Manager of Cost Accounting, and she's

one of the main reasons that I can tell you that you own a \$300+ million cooperative! Cost accounting is basically keeping track of what we invest in everything we build, and Mary keeps her finger on that pulse all year long.

Mary has lived in Andrews her entire life. She played shortstop and pitcher for Andrews High School's softball team. She majored in accounting at Coastal Carolina University. After jobs at First Federal and Georgetown Memorial Hospital, SEC was fortunate to snag her as our payroll accountant in 2017. She has been in her current position since 2021.

Mary and her husband, Justin, have been married since 2013. Justin, who is also from Andrews, works at Santee Cooper's Winyah Generating Station, and the couple has two sons. Dawson, 23, works at Nucor, is married to Alexis and has a 3-year-old son named Tyson, with another on the way. Easton, 12, just finished the 6th grade at Williamsburg Academy and is a passionate baseball second baseman and pitcher. Easton's travel ball team will play in a tournament in Cooperstown, New York, home of the Baseball Hall of Fame, this summer.

I asked Mary what she likes most about accounting, and she replied, "I have a role in putting together where we are as a company and ensuring things are accurate. I even like creating spreadsheets!"

What about the more difficult side? "I suppose it's the major jobs we don't do often that are the toughest," she said. "Building a substation, submitting an application to FEMA after a major storm; those things don't happen every day, and they require a lot of complicated steps and interaction with state and federal government."



Mary Wheeler

When I asked Mary what she liked about Santee Electric, she said, "My coworkers! I work closely with people in my own department, but also with engineering and the warehouse. I love collaborating with them."

What does Mary do when she's not working? "We love baseball. Watching Easton play is a big part of our lives, but we also plan vacations around trips to see the Braves play. I also like reading, and I am a self-taught sewist. I also enjoy hosting our family gatherings and cooking with my mom."

Naturally, I asked her if she had a particular dish she was proud of. "Everyone loves my mac-and-cheese," she said.

When asked what she would like to share with our readers, she answered, "We always have their best interests at heart. We are always doing all we can to keep their bills as low as possible."

If you see Mary around Andrews—or at a baseball field—tell her hello! I know you'll like her as much as we all do here at SEC!

ROBERT G. ARDIS III
 President and Chief Executive Officer



Members, including Caroline McCants, received a rechargeable flashlight when they registered.



The winner of the grand prize, a Craftsman riding lawn mower, was Hayden Casselman. Congratulations!

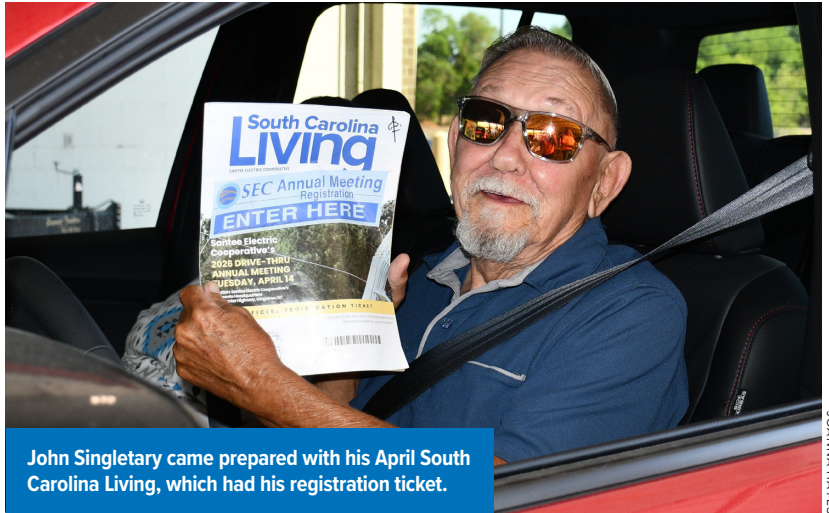
JOANNA HAYES

Thank you for coming!

SANTEE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE held its 86th Annual Meeting on April 14 at the co-op's headquarters in Kingstree, registering 4,667 members. The business meeting was streamed live on the co-op's Facebook page. If you'd like to watch a replay of the meeting, go to [santee.org/annual-meeting](https://www.santee.org/annual-meeting).

Incumbent trustees Billy L. Morris Jr. (District 6), Bill Floyd (District 8) and Harry Walters (District 9) were reelected to the cooperative board by acclamation.

Thank you to everyone who came out. We wouldn't be SEC without you, our members!



John Singletary came prepared with his April South Carolina Living, which had his registration ticket.

JOANNA HAYES



SEC employee Renee Lambert registers Leroy McAllister and Katherine Bishop, who arrived at the drive-thru event in style.

JOANNA HAYES



Tanner and his humans, Glenn and Patsy Ward, were excited to take part in the drive-thru Annual Meeting.

PHOTOS BY JOSH CROTZER