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SANTEE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE NEWS

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A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Round Up to help your community



BELOVED MEMBERS OF Santee Electric Cooperative, I have a very important topic to cover this month. First, though, I want to thank all of you for making our 2020 Annual Meeting a success. I know the format was a little unusual; but, with your patience and

cooperation, we were able to make it happen.

That being said, I want to talk about a wonderful program we have here at SEC. Operation Round Up was born in the state of South Carolina decades ago and is now a wonderful benefit of membership at electric cooperatives across the country! Our generous members have the opportunity to enroll in this program to help their neighbors and, occasionally, to benefit from help themselves when they need it.

When you enroll in Round Up, you agree to let SEC round your power bill up to the next whole dollar. The most this could cost you on any one bill is 99 cents. The average contribution per account is 50 cents per month. We take that change and add it to the change our other member-owners contribute each month. This pot of money currently averages around \$14,000 per month.

Our Trust Board—a group of dedicated volunteers representing our nine trustee districts—is responsible for allocating this money to the applicants requesting funds.

While enrollment in Round Up is great, it is not 100%. Therefore, I would like to take this opportunity to tell you about some great things the program does. The funds from this organization remain local and help our members who are in financial need with appliances, burnouts, wheelchair ramps and other

home repair projects. The organization also sponsors scholarships, supports organizations that have a positive impact on our members and helps low income individuals participate in the Help My House Program—another great benefit SEC offers our members.

The donations are tax-deductible. It is important to note that, beginning Dec. 1, 2021, an applicant will need to have participated in Round Up contributions for at least 12 months in order to receive assistance from the fund. Therefore, we encourage everyone to sign up by Dec. 1 of this year. The

way I like to look at it is as an insurance policy that's only going to cost me an average of \$6 per year! Two exceptions to this new rule are members who have suffered a house fire and those who have been members of SEC for less than a year.

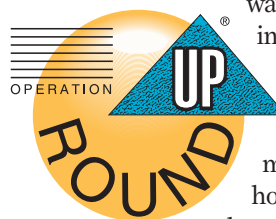
Finally, for those who would like to contribute more than the average of 50 cents per month, we have a Round Up Plus program. These contributions are also tax deductible and can be whatever you want them to be. If you have an extra \$100 you want to contribute to a worthy cause, please consider our Round Up Plus program.

For those of you who are already contributing, I want to say THANK YOU! If you are not currently, I would like to urge you to consider supporting a wonderful organization.

I wish you and your families a wonderful holiday season! Until next year.

ROBERT G. ARDIS III

President and Chief Executive Officer





Ann and Sonny Sanders stand with Gov. Henry McMaster (left) and Sarah Goldsby (right) after the presentation of the Order of the Palmetto to Ann Kirven Sanders.

Ann Kirven Sanders receives Order of the Palmetto

JOSH P. CROTZER

FRIENDS AND FAMILY patiently waited in the lobby of the South Carolina Statehouse for a ceremony that was supposed to begin at 11:30 a.m. on Oct. 8. As time elapsed past the scheduled start, the grins and chuckles began.

They knew why the ceremony was running late. Ann Kirven Sanders, the woman of the hour (or more), was meeting with Gov. Henry McMaster about South Carolina's rural health needs. There was no doubt that she was going to fully capitalize on her time with the governor.

That passion and practical advocacy are part of what led to the day's ceremony. Once Sanders and McMaster emerged from his nearby office, the governor surprised her by presenting her with the Order of the Palmetto. Sanders received the state's highest civilian honor after a 45-year career as the director of Clarendon County Behavioral Health.

"Ann Kirven Sanders has selflessly dedicated herself to assist South Carolinians who struggle with drug and alcohol abuse," says Gov. McMaster. "Through her remarkable record of public service and civic engagement she has created a better South Carolina for us all."

Sanders' impact certainly reached Clarendon County and beyond. When she was named director of the Clarendon program in 1975, she sought the advice of pioneers in the field and worked to promote legislation to reduce the impact of substance abuse. Sanders also helped launch statewide initiatives like the Alcohol and Drug Safety Action Program (ADSAP), school intervention and prevention programs, under-age drinking prevention and drug courts.

"She is a living legend," says Sarah Goldsby, director of the S.C. Department of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Services. "She's built this system. She is a messenger of hope and recovery in our state."

As evidenced by her lengthy meeting with the governor, Sanders' recent retirement from Clarendon County Behavioral Health is not expected to be an end to her advocacy for the well-being of her community and all South Carolinians.

"I'm just happy that I had 40-plus years to serve the citizens of Clarendon County and around the state," says the Summerton resident and wife of Santee Electric trustee Sonny Sanders. "I hope that I can continue in some other avenue to help people who suffer from addiction because it is so important."

It was different but good

THE 2020 ANNUAL Meeting wasn't what we were used to, but it was a success.

