



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
- Robert Entzminger, Vice President, District At Large
- Robert Kenneth Miles, Secretary, District 6
- John E. Roberts, III, Treasurer, District 7
- Cynthia Able, District 2
- William M. Good, District 8
- Timothy L. Hopkins, District At Large
- Keith Lewis, District 1
- Derial L. Ogburn, District 5
- Peggy D. Swearingen, District 4
- Vacant, District 9



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

The power behind your power



AS SPRING ARRIVES, it brings with it the showers that produce spring flowers. It also heralds the beginning of a potentially stormy season that can often include power outages. While Fairfield Electric Cooperative strives to provide reliable electricity

to our members, there are times when Mother Nature has other plans. Most of us can ride out a storm from the comfort of our homes. However, there is a group of professionals that spring into action whenever the weather takes a turn for the worst—co-op lineworkers.

Dangerous jobs

Braving stormy weather and other challenging conditions, lineworkers often must climb 40 or more feet in the air, carrying heavy equipment to restore power. Listed as one of the 10 most dangerous jobs in the U.S., lineworkers are required to perform detailed tasks next to high voltage power lines.

To help keep them safe, lineworkers wear specialized protective clothing and equipment at all times when on the job. This includes special fire-resistant clothing that will self-extinguish, limiting potential injuries from burns and sparks. Insulated sleeves and rubber gloves are worn to protect them from electrical shock. While the gear performs a critical function, it also adds additional weight and bulk, making the job more complex.

Helping others

In addition to working to serve members in our local service territory, lineworkers are always willing and eager to volunteer when a neighboring community, county or state is in need after a major outage occurs. As an example, in January, after Winter Storm Izzy hit our service area, we received assistance from Aiken



DOUG PAYNE

No matter the time—day or night, weekday or weekend—if the lights go out, Fairfield Electric Cooperative’s lineworkers are ready to respond.

Electric Cooperative and York Electric Cooperative. Cooperative lineworkers are always ready and willing to go and help those in need.

In our community, Fairfield Electric Cooperative lineworkers are responsible for keeping more than 3,800 miles of lines working, in order to bring power to your home and our local community 24/7, regardless of the weather, holidays or personal considerations.

While some of the tools that lineworkers use have changed over the years, namely the use of technology, the dedication to the job has not. Being a lineworker is not a glamorous profession.

Lineman Appreciation Day is April 11. If you see a lineworker, please pause to say thank you to the power behind your power. Let them know you appreciate the hard work they do to keep the lights on, regardless of the conditions.

BRUCE G. BACON
 Chief Executive Officer

Tree replacement program returns

Dogwood Trees Available April 1

YOU DEPEND ON FAIRFIELD ELECTRIC to deliver reliable power and we take that responsibility seriously. One major component of providing reliable service and reducing outages is right-of-way maintenance. We have a comprehensive right-of-way maintenance program. It includes side trimming limbs next to power lines and also controlling the growth underneath power lines by mowing.

In an effort to replace some of the trees we must cut in right-of-way construction and maintenance, we are bringing back our TREEMendUs program. This year we will be giving away free Dogwood Tree seedlings with a limit of three seedlings per member.

The seedlings will be available on a first come, first served basis. You can pick them up at our Blythewood office between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. on Friday, April 1. You can reserve your seedlings by completing the request form online at



fairfield.coop/treemendus or by calling a customer service representative at (803) 754-0153. We will ask for your contact information so we can send you a reminder a few days before the event.

The seedlings will be small, so you may want to transfer them to a larger

container for a year or two before planting. Dogwood trees can grow approximately 25 feet in height with a spread of 15 to 20 feet.

When planting trees, always plant them at least 25 feet away from power lines. Before planting a tree, take into consideration how tall the tree will be and the spread of the tree. If you plant it too close to a power line, it will eventually have to be trimmed.

Trees are important to our environment and we encourage you to plant a tree. We look forward to many more events in the future and we anticipate this program will be a TREEMendUs success.

SAVE THE DATE!

Annual Meeting set for Friday, May 20

THE COOPERATIVE'S BOARD of trustees has set the Annual Meeting for Friday, May 20. Due to continued concerns related to COVID-19, the business meeting will be a virtual meeting live streamed on May 20 at 6 p.m.

There will be several days of early drive-thru registration and voting the week of May 20. Registration is designed so members never leave their vehicle. Members will register, cast their ballot for the trustee elections and receive a registration gift.

All members who register will be entered in the door prize drawings, which will be held at the conclusion of the business meeting. Look for more details in future issues of *South Carolina Living* and in the Official Annual Meeting Notice.



Fairfield Electric Cooperative had over 3,800 members register and vote during the 2021 Annual Meeting.

CHAUNDREA LEE

Capital credit refunds coming soon

CAPITAL CREDITS ARE A BENEFIT of membership in a member-owned utility. Each year, Fairfield Electric uses the revenues that exceed costs as equity. These funds and borrowed capital allow the cooperative to serve a growing number of members while implementing the latest technology to provide the best service possible. Fairfield Electric later returns these revenues to the members who originally paid them in their electric bills.

This year, the board of trustees has authorized the distribution of capital credits totaling \$1,739,967. Your cooperative will retire the remainder of capital credits for 2006, 35% of 2014 and 35% of 2020.

The capital credit refunds will be issued in the form of a check or a credit on your electric bill. If your assigned capital credits total is less than \$75, you will receive your refund as a credit on your bill during late April or early May depending on your billing cycle. For those refunds over \$75, a check will be mailed in early May.

We are very proud that we are able to return capital credits. It is a direct reflection on the financial strength and stability of your cooperative and that's something in which we can all take pride.