



Santee Electric Cooperative Inc.

www.santee.org

PO Box 548
Kingstree, SC 29556
(843) 355-6187
(800) 922-1604

Georgetown (843) 546-4521

Lake City (843) 374-3000

Hemingway (843) 558-3313

Manning (803) 473-4036

TO REPORT AN OUTAGE
1-888-239-2300

Robert G. Ardis III
President & CEO

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SANTÉE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE NEWS

Mary Grace McGee, Editor
MMcGee@santee.org

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A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

National co-op month



OCTOBER IS AN exciting month for us here at Santee Electric Cooperative.

First of all, October is National Co-op Month, and this gives us an excellent opportunity to remind everyone how special it is to be part of a cooperative. Nothing helps

illustrate this better than a summary of the Seven Cooperative Principles:

1. Voluntary and Open

Membership: This crucial first principle is as simple and critical as it was when we were created in 1939. Whether you are a homeowner, a small business, or a large industrial ratepayer, \$5 will get you the same level of membership as everyone else we serve.

2. Democratic Member Control:

One of the biggest advantages of membership is the fact that every member gets a vote—to choose the Board of this cooperative and to set the bylaws that govern this organization.

3. Members' Economic

Participation: Cooperatives work on a revolving equity system. Starting with your initial membership fee and continuing on with annual margins, Santee Electric maintains a healthy equity level and then returns your portion to you as we retire capital credits.

4. Autonomy and Independence:

While we may be part of state and national associations, there really is just one Santee Electric Cooperative. We are governed by you—the members—and you alone.

5. Education, Training, and

Information: One of the major initiatives

I have tried to focus on since I arrived at SEC is our relationship with students—from having elementary school kids design our company Christmas cards—to offering career guidance to middle and high school students—to providing scholarships for college students. We care for our students at SEC!

6. Cooperation Among

Cooperatives: Since we are in the middle of hurricane season, I must mention all of the help that cooperatives give each other during major outage restoration. However, this principle addresses cooperation during happier times as well. Our employees regularly learn from each other through peer group associations.

7. Concern for Community:

SEC is a dedicated contributor in our local counties and communities. We actively support local charities and events. SEC is committed to improving the quality of life—both directly and indirectly—in the areas we serve.

Another reason we love October is because we have chosen National Co-op Month to host our Member Appreciation Days. This will be the third year we have done this, and I believe I can speak for all involved when I say that employees and member-owners alike all enjoy participating in Member Appreciation Days. Please come out and see us at your local office. We will have some delicious hot dogs, snacks, and drinks—as well as some goodies for the kids. We would be delighted to have an opportunity to talk to you about participating in Operation Round-Up, Advance Pay, and many more programs we offer. We will even have a chance for you to win prizes. Come on out and see us!

ROBERT G. ARDIS III

President and Chief Executive Officer

