



[fairfield.coop](http://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*  
Timothy L. Hopkins  
*Vice President, District At Large*  
Robert Kenneth Miles,  
*Secretary, District 6*  
Bruce Honeycutt  
*Treasurer, District 9*  
Cynthia Able, *District 2*  
Robert Entzminger, *District At Large*  
Ronald D. Friday, *District 7*  
William M. Good, *District 8*  
Keith Lewis, *District 1*  
Derial L. Ogburn, *District 5*  
Peggy D. Swearingen, *District 4*



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



## Protecting our co-op family

**POWER OUTAGES**, especially those that last multiple days, are stressful for our members, our lineworkers and our staff.

### A caring community

In the aftermath of storms like Hurricane Helene, some people we serve value their cooperative enough to send notes of gratitude or offer sustenance to the men and women restoring their power. It's a great source of encouragement to all of us at Fairfield Electric Cooperative.

During Helene restoration, a local church—without being asked—prepared and delivered a full hot dinner for every Fairfield Electric crew member, including the contract crews working alongside us. They fed more than 80 tired, hungry workers, and the boost it gave our team is something none of us will ever forget.

Most of our members are just like that church: kind, caring and eager to help however they can. Those acts of kindness sustain and energize us during the challenging days of rebuilding electrical infrastructure.

### Dangerous behavior

Unfortunately, not everyone responds so graciously to the very real stress of being without electricity. Across South Carolina, co-op employees in the field and in the office have encountered verbal harassment and, in some cases, threats of violence from frustrated individuals.

This kind of behavior only makes an already dangerous and challenging job

even more difficult. During any outage, everyone at Fairfield Electric is working to restore electric service to our members as quickly and safely as possible. Our employees deserve to focus 100% on power restoration and the serious hazards that come with it.

### Working for change

During the upcoming legislative session, Fairfield Electric will join our sister cooperatives across South Carolina in supporting stronger protections for utility workers who are repairing critical infrastructure during declared emergencies. The proposed measures would increase penalties for threats or violence against responders so they can do their jobs and get our communities back in order after disasters strike.

### Thanks to you

On behalf of every employee at Fairfield Electric Cooperative, thank you for your patience and your overwhelming kindness. It is a privilege to serve a membership that cares so deeply for one another and for the co-op family that works around the clock to keep the lights on.

That spirit of community is exactly why we remain focused on providing the most reliable, affordable energy possible for generations to come. Thank you for being the heart of Fairfield Electric Cooperative.

**BRUCE G. BACON**

Chief Executive Officer

## Scholarships available for graduating high school seniors

**FAIRFIELD ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE** is offering Touchstone Energy Scholarships to graduating high school seniors in the cooperative's service area. To be eligible, the student's primary residence must be served by Fairfield Electric.

Ten \$1,000 Touchstone Energy Scholarships will be awarded to students who are active in their communities. Special consideration is given to the student's financial need, extracurricular activities, community involvement, letters of recommendation and personal achievements.

Want to apply? Visit [fairfield.coop/scholarships](http://fairfield.coop/scholarships) and submit your application by Friday, March 6.

# From blue shirt to white coat

## Winnsboro native, medical student reflects on Washington Youth Tour experience

BY JOSH P. CROTZER

**BEFORE VERNON KENNEDY** ever put on a white coat, he wore a necklace made of tiny corn cobs. Then he donned a blue shirt.

Kennedy is currently a researcher and medical student in the field of neuroscience at Northwestern University. The summer before his senior year at Fairfield Central High School in 2016, he represented Fairfield Electric Cooperative on Washington Youth Tour, the annual five-day experience of the nation's capital for rising seniors, sponsored by South Carolina's electric cooperatives.

There, the Winnsboro native visited Washington D.C.'s museums, memorials and monuments and exchanged state pins with Youth Tourists from across the country, including some from Iowa who offered their unique chain of maize.

"You get to meet people who also live in rural America, but experience it differently than you do," Kennedy says.



Kennedy and his fellow Youth Tourists take a selfie during their visit to the Pentagon 9/11 Memorial in 2016.

**"Keep an open mind and realize that there is so much for you to gain and so much for you to offer,"**

—VERNON KENNEDY

"I loved the pin trading and especially the corn necklace. It hung on my bed with my Youth Tour badge for years."

Kennedy would, indeed, hang on to Youth Tour beyond that summer in 2016. During the trip, he was elected by the other South Carolina students to be their representative on National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's Youth Leadership Council (YLC), a national co-op ambassador program.

