

For immediate release
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Contact: Jimmy Baker, (843) 208-5550
cell: (843) 384-7158
fax: (843) 208-5553
e-mail: jbaker@palmetto.coop

PALMETTO ELECTRIC'S 2010 ANNUAL MEETING
Co-op is close to breaking attendance record

Palmetto Electric Cooperative registered 4880 members at this year's Annual Meeting held Saturday, May 1 at Palmetto's Ridgeland office on Highway 278, three miles west of Ridgeland. "This Annual Meeting has been a wonderful way to celebrate 70 years of service to the Lowcountry. The second largest attendance at this year's meeting reflects the commitment of our consumers. We would like to thank all those who attended for helping make this event such a great success," said G. Thomas Upshaw, president and CEO of the utility.

The business meeting focused on the accomplishments of Palmetto Electric in 2009 which included the following energy efficiency initiatives:

- The Together We Save campaign which focused on the little things co-op members can do to make their homes more energy efficient
- 101 Low-Cost/No-Cost Home Energy-Saving Measures brochures were promoted to members, along with other support materials on Palmetto's Web site
- The co-op participated in Help My House, a statewide home energy makeover program where the Lamb Family of Bluffton received \$10,000 in energy-related home improvements
- Also in 2009, Palmetto Electric took part in a home weatherization pilot project with Central Electric Power Cooperative

It was reported that Palmetto Electric will be returning approximately \$1 million in Capital Credits to members who received electric service in 1982, 1983 and/or 2009.

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Also, Congressman Joe Wilson addressed the members during the business meeting.

Four Directors were elected to serve on Palmetto Electric's Board. Incumbents Henry Driessen, Jr. (Beaufort County Position 2), James L. Rowe (Beaufort County Position 5), and Terrell Smith (Hampton County Position 2) ran unopposed. For Jasper County Position 2, incumbent Jerry Vaigneur defeated petition candidates Dr. Earl Bostick, Sr. and Dr. Blair Martin.

In addition, the following Board officers were re-elected: Deborah A. Malphrus, chairman; C. Alex Ulmer, vice chairman; and Jerry Vaigneur, secretary-treasurer.

This year three scholarships were presented from Palmetto Electric's Women Involved in Rural Electrification (WIRE) organization. Madison Thomas from Spanish Wells Country Day School, Samantha Paris from Hilton Head Island High School and Nathan Cannon from Wade Hampton High School each received \$1000 scholarships for their college education.

Also, three high school juniors from the Lowcountry were recognized for being selected to represent Palmetto Electric in the Washington Youth Tour, a week-long, all expense paid educational trip to Washington, D.C. The representatives chosen this year are Madeleine Mayars from Hilton Head Island High School, Weslee Sewell from Thomas Heyward Academy, and Reid D'Amico from Hilton Head Preparatory School.

This year's grand prize winner was Terry Doyle of Hilton Head Island, SC. She won the 2000 Chevrolet Blazer.

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