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FIND US ON



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

A streamlined meeting!

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT, we had another delightful Annual Meeting of the Membership April 3. The good Lord looked out for us and blessed us with a beautiful, sunny day. We did not quite set a record, but we registered 4,123 of our members—almost three times our necessary quorum! For those that were able to join us, I want to say Thank You! For those that could not make it, I'd like to encourage you to consider the event next year.

We have streamlined things quite a bit. Registration this year was done with iPads. We were checking IDs while you were in line in order to be able to skip that step when you got into the registration area. In fact, I was one of the people checking IDs in line. That served as two positives for me: I got to help speed up the process—AND—I got to personally speak to a couple thousand of you. That was a real treat!

We also heard the suggestions of our membership a couple of years ago, and you all approved a bylaws amendment last year that really sped up the process. You told us that it did not make sense to force the membership to go through the voting process when there was nothing to vote on that year (no election opposition and no amendments to consider). This year, we got to test that out. Not only did we save a considerable amount of your time in line, but we also saved thousands of your dollars by not having to pay for the voting machines this year.

I want to mention a couple of individuals, specifically. First, let me extend a warm congratulations to Mr. Herman Elliott for winning the grand prize. I hope it will serve him well! I also want to mention Mr. Lewis Thames. I always like to make a point to go up and speak to the first person in line, and I thought this year would be a good time to recognize publicly their dedication to SEC. So, on behalf of all of us here at Santee Electric, thank you, Mr. Thames, for being first in line!



CEO Rob Ardis (right) helps Bobbie McPhetridge and Winona Thompson (left) register. Wanda Brown (below) sings the national anthem.

If you missed the business meeting, you missed a real treat. Our Pledge was led by Ann Hadley Sutton and Emmett Johnson, both children of SEC employees. Wanda Brown—one of our member-owners

(and a talented songbird!)-delivered a beautiful rendition of our national anthem. Both were wonderful! I also thoroughly enjoyed seeing all of the little children come up from the audience and help us with the prize drawings. They were as excited as they were adorable!

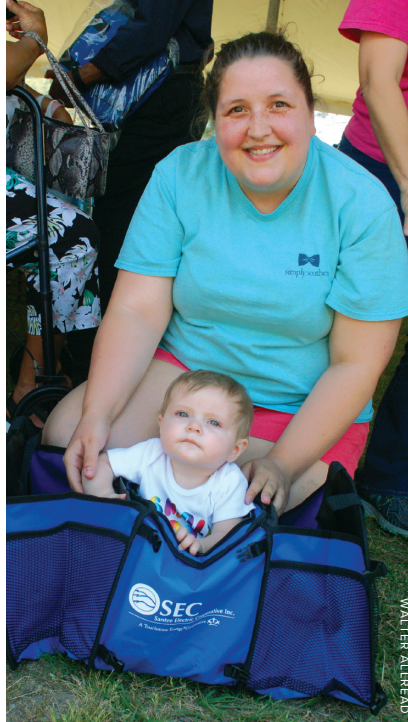


Last, but certainly not least, I want to thank the 121 employees of Santee Electric Cooperative—those that worked at Kingstree High School and those back at our offices holding down the fort. I said it during my speech, and I meant it—mine was the easiest job of all. All I had to do was give a speech and talk to a lot of people—things I love doing! The employees of SEC took care of the rest. They truly are our greatest asset.

ROBERT G. ARDIS III
 President and Chief Executive Officer

Future members brighten our meeting

WE LOVE TO see members of all ages at Santee Electric's Annual Meeting, and at the 2018 meeting, we especially loved seeing lots of prospective, future members! Mom Ashley Terry (right) brought six-month-old Brandy Terry, who fit snugly in this year's registration gift, a cooler bag. It was a nice, warm day out, so Ali Knotts, 7, (left) dug into her snow cone. Helping emcee Lou Green with the Pledge of Allegiance were Ann Hadley Sutton and Emmett Johnson (center), both children of SEC employees.



Brittney Frasier brought her girls Ava Vanderhorst, five months, and Ma'laysha Frasier, 4. Ava's bib says, "You can call me Queen" but, during the prize drawings, Alaiyah Myers (left), 2, was the reigning princess among the ticket pullers.

And the winner is...

Herman Elliott (left) picks up the grand prize he won at the Annual Meeting, a 2007 Chevrolet half-ton pickup truck from SEC's Everett Tomlin (right). With them are Elliott's wife, Frances, and her sister, Diane Marlowe (left). Visit Santeee.org to see a list of all prize and scholarship winners.

