



[www.fairfield.coop](http://www.fairfield.coop)

**MAILING ADDRESS**

P.O. Box 2500  
Blythewood, SC 29016

**BLYTHEWOOD OFFICE**

701 Blythewood Road  
Blythewood, SC 29016

**WINNSBORO OFFICE**

3129 U.S. Hwy. 321 North Winnsboro,  
SC 29180

**OFFICE HOURS**

8 a.m.–5 p.m.  
Monday through Friday

**CUSTOMER SERVICE**

Toll Free: (800) 628-0336  
Blythewood: (803) 754-0153  
Winnsboro: (803) 635-4621  
Camden and Lugoff: (803) 425-1059

**POWER OUTAGE REPORTING ONLY**  
(800) 499-7862

Outages are handled by an automated outage reporting system. Please follow instructions. The system will automatically report the outage and a crew will be dispatched.

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Mitchell D. Rabon, President,  
District 3  
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A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



## The future is bright for FEC in 2023

**WE KNOW WHEN** we helped to bring electricity to rural South Carolina many years ago, the quality of life improved for all. Through the years, other issues needed to be tackled, and we have been at the forefront of helping to address some of those issues. We want to help meet the long-term needs of our community to ensure it continues to thrive because just like you, we live here too.

Your cooperative has some of the finest employees anywhere.

I see their commitment every day. They are local people who live and work in the area we serve. They contribute to their communities

in many ways and have common interests with you.

The Cooperative's Board of Trustees are also local and members of the cooperative just like you. They are well informed and educated on the electric utility industry and are committed to serving you. This local input means those closest to the community know its needs and priorities and help direct where co-op dollars are spent. Every year, we invest funds to make updates to our local system, which helps maintain reliability and grid resilience. Think of it this way: every time you pay your electric bill, you're actually investing in your community

because all the money we take in stays here in the local community. By making these investments in our local system, we can ensure you have reliable power for everyday life.

One of my favorite events is coming up on May 15-19, when Fairfield Electric Cooperative will host our annual meeting for you, the members we proudly serve. I always look forward to this event because it's a great opportunity for me and our employees to see

**"We want to help meet the long-term needs of our community because, just like you, we live here, too."**

our members and for them to participate in the business of their cooperative. We hope you'll join us for the annual meeting drive-thru registration, which will

take place at various locations throughout the week. We will conclude the week with our virtual annual business meeting on Friday, May 19 at 6 p.m. We thank you in advance for getting involved because your participation means so much to us.

We will continue to serve you and work every day to provide you with the most reliable, affordable, service possible. We hope you will continue to guide our efforts by sharing your perspective as we plan for the future.

**BRUCE G. BACON**  
Chief Executive Officer

## Local fourth grader wins book challenge

BY JOSH P. CROTZER

**LIKE WITH ANY** good storyteller and artist, character details matter to Aydin Soner. He first considered using a lightning bug, then a spark of lightning. Ultimately, he settled on an eel for the role of the assistant in his book.

"Most electric eels are gray," says Soner, a home-schooled fourth grader from Columbia. "And I wanted to draw gray with yellow."

Whatever the reason for his choices, they worked.

Soner wrote and illustrated *Captain Co-op, the New Assistant and the Tornado*, earning him the state's top individual prize in the 2023 Children's Book Challenge. Sponsored by EnlightenSC—an educational initiative of Fairfield Electric Cooperative and the state's

electric cooperatives—the competition challenges fourth and fifth grade students to write and illustrate books that focus on the impact of electricity in their lives, communities and the state.

Soner had already won the regional competition and garnered a \$50 prize from Fairfield Electric. *Captain Co-op, the New Assistant and the Tornado* was then selected among books submitted statewide in the individual division, earning Soner \$500 and his mother and teacher, Kutina Williams, a \$100 prize.

"The judges were impressed with the quality of both the story and illustrations Aydin created for his book," says Chaundrea Lee of Fairfield Electric. "He is a gifted artist and writer, and we are pleased to be able to recognize and reward his work."



Aydin Soner (front) is the winner of the 2023 Children's Book Challenge. Celebrating with him are Fairfield Electric's Doug Payne, his mother Kutina Williams and EnlightenSC's Caroline Robinson.

*Captain Co-op, the New Assistant and the Tornado* is about a superhero lineworker who teaches his new partner about co-ops and restores power after a tornado. Soner's book will be published and distributed to elementary schools throughout the state this summer.

Membership  
Has It's  
Advantage  
At...



## 2023 Annual Meeting

DRIVE  
REGISTRATION  
THRU

Registered members will be eligible for the prize drawings which will be held at the conclusion of the business meeting.

### Chester County — Monday, May 15, 2023

Faith and Love Christian Center – 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

### Kershaw County — Tuesday, May 16, 2023

Trinity Baptist Church – 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

### Richland County — Wednesday, May 17, 2023

Fairfield Electric Cooperative's Blythewood Office – 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

### Fairfield County — Thursday, May 18, 2023

Fairfield Electric Cooperative's Winnsboro Office – 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

### Fairfield County — Friday, May 19, 2023

Fairfield Electric Cooperative's Winnsboro Office – 7 a.m. to noon



All members who register and vote will receive the **Registration Gift** an LED Lantern/Flashlight



**Grand Prize**  
2013 Chevrolet Silverado



**Second Prize**  
Husqvarna Riding Lawn Mower



**Third Prize**  
\$500 Bill Credit

▶ Business meeting—livestreamed online ONLY at 6 p.m. Fri., May 19. [Learn more at fairfield.coop](https://fairfield.coop)