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**SANTEE ELECTRIC
 COOPERATIVE NEWS**
 Joanna Arnsmeier, *Editor*
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**SANTEE ELECTRIC IS AN EQUAL
 OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND
 EMPLOYER.**



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



On the money

I THOUGHT IT would be a great idea to use this final column of the year to spotlight an employee,

one who moved all the way across the country to bless SEC with her talents!

Stacey Clark came here in 2019 as an accountant and quickly moved up into her current role of manager of accounting. Stacey is a native of Valencia, California. After graduating from William S. Hart High School, she studied at College of the Canyons and UCLA before graduating with a degree in Business Management Economics with accounting emphasis from UC Santa Cruz.

Much of Stacey's family worked in the movie industry. Her grandfather was a sound editor, her father a film editor, her uncle a still photographer and her mom an accountant for a movie studio. Interestingly, her grandfather worked on the Batman TV show and her dad worked on the original Batman movie.

Stacey and her husband David moved to South Carolina along with a group of family and friends. David works in website development and maintenance. Leilani, their daughter, is 12 years old and in the 7th grade at Lawrence Manning Academy. Ben, their son, is 9 and in the 4th grade (also at LMA).

Before coming to SEC, Stacey worked in accounts payable for a travel company, accounts receivable for a lighting company and then for a CPA firm in California for the most recent 15 years before we snagged her.

Stacey loves to read, particularly fiction. She loves to cook as well—but not bake! “Cooking calms me,” she points out. “Baking does not.” When asked about any specialty, she’s quick to volunteer, “Fettuccini alfredo and garlic bread!” Stacey also loves swimming and boat rides, which is convenient since she lives on Lake Marion.

I always ask the best part and the



STACEY CLARK

toughest part of the job when I do these interviews. “For me, they are the same thing,” Stacey says. “Forensic accounting is really challenging, finding out why numbers don’t balance or why something isn’t represented accurately. I love a challenge, though!”

When I ask what she likes best about SEC, Stacey just lights up. “Everything—the benefits, the people, the work environment. I love my coworkers. I love how they welcomed me even though I was a transplant. This place has as much as a family feel as any corporation can. I can appreciate this because I have worked other places. Sometimes it takes coming from another place to truly appreciate what we have at Santee.”

I wrapped up by asking if there was one thing she wished she could tell all of our members. “We really are here to help you,” she says passionately. “It’s why we exist.”

If you see Stacey around, make sure she feels some South Carolina love! She brightens up Santee Electric and the Palmetto State. I now know what the Beach Boys meant because we sure do appreciate our California Girl!

ROBERT G. ARDIS III
 President and Chief Executive Officer

Happy Holidays!

SEC’s offices will be closed in observance of the following holidays:

- ▶ Thanksgiving: Nov. 23 and 24
- ▶ Christmas: Dec. 25 and 26
- ▶ New Year’s: Jan. 1

SEC EXTRA

CHECK PAGES 12A-12D for the Nominating Committee appointments for 2024, updates on SEC's economic development efforts and a chance to win a \$300 bill credit!

Giving back

Operation Round Up, CoBank partner to share success

SANTEE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE was proud to make sizeable donations recently to four charitable foundations through the co-op's Round Up fund and CoBank's Sharing Success program. Vital Aging of Williamsburg County, CMD Pantry, Turbeville Children's Home and Burn Foundation of America received \$5,000 from SEC and a \$2,500 contribution from CoBank.

Vital Aging of Williamsburg County exists to promote the physical, mental, emotional and spiritual well-being of Williamsburg County's senior citizens. The donation from Round-Up and CoBank will be used for the home delivery meal program. Through this program, meals are delivered to elderly clients who live alone and have little to no access to transportation.

"We are grateful for this donation; Vital Aging wants to improve the lives of senior citizens and through donations like this we are able to," says Robert Welch, executive director at Vital Aging of Williamsburg County.

CMD Pantry was formed to address food insecurity within Williamsburg County and surrounding areas. CMD provides food and community resources to families in need. The \$7,500 donation will help provide supplies for their weekly food drives.

Turbeville Children's Home has the mission of providing a safe and nurturing home for children throughout South Carolina who cannot live with their families. In order to provide a safe home for the children, the Home needed an upgrade to its security system and this donation will help cover those costs.

