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**Santee Electric
Cooperative News**
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A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Special recognition makes annual meeting especially nice

ANNUAL MEETINGS are always a special time for me. I really enjoy getting to walk around and speak to our

members one on one. After all, members are what electric cooperatives are all about.

I also enjoy seeing another very important component of the cooperative enjoying the day, our employees. Our employees work each year to make sure we have a successful meeting of our members. Everyone has an assignment and a smile on his/her face when the day finally arrives. I think the office personnel enjoy getting out one day of the year and being able to socialize with our members as much as I do.

Not to belittle their efforts to make the day run smoothly or their everyday tasks, but we have some employees who don't have the comfort of a nice office. They do their work in the middle of the night, during storms or on a sunny 93-degree afternoon. Whenever they're called, they report to work, leaving families at home. When disaster strikes our neighbors, they even leave for weeks at the time to lend a helping hand to people just like us who suffer through power losses. These are our linemen and during this year's annual meeting, I was especially humbled to be able to honor them.

Because April is typically Lineman Appreciation Month, April 18 lent itself for the perfect opportunity to thank these men for all they do. Roger Boyd, a 2nd Class Lineman, did an amazing job opening this year's annual business meeting by singing



WALTER ALREAD

You don't have to be present to win prizes at Santee's annual meeting, but Diane Nesmith was on hand, so she took home her prize, a drone! Please go to santee.org for a full list of Annual Meeting prize winners.

the national anthem. I felt a real sense of pride when the crowd gave Boyd and all his fellow linemen a standing ovation.

The 3,643 members who attended this year's meeting voted to re-elect Billy L. Morris, Jr., James E. Scott and Harry R. Walters for three-year terms. They also approved the bylaw change, which was highlighted in the previous edition of *South Carolina Living*.

With this only being my second annual meeting as Santee Electric Cooperative's CEO, I can't wait to see what next year has in store. Thank you to everyone who came and participated and congratulations to everyone who won a prize. I hope to see all of you again next year!

Robert G. Ardis III
President and Chief Executive Officer

Santee News

More love

Showing appreciation for SEC members, linemen at 2017 Annual Meeting



SEC's Roger Boyd wows the crowd singing the national anthem, after which his fellow linemen gave him a rousing cheer, too. Emcee Lou Green helped future linemen (from left) Tyler McCray and Bradley and Coker Lee lead the Pledge of Allegiance.



SEC held Member Appreciation Days last fall but showed them even more love at the 2017 Annual Meeting—especially those who took time to attend, such as Rachel Arnold (right). She's posing with her registration gift, a Sherpa blanket with the co-op logo. Also giving her comfort is her diabetic service dog, Cody. Registered members also received \$15 bill credits.



WALTER ALLREAD



Shortly before the business meeting, many of SEC's linemen (and future linemen) posed for a photo. Annual Meeting day happened to be national Lineman Appreciation Day and, CEO Rob Ardis told members, Gov. Henry McMaster had just designated May 2 as South Carolina Lineman Appreciation Day.

