



## Marlboro Electric Cooperative, Inc.

254 Hwy 15-401 Bypass East  
P.O. Box 1057  
Bennettsville, SC 29512

### General Information

(843) 479-3855  
(800) 922-9174  
www.marlborelectric.coop

### Office Hours

8:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.  
Monday–Friday

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### Chairman of the Board

Melvin Carabo

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### Attorney

Doug Jennings

### Co-op News Editor

Christy J. Overstreet  
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marlborelectric.coop

### Mission Statement

The aim of Marlboro Electric Cooperative, Inc. is to make electric energy available to its members at the lowest cost consistent with sound economy and good management.



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

# Looking forward to your Annual Meeting

**WE ARE LOOKING FOR YOU** at our Annual Meeting on Saturday, April 16, at Marlboro County High School, where



you will see how we're looking out for you.

Now, more than ever, we need to work together to keep your electric bills affordable. Last year, Congress did not pass a comprehensive climate bill. This January, the U.S. Environmental Protection

Agency began regulating greenhouse gasses—an action made by a 2007 Supreme Court decision, followed by rulings allowing the EPA to use the Clean Air Act to curb carbon emissions.

### Focused on affordability

Stringent controls and policies on power plant emissions and state renewable energy requirements could lead to higher costs. Government regulations will increase the cost of doing business, but they won't be the only ones. Prices for fuel, materials and equipment will continue to rise. Long-term, significant future investments into the power system will also be costly.

Your Board of Trustees is committed to keeping you informed about policy changes that will impact your electric bill through *South Carolina Living*.

### Focused on innovation

Some things are out of our hands, but we look for ways to control costs through innovation. We can help you

manage your energy use through energy-efficiency education and programs.

We offer the Touchstone Energy Cooperative website, TogetherWeSave.com. Whether you are sealing your air ducts, replacing old appliances, or improving your home's insulation, it is amazing how little changes can bring savings on your electric bill.

New technology also helps keep your electric bills affordable and reduces environmental impact. Our investment in the advanced metering infrastructure system allows us to pinpoint outages, manage power, improve service reliability and control daily operating costs.

### Focused on YOU

We continue to put our members first, and represent your best interest.

Costs are rising for all of us, and our electric rates cover the cost of doing business, not to generate profits for stockholders. In 2010, I'm proud to report, we returned more than \$190,000 to our members in capital credits.

We are working together to keep your electric bill affordable by controlling costs through innovation. We continue to put our members first.

Whatever the future brings, it is certain: We are looking out for you.

See you at the Annual Meeting!

### Melvin Carabo

*Chairman, Board of Trustees*

## Co-op observes Good Friday

Marlboro Electric will be closed on Friday, April 22, in observance of Good Friday. Emergency crews will be on standby.



# SATURDAY, APRIL 16, 2011

## Marlboro Electric's 70<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting! *We have a 'seat' waiting for you!*



Marlboro Electric is celebrating 70 years of service! Each co-op member *registered and present* at Marlboro Electric's 70<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting will receive a red fold-out stadium chair and two compact fluorescent light (CFL) bulbs. Registered and present members will also be eligible for the Grand Prize, Semi-Grand Prizes and many other prizes.

**ENTERTAINMENT:** Melody Aires Gospel Group

WIRE sponsored **CONCESSIONS & BOOTHS**

**HEALTH FAIR** by Marlboro Park Hospital

**BLOOD DRIVE** by American Red Cross

**FACE PAINTING CLOWNS** by Snikkles and Lemonade

**SEMI-GRAND PRIZES:** Refrigerator, washer & dryer, stove and television

**When:** Saturday, April 16, 2011  
**Where:** Marlboro County High School  
Fayetteville Avenue  
Bennettsville, South Carolina  
**Time:** Registration 12 Noon until 2:00



### GRAND PRIZE: 2006 Ford 150 truck



## News EXTRA

### Support WIRE, touch lives

EACH YEAR, WIRE sells items and hosts the concessions at the Annual Meeting to raise funds to donate to needy causes in the community. Local WIRE ladies work hard to spread their love, concern and caring for which rural citizens are known. In their efforts of working for better communities, WIRE continues to touch the lives of many people.

