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SANTEE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE NEWS
Joanna Arnsmeier, *Editor*
jarnsmeyer@santee.org

FIND US ON



SANTEE ELECTRIC IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER.



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



Exciting time of year

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, we have a real treat for you in this issue—our final issue of 2022.

This is always an exciting time of year for us here at SEC because of some awesome programs we have for local schools.

Christmas Card contest

Fall is when we announce our Christmas card designers for the year. If your child or grandchild is in the fourth or fifth grade, there's a chance that we might be coming to their school to announce local budding artists who will have their work featured in your cooperative's annual company Christmas cards.



Bright Ideas Grant winners

We also announce the winners of our Bright Ideas grants. SEC's "prize patrol" will soon be entering local schools with some BIG checks to help our talented area educators fund some projects they have in mind.



Touchstone Energy Bowl

Around the end of the high school football season, we will be showing up at games and other school functions to present trophies to athletes selected to play in the Touchstone Energy Bowl (formerly, the North South Allstar Game).

Be on the lookout for us!



Hurricane Ian

Not all exciting events are good things, and Hurricane Ian was an example. I would like to say, however, that I am extremely proud of the work our team did in cleaning up Ian's mess. Given the fact that this storm made landfall on the southern boundary of our system so that its strong side went right through our territory, I am thrilled that we could confine the restoration process to a single weekend. We had over 200 linemen working on our system at peak, and that kind of organization is no small feat. Thank you all for your patience during our restoration efforts.

Economic development

I am also thrilled to report that, just like last year, we have some extra pages in this issue to showcase our economic development efforts in the four counties we serve. Your cooperative is doing all we can to keep rates low and improve the quality of life in our communities. Economic development does both!

Thank you all for another great year. I wish you a Happy Thanksgiving, a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! I will report back in 2023!



ROBERT G. ARDIS III
President and Chief Executive Officer

Happy Holidays!

SEC's offices will be closed on the following days in observance of the holidays:

- ▶ Thanksgiving Nov. 24 and 25
- ▶ Christmas Dec. 23 and 26
- ▶ New Year's Jan. 2, 2023

Giving back to the community

Operation Round Up and CoBank partner to “share success!”

SANTEE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE was proud to make donations recently to three charitable foundations—American Red Cross, Pee Dee Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Assault and Williamsburg Technical College Foundation—through the cooperative’s Round Up fund and CoBank’s Sharing Success program.

Williamsburg Technical College Foundation received \$5,000 from SEC through the Round Up fund, which CoBank matched for a total of \$10,000. The funds will go towards the renovation and regeneration of the Williamsburg Regional Hospital building and grounds that WTC acquired, which will house classrooms, science labs, state of the art health simulations labs, student support services and student auxiliary services.

“We are grateful for this donation, this will help with the renovation plans for the hospital and impact the lives of countless students,” says Martha Burrows, public information director at Williamsburg Technical College.

Pee Dee Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Assault received \$2,500 from SEC through the Round Up fund, which CoBank matched for a total of \$5,000. Pee Dee Coalition is dedicated to the reduction of sexual assault, family violence and child abuse and to meeting the needs of victims. Through the Williamsburg County Satellite Crisis Center, the staff provides direct support services to victims and their families.

SEC EXTRA

Don’t miss pages 12A-12D for the Nominating Committee appointments for 2023, updates on SEC’s economic development efforts and Hurricane Ian recap.

PDC also provides the community education on the issues to reach those who are victims as well as recruit volunteers to support the work of the Center.

