

TAKE SURVEY, YOU MAY WIN \$500 BILL CREDIT

South Carolina LIVING

AIKEN ELECTRIC
COOPERATIVE

Anyone's game

Cornhole has
gone professional.
Really.

CEO MESSAGE

How we're
standing up
for you

THANK YOU

Legislators
keep members
in mind

SC RECIPE

Savor fall
flavors



**Aiken Electric
Cooperative, Inc.**

aikenco-op.org

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The mission of Aiken Electric Cooperative, Inc. is to empower communities by providing reliable, competitively priced energy and other services desired by our membership.

CO-OP NEWS EDITOR

Jamacia McCray

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AEC is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



OCTOBER IS CO-OP MONTH, but it is also peak football season. As a die-hard college football fan (go Vols!), I know the frustration of seeing referees interfere with a good game. While their role is crucial in protecting the players and maintaining fairness, sometimes their calls can disrupt the flow and distract from the experience. I find the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) new regulations on power plants similarly upsetting.

The EPA has introduced new rules targeting existing coal and new natural gas power plants, requiring them to drastically reduce their output or implement carbon capture and storage (CCS) technology. While CCS could theoretically reduce greenhouse gas emissions, it's an unproven and costly technology. No utility in the country has successfully implemented CCS at the scale the EPA is demanding.

The result? Higher costs, which will lead to increased power bills for all of us. Given our growing population and economy, the need for reliable energy for all of South Carolina is crucial. Extreme winter temperatures highlight the importance of maintaining a robust electric grid. Renewable energy sources, such as solar farms, can help meet that need. But they aren't always available, especially on

cold winter mornings and evenings when the sun isn't shining.

To keep up, we will need to be able to rely on 24/7 energy sources, including natural gas and, at least for now, coal. Yet the EPA seems intent on throwing its yellow flag and ejecting those reliable power plants from the game. That's why we are actively working alongside other electric cooperatives to challenge these regulations in court and in Congress.

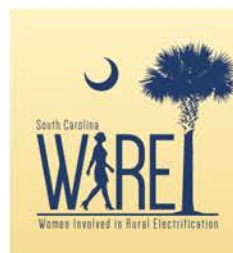
A big part of our current and future success comes from the support of our state lawmakers who continue to keep the needs of cooperatives and their members in mind. Their support is essential in ensuring that we can continue to provide you with reliable, affordable electricity. You'll find them listed on page 5.

Please know that you—the members of Aiken

Electric—are at the heart of everything we do. We want to hear from you. In the middle of this issue, you'll find a brief survey we're asking you to complete. By completing this survey, you'll be entered to win one of three \$500 bill credits. Your responses will help us gauge your wants and needs from your cooperative.

We're ready to stand up for you!

GARY L. STOOKSBURY
Chief Executive Officer



FALL CRAFT FAIR

You are invited to attend Aiken Electric Cooperative's WIRE (Women Involved in Rural Electrification) Fall Craft Fair on **Saturday, Oct. 26** from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Aiken Electric Community Room located at 2790 Wagener Road in Aiken. Search "Aiken Electric WIRE" on Facebook for more information.



THANK YOU LEGISLATORS

We appreciate your support

We at Aiken Electric Cooperative value your work for our state, and commend your efforts to help us provide reliable, competitively priced energy to our members.

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