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Progress and plans for the future



MIKE FULLER
President & CEO

AS WE CLOSE another year, I want to pause and express gratitude—for you, the members of Berkeley Electric Cooperative—for your continued trust and support. Our cooperative was built on the promise of people coming together to improve the quality of life in their communities, and that promise still guides every-

thing we do today.

Each decision, whether it's about delivering reliable electricity, innovating for the future or advocating for smart energy policies that impact our local community, comes back to one simple question: How will this benefit the members we serve?

This past year has been marked by meaningful progress, both in strengthening our local system and in working at the national level to influence energy policies that directly affect reliability, affordability and resilience. While the details of federal regulations can feel distant, they shape our daily operations here at home.

Over the past year, electric cooperatives across the country came together for advocacy efforts on the EPA's Power Plant Rule. As we collaborated with policymakers, we pressed for a balanced approach to generating power—one that supports clean energy innovation while still recognizing the role of traditional resources. Our efforts are helping to protect reliability and keeps costs in check for our members.

Another area of ongoing progress came through advocacy work on federal permitting reform. For too long, outdated rules and lengthy delays have stood in the way of building critical infrastructure, including new transmission lines and generation projects. Modernizing this process is essential if we are going to strengthen the electric

grid and keep pace with growing demand. This year, electric co-ops helped move the needle on permitting reform, advocating for policies that make the process faster, more predictable and more efficient.

We're also seeing progress with bipartisan support of the FEMA Act of 2025, which would speed up the disaster recovery process for electric cooperatives and the communities they serve. Severe storms are a fact of life, and their impact on the electric system can be devastating.

FEMA is a crucial partner for electric co-ops in efforts to restore power after disaster strikes, but currently, the federal reimbursement process after a major storm is full of red tape. If passed, the bill would make FEMA a stronger, more responsive agency to help strengthen rural resilience, protect taxpayer dollars and ensure essential services are restored as quickly as possible after a natural disaster.

Achievements like these are not just wins in Washington—they are wins for Berkeley Electric members like you.

We are also proactively addressing our communities' needs for the future by investing in new technologies and programs that improve member service. Through advanced monitoring systems and AI tools that improve daily operations, we are better equipped to identify power delivery issues or challenges before they occur.

The path forward requires innovative thinking and member-focused solutions. I'm confident that with the dedication of Berkeley Electric employees and the continued support of our members, we are well positioned to adapt and meet challenges head-on. Through it all, our promise to you remains steadfast: reliable power for today—and tomorrow.

Sincerely,



The response to this year's calendar contest was amazing. We received so many entries that we could have created two calendars. So, we increased the number of winners. After multiple rounds of judging, and receiving more than 400 images, the following members will be awarded \$100 for each one of their winning entries featured in the 2026 calendar.

- ▶ Amanda Leidy—Goose Creek
- ▶ Barry Hassel—Summerville
- ▶ Chris Jackson—Johns Island
- ▶ Darlene Dove—Moncks Corner
- ▶ Denise Chastain—Goose Creek
- ▶ Enid Nagy—Summerville
- ▶ Erica Marabella—Goose Creek
- ▶ Glen Cox—Johns Island
- ▶ Harold Hamilton—Wadmalaw Island
- ▶ Jeff Becton—Johns Island
- ▶ Jeff Waldman—Summerville
- ▶ Kelly Parrish—Johns Island
- ▶ Nancy Garvin—Goose Creek
- ▶ Patricia Schaefer—Johns Island
- ▶ Rachel Knight—Moncks Corner
- ▶ Shambra Pellum—Summerville

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

With the holiday meal season approaching, consider ways to save energy in your kitchen. When possible, cook with smaller, energy efficient appliances such as slow cookers, toaster ovens, and air fryers. Keep stove top burners clean and match the size of the pan to the heating element. After the meal, load the dishwasher fully before starting.



