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A passion for service

HERE AT BERKELEY ELECTRIC, our core job is keeping the lights on, but our passion is serving our members.

Because we're a co-op, our purpose is to enhance the lives of our members and serve the long-term interests of our community. This service focus is at the heart of who we are.

We were built and are led by the members we serve. Whether tested by severe weather events or a pandemic, our co-op puts people first, not just during tough times but all the time. Over the years, our charitable efforts, staff volunteer service hours and other locally focused projects have helped build playgrounds, supported local schools and young people, supported local food banks, assisted families in need to keep the lights on and much, much more. In fact, we are proud to have been a part of supporting the new Miracle League field in Moncks Corner, which helps children and adults with mental and physical disabilities experience the joy of baseball.

The past several months have been a whirlwind of other community events as well, starting with several Halloween and fall festivals, the re-dedication of the Maude Callen Clinic in Pineville and making a delivery to the Fisher House in Charleston, which serves our veterans. We even took part in four Christmas parades and managed to bring home trophies for the "Most Christmas Spirit" and "Most Creative" float. And before I forget, we even managed to squeeze in not one, not two, but four days of Annual Meeting drive-thrus with over 12,000 of our members.



Employees from Berkeley Electric and Berkeley Propane proudly display their trophies for winning "Most Christmas Spirit" and "Most Creative" float in the Moncks Corner Christmas parade.

There is no way we could have accomplished all of that without a passion for service and the support of so many of our employees. Whether it is picking up trash along the highway, participating in Trident United Way's Day of Caring or even volunteering to coach Little League, our employees have shown an unprecedented level of dedication to serving their communities. It truly makes me proud to be the CEO of an organization where employees give so freely of their time.

As a local business, we are proud of our role in helping bring good things to our community. While there is still a lot of uncertainty in our daily lives, one thing remains constant. Working together with you, the members we serve, Berkeley Electric Cooperative will continue to be your source of power, information and positive change.

Sincerely,

MIKE FULLER
 President & CEO

Ready for an experience you won't forget?

Your co-op has two amazing trips planned this summer. Juniors: Apply for the Washington Youth Tour. Sophomores: Apply for the Cooperative Youth Summit.

Juniors: Experience Washington, D.C., with hundreds of students from across South Carolina and the country, meeting lawmakers and touring all the sights. Your electric co-op will cover your round-trip plane ticket, tours and meals. In other words, it's all free!

Sophomores: Experience South Carolina's capital like never before. Tour the Statehouse, meet lawmakers and see how co-ops are preparing for our state's energy future. Plus, there's plenty of fun with visits to popular Columbia attractions like Riverbanks Zoo & Garden. Your electric co-op will cover all your expenses.

We've made it easy to apply for either FREE trip. Apply today!



ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES
OF SOUTH CAROLINA



Washington Youth Tour: June 17-22, 2023



Cooperative Youth Summit: July 10-13, 2023



Applications available: berkeleyelectric.coop/youth-tour
Application Deadline: February 28, 2023



Berkeley Electric
Cooperative

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LEE CLAYTON
Trustee, District 5

Encouraging educational efforts

OUT OF THE FRYING PAN and into the fire. That is where I find myself after being newly elected to the board of trustees at this year's Annual Meeting, only to find out that I have to write the first column of the year for the magazine. If they had told me that I would have to do this before I decided to run, I may have changed my mind. All joking aside, I thought I would take this opportunity to introduce myself to my fellow members.

My full name is Denver Lee Clayton, but most people call me Lee. I grew up in Goose Creek and graduated from Goose Creek High School before enlisting in the United States Air Force and serving for four years. After the Air Force, I trained as a reserve officer in the Moncks Corner Police Department, which led to a career in law enforcement. I retired from the North Charleston department. I have been married to my wife Tracy for 33 years and I am now at the point in my life where I want to give back to the community that I grew up in, that I worked in and where I raised my kids.

Being from Goose Creek, I knew about Berkeley Electric Cooperative and that they were more than just a power company. The way they are involved in the community was one of the main reasons I decided to run for the board. Now that I have been a board member for a few months, what I have come to realize is that the co-op is even more involved in the community than I originally thought, especially when it comes to education.

Having raised kids of my own, I was excited to hear about three programs that are all starting this month. Right off the bat on Jan. 1, the co-op is going to be accepting applications for the Washington Youth Tour and Cooperative Youth Summit. As I learned, both of these are week-long leadership experiences offered to local students with high

school juniors taking part in the Youth Tour and sophomores going to the Youth Summit. I would really like to urge you to have your kids apply for these trips because not only do they sound amazing but both of them are free to members.