WIRE is a non-profit community outreach organization that encourages interest in electric programs and works to improve the quality of life in rural areas. Membership is open to all women who are co-op members, trustees, retirees and employees or the spouses of members, trustees and employees. ☺



The local WIRE chapter donated school supplies in January for 4th-grade teachers and students in Marlboro County. The donation during this time of year will help needy students and teachers finish out the latter part of the school year when resources become scarce. WIRE members Rosa Leviner and Mary Baker delivered school supplies to Wallace Elementary and Willa Johnson delivered school supplies to Bennettsville Elementary, top left.



### WIRE offers \$2,500 scholarship for women

Applications are being taken for a \$2,500 scholarship for women awarded annually by WIRE, a community service organization affiliated with electric co-ops in South Carolina, including Marlboro Electric Cooperative.

The WIRE Opportunity Scholarship is awarded to a woman who may not have been able to attend college when she graduated from high school but now wants to further her education. WIRE (Women Involved in Rural Electrification) awards the scholarship based on financial need and personal goals.

Applicants must:

- ▶ be a member of a South Carolina electric co-op
- ▶ have graduated from high school or earned her GED at least 10 years ago
- ▶ be accepted into an

accredited S.C. college or university, and

- ▶ demonstrate financial need.

Women who have previously obtained a four-year college degree are not eligible. Applicants may have previously earned a two-year degree or some college credits. The scholarship, which can be used for the fall 2011 or spring 2012 semesters, will be paid jointly to the winner and her college of choice.

Applications are available at Marlboro Electric Cooperative. The deadline to apply is June 1. Mail or fax the application to WIRE Scholarship Committee, Attention: Christy Overstreet, Marlboro Electric Cooperative, Inc., P.O. Box 1057, Bennettsville, SC 29512; fax (843) 479-8990.



Emma Huckabee was honored as the 2010 WIRE Woman of the Year in recognition of her outstanding commitment, service and dedication.

CHRISTY OVERSTREET

# She's been 'Living' with our magazine for decades!

BY WALTER ALLREAD

**SHE MAY LIVE** “at the end of the line”—just across the state line near Maxton, N.C.—but MEC member Katie Locklear has always maintained a close connection to her co-op through its member magazine.

She's held onto her back issues of *Living in South Carolina* since she and her late husband, Winford, first received co-op service back in the 1970s. Locklear recently found two full issues, one from 1970 and another from '75, in a drawer. The precursor to *South Carolina Living*, the original *Living* featured useful energy advice, just as it does today.

But what Locklear and her family literally ate up was found in the back of the book—“Cook's Corner.” Like many good country cooks, Locklear routinely clipped the tastiest articles: “I found a recipe I had pulled out of one today,” she notes.

She also regularly devoured “Boys Are That Way,” the late J.M. Eleazer's



Katie Locklear with her September 1975 magazine.

WALTER ALLREAD

column. Locklear turned straight to it “every time he came out!” she says. “Country stuff,” she recalls. Good stuff.

Having a son, she could relate to Eleazer's homespun tales. These days, Winford Jr., and her daughters, Lisa Oxendine and Vicky Harris, are all MEC members. No doubt Lisa and Vicky, who live next door, appreciate those time-tested recipes from *Living*. “We come over here and eat with her,” notes Lisa.

Even so, she can't resist kidding her mother: “Since my dad passed away, she got where she don't cook. I'm gone have to divorce her!”

We all share a good laugh. No doubt J.M. Eleazer would have laughed, too. ☺

**70 YEARS OF SERVICE**



**Willie Wiredhand**

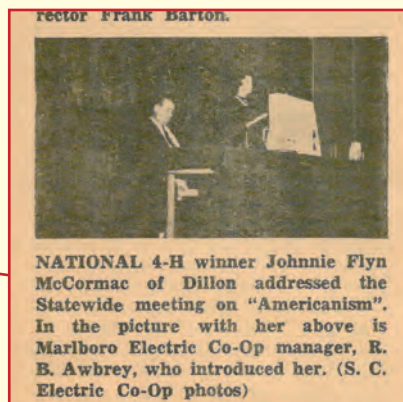
**MARLBORO ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE**