Electrical Lineworker Scholarship

Apply for a full scholarship to our Electrical Lineworker/Internship Program at Trident Technical College. Apply at berkeleyelectric.coop by Nov. 28.



12 Days of Christmas

Spirits will be bright as we give away a different prize package each day from Dec. 1-12 on our Facebook page at facebook.com/BerkeleyElectricCooperative.



Bright Ideas Grants & 5K

K-12 teachers, sharpen your pencils and get ready to apply for up to \$1,500 in grants for your classroom project this January. Don't forget to sign up for the Bright Ideas 5K at runsignup.com.



Youth Tour & Summit

Get ready for an experience you won't forget! Sophomores and juniors can apply in January for one of our free leadership trips to either Washington, D.C. or Columbia.



Trust Scholarships

High school seniors, apply online this January for thousands in scholarships! Visit our Operation Roundup page to help make your educational dreams come true.



Willis Sanders
Trustee, District 6

The season of giving

AS THE HOLIDAY SEASON approaches and the air turns crisp, we're reminded that this truly is the season of giving. It's a time for gratitude, generosity and looking out for one another—and at Berkeley Electric, that's something we take to heart year-round.

You've probably heard us talk about our concern for community. It's not just a nice phrase—it's one of the core principles that makes electric cooperatives like ours different from other utilities. We're not just here to keep the lights on (although of course, we're always working hard to do that). We're here to make life better for the people we serve—our members, our neighbors and our friends.

Over the years, we've faced challenges together, and every time, our co-op family has stepped up. You just have to look back at Hurricane Helene last year. Even though we were spared the worst of the effects, there was widespread damage all across the state. Berkeley Electric responded, not by just sending lineworkers, but offering help in non-traditional ways as well. We supported co-ops across the state with billing, warehousing, IT and even communications in the wake of the storm.

It's part of our cooperative DNA to come together to support those in need, to keep our community strong and to build something better for the future. That spirit of generosity is never more evident than during the holiday season with holiday parades and our support for Toys For Tots. But that same spirit stays with us all year long through marquee events like the Bright Ideas 5K and grant programs all the way through the more than 100 community events and festivals that we attended last year.

It's also evident in programs such as Operation Round-Up. Thanks to the generosity of members like you who round up their electric bills to the nearest dollar, we're able to provide real help to local families who are struggling to make critical home repairs. Every little bit adds up—and it makes a big difference.

We're also proud to support local students through Washington Youth Tour, where we send some of our community's brightest young people to Washington, D.C. to see democracy in action and dream big about their futures. That's giving in the most meaningful way—by investing in tomorrow's leaders.

And because we care deeply about safety, we also spend time visiting schools throughout the communities we serve, holding demonstrations and teaching folks of all ages how to stay safe around electricity. We believe knowledge is a gift too—and we love sharing it.

You'll also find our team out in the community beyond work—coaching youth sports, volunteering at local events, serving on non-profit boards and partnering with our Chamber of Commerce to keep our local economy strong. Because when you're part of a co-op, giving back isn't a requirement—it's just what you do.

While the holiday season is a festive time, we understand these can be tough times for many. If you need advice on saving energy to reduce your energy bills, want to explore payment plan options, or you simply have questions—please don't hesitate to reach out. We gladly work with members on an individual basis to try to find a personalized solution for their family and home. We're here to help, not just during the holiday season, but all year long.

At Berkeley Electric Cooperative, we believe concern for community is more than a value—it's the heart of who we are. And during this season of giving, we're especially grateful to be part of such a caring, generous community.

From all of us at Berkeley Electric, we wish you and your loved ones a joyful, safe and bright holiday season.