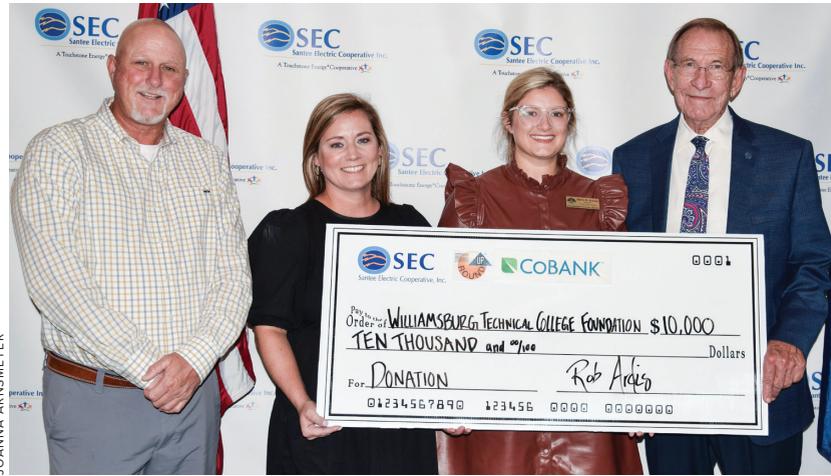
American Red Cross received \$2,500 from SEC through the Round Up fund, which CoBank matched for a total of \$5,000. These funds will support people impacted by home fires in Clarendon, Florence, Georgetown and Williamsburg counties. When a home fire occurs, the Red Cross deploys to support the families emotionally during their time of distress, and provide the funds needed for the circumstances of the individuals impacted. Funds are distributed immediately onsite to those impacted by tragedy.

“American Red Cross is proud to have this partnership with Santee Electric. These funds will go a long way in helping the communities we mutually serve,” says Kara Byrd, regional philanthropy officer at American Red Cross SC Region.

CoBank is a national cooperative bank with a Sharing Success program, a fund that matches the contributions up to \$10,000 from Santee Electric to organizations. Santee Electric Cooperative has participated in the Sharing Success program for the past ten years.

“CoBank has been an extremely valuable lending partner of Santee Electric’s for many years, and the Sharing Success program they offer is one of the great benefits that they provide,” says Jay Kirby, vice president of Public Affairs. “It helps us to give back to the charities that work hard in our communities.”

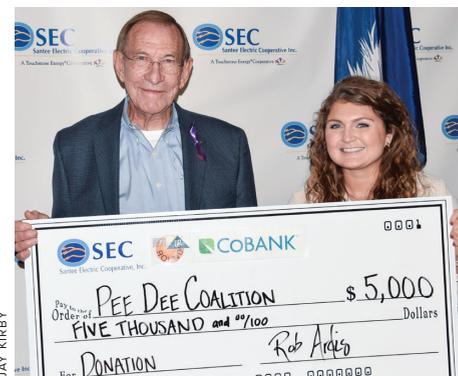
Santee Electric’s Round Up Fund comes from Operation Round Up. Each month, Santee Electric “rounds up” the electric bills of participating members to the next highest dollar. Donations



JOANNA ARNSMEYER
Jay Kirby, SEC vice president of Public Affairs (left), presents \$10,000 to Tracy Kellahan, WTC Foundation board member, Martha Burrows, WTC public information director and Henry Poston, WTC Foundation board chairman.



MEGAN BLACKBURN
Jay Kirby, SEC vice president of Public Affairs and Joanna Arnsmeier, SEC manager of Community Relations, present \$5,000 to Kara Byrd (middle), American Red Cross SC Region regional philanthropy officer.



JAY KIRBY
Joanna Arnsmeier, SEC manager of Community Relations (right), presents \$5,000 to Henry Poston, Pee Dee Coalition Williamsburg County Chapter board member.

are tax-deductible. All Operation Round Up donations are placed in trust and administered by an independent Board of Directors called the Santee Electric Trust. The Board receives and evaluates all requests, determines who receives funding and how all Operation Round Up money will be distributed.

If you participate in Operation Round Up then you played a role in these donations! For more information on Operation Round Up or to sign up, visit santee.org/ORU.



CHANNING MATTHEWS



ROB ARDIS

SEC Lineman Corbett Collins makes repairs high in the sky in the aftermath of Ian.

The 6th Cooperative Principle of Cooperation Among Cooperatives in practice. An Aiken Electric crew, including Casey Grice, Cameron Allen, Joseph Whitt and Michael Storey, help SEC with restoration. Also pictured is Bill Price, SEC lineman.

