



**santee.org**

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**SANTEE ELECTRIC  
COOPERATIVE NEWS**

Joanna Arnsmeier, *Editor*  
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**SANTEE ELECTRIC IS AN EQUAL  
OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND  
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A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



## If it's not the lights, then what is it?

**LAST MONTH**, I attempted to drive home the point that it is not your lights that drive SEC's costs and your power

bill. In that column, I outlined what does drive those costs. This month, I want to expand on those topics.

This is timely given what happened around Christmas. Record-setting low temperatures caused numerous power companies to resort to rolling blackouts during the holiday break. While this did not happen for Santee Electric Cooperative, it was close!

For these reasons, now is a perfect time to share in detail what we can all do to protect the system and to manage costs.

To do this, I need to talk about residential electrical loads in two categories. With "discretionary loads," you decide when you want to use your appliances and, usually, for how long. "Automatic loads," on the other hand, turn on and off as needed without you doing anything.

Most things in your home are in the category of discretionary loads. You decide when to turn on a light, watch television or use the toaster. While all of these matter, it is only certain discretionary loads that really drive up your power bill. Electric clothes dryers, space heaters and ranges really have an impact because they require a relatively large amount of power and typically run longer. Think of the amount of time it takes to make popcorn in the microwave compared to how long it takes to dry a load of clothes.

The largest users of electricity, however, fall into the second category—automatic loads. These cycle on and off automatically, usually based on a timer or a thermostat. These include electric water heaters, well and pool pumps and especially heating and air systems.

Since our system almost always peaks between 6 a.m. and 9 a.m. in colder months and between 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. in warmer months, what can you do to help your cooperative manage its costs? And your power bill?

When it comes to discretionary loads, it really is just a decision you make—to dry clothes, bake a cake or run the dishwasher outside of peak hours. There are 21 hours every day when the impact to the system is much less.

Loads controlled with thermostats and timers require input from you to control when they come on. Many thermostats already have "smart" features, meaning they are programmable, are Wi-Fi-enabled and/or are controlled by a smartphone app. If your thermostat does not have any of those features, don't worry! There are many simple and inexpensive options. Many water heaters, well pumps and pool pumps have timers. If not, timers are inexpensive and often pay for themselves in the first month or two. If your pool pump runs 24 hours per day, you're wasting energy and money. If you need help deciding which thermostat/timer is best for you, we can help!

For those of you who have already been taking these steps by participating in our Beat The Peak program—thank you! You are helping to manage your cooperative's costs directly and your own power bill indirectly. Stay tuned next month to find out how this can benefit you directly.

**ROBERT G. ARDIS III**  
President and Chief Executive Officer

# Scholarships Available

## Empower the Future Scholarship (\$1,000)

Santee Electric Cooperative offers \$1,000 scholarships to seniors in the counties we serve. Applications and scholarship guidelines are available at [santee.org/sec-schools](http://santee.org/sec-schools). **The deadline to apply is April 10.**

## Operation Round Up Scholarship (\$2,500)

The SEC Trust Board will provide one \$2,500 scholarship in each of the four counties that we serve. Applications and scholarship guidelines are available at [santee.org/sec-schools](http://santee.org/sec-schools). **The deadline to apply is April 10.**



## \$500 Annual Meeting Scholarships

Santee Electric Cooperative will award eight \$500 scholarships to high school seniors at our Annual Meeting on April 18. Two awards each will be randomly drawn from applicants in Williamsburg, Clarendon, Georgetown and Florence counties. Please read eligibility information and requirements before submitting an application. Applications are due by 4:30 p.m., April 10.

**Deadline:**  
**April 10**  
**Enter today!**

**Mail application to:**  
Joanna Arnsmeier  
P.O. Box 548,  
Kingstree, SC 29556

### Requirements/Eligibility

- Must be a high school senior.
- All blanks must be filled out or the application will be voided.
- The application must be signed on the space provided and turned in by the deadline of April 10, or it will be voided.
- Applicant must be a SEC member or a child or legal ward of a SEC member. Only one scholarship will be awarded per family per year.
- A student can only receive this scholarship one time. It's not renewable.
- The scholarship monies can be used by undergraduate students to attend, on a full-time basis, any university/college.
- Only high school seniors with a "C" average or better may apply.
- The recipients will be chosen in a random drawing at the Annual Meeting on April 18.
- Selected applicants will be required to provide SEC with an official transcript and acceptance letter to verify their eligibility.



### \$500 Scholarship 2023 Application

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Member's relationship to Applicant (if last name is different please indicate reason) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ SEC Account Number \_\_\_\_\_

GPA \_\_\_\_\_ University/College Attending \_\_\_\_\_

I have read and understand all of the above listed requirements for the SEC Annual Meeting Scholarship, and I agree to meet all of them. If I am selected as a recipient, I agree to allow SEC to use my name and/or photo in future promotions.

Applicant Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_