Sincerely,

Willis Sanders

BERKELEY AT-A-GLANCE	AUGUST 2024	AUGUST 2025
Total kWh sold	4571,937,586	500,780,203
No. meters served	131,187	136,787
Avg. residential kWh/meter	1,456	1,341
Avg. residential bill/meter	\$215.83	\$215.38
Miles of line	6457	6587
Avg. daily high temperature	90	87
Avg. daily low temperature	73	73

From scrap to sculpture

Goose Creek artist Larry Alexis turns junk into fantasy

BY JOSH P. CROTZER

SURE, HE DOODLED a little here and there, but the visual artist inside Larry Alexis had not yet begun to form when he retired after 19 years working with ammunitions in the U.S. Navy.

But then his wife, Ruthann, signed him up for a senior's painting class at the recreation center in Goose Creek.

"I'd never painted before, never any formal training or anything like that," says the native of Grand Rapids, Michigan. "I was surprised by how good it turned out."

The simple fall scene he painted in 2017 inspired a journey across mediums that resembles the art Alexis now creates—repurposed and inventive.

Alexis's art expands beyond paper and canvas. It transforms the discarded and mundane—scrap metal, wood, plastic and even roadside tires—into fantastical sculptures.

"I like to build three-dimensional things," Alexis says. "Metal or just junk in general works better for me."

From Alexis's mind and through his tools, old tires become an alligator. Forks form a condor. Screws turn into a dragon. An office vacuum cleaner and an electric boat horn pair to produce a lovable robot named Metro.



Larry Alexis reclines on the alligator he made from old tires.



Alexis made this beast from silverware and nails and chained it to money and jewelry. The piece is titled "Release Me."

PHOTO PROVIDED BY LARRY ALEXIS

He's now known as "Junkart Dog." "I'll see an object, and I'll know what it can be," Alexis says. "Once I start seeing something, that's when I make a commitment to it. My philosophy is that art is not an object, it's a feeling."

Just as he gives new life to scrap metal, Alexis helps others rediscover their own creative spark. He teaches art classes at the Goose Creek Recreation Center and Hanahan Senior Center.

Much of his work is exhibited in galleries across the Lowcountry, including the Art on the Square Gallery and the Public Works Art Center. Alexis also has work on permanent display at Goose Creek City Hall and the Goose Creek Activity Center. He has also been known to give away, or offer at a low price, his artwork when someone has an emotional attachment.

"One of my favorite things is when I see a little kid walk up to my art and watch their jaw drop," he says. "They see it and realize they can make this stuff out of junk. Of course, their parents aren't always happy about it."

The Berkeley Electric member is also committed to his adopted community of Goose Creek and the art community they are a part of.

"It feels like a family," says Alexis. "We promote each other, which is what a family is supposed to do. It brings a lot of people together."

Alexis says he appreciates his co-op being a part of that community, too. Berkeley Electric sponsors the Goose Creek Artists Guild and donates to their student scholarship fund. Alexis and Berkeley Electric board member Willis Sanders, also a local artist, are friends and mutual fans. Libby Roerig, the co-op's director of marketing and communications, serves as chair of the Goose Creek Cultural Arts Commission.

"They do a lot," says Alexis. "They support us and the local high schools, so I know they are really big into the local art scene."

GET MORE of the "Junkart Dog"—Alexis's work can be found at artonthesquare.gallery or his Instagram, [larry.alexis5](https://www.instagram.com/larry.alexis5).



A trampoline frame, shelf supports, forks and soda cans make up "Freedom of the Phoenix."

DON'T CROWD THE BOX!



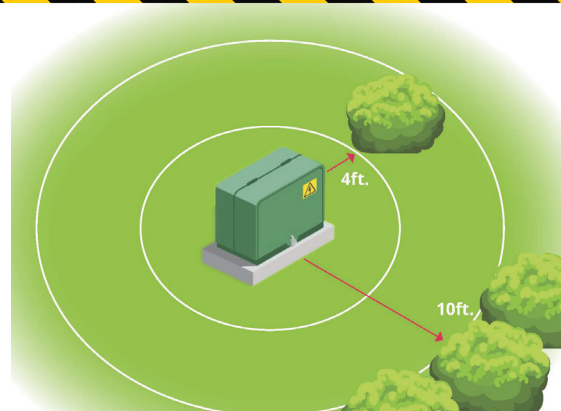
Electrical equipment, such as a padmount transformer, has a required minimum clearance zone around it to ensure safety.

