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SANTEE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE NEWS

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Speaking the language

IT'S LIKELY ALL all of us here at Santee Electric are guilty of using industry terms without explanation. So, this month's column is dedicated to helping everyone to speak the language!

Voltage versus current—Electrical current is like water current but is measured by the amount of electric charge flowing over a period of time. Voltage is like the pressure pushing the current through our lines. The delivery of electricity to your home begins with very high voltage—more than 100,000 volts—feeding our substations. From there, our power lines travel along the highways at voltages between 7,000 and 25,000 volts. Finally, we step this voltage down again to serve our members. A typical home receives 120 and 240 volts from us, while commercial and industrial accounts receive a wide range of different voltages. All these voltage changes are performed by another device on our system, a transformer.

Conductor versus insulator—As the name implies, a conductor is anything

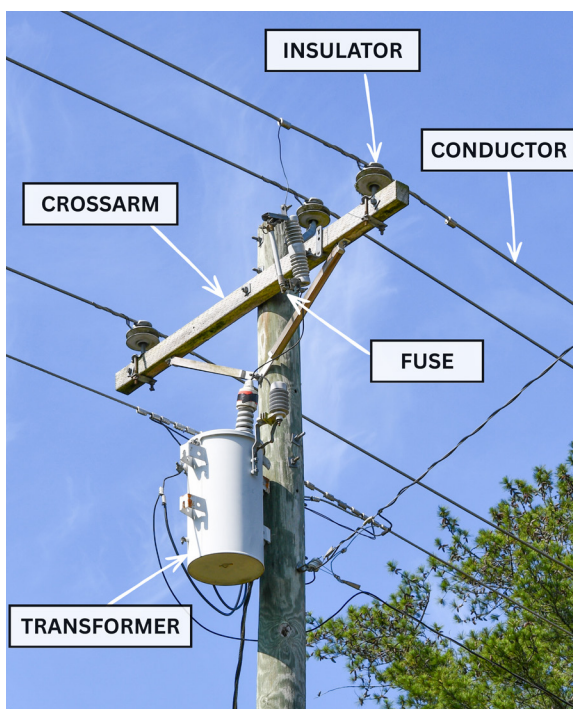
that conducts electricity (allows current to flow through it), but we typically think of conductors as the actual wires we use to deliver electricity to you. An insulator, on the other hand, stops current from flowing. For safety's sake, we suspend most of our conductors high in the air on top of poles and crossarms. However, because the wood and steel those structures are made of conduct electricity as well, we must use insulators to hold the energized lines in the air.

Fuse versus recloser—A fuse is the simplest type of protective device on our system. When it detects too much current over a period of time, a fuse will blow to protect the system from the fault causing the high current. The most common cause of this is a limb contacting one of our lines. If you have ever heard someone say, "My transformer blew," they were likely mistaken. Chances are their fuse blew, not their transformer. On the other hand, if you ever see your lights blink and then come back on, it was likely a recloser. Since the majority of the faults on our system are temporary, we just need a device to de-energize the line for a brief period to allow that limb to fall to the ground. If a recloser can clear a fault, your lights typically come back on without our having to send someone.

Energy versus demand—Because these two terms use units of measurement that are so similar, they are often confused. Energy is usually measured in kilowatt-hours (kWh), while demand is usually measured in kilowatts (kW). Energy is measured over a period of time like your car's odometer. On the other hand, power (or demand) is an instantaneous measurement like your speedometer.

Hope everyone has a great month!

ROBERT G. ARDIS III
President and Chief Executive Officer



Monuments, memorials and more

Santee Electric sends two local students to Washington, D.C.

BY JOSH P. CROTZER

AS HIS MEMORABLE week in Washington, D.C. came to close, Vinu Vipin found that his evening walking through the National Mall to the Lincoln Memorial encapsulated his Washington Youth Tour experience.

“It was a special night,” says Vipin, a rising senior at Kingstree High School. “It was really nice to go together as a group, take pictures and have fun. I was grateful.”

Vipin joined Harley Li, a rising senior at Laurence Manning Academy, as the two students sponsored by Santee Electric Cooperative on a weeklong trip to the nation's capital in June as part of Washington Youth Tour. They joined 65 other students representing South Carolina's electric cooperatives for a tour of historic sites, monuments and memorials. The Palmetto State contingent was among 1,700 students from 44 states taking part in the electric cooperatives' annual youth rally.

The South Carolina students visited George Washington's Mount Vernon, Arlington National Cemetery, the Pentagon 9/11 Memorial and the Smithsonian museums. They also toured the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, the National Museum of the Marine Corps and the National Museum of African American History and Culture.

“I feel like we take for granted what other people went through,” says Li. “Especially in Arlington, seeing all those graves of soldiers who gave up their chance to be fathers, husbands, grandparents so I can have the freedoms I have today.”

One of the week's highlights was the day on Capitol Hill, where the students toured the Capitol. They also



Vinu Vipin and Little River Electric delegate Reese Harper enjoy the National Mall at twilight.



Santee Electric sponsored Harley Li (left) and Vinu Vipin on Washington Youth Tour.

PHOTOS BY CANYON DURHAM

visited congressional offices, met staff and heard from Sen. Tim Scott and the late Sen. Lindsey Graham on the Capitol steps.

“Hearing how Sen. Scott balances family and his work life, that's helped me,” says Li. “Without my parents, my friends I wouldn't be here. They've helped me become who I am today, so I should be putting more time toward them.”

The experience wasn't just about seeing granite statues and strolling through museums. Traveling with peers from across South Carolina and engaging with other student delegates from around the country—the youth tourists traded state pins, enjoyed a dinner cruise along the Potomac River and participated in a national rally at the



Harley Li (right) learns some new dance moves at the National Museum of African American History and Culture.

Gaylord National Resort and Convention Center—also made an impact on them.

“I have definitely made more friends, and I feel more connected,” says Vipin. “This trip has helped improve my net-working and social skills in a huge way.”