

South Carolina LIVING

AIKEN ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Purple martin majesty

Lake Murray's summertime
feathered phenomenon

CEO MESSAGE

Where the
community is

GREAT RUN

RUN UNITED
raises over \$54K



**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

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AEC is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



Where the community is

ONE OF THE THINGS I appreciate most about electric cooperatives is that our commitment to the communities we serve extends far beyond delivering reliable electric-

ity. Being a cooperative means being present, involved and invested in the people and places that make our service area special.

This spring was a great example of that commitment in action.

In April, Aiken Electric was proud to host the RUN UNITED Half Marathon, 10K, 5K and Kids' Fun Run in downtown Aiken. Nearly 1,200 runners from across the country participated in the event, helping raise an incredible \$54,200 for United Way of Aiken County programs.

In May, we welcomed many of you to Aiken Electric's 88th Annual Meeting. We registered a record-breaking 4,390 members, which is the highest participation we've seen since moving to the drive-thru format. Thank you to everyone who took the time to participate. You'll find

additional photos and highlights from the meeting on page 5.

Then in June, our WIRE (Women Involved in Rural Electrification) group hosted its annual Princess Pancake Breakfast. More than 160 children and family members visited our community room to enjoy breakfast and spend time with their favorite princesses.

These events reflect the same principle: cooperatives are built on people. Whether we're supporting local non-profits, engaging with our members or creating opportunities for families to come together, we're proud to be part of the communities we serve.

Thank you for your membership. We look forward to continuing to connect and support our members for years to come.

APRIL M. COLLINS
Chief Executive Officer

Big turnout, bigger impact

ON APRIL 25, nearly 1,200 runners and walkers took to the streets of downtown Aiken for the 2026 AEC Touchstone Energy RUN UNITED Half Marathon, 10K, 5K and Kids' Fun Run. Participants traveled from as far as Wisconsin, Arizona and Oregon to run the course featuring history, equine properties and smiling faces. The event raised \$54,200 for United Way of Aiken County's local programs and services. We hope to see you at the start line next year on the last Saturday in April.

RUN UNITED is known for its beautiful course features, including the Wear Blue Mile honoring fallen service members, large oak trees and supporters cheering along the route. ▶



JOSH RINDER

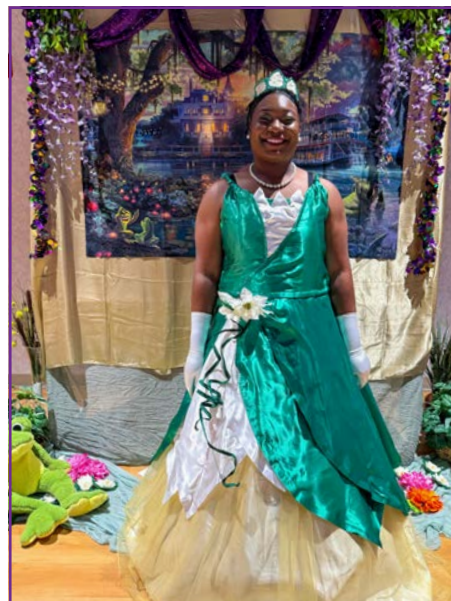
PHOTOS BY DANIELE LUGONS



Johnny Price of North Augusta was thrilled to win the grand prize, a John Deere riding mower provided by Blanchard Equipment.



Executive Assistant Lynn West and retired AEC CEO Gary Stooksbury were honored with House Resolutions during the virtual business meeting.



ANGELA GANTT

Jasmine Ellis, dressed as Princess Tiana, welcomed children into AEC's Community Room, which was transformed into a magical fairytale land. Ellis is AEC's Human Resources & Safety assistant.

Record turnout at 88th Annual Meeting

AIKEN ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE welcomed a record-breaking 4,390 registered members to its 88th Annual Meeting on May 15 and 16 at the co-op's headquarters.

During the business meeting, members learned about the cooperative's continued focus on safety, reliability and competitive pricing. Trustees Charles Sanders (District 2), Linda Bramlett (District 5) and Vincent Furtick (District 7) were re-elected by acclamation to serve additional terms on the Board of Trustees.

Each registered member received a \$25 bill credit and was entered into a drawing for a John Deere riding mower provided by Blanchard Equipment.

The meeting also provided an opportunity to recognize two individuals whose service has made a lasting impact on the cooperative. Retired CEO Gary Stooksbury was awarded the Order of the Palmetto, South Carolina's highest civilian honor, and a House Resolution from Aiken's Legislative Delegation. Executive Assistant Lynn West received a House Resolution recognizing her 43 years of dedicated service to Aiken Electric and its members.

AEC appreciates everyone who participated and looks forward to welcoming members again next year on May 14 and 15, 2027.

A fairytale morning

Pancakes, sweet treats and princesses were the highlights of the morning on June 6 as Aiken Electric hosted its annual WIRE Princess Pancake Breakfast.

More than 160 children and their family members attended this year's Princess Pancake Breakfast, meeting their favorite princesses and enjoying fun activities such as crown making and nail painting. The event raised \$2,700 for Golden Harvest Food Bank's Backpack Program, helping ensure local children have food to take home on weekends when school meals are unavailable.

JOSH CROTZER



Karly McKenna of Warrenville arrived at the 88th Annual Meeting drive-thru in style, sporting a favorite Hello Kitty hat.

JOSH CROTZER



John H. Griffin's 1979 classic ride was a standout among the thousands of members who attended the meeting.

ALLYSON NEWSOME



First Class Lineperson Braden Briatico, First Class Lineperson Jaime Figueroa and Apprentice Lineperson Corbin Shealy (left to right) were on traffic control during this year's Annual Meeting.