Never play, plant, or build structures near electrical equipment.

It endangers your and our crews' safety and can cause outages and delays when restoring power.

Help us by maintaining a 4-foot clearance around the sides and back of padmount transformers, as well as a 10-foot clearance in front of the side on which the cabinet door opens.

For more information, visit the Vegetation Management page under "My Energy" on our website at [berkeleyelectric.coop](https://www.berkeleyelectric.coop).



Berkeley Electric Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



Youth Tour student named Bennett Scholar

Community service project earns Mt. Pleasant teen a \$5,000 award

BY JOSH P. CROTZER



Yiqing Ye won the 2025 R.D. Bennett Community Scholarship after leading efforts to support Landmarks for Families.

YIQING YE DIDN'T just volunteer. He led. This summer, the senior at Academic Magnet High School in North Charleston created a service project that made a significant impact on local families.

For his work, Ye has been awarded the 2025 R.D. Bennett Community Service Scholarship by the Electric Cooperatives of South Carolina.

The \$5,000 scholarship recognizes a South Carolina high school student whose community service project best exemplifies the cooperative principle of “concern for community.”

Ye's winning project combined cultural outreach, leadership and hands-on service to support Landmarks for Families, a Charleston-based nonprofit that provides shelter, education and family reunification services to more than 800 children and families annually.

“I spent a good amount of time over the summer to make the project happen,” Ye says. “It was rewarding to see the change we created firsthand.”

Ye's efforts began after attending Washington Youth Tour, a leadership program sponsored by Berkeley Electric Cooperative and South Carolina's electric cooperatives. Ye was one of ten students selected by Berkeley Electric to attend the Washington Youth Tour and one of 71 statewide.

When he returned home from the nation's capital, he reached out to Landmarks for Families and proposed a partnership. Over the next five months, Ye organized and participated in a series of events and fundraising efforts that raised more than \$2,300 and collected in-kind donations valued at \$840.

Ye coordinated youth volunteers for the Charleston Dragon Boat Festival, hosted an information booth at the More Than Shelter Color 5K and taught Mandarin to raise funds for the organization. He also led an outreach at Pickleball Fest and served as a junior counselor for the Children's Defense Fund Freedom Schools literacy program.

“I learned that people are a lot more open than I expected,”

Ye says. “I was haunted by the idea of asking for support, but I realized how willing people are to help when they understand the cause.”

Ye's team of six student volunteers engaged more than 400 community members and partnered with over 15 local organizations. He also organized online charity sales

and coordinated donation drop-offs to Landmarks for Families, including clothing, stuffed animals, and other essentials.

“Seeing how our work directly supported family programs made the experience especially meaningful,” Ye says.

Ye says the most challenging part of the project was balancing his commitments, which include a part-time job and research lab work, with the logistics of planning and leading events. However, the experience strengthened his leadership skills and deepened his understanding of community service.

“Effective leadership means creating opportunities for others to contribute and thrive,” he says. “When I brought enthusiasm and resilience, the team reflected that same energy.”

The annual scholarship is named for Robert D. Bennett, the first general manager of The Electric Cooperatives of South Carolina, who believed cooperatives should improve the quality of life in their communities.



Ye (center, right) and his team of volunteers sold raffle tickets at Charleston Dragon Boat Festival to raise awareness and funds for Landmarks for Families.

Want to go next summer?

The R.D. Bennett Community Service Scholarship is only offered to students that take part in Washington Youth Tour or Cooperative Youth Summit.

High school sophomores and juniors interested in participating in Cooperative Youth Summit or Washington Youth Tour in 2026 are encouraged to visit ecsc.org/youth. Washington Youth Tour takes place June 14–19, 2026, and Cooperative Youth Summit is July 13–16.