Berkeley Electric is also supporting students after high school as well through its Operation Round Up Trust Scholarships. If you aren't familiar with Operation Round Up, it's a program where the co-op rounds up the electric bill of participating members to the next highest dollar amount. I had always seen the program listed on my bill, but I didn't realize all the ways in which those funds were used to help co-op members. This includes the ten \$2,500 Operation Round Up trust scholarships that will open for applications on Jan. 9.

And the co-op didn't forget the teachers either. The Bright Ideas teacher grant program has been revamped to make it easier for more teachers to participate. Teachers can start applying for grants this month all the way through the end of February. The grants will then be awarded by the end of April, giving teachers plenty of time to use the money and create lesson plans well before the new school year begins. From what I understand, the co-op has awarded over \$70,000 in grants since the program started. If you are interested in learning more about any of these programs all you need to do is visit the co-op's website at berkeleyelectric.coop. Each program has an online form which makes applying quick and easy.

I truly am excited to start this next chapter of my life and I am grateful to my fellow members who took the time to come out and vote during the Annual Meeting. When I started this journey, I wanted to be a part of the process to help provide safe, affordable and reliable electricity to the members of Berkeley Electric Cooperative. As I continue to learn more about all the ways that the co-op serves its communities, I am even more excited to be a part of this process. Thank you, once again, and I look forward to serving as your representative for District 5 and to acting to help represent the interests of my fellow members.

Sincerely,

BERKELEY AT-A-GLANCE	SEPTEMBER 2021	SEPTEMBER 2022
Total kWh sold	342,013,354	391,333,019
No. meters served	114,700	120,222
Avg. residential kWh/meter	1,180	1,360
Avg. residential bill/meter	\$161.87	\$186.47
Miles of line	6074	6198
Avg. daily high temperature	85	85
Avg. daily low temperature	67	68

New timeline announced for Bright Ideas

YOU SPOKE. WE LISTENED.

In an effort to make the Bright Ideas program better for teachers, Berkeley Electric has changed the grant application timeline. We will now accept online applications starting Jan. 1 through the end of February. This change will allow teachers to submit grant applications before the busy testing period at the end of the year. It will also help ensure that they will be able to use the grant money to purchase their new classroom supplies and develop lesson plans before the start of the new school year.

Bright Ideas 5K returns

Last year we introduced the Bright Ideas 5K Run/Walk as a new fundraiser for the program. It was so successful that not only are we bringing it back but the race raised more grant money than ever before to award to teachers—and that means we need more teachers to apply!

The application process is short and straightforward and with increased funding there's an even better chance

of receiving a grant. Don't forget to go ahead and register for the 5K Run/Walk to receive early bird pricing, which includes an official race t-shirt and medal. We'll be back at beautiful and scenic Cypress Gardens on Saturday, April 22 with a new race course that features a lot less roots and cypress knees!

Be sure to follow us on social for more details about our Bright Ideas!

APPLY NOW

Teachers can apply as individuals or as a team for up to \$1,500 in grants. Deadline is Feb. 28.

berkeleyelectric.coop

Winning teachers received nearly \$10,000 in grants this year through Bright Ideas.



MICAH PONCE

\$2,500 scholarships available

The Berkeley Electric Trust Board will start accepting scholarship applications on Jan. 9 for high school seniors whose parents are cooperative members. Up to ten \$2,500 scholarships are available with one being awarded to each high school served by the co-op, including several at-large scholarships.

"The Trust Board recognizes that college tuition continues to rise," board chairman Alton Hood says. "To help keep the college dream alive for our students, the board has chosen to set the scholarship amount at \$2,500. Previously, the amount offered was \$1,000."

The scholarships are funded by the Operation Round Up program. Participating members agree to have their electric bill rounded up to the next highest dollar amount. Those funds are then used for scholarships, to support local non-profits and provide critical home repairs for fellow members.

Students may apply online at berkeleyelectric.coop before the application deadline of March 31. Grade and income requirements apply and the scholarships will be awarded in May.

BRIGHT IDEAS 5K

RUN & WALK



APRIL 22 • CYPRESS GARDENS

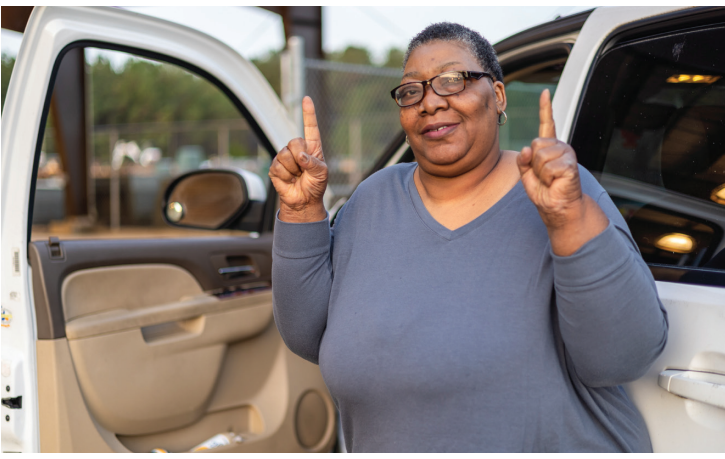
SCAN FOR EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION SAVINGS