**Serving our members since Sept. 3, 1940**



## Read a popular column from 1975 and some vintage Co-op News

Log onto [MarlboroElectric.Coop](http://MarlboroElectric.Coop) this month to read an old favorite of Katie Locklear and thousands of other readers—J.M. Eleazer's “Boys Are That Way” column. Eleazer's articles were a popular feature for many years in our magazine's earlier incarnation, *Living in South Carolina*. It became *South Carolina Living* a couple of years ago, but MEC and other S.C. co-ops have long strived to communicate with their member-owners through print media, today augmented by an online presence as well.



**NATIONAL 4-H winner Johnnie Flynn McCormac of Dillon addressed the Statewide meeting on “Americanism”. In the picture with her above is Marlboro Electric Co-Op manager, R. B. Awbrey, who introduced her. (S. C. Electric Co-Op photos)**

## What's old is new online

The co-op website this month also features a cover image from the magazine's predecessor, *South Carolina Electric Co-op News*, circa January 1961. The newsletter, far right, was already in its 11th volume at the time. Close inspection of the cover revealed a photo, inset at right, of former MEC manager Robert Awbrey with 4-H member Johnnie Flynn McCormac.

Go to [MarlboroElectric.Coop](http://MarlboroElectric.Coop) for a 50-year flashback—or to stay current on your co-op's modern-day programs and services.

## Miss Marlboro Electric pageant memories stick with Kathy Sadler Khalil

**THE YELLOWED NEWSPAPER CLIP** takes Kathy Sadler Khalil back to a land that's faraway—but, oh, so close.

"Coronation of the 1969 Miss Marlboro Electric Cooperative was the climax of the Electric Fair held here Thursday," the story says. For Khalil, the event is a slightly musty, but thoroughly pleasant, memory.

"It was in a big tent!" she recalls. "There were a LOT of people there."

Held in spring, the pageant's setting was not exactly, shall we say, Atlantic City or Las Vegas glamorous. "It had been raining, and it was a mess," Khalil recalls.

She didn't win either. She placed first runner-up. But Khalil, who read an article about the Electric Fairs in *South Carolina Living* last spring, has only positive memories.

"Everybody was very nice and encouraging," she remembers. "They said, 'Come back next year and bring some of your friends.' So I said, 'OK!'"

She did.

"I talked Harriet Wood into going with me, and she won, which tickled me to death."

Better yet, Khalil went on to college and a rewarding career: She retired as a registered nurse with DHEC after working many years as a travel nurse across the United States. Khalil and



Outside King's Famous Pizza, Kathy Sadler Khalil displays photos from the 1973 Miss North Carolina pageant, where she competed as Miss Richmond County while attending nursing school. Khalil, right above, placed in the top 15 and later posed with another contestant with pageant sponsor Colonel Harlan Sanders of Kentucky Fried Chicken fame.

her husband, Nazmy, live in Dillon, where he owns and operates King's Famous Pizza, a favorite eatery for locals and visitors alike—even Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas.

Rewinding time again, Khalil opens her scrapbook and remembers how she came to enter the co-op pageants: Her mother, the late Kay Sadler Long, and her stepfather, Biven Long of Latta, were MEC members, she notes. Biven Long and his wife of 15 years, Joyce, are members today.

The area where she grew up was rural with a twist, as Khalil describes

it: "I lived in the Free States—that's in between Highway 9 and Highway 34," she says. "Our lights and electricity came from Marlboro Electric, our rural route was Latta, and our phone was in Dillon! I was in the middle of everywhere!"

Even though she was not crowned the electric fair-est of them all in co-op land, Khalil went on to greater pageant heights. While attending the Hamlet School of Nursing, a member of the local Jaycees entered her in the Miss Richmond (N.C.) County pageant. "I didn't even know it," she says. "Honey, when you're in nursing school, you're not thinking about anything but work and tuition!"

She not only won Miss Richmond County, she was named Miss Congeniality in 1972—and later placed as Miss Congeniality in the 1973 Miss North Carolina pageant.