"It was one of the best experiences of my life," Kennedy says of the year with YLC. "When we went to the national meeting in San Diego, which was massive, I got to hold the state flag during the national anthem. I remember thinking, who would have thought that all of this would stem from one application that I submitted. We think about how cool things are in the moment, but we never really know what the fruits of our labor are going to be at the end."

The Youth Tour seed continued to grow for Kennedy, who returned to Washington for two additional summers as one of the program's staff assistants. The select team of uniformed Youth Tour alumni are colloquially known as "blue shirts."



PHOTO COURTESY OF NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY

Winnsboro's Vernon Kennedy is in the third year of a seven-year program at Northwestern University in Chicago. He is pursuing both a medical degree and a Ph.D. in neuroscience.

"I wanted to come back, not just to see more of D.C., but to be able to pour back into this program that has given me so much," Kennedy says.

Kennedy encourages this year's crop of high school students to apply.

"Keep an open mind and realize that there is so much for you to gain and so much for you to offer," he says. "Being able to interact with people from all over the country, who have different experiences and think a little differently, there is something to be gained from that. Honestly, it changed the way I approached life."

### Want to apply?

Fairfield Electric will again sponsor students on the 2026 Washington Youth Tour, June 14–19. Selected student delegates from South Carolina will join thousands from across the country in the nation's capital for an experience of a lifetime. Local high school

juniors can now apply by visiting [fairfield.coop/youthtour](http://fairfield.coop/youthtour).

The co-op also offers a leadership experience for a local high school sophomores, Cooperative Youth Summit, which will be held July 13–16. Visit [fairfield.coop/youthsummit](http://fairfield.coop/youthsummit) to apply.

The application deadline for both trips is Friday, Feb. 27.

# Fairfield Electric Cooperative Summary of Bylaws

## Pertaining to Membership, Annual Meeting, Board Representation and Election Procedure

### Section 3.01. Annual Meeting

For the purpose of electing Trustees, hearing and passing upon reports covering the previous fiscal year, and transacting such other business as may properly come before the meeting, the annual meeting of the members shall be held during May, June, July, or August of each year at such place in one of the counties, in South Carolina within which the Cooperative serves on such date and beginning at such hour as the Board shall from year to year fix.

The annual meeting may be conducted with members present or electronically without members present as the board may determine appropriate. In the event the meeting is conducted electronically, the Board must make arrangements to enable members to observe the proceedings by means of generally available technology.

It shall be the responsibility of the Board to make adequate plans and preparations for and to encourage member attendance at the annual meeting. Failure to hold the annual meeting at the designated time and place shall not constitute a forfeiture or dissolution of the Cooperative.

### Section 4.03. Election

In respect of each of the nine single-member voting districts, one (1) trustee shall be elected in each district by the voting members residing therein. At each annual meeting of the members or in voting conducted in advance of the annual meeting, trustees shall be elected by secret ballot by the members residing in that trustee's voting district. The two District at Large trustees shall be elected by secret ballot by all of the members.

At each annual meeting of the members or in voting conducted in advance of the annual meeting, Trustees shall be elected by the members from among natural members and the designees of organizational members; provided, that, when there is no contest for the representation of a particular trustee position, secret balloting may be dispensed with.

If only one individual is nominated to run for election for a Trustee position scheduled for election by Members, then the individual presiding at the Member Meeting may announce that the nominated individual is elected by acclamation and no vote is required.

### Section 4.04. Tenure

The persons named as Board members, at previous meetings of the members, shall compose the Board until their successors have been elected and shall have qualified and shall be classified as Class "A", "B" and "C".

Beginning with the Annual Meeting in 2022, Class "A" Board members shall be elected by members of their district and shall serve a term of three (3) years or until their successors have been elected and qualified. The Class "A" Board members shall consist of four (4) members:

- ▶ one to be a resident of District 1;
- ▶ one to be a resident of District 2;
- ▶ one to be a resident of District 3;
- ▶ and one to be a District at Large member

At the Annual Meeting in 2023, Class "B" Board members shall be elected by members of their district and shall serve a term of three (3) years or until their successors have been elected and qualified. The Class "B" Board members shall consist of four (4) members:

- ▶ one to be a resident of District 4;
- ▶ one to be a resident of District 5;
- ▶ one to be a resident of District 6;
- ▶ and one to be a District at Large member

At the Annual Meeting in 2024, Class "C" Board members shall be elected by members of their district and shall serve a term of three (3) years or until their successors have been elected and qualified. The Class "C" Board members shall consist of three (3) members:

- ▶ one to be a resident of District 7;
- ▶ one to be a resident of District 8;
- ▶ and one to be a resident of District 9

Thereafter, at each annual meeting of the members, Directors shall be elected for three (3) year terms with respect to the directorships, which are expiring, and therefore will need to be filled at such meeting. If for any reason an election of Trustees shall not be held at an annual meeting of the members duly fixed and called pursuant to these Bylaws, such election may be held at an adjournment of such meeting or at a subsequently held special or regular meeting of the members. Failure of an election for a given year shall allow the incumbents whose directorships would have been voted on to hold over only until the next member meeting at which a quorum is present.