Annual Meeting recap

MICAH PONCE



MICAH PONCE

Awendaw member Ruth Nesbit set her alarm to get up with the sun to be the first official voter at 7 a.m. during this year's drive-thru Annual Meeting.

IT LOOKS LIKE THE DRIVE-THRU Annual Meeting is here to stay after a successful third year with over 12,000 members registering. Members re-elected Shelia Powell to represent District 2 and ushered in two new board trustees with Lee Clayton in District 5 and Bob Jenkins in District 8. Members also approved bylaw amendments that allow the co-op to refund Capital Credits when members cancel their membership and clarified what type of relationships trustee can have with the co-op. Props to Awendaw member Ruth Nesbit for being the first member in line to vote this year and congrats to Sheri Creach of Summerville, who took home the grand prize—a 2013 Ford F-150 extended cab truck.



JOSH CROTZER

James Brady and James Nehrer of Summerville swung by our new Moncks Corner headquarters to cast their vote and receive a \$30 bill credit (plus a nifty calendar).



JOSH CROTZER

Our four-legged friends, like Sasha, appreciated the upgrade in dog treats offered this year after turning up their noses at last year's Milk Bones.



MICAH PONCE

Candidates Mark Murray (left) and Sheila Powell (right) didn't let a little cold weather or rain stop them from campaigning at this year's meeting. Powell was re-elected to represent District 2.



MICAH PONCE

With thousands of cars driving through there are bound to be a few issues. Luckily for Marian Murray of Cross our mechanics had her back on the road in no time.

Local all-stars give back before bowl game

BY JOSH P. CROTZER

TIMOTHY CASTAIN is the youngest in his family, so he knows well what it's like to have someone shop for you. But last month, the lineman from Oceanside Collegiate Academy got to experience the flipside.

Castain was among 88 of South Carolina's top high school football players selected to play in the Touchstone Energy Cooperatives Bowl, an annual all-star game played on Dec. 10 at Doug Shaw Memorial Stadium in Myrtle Beach. A few days before the North team's 22-14 victory over the South, opposing players from each team partnered to assist 44 deserving kids from Horry County schools for a Christmas shopping spree at a local Target store.

"I'm used to people buying stuff for me. Now it's time to buy for someone else," says Castain, one of seven players representing Berkeley Electric's service territory. "It was great to help out the kids and give back to the community."

In addition to Castain, Berkeley Electric area all-stars included Zolten Osborne of Fort Dorchester High, Jordan Turner of Goose Creek High, Tory Gethers of Stratford High, A'Monte McCray of Cross High, Malik Horry, of Hanahan High, Kameron Durant of Cane Bay High and Jack Weil of Lucy Beckham High.

The shopping spree has become a tradition during the bowl week since South Carolina's electric cooperatives began sponsoring the game. The cooperatives provide each child, chosen by school district officials, a \$150 Target gift card to spend on clothes, toys and other items on their Christmas list.

"It's been awesome just letting this kid choose his way through," says Weil, who teamed with Dormant's Graham Smith to help fourth-grader Andre Hadley find the clothes on his list. "What kid has been given \$150 and told to go buy what you want? That's made it a good experience for him and us too."

For some players, the connections made with the kids they escorted were the highlight of the day.

"It's been real fun for me," says Osborne, who helped Tamir Williams of Myrtle Beach Elementary. "He always had a smile on his face and was always kidding around."

In addition to the shopping spree and the game, players also participated in Lineman Demo Day, in which they explored careers as lineworkers through hands-on demonstrations presented by Horry Electric Cooperative linemen.



VAN O'CAIN

Berkeley Electric area bowl participants included (from left) Timothy Castain, Jordan Turner, Malik Horry, A'Monte McCray, Tory Gethers, Kameron Durant and Jack Weil. Berkeley Electric's Peyton Dress was at their trophy presentations to congratulate them.



TRAVIS BELL

Tamir Williams (left) got some athletic gear with the help of Fort Dorchester quarterback Zolten Osborne.



TRAVIS BELL

Timothy Castain (center) of Oceanside Collegiate and Cameron Jackson of Spartanburg High help Joshua Zuniga (left) find some of the toys on his list.