

AIKEN ELECTRIC  
COOPERATIVE

# South Carolina Living



## Net worth

Catch the craze over  
pickleball, the fast-growing  
sport for all ages

### RUN UNITED

Get ready to  
run April 26

### WATCH OUT

Don't fall victim  
to scammers

### SC RECIPE

Veggie pasta  
extravaganza





**Aiken Electric  
Cooperative, Inc.**

**aikenco-op.org**

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**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

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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.



TRAVIS BELL



## Making your voice heard

**FOR AIKEN ELECTRIC**, reliability is central to our mission and, quite frankly, our very existence. The last thing we want is to come up short in providing our members the power you need when you

need it.

Of course, not everything is up to us. Natural disasters such as hurricanes and ice storms can wreak havoc on our system no matter how well we prepare.

A less obvious factor is the availability of the electricity we generate as a state. For as long as I can remember, we haven't had to seriously worry about this. Our state has historically had plenty of electricity to meet our needs.

But the availability of electricity could become a challenge. Our power supply isn't growing fast enough to keep up with our state's rapid growth. South Carolina needs more electricity, especially for frigid winter mornings and sweltering summer afternoons when the power grid strains to meet peak demands.

Government policies and regulations play an important role in the energy that's available to us. They always have, from legislation that allowed the creation of electric cooperatives in the 1930s to the government's role in hydroelectric power plant construction to recent regulations requiring the shutdown of coal-fired power plants.

Our co-op is fortunate that these elected officials are our friends and neighbors and that they understand the needs of the co-op members and the communities we serve.

As a member-owned co-op, our service to you includes doing everything in our power to make sure our state and country's energy policies enable us to deliver the power you need, when you need it, and at a price you can afford.

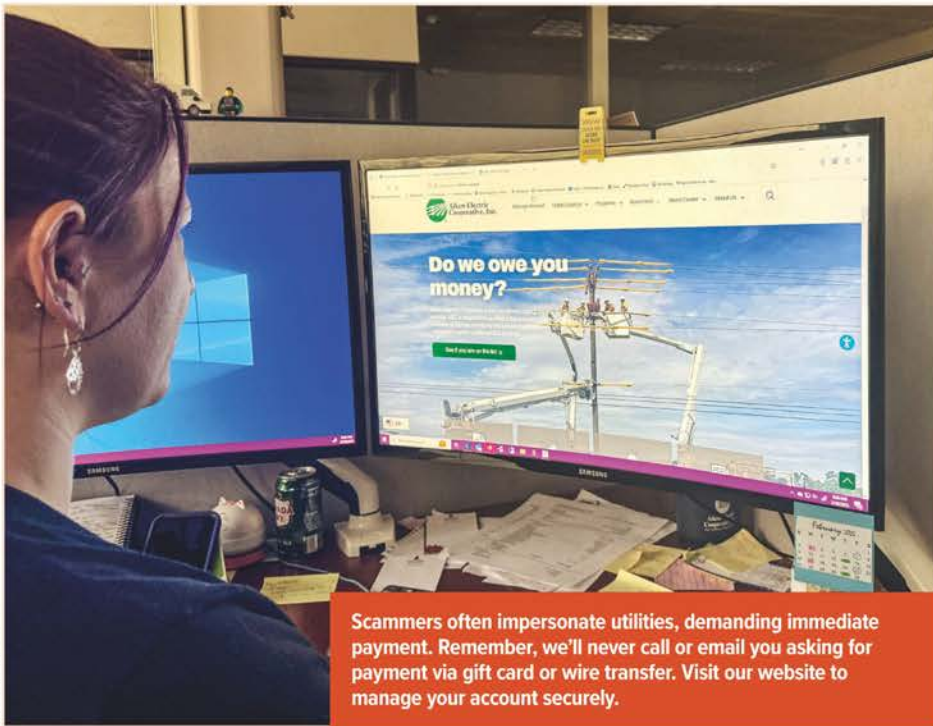
That work is critical again this year as the S.C. General Assembly considers energy policies that will determine how we meet your power needs.

On Feb. 13, a day we call Co-op Day at the State House, our board members and employees joined other electric cooperatives in bringing your voice to policy makers. On behalf of the hundreds of thousands of co-op members across our state, we expressed a vision for a future that keeps electricity safe, reliable and affordable.

It is far from the end of our efforts to help shape our state's energy policies for the better. Rest assured your co-op is doing all we can to safeguard South Carolina's energy future.

**GARY L. STOOKSBURY**  
Chief Executive Officer





Scammers often impersonate utilities, demanding immediate payment. Remember, we'll never call or email you asking for payment via gift card or wire transfer. Visit our website to manage your account securely.

## Beware of fake websites

Utility scams can come for you in a variety of ways.

Be cautious of fraudulent websites pretending to represent Aiken Electric Cooperative. Scammers often create look-alike sites to steal your personal or payment information.

Always type Aiken Electric Cooperative's web address, [aiken-co-op.org](http://aiken-co-op.org), directly into your browser instead of clicking email or text links. Our website has an extra layer of security, using SSL, or Secure Sockets Layer, which encrypts and authenticates data.

If you're ever unsure, call us at (803) 649-6245 to verify payment or account details.

Stay vigilant to protect yourself from utility fraud.

# RUN UNITED

1/2 MARATHON • 5K • KIDS FUN RUN • 10K



REGISTER

**SATURDAY  
APRIL 26, 2025  
DOWNTOWN AIKEN**

PROCEEDS BENEFIT



United Way  
of Aiken County, Inc.

HOSTED BY



SPONSORED BY



Aiken Standard