### Section 4.05. Trustee Districts

The entire territory served by the Cooperative shall be divided by the Board of Trustees into nine (9) Trustee Districts to be implemented and used for trustee elections at the annual meeting of members beginning in 2022 known as: District 1, District 2, District 3, District 4, District 5, District 6, District 7, District 8, and District 9. The Districts at Large consist of the entire area served by the Cooperative.

Each district will consist of the area served and designated on the map of the service area served by the Cooperative.

For specific reference as to the description and boundaries of each of the nine (9) districts, reference is made to the map which

bears the signed approval of the Board and filed in the office of the Chief Executive Officer of the Cooperative.

Trustee District descriptions, at every six (6) year intervals, the Board not less than one hundred twenty (120) days prior to the earliest date on which the annual member meeting may be scheduled by these Bylaws to be held, shall review and alter as necessary the Districts to adjust substantial inequitable factors regarding the residence of the members, the geographic locations, or other equitable considerations and shall change and re-describe one or more Districts accordingly, in which event, the map describing the boundaries of each of the Districts as re-described and bears the signed approval of the Board may be examined by any member in the office of the Chief Executive Officer of the Cooperative.

After such redefinition of the Districts, these Bylaws shall have been effectively amended accordingly, except that the areas embraced within such Districts may be changed by amendment of these Bylaws by the members from time-to-time in order to establish the most equitable and geographical representation of the Board; provided that any change so made by action of the Board shall be in full force and effect until at least the completion of the election of directors at the annual meeting of the members first held in accordance with such changes effectuated by the Board; provided further that no such change, may take effect so as to compel the vacancy of any director's office prior to the time that director's term would normally expire.

#### **Section 4.06. Nominations for Trustees**

Nominations for Trustees to be elected shall be as follows:

##### **(a) Nomination by Committee on Nominations**

- (i) The Board must name a Committee on Nominations not less than ninety (90) or more than one hundred twenty (120) days before the date of the meeting of the members at which trustees are to be elected.
- (ii) The Committee on Nominations must have eleven (11) members of the Cooperative, none of whom may be an existing Cooperative employee, agent, officer, trustee or known candidate for trustee.
- (iii) An incumbent Trustee seeking re-election may not influence in any way or by any action the nomination process. An incumbent Trustee seeking re-election must be recused from participation in appointing the Committee. Members from the district of an incumbent trustee seeking re-election must be selected without the input or participation of the incumbent trustee. No Trustee may appoint, direct, or cause a family member to become a member of the Committee. As used in these Bylaws, "family member" or "close relative" means a member of a person's household, or one related by blood, marriage, legal relationship, or custom.
- (iv) Nominating Committee members must be appointed so that each of the Cooperative's nine (9) Single Member Trustee Districts shall have at least one (1) and the District

at Large shall have at least two (2) members on the Committee.

- (v) The Committee shall prepare and post at the principal office of the Cooperative at least sixty (60) days before the meeting of the members or for the same period in advance of the time established for early voting a list of nominations for trustees to be elected, listing separately the nominee or nominees with respect to each district from which a trustee is to be elected and listing any nominee or nominees for Trustee-at-Large to be elected.
- (vi) The Committee on Nominations may nominate more candidates than there are trustees to be elected, with the nomination specifying in which district or at-large seat the nomination is made.