Hurricane Ian

16,000 members restored in 48 hours

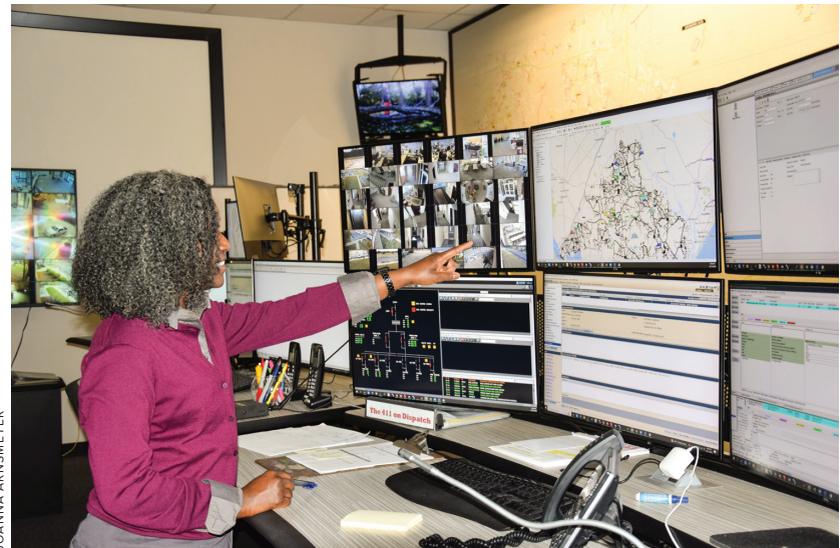
BY JOANNA ARNSMEYER

ON THE MORNING of Wednesday, Sept. 28, the media started to report that Hurricane Ian was fast approaching and could possibly make landfall on the beaches of South Carolina. Santee Electric jumped into storm mode and turned to the Emergency Restoration Plan (ERP). The ERP details a strategic disaster recovery plan to ensure that during a crisis SEC employees will have the tools at hand to respond efficiently and meet the main goal of restoring power as quickly and safely as possible. The ERP is updated yearly, and employees review it regularly.

Next, a pre-storm meeting was called. A full plan for restoration cannot be made until the storm is done wreaking havoc; but meetings before the storm help the SEC team stay on the same page, review the ERP and be as prepared as possible. The preparation for a storm does not start when one is approaching though. SEC prepares for storms such as this one throughout the entire year.

Preparation includes trimming right of ways, completing routine maintenance, making updates to our system, sectionalizing fuses, reclosers and breakers, overall “system hardening,” which means using stronger poles and stronger materials and ensuring all employees are experts in their jobs. These are all the things SEC does throughout the year to help prepare for storms, and it pays off. Hurricane Ian went straight through SEC’s service territory and at its peak there were 16,000 outages. Without preparation measures throughout the year, the number would have been much higher.

On Friday, Sept. 30, Hurricane Ian made landfall in Georgetown, SEC’s service territory. All four counties that SEC serves were impacted and had major outages. Crews were dispatched to areas to assess damage. Linemen work during storms until it is unsafe for them to do so. When winds are



JOANNA ARNSMEYER

To Christie Dyson, SEC manager of GIS, Dispatch & Procurement, and to all dispatch personnel, thank you! SEC could not get through a storm without dispatch.

over 35 miles-per-hour, it becomes too dangerous to put a bucket in the air due to the possibility of the truck turning over. So early Saturday morning, materials were loaded, all SEC crews, crews from Aiken Electric Cooperative, Lee Electrical and Sumter Utilities rolled out to begin the full-scale restoration effort.

Over the next two days, SEC personnel worked non-stop. Dispatch coordinated with crews constantly, sending people and materials to where they were needed. Meals and lodging were arranged for almost 200 linemen. Linemen took on the arduous restoration process. By Sunday night around 10 p.m., every member in SEC’s service territory had power. Crews restored power to 16,000 members in roughly 48 hours.

This restoration effort was all hands-on deck, and SEC employees proved to be prepared for the task. Thank you to our members for your patience. We wouldn’t be SEC without you.



Sky view of the 149-acre Florence County Industrial Park South at Scranton.

NESSA

Building the future

BY RONALD CARTER
MANAGER OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

IF YOU ARE READING THIS, you already know that the SEC service territory is a wonderful place to work and live. But companies that are interested in investing in our area don't just randomly find us. Economic development has to be nurtured, matured, realized and sustained over many years. With thousands of towns all over the world contending to bring new jobs and investments into their communities, how do we get noticed? While the answer is complicated, the first step is having available quality real estate.

Last November, we announced in this magazine that we would increase our involvement in developing industrial parks and buildings—one in each of the four counties within our service territory. When we approached the SEC Board of Trustees with our business plan, they gave us two clear mandates: do not lose money and do not do anything that increases what our members pay for electricity. Having our first round of projects well underway, we are pleased to report that we have honored those mandates and will deliver excellent results to SEC and its membership.

