Thankful for our many friends

THE TWO WEEKS of preparation and restoration for Hurricane Matthew now seem like a blur. Everyone at Santee Electric worked non-stop, yet tirelessly, to restore electric service to our entire four-county service territory.

It was a long, hard slog. The cooperative’s 2,005-square-mile service area is the largest of any electric co-op east of the Mississippi River. More than 5,500 miles of power line stretch across the territory, often through farm fields, woods and swamps. Stretched into a single line, the system would reach California and back.

Finally, a week after Matthew struck, we could see the light at the end of the tunnel as we drew near restoring power back for most of our members. I felt a surge of pride in our employees. Their dedication, commitment to serve, and pure hard work was remarkable, both during the preparation for and the recovery from Matthew.

It proves once again that Santee Electric is more than a utility that provides electricity to our members. It shows the value of having employees who are local residents, involved in the communities where they live and work. Like local law enforcement and other first responders, they are there when you need them.

I'm also proud of Santee’s extended co-op family, which includes our state association, the Electric Cooperatives of South Carolina, Inc., the 19 other distribution co-ops in South Carolina, and our power supply aggregator, Central Electric Power Cooperative, as well as our utility supply co-op, CEE-US. All worked together, coordinating resources to help us.

And, thanks to mutual aid agreements that electric co-ops have in place before natural disasters or other emergencies occur, Santee received help from co-ops in Alabama, North Carolina, Virginia, Maryland and Kentucky. Hundreds of lineworkers came to help get your lights back on. Cooperation among co-ops is a cooperative principle, and we’ll be there for our co-op friends when they need us.

We also thank Santee Cooper, the state-owned utility that generates most of the power we distribute, as well as our contractors and vendors, for their help. But most of all, we thank our members. You demonstrated patience and understanding, and countless acts of kindness, in the aftermath of the storm.

As life gets back to normal for most of us, please don’t forget the local residents and businesses that were not as fortunate. Many people have a lot of challenges ahead. Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers.

Robert G. Ardis III
President and Chief Executive Officer

We’ll be back in January!

South Carolina Living publishes a combined November-December edition this time each year.

Until then, we’ll stay in touch via santee.org, Facebook or Twitter.

Our offices will close Thursday and Friday, Nov. 24-25, for Thanksgiving as well as Friday, Dec. 23, for Christmas and the following Monday, Dec. 26. We’ll also close the following Monday, Jan. 2, for New Year’s. Emergency crews will be on standby.

We’ll be back with a new issue of South Carolina Living in January. Until then, happy holidays from Santee Electric Cooperative!
Thanks for your patience, Santee members!
We appreciate your support after Hurricane Matthew.

Special thanks to these electric co-ops and companies, which assisted SEC after Hurricane Matthew:

**Alabama**
- Black Warrior Electric Membership Corp.
- Dixie Electric Cooperative
- Joe Wheeler Electric Cooperative
- Marshal-DeKalb Electric Cooperative
- Sand Mountain Electric Cooperative
- Southern Pine Electric Cooperative
- Wiregrass Electric Cooperative

**Kentucky**
- Halifax Electric Cooperative
- Jackson Purchase Electric Cooperative
- Meade County RECC
- Nolin RECC
- Townsend Corp. (right-of-way crews)

**Maryland**
- Choptank Electric Cooperative

**Mississippi**
- Southern Pine Electric

**North Carolina**
- Carolina Tree Service
- Lee Electrical Construction Co.
- Piedmont Electric Membership Corp.

**South Carolina**
- Asplundh
- Berkeley Electric Cooperative
- Blue Ridge Electric Cooperative
- Davis Construction
- Jimmie’s Tree Service
- Lucas Tree Experts
- McCall-Thomas Engineering Co.
- Santee Cooper
- Sumter Utilities
- Tru Check

**Tennessee**
- Duck River Electric Membership Corp.

**Virginia**
- North Virginia Electric Cooperative