##### **(b) Nomination by Petition of Members**

- (1) Members of the Cooperative, acting not less than sixty (60) days prior to the meeting of the members, or the commencement of early voting may make by petition additional nominations.
  - (i) A nominating petition must be signed by not fewer than one percent (1%) of the members of the Cooperative as determined by a census of members on the first business day of the calendar year in which the election is to be held.
  - (ii) The petition, in addition to containing the signatures of the required number of members, shall also contain the printed or typed name of the member and the address at which the member receives electrical service from the Cooperative.
- (2) Upon verification that the petition contains the requisite number of valid signatures of the members of the Cooperative and verification that the candidate is qualified as provided in Section 4.02 by the Chairman of the Board, or his designee, the candidate nominated by petition shall be added and listed as a nominee.
- (3) The Chairman of the Board, or his designee, shall add and list a candidate nominated by petition upon:
  - (i) Verification that the petition contains the requisite number of valid signatures one percent (1%) or more of the members of the Cooperative and
  - (ii) Verification that the candidate meets the qualifications provided in Section 4.02.
  - (iii) The Board of Trustees shall, by policy, adopt a process allowing petition signatures to be collected electronically.
  - (iv) A nominating petition must designate what trustee district the nomination is made for, or if the nomination is for an "at large" district nomination. The petition must contain a statement indicating that the member signing the petition is in support of the nomination.

- (v) Any person signing on behalf of an organizational member must demonstrate authority as the person to sign on behalf of the organizational member.

**(c) Information for Background Check and Potential Conflicts of Interest**

A person seeking nomination for a trustee position must submit to the Board, not less than ten (10) days of the meeting of the Nominating Committee, whether through the Nominations Committee or by petition, information sufficient to enable a background check to be conducted, and any information relating to the person's eligibility to serve as a Trustee.

**(d) Notification of Members of Nominee or Nominees**

The Chief Executive Officer of the Cooperative shall mail to the members with the notice of the member meeting, or separately, but at least ten (10) days before the date of the member meeting or the commencement of early voting for the meeting, a statement listing the name and address of each nominee.

- (i) The statement must identify those candidates nominated by the Committee on Nominations and those nominated by petition, if any.
- (ii) The statement must identify the seat, whether district or at-large, for which the nomination is made.

**(e) Statement of Economic Interests**

Each person at the time of submitting a notice of, or application for candidacy for a seat on the Board of Directors must file with the office of the cooperative a statement of economic interests utilizing a form prescribed by the Board of Directors. The information required to be submitted must include:

- (i) Name, address, and telephone number of filer; Source (salary, wages, dividends, and the like) of income received by the filer and by any member of the filer's immediate family for the twelve (12) month period preceding filing;
- (ii) Description, value, and location of any real property owned by the filer or a member of the filer's immediate family;
- (iii) Name and address of each organization which paid for or reimbursed any expenses of the filer during the twelve (12) months preceding filing; and,
- (iv) A statement signed by the filer acknowledging that the filing is complete and accurate, and that the filer understands and agrees that the information may be disclosed to a member of the Cooperative.

**(f) Campaign practices**

- (i) No person who is a candidate for a seat on the Board of Directors may accept any contribution from any person or entity having or seeking a personal or business relationship with the Cooperative;
- (ii) No person who is a candidate for a seat on the Board of Directors may accept any contribution having a value in excess of \$25.00 from any individual or entity;
- (iii) Each person who is a candidate for a seat on the Board of

Directors must file with the Cooperative one (1) week prior to the date on which voting commences and within thirty (30) days following the close of voting a report disclosing the name and address of each person or entity making a contribution to the candidate's campaign, and the type and value of any contribution;

- (iv) The only expenditures permitted by or on behalf of a candidate are for the printing and distribution of campaign literature, signs promoting a candidate, media advertisement, and favors for voters, such as candy or snacks at a polling location, provided that the value of any favor given to a voter may not exceed \$5.00, and
- (v) The disclosure of campaign contributions and expenditures filed by a candidate must include a statement signed by the candidate acknowledging that the disclosures are complete and accurate, and that the candidate understands and agrees that the information in the disclosure may be made available to members of the Cooperative.

## NONDISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

**FAIRFIELD ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.** is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the State or local Agency that administers the program or contact USDA through the Telecommunications Relay Service at 711 (voice and TTY). Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at [How to File a Program Discrimination Complaint](#) and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

- (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Mail Stop 9410, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;
- (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or
- (3) email: [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

# 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 the South Carolina State Museum. Your electric co-op will cover all your expenses.

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



**Washington Youth Tour: June 14-19, 2026**



**Cooperative Youth Summit: July 13-16, 2026**



Applications available:  
[fairfield.coop/youthtour](http://fairfield.coop/youthtour)



Applications available:  
[fairfield.coop/youthsummit](http://fairfield.coop/youthsummit)

Application deadline:  
**February 27, 2026**

**FAIRFIELD**  
**ELECTRIC**  
**COOPERATIVE, INC.**  
Your Touchstone Energy® Partner