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**SANTÉE ELECTRIC  
COOPERATIVE NEWS**  
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## Meet Wendy Walker!

**HAPPY JUNE EVERYONE!** It is my pleasure to dedicate this month's column to featuring another of SEC's awesome employees. This month, we focus on one of our always friendly and helpful member service representatives Wendy Walker.

Wendy lives in Kingstree, but she was raised in Pleasant Hill—a proud and athletic Blue Devil—by her parents Billy and Judy Roberts. Wendy's husband, Robert, is a branch manager and loan officer for Anderson Brothers Bank. Wendy has three children. Gavin is 25 and works at DSM Nutritional Products. Carsyn is 22 and is a registered nurse at McLeod Health. Grant is 16 and an athletic (football and baseball) rising junior at Williamsburg Academy. She also has two stepchildren. Carson Walker, 26, is also a registered nurse, and Callie, 21, is a cosmetologist.

Wendy worked at two local law firms (Bell Legal Group in Georgetown and Jenkinson Jarret and Kellahan in Kingstree) as well as two local banks (Anderson Brothers Bank and The Citizens Bank) before we were fortunate enough to snag her. She has been at SEC since 2019, and we are doing all we can to hold onto her!

I asked Wendy to share a little about the best and toughest parts of her job.

"I like being able to help members," she says. "I love being able to investigate their usage and advise them how to save."

Wendy's a very compassionate person, so she followed this with, "The toughest part, of course, is people struggling with real life issues and trying to pay a power bill on top of everything else."

Wendy works incredibly hard for Santee Electric, often fielding more than 1,000 calls each month. Naturally, I asked her what she likes to do when she's off.

"I love spending time with family," she says. "My sister, Joni, and I love to take trips together and spend time with our mother. We love Garden City and Folly



JOANNA ARNSMEIER

Beach. I love going out to eat, too!"

When I asked her for some restaurant tips, she suggested Willie Sue's in Sumter, Ruth's Chris in Savannah and Henry's in Charleston.

"Make sure you request the rooftop at Henry's," she's quick to add. Wendy also pointed out how much she loves the outdoors.

"We go to a lot of ballgames," she says. "I also love Pawleys Island—laying out and listening to the waves. There's nothing better than watching a sunrise or sunset, it's God's artistry!"

As so many of our employees have added, Wendy said her favorite thing about SEC is the family atmosphere.

"I love the people I work with. Everyone is willing to help, and I have great supervisors."

She wrapped up the interview with a message for members. "We appreciate you. We are here to help you. Without you, we wouldn't be here."

That's hard to top, folks! I hope you have a great month!

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

# A Q&A with District 103 Representative Carl Anderson

BY JOANNA ARNSMEYER

**REPRESENTATIVE CARL L. ANDERSON** has dedicated more than two decades to serving the people of District 103, which includes Georgetown, Horry and Berkeley counties. With 21 years of experience in the House, he recently achieved recognition as the 11th most senior representative out of 124. His tenure is marked by a passion for helping others, making him a respected figure in his community and a steadfast advocate for the needs of those he represents.

## Why did you go into public service?

Every aspect of my life has been about service. It runs in the family. Many of my family members have also dedicated their lives to service. I was a pastor for 33 years, and now I am a presiding elder in the AME church. When the conversation started about me running in 2002, I was initially hesitant, but then I began to understand that this job is just another form of helping people. It has been a joy of 21 years serving, helping and being a voice for the people.

## What's the most satisfying part of your role? The most challenging?

The most satisfying thing is witnessing people get the help they need for themselves and their families. We have great agencies available in South Carolina, so being able to point someone in the right direction and call upon those agencies is something I am proud I can do.

The most challenging is traveling to Columbia and the work we do while we are there. Our legislative sessions begin on the second Tuesday of January and conclude on the second Thursday of May. During this time, we tackle the challenges of creating laws and passing the state budget.



Representative Carl Anderson (center), Jay Kirby, SEC vice president of public affairs (right) and Kevin Myers, SEC manager of Marketing, at Co-op Day at the State House in February.

TRAVIS BELL

## What challenges do the rural communities you represent face?

Rural communities face important challenges, including access to water, sewer and internet services. I am proud to be part of the Labor, Commerce, and Industry Committee, where we have worked hard to bring broadband internet to areas that previously had no reliable options.

We have also made sure that everyone has access to essential water and sewer services. I also have had the privilege to be a part of bringing Boeing, Volvo, Michelin and BMW to South Carolina.

## What is an important issue that impacts electric cooperatives?

Electric cooperatives have consistently supported their communities. It's worth noting how the introduction of new peak hours is benefiting members. This change empowers them to take control of their utility bills.

More electricity generation is essential in South Carolina. We support any measures necessary to ensure that electricity remains accessible to everyone in our state. It's reassuring to see that plans are being developed to maintain a reliable energy supply.

## Representative Carl Anderson

**DISTRICT 103 REPRESENTATIVE**

**RESIDES:** Georgetown

**EDUCATION:** Horry-Georgetown Technical College, Business Administration Degree 1981, Christian Bible College, Francis Marion University, Ph.D. 2011

**FAMILY:** Doris C. Smith (married April 9, 1983), three children—Carletta R., the late Airman First Class Carl L., Jr. and Ki'Maro A. Two grandchildren—Danielle and Kayden.

## How would you describe your relationship with Santee Electric?

My relationship with Santee Electric is one that I value because of how we work together. I can come to the office or pick up the phone whenever I have questions. I applaud the employees of Santee Electric and their dedication to their members.

My grandmother used to say, "If a task is once begun, never leave it until it's done, be the labor great or small, do it well or not at all." I feel like that describes Santee Electric and our relationship.