Thank you to all the members who joined us at our headquarters on Oct. 27 for the drive through annual meeting. We had 4,625 members register. All of these members received a \$15 bill credit and an 8-inch Lodge skillet.

The meeting was shared on Facebook Live and can still be viewed on our Facebook page and webpage. The three board members up for reelection were Harry Walters, Billy Morris and Bill Floyd. Without opposition, these three gentlemen will retain their board seats for another term. The membership voted to approve new bylaws. This was necessary to comply with recent legislation and to update outdated language. Members also were asked to choose between voting at-large for all board seats or by district. The membership chose to continue the practice of at-large voting.

Even though the 2020 Annual Meeting was different, it was good. We appreciate all our members who came out to support your co-op.



PHOTOS BY JOSH P. CROTZER

Santee Electric's Jerry Boozar assists Rondell Montgomery of the Williamsburg County Fire Department during drive-thru registration and voting on Oct. 27.

Sign up for Beat The Peak. You could win \$500.

SANTEE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

members who register for the Beat The Peak program by Dec. 15 will be eligible to win a \$500 Visa gift card in a statewide prize drawing. In addition, one Santee Electric member will win a \$100 gift card from a local prize drawing. If you are already participating in Beat The Peak, it is not necessary to register again to be eligible for the prizes.

According to a recent impact study, the innovative program in which cooperative members reduce their energy consumption at strategic times has saved South Carolina's electric cooperatives \$618,195 since its inception in 2018. So far in 2020, peak alert savings have totaled \$251,713. That's savings

Santee Electric has used to keep costs as low as possible for its members.

Volunteers have signed up for alerts that let them know when a peak is on the way. On the hottest days, these peaks usually occur between 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. On the coldest days, it can happen in the early morning. By setting or scheduling their thermostats to a higher setting, volunteers shave these peaks.

According to Santee Electric's BPI certified energy adviser, Kevin Myers, each Beat The Peak volunteer reduced

power demand on average by 55 watts last summer and 52 watts last winter. That's enough energy to power a 10-watt LED bulb for more than five hours. Multiply that by 45,000 volunteers, and the savings really add up.

"Wholesale power costs are at their highest when demand is at its highest," says Myers. "Every kilowatt we can reduce from that demand is beneficial to everyone. It can keep rates stable and reduce the need for new power plants."

Currently, there are 3,852 Santee Electric members who have volunteered. If you'd like to join the movement, you can sign up at BeatThePeak.com by completing a simple form and indicating how you want to receive peak alerts.



May the Spirit of the Holiday Season Shine Bright

Now more than ever, we're all looking forward to the light and hope that the holiday season can bring. At Santee Electric Cooperative, we're proud to always provide our members with reliable service at an affordable price—bringing light, warmth and dependability to you and your loved ones now and into the coming year.

*Merry Christmas and
Wishing You a Bright New Year!*



(800) 922-1604
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Santee Electric will be closed for the holidays Nov. 26–27, Dec. 24–25 and Jan. 1.

Manning animal shelter adopting new methods

A Second Chance surviving through pandemic's challenges

ALTHOUGH BEAUTIFUL, with a black and white coat, Iggy was scary. He would growl, bark and show his teeth whenever someone approached his pen. That behavior typically doesn't lead to adoption. Had Iggy not been at a no-kill shelter, there's a good chance the German shepherd would have been euthanized.

But fortunately for Iggy, he was at A Second Chance Animal Shelter in Manning. The facility off Alex Harvin Highway is a safe haven that provides care and adoption opportunities for unwanted cats and dogs in Clarendon County. Earlier this summer, Iggy was skillfully led out of his pen and trained by Big Dog Ranch Rescue, a Florida-based group of dog rescuers that take dogs from shelters and adopt them out in communities across the nation.

"Iggy came to us as an owner surrender," explains Cherie McDonald, director of shelter operations at A Second Chance. "The owner had stated that they could no longer care for the dog or give it the attention needed. Iggy's instinct to protect his owner made it difficult because he would not let strangers near him. Iggy needed special trainers that would help him learn to trust people again."

Iggy's behavior is not typical for the animals at A Second Chance, but his outcome is. McDonald says that most of the dogs and cats that come to their facility are taken by rescue organizations and delivered to communities where they are wanted. For those that stay, about 45 cats and 60 dogs at a time, shelter staff provides care and facilitates adoptions. COVID-19 has made it more difficult for A Second Chance to provide all its services, especially since two employees were exposed to the coronavirus and had to be quarantined.



Cherie McDonald, director of shelter operations at A Second Chance, holds Walter, a chocolate lab puppy that was brought to the shelter as part of a litter found on a local property. After getting the veterinary care he needed, Walter was adopted by the person who had brought him to the shelter.

"While other businesses were shut down completely or open just part-time, we were still here feeding cats and dogs and cleaning behind them," says McDonald. "The animals depended on us to care for them. We were only able to have our first of what should have been two spay and neuter clinics for the month."