Before we discuss specific projects, let's reiterate why we are investing more in economic development assets. The first reason is because the kind of commercial and industrial members that we are trying to recruit buy a significant amount of electricity and do so 24 hours a day. These members help boost our electric system load factor, which lowers the amount that we pay for electricity. When we save money, the entire membership benefits through lower rates. The second reason is that our efforts will grow our communities by bringing



JOANNA ARNSMEYER

Ronald Carter (left), manager of Economic Development & Government Relations at Santee Electric Cooperative, visits the construction site at the Clarendon Industrial Park with Karen Campbell, architect at Carlisle Associates, Ed Jean, project manager at M.B. Kahn Construction Company and Antonio Humbert, construction superintendent at M.B. Kahn Construction Company.

well-paying jobs to the area. With jobs come additional housing, restaurants, entertainment venues and other amenities that will make our area an even better place to live. Building the future takes time and patience, but we are making progress every day.

The Clarendon County Industrial Park is the most successful industrial park on our system, with seven 50,000 square foot buildings being built and sold since the park was established. Partnering with the county, we have begun construction of an eighth building, which has already drawn interest. The park is home to Advanta, Alucoil, AMGO Hydraulic, Hunt Brothers Pizza, Loctek, Meritor, On Time Distribution, Powell Valves, Starflo, Suri Industries, Trimaco and Westinghouse.

SEC partnered with Florence County to establish the Florence County Industrial Park South at Scranton. The



RONALD CARTER

Santee Electric recently acquired and renovated a 48,885 square foot building within the Williamsburg Cooperative Commerce Center. Few buildings of this size and move-in condition are available in South Carolina.

149-acre property near the W. Lee Flowers distribution center is planned to accommodate more than 1.2 million square feet of commercial and industrial buildings, on-site rail spurs, an electric substation, wastewater pump station, well, water tower and a regional stormwater system. A 100,000 square foot speculative industrial building is currently under construction and will be the first building in the park. We have also prepared an adjacent 100,000 square foot building pad to accommodate the next building or an industry wanting to build its own facility there. The park has already seen several industrial prospects showing interest.

The Georgetown County Business Center on US 521 near Andrews is another well-established industrial park and is home to SafeRack and MPW Industrial Services. Through a partnership with Georgetown County, we have secured and cleared 36 acres within the park. Technology Drive will be extended into the property and a 100,000 square foot industrial spec building will be built. SEC also plans to build a new electrical substation on that acreage in the future. With the county having sold its spec building last year, there is a profound need to build this asset and keep the park's development moving.

The Williamsburg Cooperative Commerce Center has been a long-time asset between Lake City and Kingstree. The WCCC is home to Palmetto Synthetics and Embroidery Solutions. We recently acquired and renovated a previously abandoned 48,885 square foot building within the park. There are few buildings in the state of that size and in move-in condition. Having one in our backyard has drawn several project visits. Some have gone so far as to comment that they would have never looked at this area, but now they are seriously considering locating in Williamsburg County. Once this building is occupied, we look forward to working with the county to market the 52,000 square foot building that they are currently building on US 52 beside the Citadel Brands distribution center.



CARLISLE ASSOCIATES

A 100,00 square foot spec building will be built at the Georgetown County Business Center near Andrews. SEC also plans to build a new substation for the Center in the future.



MICHAEL PAZDAN SMITH ARCHITECTURE

A 100,000 square foot speculative industrial building is currently under construction and will be the first building in the Florence County Industrial Park South at Scranton.



CARLISLE ASSOCIATES

Construction of an eighth 50,000 square foot building at the Clarendon County Industrial Park is underway.

While building industrial buildings and parks has drawn major attention to our area, resulting in an unprecedented number of companies seriously considering establishing manufacturing and distribution centers here, we cannot continue being successful without strong partnerships with county governments, NESAs and the South Carolina Power Team. Because we have something to sell, we are literally open for business and find ourselves in the best position ever to bring success to our communities.

2023 Nominating Committee information

SANTEE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE will hold its 2023 Drive-Thru Annual Meeting on April 18, 2023, at SEC Headquarters, 424 Sumter Hwy, in Kingstree.