Burn Foundation of America's mission is to help all burn patients heal, grow



JOANNA ARNSMEYER

Vital Aging Executive Director Robert Welch is grateful for the senior center and the services they are able to provide to the community.



HOLLY SHUFORD

SEC's donation to the Burn Foundation of America will help provide specialized equipment to help burn victims and support for their families. Celebrating are (from left) Linda McKnight, president and CEO, Steve Chalker, COO, house guest Mona Moore, Melinda Ball, patient and family liaison and house guest Randy Moore.

strong and return to the workforce and transition back to their home community. The \$7,500 donation will help provide necessary specialized equipment to help burn victims and support for their families.

CoBank is a national cooperative bank with a Sharing Success program, a fund that matches the contributions of up to \$10,000 from Santee Electric to organizations. Santee Electric Cooperative has participated in the Sharing Success program for 11 years.

"CoBank has been an extremely valuable lending partner of Santee Electric for many years, and the Sharing Success program they offer is one of the great benefits they provide," said 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 is funded by the Operation Round-Up program. Each month, Santee Electric "rounds up" the electric bills of participating members to the next



JOANNA ARNSMEYER

Tracy Pressley (far right), founder of CMD Pantry, and the CMD team are ready to help families and fight food insecurity.



JOANNA ARNSMEYER

Dr. Tim Moore (right), director of Turbeville Children's Home, and Jay Kirby, SEC vice president of public affairs, celebrate the donation and services Turbeville Children's Home provides.

highest dollar. Donations 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 evaluates requests and determines who receives funding and how funds will be distributed.

If you participate in Operation Round-Up, then you played a valuable role in these donations!

Special request from Rob Ardis

Let us know how we are doing

IN THIS MONTH'S ISSUE of *South Carolina Living*, Santee Electric is working with cooperatives across South Carolina to conduct an American Customer Satisfaction Index (ACSI) survey. This is a great opportunity for you to let us know how we are doing.

Since we are owned by you, our members, we want to hear from you. Please fill out the survey on page 6 and mail it in. If you prefer, you can scan the QR code and complete the survey on your smart device. While we are doing this with other cooperatives across our state, SEC will receive results based on our own members' responses.

To show you how much this means to us, four of our members who participate in the survey will win a \$50 bill credit. Thanks in advance for the time and thought you put into your responses.

Sincerely,




Sign up for Bank Draft—you might win a \$300 bill credit!

FROM OCT. 14 THROUGH DEC. 14, when a new member signs up for bank draft, they will receive a \$30 electric bill credit. Also, any member who signs up during this time frame or is currently signed up for bank draft will be entered for a chance to win a \$300 bill credit.

Bank draft is a convenient way to pay your bill. When you sign up, Santee Electric will automatically deduct the amount of your bill from your checking account each month. You receive your monthly statement, showing your details and the amount due, at least one week before the bank draft happens. You can rest assured that your payment will always be made on time with Bank Draft!

You can sign up for Bank Draft through our SmartHub app, on our website santee.org, or by calling member services.

Santee Electric puts the power in your hands!

Manage your account whenever—and wherever you are—with the SmartHub app.



Whether you're homebound, facing a weather event or need to quickly access your account on your own time, the free SmartHub app from Santee Electric Cooperative is here when you need it!

Available for all smart devices like iPhones, iPads and Androids.

With the SmartHub app you can:

- ◆ make bill payments
- ◆ report power outages
- ◆ review bills and payment history
- ◆ stop and start service
- ◆ check on monthly energy usage
- ◆ request maintenance

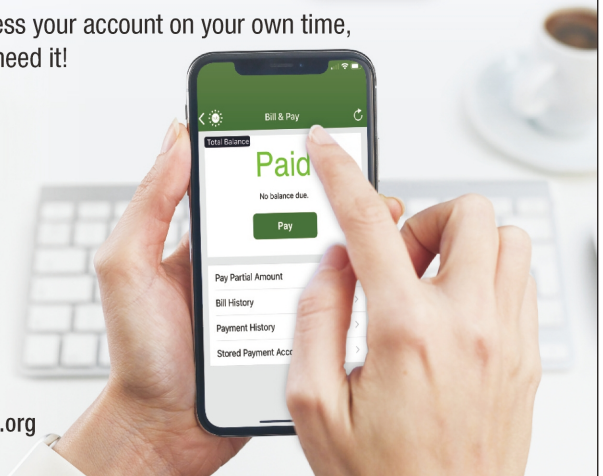


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Economic development investments yield dividends

BY RONALD CARTER, MANAGER, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

TWO YEARS AGO, Santee Electric Cooperative announced that it would make major investments in economic development, including a series of speculative industrial buildings and a new industrial park near Scranton.

