Quite a job, for quite a guy

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN how about a much-needed break from discussions about the virus and the economy? I have a delightful vacation from negativity for you!

This month’s featured employee is Jerry Boozer, SEC’s advanced metering infrastructure (AMI) and database administrator. Quite a title, isn’t it? That’s because we have called upon him to do quite a job! AMI refers to the system we use to read our electric meters. All those readings—every hour, for over 40,000 meters—are Jerry’s responsibility. Adding the customer database information that SEC must maintain, you can see why we depend so heavily on Jerry.

While Jerry was born in Manhattan (that’s right—New York City!), he and his family moved to the Sumter area when he was a child. He graduated from Furman High School in Sumter and later received a B.S. in Administrative Information Management from the University of South Carolina.

Jerry’s wife, Sheree, is the director of recruitment and teacher quality for Sumter School District. Jerry and Sheree, who will celebrate 23 years of marriage in June, have two daughters. Christina is 21 and a junior majoring in Early Childhood Education at USC. Elissa is 16 and a junior at Sumter High School. She is part of the International Baccalaureate (IB) Program and dual enrollment program through USC—Sumter.

Jerry loves spending time with his wife and daughters and informs me that he does a lot of the cooking for the family. “I love to cook and bake,” he adds. “My favorite dishes are braised short ribs, old fashioned mac and cheese, curry goat, lamb chops, and grilling wings, burgers, and hot dogs for the family.”

I asked Jerry what he liked best about his job, and his team spirit shone bright! “The best part of my job is knowing I do not have to face a challenge alone. I am honored to work with a group that understands an accomplishment or success for one is celebrated by all.”

And the toughest part? “Anxiety during storm season.” We all feel it, Jerry!

“My favorite thing about working at SEC is that I have been empowered to make a positive difference,” Jerry goes on to say. “It’s great to have a job where what I do matters and where my actions are a blessing to others.”

As always, I asked Jerry what he would like for our readers to know. First, he wants you to know that, during an outage, “our organization is working safely and quickly to restore your power.” In general, though, Jerry wants to make sure that you all know that, “SEC cares about the well-being of the membership. I share in SEC’s daily endeavor to not only provide reliable electric service, but to partner with the community to enhance every facet of life.”

Ladies and gentlemen, Jerry B (as I affectionately call him) is a world-class guy and a huge asset to SEC. Now, I’ve just got to weasel my way into an invitation to the Boozer residence for some ribs! Have a great month!
Ensuring reliability is paramount

ENSURING CONTINUED POWER reliability is paramount for Santee Electric, especially for critical facilities and services and members with specific medical needs. We are working hand-in-hand with the electric cooperative network and local industry and government leaders to ensure energy operations and infrastructure continue to be supported without disruption.

If a storm blows through and causes a significant power outage, Santee Electric coordinates with others in the electric sector in a sophisticated mutual assistance program that enables the sharing of resources and expertise during emergency situations.

If you experience an interruption to your service, need assistance or have a concern, call (800) 922-1604 or visit the cooperative’s website santee.org.

Reliable service continues, despite COVID-19

Santee Electric Cooperative has a strong track record of preparing for a variety of emergencies that could impact the ability to deliver electricity to our members. For weeks, your cooperative has taken proactive steps to prepare for the evolving COVID-19 challenges while maintaining its commitment to the members and communities we serve.

Although there have been many adjustments to cooperative operations during this time—drive-thru only services, social distancing, and reduced staffing—Santee Electric continues to provide you with reliable electric service. We are still maintaining lines, restoring outages, and assisting members with their accounts.

Industrial parks in development

ON THE ECONOMIC development side, SEC continues to work with county and regional economic development officials to pursue opportunities. We are working toward the development of two new industrial parks within our territory, the Pennyroyal Industrial Park in Georgetown and the Scranton Industrial Park in Florence County. In fact, the Scranton Industrial Park will be partially cleared, grubbed, and graded in the coming weeks to make it ready for construction.

The master plan for the Scranton Industrial Park in Florence County. Construction of the park is expected to begin in the coming weeks.