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**SANTEE ELECTRIC
 COOPERATIVE NEWS**
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FIND US ON



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



Our power bill explained

Since we are a not-for-profit organization, our savings are your savings.

DID YOU KNOW your cooperative pays a power bill too?

It's true. Santee Electric was created to build, operate and maintain power lines connected to a series of delivery points (substations) in the communities we serve. Our provider bills us for the power we receive through the meters at each of those substations.

So, we have meters like you, and we receive a bill like you. You might wonder if our bill looks like yours. As you might imagine, the bottom line is a bit larger than the one we send you, but it does have some of the same components as your bill.

We pay a fixed charge at every one of our substations. This covers metering, communications and several other items that are not dependent on the amount of power we buy to deliver to you. We also pay for every kilowatt-hour we deliver to you, as well as every kilowatt-hour we use on our own system.

One major difference between our power bill and the one we send to the great majority of our members is that we pay a demand charge. The demand charge is how we pay for the fixed cost of the transmission and generation systems needed to deliver those kilowatt-hours to our substations.

Our demand charge is calculated by holding us accountable for the single hour of the month when the overall statewide cooperative system is peaking. Did you know there are 20 electric cooperatives in South Carolina and that we all buy power as a group?

When the month is over, our power provider looks back over

every hour of the month and determines the peak demand for that month. Once that hour is known, they tell each cooperative (Santee Electric and 19 others) what its share of the peak was. That's how our demand charge is determined. When you consider how many hours there are in an average month, it probably seems like knowing ahead of time when the peak might be would be difficult. It's not, though. The peak on warm days is almost always between 4 p.m. and 7 p.m., and the peak on cold days is almost always between 6 a.m. and 9 a.m. If you're wondering why, it is because our peaks are always driven by our members' HVAC systems!

The reason this matters to you is that you can (and often do) take action that helps us save on our power bill. When you use a smart thermostat or water heater switch to reduce your use during the time of the system peak, you are helping SEC. When you participate in Beat The Peak (visit energysmartsc.org for more info) by receiving, and more importantly, responding to those potential peak notifications, you help us. When you charge your electric vehicle during off-peak hours, you help a lot! Since you own us and we are a not-for-profit organization, our savings are your savings. Thank you and keep up the great work!

ROBERT G. ARDIS III
 President and Chief Executive Officer



Rep. James Clyburn surprised 13 of his young constituents during their visit to his Capitol building office.

A Capitol surprise for local teens

Co-op Youth Tourists meet with leaders in D.C.

BY JOSH P. CROTZER

SINCE IT WAS A TRAVEL day for members of the U.S. House of Representatives, the South Carolina students visiting the United States Capitol building as part of the 2022 Washington Youth Tour were only expecting to meet with Congressional staffers and tour the offices of S.C. lawmakers.

So, it was quite a surprise for I'Yunla Huell and Ty Darby when Rep. James Clyburn walked through the door and sat down with them and the 11 other students from his district. The House Majority Whip patiently answered questions and imparted wise counsel to the attentive teens.

"You don't have to wait until you're of voting age to make your voice heard," Rep. Clyburn told the students. "I encourage you to find a candidate or cause that you believe in and get involved."

Clyburn told the group he'd begun his life in politics at the age of 12.

"Hearing how he started from the bottom in his hometown and building to where he is now was encouraging and inspirational," says Darby, a rising senior

at Kingstree High School. "To know that I too can do that same thing if I plan to, that's awesome."

"Oh, that was great," says Huell, who attends C.E. Murray High School. "It was so nice for him to come and talk to us and show his concern."

In June, Huell and Darby were among 49 South Carolina high school students sent by their electric cooperatives on a journey of the nation's capital. In addition to meeting with legislators—which also included Capitol steps meetings with Sen. Tim Scott and Sen. Lindsey Graham—the students visited Mount Vernon, the National Holocaust Memorial Museum, the National Museum of African American History and Culture, the National Museum of the Marine Corps, the 9/11 Memorial at the Pentagon and Arlington National Cemetery.

"I didn't know there would be that many grave sites," Darby says of Arlington National Cemetery. "The different meanings behind them and the people that fight for us, for our country, that stood out to me a lot."

Due to COVID-19 precautions, the 2022 Washington Youth Tour is the



Ty Darby looks across the capital from the city's tallest structure, the Washington Monument.



Antonia Adams (left), a former S.C. Youth Tourist who now interns in Rep. Clyburn's office, talks with I'Yunla Huell about pursuing similar opportunities in government.

first time in three years South Carolina electric cooperatives have been able to send students to the capital. Santee Electric sponsored Huell and Darby.

"It's not an experience that you get often in a lifetime," says Huell. "I hope the next students that get to go have the same experience that I did."