We knew that if we proactively developed industrial sites and buildings, that we could be successful in bringing much needed jobs, investments (tax base) and new electric consumers to our service territory. As we embarked on this effort, our core mandate from the SEC Board of Trustees was to not do anything that increases what our members pay for electricity. We have honored that mandate by delivering positive financial returns on our real estate investments and by securing new industrial members who improve the load factor of our system.

As a testament to the desire of companies to locate in our area, we recently sold our 100,000- square-foot speculative building and a 36-acre site in Andrews (Georgetown County) while it was still under construction. Zilmet USA, an Italian manufacturer of expansion tanks and heat exchangers, announced that it will invest \$32.7 million and create 50 jobs over the next few years. Zilmet is already planning for growth and is expanding the facility to 150,000 square feet.

The sale of our 50,000-square-foot Clarendon County spec building in Manning, which was only vacant for one month after construction was completed, is another example of how our economic development investments are yielding dividends for our members.



Ronald Carter, manager of Economic Development & Government Relations, says the cooperative has delivered positive financial returns on its real estate investments by securing new industrial members.

JOANNA ARNSMEYER



The 100,000-square-foot speculative building in Scranton Industrial Park has attracted several prospective buyers.

THOMPSON CONSTRUCTION GROUP

The building and a 20-acre site were purchased by Latitude Corporation, a precision metal fabrication company with multiple domestic manufacturing locations. They also already have plans to expand the facility well beyond its original size over the next several years. Latitude will invest \$29 million and create 200 jobs.

As of the publication of this article, our 48,884-square-foot building on Commerce Drive near Kingstree is under contract and will soon be sold. While details regarding the buyer must remain confidential until the company makes an official announcement, we believe that they will be a wonderful addition to our

corporate community.

Another of our key accomplishments is our partnership with Florence County, NESAs, Scranton, Lake City, Thompson Construction and the Darla Moore Foundation to develop the Florence County Industrial Park South, a 150-acre industrial park on the railroad near W. Lee Flowers in Scranton. We have also constructed a 100,000-square-foot building on the property, and we have shown it to several prospective buyers to date. We continue working with our county, state and regional allies to market the building, and we remain confident that it will also become the location of a quality company.



Santee Electric is involved in several new developments currently underway or being considered. In design are a 100,000-square-foot building in Georgetown (above) and a 105,000-square-foot-building in Clarendon County (left).

PHOTOS BY CARLISLE ASSOCIATES

Our economic development investments are yielding positive dividends for you. By adding new industrial electrical demand to our system, we can improve our load factor, which lowers the amount that we (and you) end up paying per kilowatt hour. In addition, county governments and schools benefit from the new tax base generated by the two industrial projects that purchased our buildings, announcing combined investments of almost \$62 million. Our members will also benefit from the more

than 250 well-paying jobs that will be created by these companies. Jobs bring in more and better housing, restaurants, entertainment and other amenities that we all enjoy. In all, we can proudly report that our first round of economic development investments has been very successful for all of us.

Now that momentum has been achieved, it is time to work even harder to identify and develop new opportunities. There are several new developments underway or being considered. We are

currently in design for a 105,000-square-foot building in Clarendon County and a 100,000-square-foot building in Georgetown.

SEC also assisted Williamsburg County with funding for the engineering of its new 52,000-square-foot-building on U.S. 52, which is currently under construction. We look forward to bringing these great new assets to market soon and bringing even more jobs, investments and opportunities to our members.

2024 Nominating Committee Information

SANTEE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE will hold its 2024 Drive-Thru Annual Meeting on April 16, 2024, at SEC Headquarters, 424 Sumter Hwy., Kingstree, SC 29556.

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 19, 2023, at SEC's headquarters for the purpose of nominating trustees for Districts 1, 3, and 5.

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 2024 Annual Meeting

Angela Bartell

306 Scotland Road
Lake City, SC 29560

Wanda J. Johnson

1438 Lake Shore Drive
Manning, SC 29102

James Gilliard

29 Stina Avenue
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