



www.santee.org

P.O. Box 548
Kingstree, SC 29556
(843) 355-6187
(800) 922-1604

Georgetown (843) 546-4521

Lake City (843) 374-3000

Hemingway (843) 558-3313

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TO REPORT AN OUTAGE
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**SANTEE ELECTRIC
COOPERATIVE NEWS**
Joanna Arnsmeier, *Editor*
jarnsmeyer@santee.org

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A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



Another year of progress

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, if you came to our Annual Meeting of the membership on March 22, thank you!

Thank you, also, for helping us make it a success. This was our third drive-thru registration in a row, and it really is a big hit. The days of waiting in line for hours to register are over. With our new format, you stay in your car, and it takes ten minutes or less!

A lot of people are realizing how great the new format is. Proof of this is that we tied an all-time record with 4,625 members registering. Well done!

If you did not get a chance to check out our virtual business meeting, it is not too late. You can find it on our social media pages and our website. Below are a few highlights of topics covered.

Reliability

Our reliability has been improving steadily over the past five years. Some of our power outages are caused by major storms, planned maintenance and the transmission system that supplies us power. While those outages are important, they are not outages your cooperative can avoid. The rest, however, are the ones we focus on. For that group of outages, we have managed to cut the minutes our average member was out of power in half since 2017.

Online application

Our application for new service and our service order requests are online. If someone can buy a home from the comfort of their living room (through email, phone calls and systems like DocuSign), there is no reason you should have to go in person to get

electric service from your cooperative. Now you don't! In fact, there is nothing that requires an in-person visit anymore, which is important with gas as expensive as it is today. Whether it is signing up for service, paying a power bill, generating a service order for a security light or asking a question about your power bill, there is nothing you cannot do from our app or with a phone call.

Less expensive power

I am also thrilled to tell you that the kilowatt-hour you buy from your cooperative is 9% less expensive today than it was in 2017. Part of the credit for that goes to the wonderful and talented women and men I get to work with at Santee Electric. Believe it or not, though, part of the credit goes to you! If you participate in programs like Beat the Peak, if you pay your power bill through our SmartHub app or through bank draft, if you have a water heater switch or a smart thermostat with us, then YOU are saving your cooperative money—which helps us save you money.

Again, if you came to the meeting, thank you! If you did not make it, consider trying it out next year. If you have any questions about ways you can save your cooperative and yourself money, give us a call. We would love to hear from you. Have a great month.

ROBERT G. ARDIS III
President and Chief Executive Officer

Annual Meeting ties record

SANTEE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE loved seeing all the smiling (and furry) faces at our 2022 Drive-Thru Annual Meeting! We registered 4,625 members this year. That is a tie for the highest record of registered members ever.

If you didn't get the chance to watch the live business meeting, you can view it at santee.org/annual-meeting.

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

PHOTOS BY JOSH P. CROTZER



Cecil Pressley (left) and Linda Fulton were all smiles as they conducted their Annual Meeting business.



Molly and her human, Alton Boyd, took in all the sights and sounds of the big day.



Larry Shaw zipped through the registration line, assisted by SEC employee, Nicole Bennett.



Dexter Graham shows off his special registration gift.

Apply now for 2022 WIRE scholarships

Deadline is June 1

SPONSORED BY WIRE (Women Involved in Rural Electrification), the Jenny Ballard Opportunity Scholarship is a one-time award available to adult female members of Santee Electric Cooperative whose pursuit of a college degree has been interrupted or delayed. The scholarship is based on need and personal goals. The deadline to apply is June 1.

"We know there are so many inspiring women in our community who are resuming their education after starting families and careers," says WIRE representative Michele Johnson. "They are an inspiration to us and

their fellow members and this is an opportunity to support them."

Applicants for the program must:

- ▶ Be a member of Santee Electric or another South Carolina electric cooperative.
- ▶ Have graduated from high school or earned a GED at least 10 years ago.
- ▶ Be accepted into an accredited S.C. college or university.
- ▶ Demonstrate financial need and clear academic goals.



Recipients will receive scholarships for the fall 2022 or spring 2023 semester, with funds paid to the college or university.

To apply, use the online form at ecsc.org/wire. Applications are also available at your local electric cooperative and as a PDF download at SCLiving.coop/scholarship.