In March, the shelter began limiting intakes from the public and from the county animal shelter to emergencies. Their spay and neuter program was suspended in May. And since A Second Chance screens potential adopters, a process that includes home visits, adoption opportunities have been limited, as well.

"We have had a few adoptions for puppies and cats," says McDonald. "But, most of our animals are going to rescues in order to move them out and give them a better chance at finding good homes."

The coronavirus also was detrimental to the nonprofit shelter's revenue. Their

spay and neutering service has been put on hold and their popular thrift store, which is their main source of income, had to be shut down at the beginning of quarantining measures. The thrift store opened back up in June, however it is generating only a third of the income it did before COVID-19. They also canceled their primary fundraiser, an annual golf tournament.

That forced the shelter to lean on donations from local businesses and individuals to sustain them. Santee Electric Cooperative, which has always been a strong supporter of A Second Chance, has donated \$3,000 over the last two years.

"A Second Chance does incredible work in our community," says Mary Grace McGee, manager of community relations at Santee Electric. "We're proud to be able to support them through the Sharing Success program and our WIRE (Women Involved in Rural



Charlie Brown is a unique dog that requires special care, making adoption unlikely. To prevent him from spending the remainder of his life in a kennel, the shelter is building a sanctuary just for Charlie.

Electrification) organization.”

A Second Chance, Clarendon County’s only animal shelter since 1998, is operating at normal hours but is still accepting adoptions by appointment only. They have also initiated creative new fundraisers for the fall. Pet owners were invited to bring their furry friends by for a Halloween or holiday photo. The holiday photo shoot, tentatively set for Nov. 14, will offer pictures set in a plaque, ornament or magnet. They will also be selling home baked goods and dog treats.

To find out more about A Second Chance Animal Shelter, visit their website at asecondchanceanimalshelter.com or call (803) 473-7075. Their office hours are Monday through Saturday, 9 a.m. until 3 p.m.

Donate to the shelter

In addition to funds, A Second Chance would benefit from donations of goods. The following is a list requested by the shelter.

Shelter supplies

Paper towels
Toilet paper
Laundry detergent
Dawn dish soap
Bleach
Industrial spray bottles
100-foot heavy duty garden hoses
Odoban
Trash bags
Stainless steel food dishes
Chain-link dog pens
Pooper scoopers
Biodegradable poop bags
Dog houses, wood or plastic
Stainless steel pails
Gently used washers and dryers

Disposable lab coats
Disposable gloves

For the animals

Hard rubber balls
Kong toys
Kitty litter
Dog collars, harnesses and leashes
Temptations cat treats
Frontline

Thrift store open again

A Second Chance will also accept donations to the thrift store. A Second Chance Thrift Store is located at 573 S. Mill St. in Manning and is open Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. until 5 p.m.

For animals that never got to leave the shelter, there is a place of eternal rest at A Second Chance.



PHOTOS BY JOSH P. CROTZER

Round Up PLUS helps member

FOR MANY YEARS, Santee Electric Cooperative has offered Operation Round Up as a way for members to help their friends and neighbors in need by rounding up their bill to the nearest dollar. On average, 50 cents per month from each participant goes into the Operation Round Up fund. This month a new program, Round Up Plus, is being introduced.

Round Up PLUS allows members to go online and sign up to give a monthly gift in the amount of their choice or a one-time lump sum. All donations are tax-deductible and go directly into the Operation Round Up Fund.

Josephine Rush is just one of many members who have benefited from Operation Round Up. On April 6, an old microwave started a fire that destroyed most of her mobile home. Thanks to a \$500 gift from Operation Round Up, insurance and a talented daughter, Angel Coles, Rush has returned to her newly renovated residence.

"I never imagined being back in here," Rush declared as she looks around her beautiful new kitchen.

Jay Kirby, vice president of public affairs explains, "The program was founded with the purpose of expanding the principle of neighbor-helping-neighbor. Electric cooperatives



Josephine Rush shows off tiles her daughter created for her new kitchen, made possible in part because of Santee Electric's Round Up donors.

were built on such principals. Operation Round Up and Round Up PLUS show that a small change can change lives."

If you would like to donate to Operation Round Up or Round Up PLUS go to santee.org. A link for giving can be found on the homepage or under Community Programs. Click on the link, fill out the form and our billing department will make sure your gift is added into the monthly Operation Round Up total.

Helping your community is a

plus



Santee Electric Cooperative's members have helped the community through Operation Round Up®, donating more than \$5.5 million since 1993. Through this program, members' electric bills are rounded up to the next whole dollar. Money raised help in times of need with food, clothing, shelter, health needs and added support for worthy organizations.

We are now offering, Operation Round Up PLUS. Along with Operation Round Up, you can give more to help make a bigger difference in our community. You will be able to choose a one time gift or add a monthly gift in an amount of your choice.

For more information on how you can participate, visit santee.org or call 800-922-1604.



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