True to her congenial nature, Khalil is gracious about her Miss Marlboro Electric Cooperative experience. After all, as runner-up she received \$25 and her friend Harriet got \$50, she remembers.

"That was a lot of money back then. I was happy!" ☺

Khalil, second from left, was first runner-up for the Miss Marlboro Electric crown in 1968 and 1969, but was "tickled to death" that her friend Harriet Wood, with bouquet, won in 1969. With them is Sylvia Odom of Bennettsville, left, the "retiring queen," and her sister, second runner-up Cathy Odom.



# Co-ops offering 20,000 local discounts



WALTER ALLEBRO

**THE CO-OP CONNECTIONS** member benefit program has reached a milestone, surpassing 20,000 local businesses offering discounts to co-op members. Marlboro Electric Cooperative is among 325 Touchstone Energy co-ops participating in the program nationwide with almost 800 discounts around the state.

Marlboro Electric has more than 90 discount offers within 50 miles of Marlboro County and more than 200 discount offers within 50 miles of Dillon County to help

members save money, not including pharmacy discounts.

As a co-op member, you can present your Co-op Connections Card or key fob at any participating business in the United States and receive discounts. If your business would like to participate in this program, contact Christy Overstreet at Marlboro Electric to sign up. All business discounts are promoted at no charge.

Members can search for details and deals by category, ZIP code, keyword and more on connections.coop. Access the site through [www.MarlboroElectric.coop](http://www.MarlboroElectric.coop), click on the Co-op Connections card to link for savings.

At S & D Auto Parts, the local NAPA store at 200 Hwy. 9 East in Bennettsville, owner Dan Castor and manager Buck George Jr. offer 5-7 percent off selected auto parts, paint and supply items for Co-op Connections cardholders. "It's definitely a good program," says Castor, left.

Some local businesses offering discounts include:

- ▶ Abingdon Manor Inn & Restaurant
- ▶ Ashley Furniture Home Store
- ▶ Beaty Eye Clinic
- ▶ Bennettsville Lumber & Barns
- ▶ Best Western-Bennettsville Inn
- ▶ Breeden Grocery
- ▶ Breeden Inn Bed & Breakfast
- ▶ Carolina Cleaners
- ▶ Cathy's Flower & Gift Shop
- ▶ Causey Home Center
- ▶ Coker College
- ▶ Country Crossroads Grocery
- ▶ Davis Furniture Store
- ▶ Derrick's Window Tint
- ▶ Edwards Chiropractic Wellness
- ▶ Farmers Home Furniture
- ▶ First Citizens Bank
- ▶ Fowler Pharmacy & Gift Shop
- ▶ Frazier Construction
- ▶ Marlboro Herald Advocate
- ▶ Marty Wright Home Sales
- ▶ Parrott's Furniture
- ▶ Pee Dee Promotions
- ▶ Roller Carpet
- ▶ S & D Auto Parts dba NAPA Auto
- ▶ Sandy Ocean BBQ
- ▶ State Farm, Sully Blair Agency

## 'Rock & Roll' with a discount at museum

Use your Co-op Connections card for a discount on admission to the Columbia Museum of Art, now featuring *Who Shot Rock & Roll*, on view through May 22.

This major exhibition on rock 'n' roll photography acknowledges the photographers' creative and collaborative role in the history of rock.

The exhibition includes 175 works by more than 100 photographers and covers from the 1950s to the present, including some of the world's most iconic images. It was organized by the prestigious Brooklyn Museum of Art and opened there to rave reviews and record attendance. Columbia is the last stop on the nationwide tour.

In addition to the Columbia Museum of Art, about 30 other South Carolina attractions offer discounts to Co-op Connections cardholders, including:

- ▶ Riverbanks Zoo & Garden
- ▶ Carowinds Water & Theme Park
- ▶ South Carolina Aquarium
- ▶ Governor's House Inn
- ▶ Hollywild Animal Park

Alfred Wertheimer's "Elvis Whispers Softly," from 1956, is one of the images featured in *Who Shot Rock & Roll*, on exhibit through May 22 at the Columbia Museum of Art.



COLUMBIA MUSEUM OF ART