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SANTEE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE NEWS
 Mary Grace McGee, *Editor*
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A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Hard work and a smile!



HAPPY FEBRUARY, Santee Electric readers! I hope everyone is doing well.

This month, I wanted to feature another of SEC's awesome employees, and this column is all about Chad Miles—one of our first-class linemen.

Chad has lived in Sandy Bay his entire life, and he went to Kingstree High School, so many of you from this area know Chad. But if you don't, let me tell you—you're missing out! Chad is a great guy with a terrific sense of humor. He keeps everyone at your cooperative smiling.

Chad came to us in 1996 to take a position on our right-of-way crew, the guys who keep trees away from our power lines. After about five years in this department, he transitioned over to working as a lineman, and has worked his way up to the first-class level since then. So, yes, Chad is one of those guys who builds power lines by day and then rebuilds them when vehicles and Mother Nature take them down!

Chad has been married to Lisa (formerly Lisa Brown) since 1999. Many of you may know Lisa as the owner of a wonderful shop on Academy



TAMMY ERWIN

Chad Miles

POSITION
 First-Class Lineman

BEGAN AT SEC
 1996, in the right-of-way crew

HOBBIES

Hunting, fishing, smiling and watching his daughters play ball!

FAVORITE PART OF THE JOB

Being outside and seeing members' smiles

Street in downtown Kingstree called Miles & Company. Chad and Lisa have two beautiful daughters. Hannah, 17, is a senior, and Abby, 13, is in the 8th grade. Both attend Williamsburg Academy, and are excellent athletes!

We asked Chad what he likes best about his job, and he was quick to let us know that he loves working outside (most of the time). Furthermore, since Chad is definitely a "people person," he really likes the opportunity to get out and meet new people.

Naturally, we followed up with a question about the toughest part of his job. "Working in extreme weather," he says, "can be really challenging at times." However, his favorite aspect of working for Santee Electric Cooperative is seeing our smiling members when he has helped build new service to them or restored their power after a storm.

Chad's hobbies, of course, include hunting and fishing. However, nothing gives him more pleasure than watching Hannah and Abby play ball. Both play volleyball and softball.

I've told the employees here at SEC that our main goal is to work hard for our membership and enjoy doing it. Chad Miles is a perfect example of this. Hard work and a smile always come from Chad!

If you see him around Sandy Bay or at a ballgame one evening, make sure you tell him thank you for the wonderful job he does for us. If you happen to see Lisa at Miles & Company, tell her you know the girls got their athleticism from her. Trust me, Chad will love that!

Have a great month everyone!

ROBERT G. ARDIS III
 President and Chief Executive Officer

Apply now for 2021 WIRE scholarships

WOMEN RETURNING TO SCHOOL to earn college degrees have until June 1 to apply for financial assistance from the 2021 Jenny Ballard Opportunity Scholarship program.

Sponsored by Women Involved in Rural Electrification (WIRE), a service organization associated with South Carolina's electric cooperatives, the scholarship is a one-time award based on financial need and personal goals.

"It takes courage and vision to pursue a college degree as a working adult," says Mary Grace McGee, manager of Community Relations. "This scholarship

is a chance to support these brave women, many of whom have already made so many sacrifices for their family."

The scholarship is named after Jenny Ballard, who founded WIRE 40 years ago. The Opportunity Scholarship program began funding education for women returning to college in 2004.

Application forms for the 2021 WIRE scholarship are available at your local electric cooperative and as a PDF download at **SCLiving.coop/scholarship**.

- Applicants for the program must:
- ▶ Be a member of Santee Electric Cooperative or another South Carolina electric cooperative.
 - ▶ Have graduated from high school or earned a GED at least 10 years ago.
 - ▶ Be accepted into an accredited S.C. college or university.
 - ▶ Demonstrate financial need and clear academic goals.

Recipients will receive scholarships for the fall 2021 or spring 2022 semester, with funds paid to the college or university.

Lana Colombo (left), with Community Relations Manager Mary Grace McGee, is the only Jenny Ballard Scholarship winner from the SEC area. As a 2020 winner, she is currently attending the Culinary Institute of Charleston.

HOW TO APPLY

The application deadline for 2021 Jenny Ballard Opportunity Scholarships is June 1.

Candidates can fill out and submit the application online at **ecsc.org/content/wire-scholarship**.

Paper forms are available at your local electric cooperative or downloaded as a PDF from **SCLiving.coop/scholarship**.

Completed forms can be attached to an email addressed to:

Peggy.Dantzler@ecsc.org

Or mail to:

Peggy Dantzler
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