Nominating Committee to meet

In accordance with Article IV, Section 3 of the co-op's bylaws, excerpted below, the member-owners listed at the right have been duly appointed to the Nominating Committee. The committee will meet December 13, 2022, at SEC's headquarters for the purpose of nominating trustees for Districts 6, 8, and 9.

Nominations by petition

Article IV, Section 3 also gives member-owners the right to nominate board candidates by petition. At least one percent of the co-op's membership, acting together, can nominate a fellow member. Petitions must be filed with the cooperative at least 80 days prior to the annual meeting.

Applicable bylaws

Article III: Meeting of Members

SECTION 1: ANNUAL MEETING. The annual meeting of members shall be held on such day in each year, beginning with the year 1952, and at such place within a county served by the Cooperative as shall be fixed and determined by the Board of Trustees, and as shall be designated in the notice of the meeting for the purpose of electing trustees, passing upon reports for the previous fiscal year and transacting such other business as may come before the meeting. Failure to hold the annual meeting at the designated time shall not work a forfeiture and dissolution of the Cooperative.

Article IV: Trustees

SECTION 3. NOMINATIONS. It shall be the duty of the Board of Trustees to appoint, not less than one-hundred-and-seventy (170) days or more than one-hundred-and-ninety (190) days before the date of a meeting of the members at which Trustees are to be elected, a committee on nominations consisting of not less than five (5) nor more than eleven (11) members who shall be selected from different sections of the project area so as to ensure equitable representation. No member of the Board of Trustees may serve on such committee. Incumbent Trustees seeking reelection shall not directly or indirectly influence the nomination or credentials process. Said Trustees shall recuse themselves from participation in appointing members to such committee(s), and Cooperative members from their Trustee Districts shall be selected without their input or participation. Trustees may not appoint, direct or cause a family member to become a member of such committee(s). For purposes of this Section, "family member" includes a spouse, parent, brother, sister, child, mother-in-law, father-in-law, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, grandparent, grandchild and a member of the individual's immediate family. The committee on nominations shall prepare and post at the principal office of the Cooperative at least one hundred (100) days before the meeting a list of nominations for Trustees, but 1% or more of the members of the Cooperative, acting together, may make additional nominations in writing over their signatures, listing their nominee(s) in like manner and filing the same with the Cooperative, not less than eighty (80) days prior to the meeting and the Secretary shall post such nominations at the same place where the list of nominations made by the committee is posted. The Board of Trustees shall, by policy, adopt a process allowing petition signatures to be collected electronically according to procedures or standards approved by the Board. The Secretary shall mail with the notice of the meeting a list of the number of Trustees, shown by District, to be elected and the names and addresses of the candidates nominated for each District, specifying separately the nominations made by petition, if any. The names are to be arranged by Districts and in alphabetical order, except that incumbents shall be placed first on the list so arranged. At the meeting of members, the Secretary of the Cooperative shall place in nomination the names of the official candidates for each District. Election of Trustees shall be by ballots. The ballots shall list the candidates selected by the Nominating Committee and by petition. The names shall be arranged by Districts and in alphabetical order, except that the incumbents shall be placed first in order on such ballot. Each member of the Cooperative present at the meeting shall be entitled to vote for one (1) candidate for each District for which a Trustee is to be elected at that particular meeting. The candidate receiving the highest number of votes for each District at this meeting shall be considered elected as Trustee. In the event that the number of candidates seeking election does not exceed the number of Trustees required in a particular District, balloting may be dispensed with in respect to that District and, if there are no objections, the nominee may be elected by acclamation.

Nominating Committee appointments for 2023 Annual Meeting

Angela Bartell

306 Scotland Road
Lake City, SC 29560

Wanda J. Johnson

1438 Lake Shore Drive
Manning, SC 29102

James Gilliard

P.O. Box 732
Hemingway, SC 29554

Gwenevere Moody

2256 White Oak Road
Kingstree, SC 29556

Olin Dukes

365 McCollough Loop
Kingstree, SC 29556

Frankie M. Davis

296 Walnut Avenue
Georgetown, SC 29440

Kasey Feagin

4803 Pine Oak Road
Effingham, SC 29541

Clifford Gamble

1389 Edwin Road
Salters, SC 29590

Penny S. Gamble

2212 Santee Road
Andrews, SC 29510