

Carolina Home Outlet receives awards

Carolina Home Outlet, LLC, in Newberry has been named runner-up for the Independent Retail Center of the Year and General Manager Mitch Howard was runner-up for Salesperson of the Year in the Manufactured Housing Institute of South Carolina (MHISC) 2018 Best in the Industry Awards.

"The Manufacturing Housing Institute of South Carolina is like a governing body of the manufacturing housing industry in South Carolina. Our Board goes along and suggests what guidelines and laws should be in our industry to keep the bad guys out, and also to make sure the customer gets good, quality manufactured homes from a quality dealership," Howard said. "We make the suggestions, pass those on to the legislature, which then passes them to LLR (Labor Licensing and Regulation)."

The MHISC presents awards annually and nominations are submitted by members of the association and cover every thing from service and supply, to finance, to manufacturers that build the homes, Howard said.

Carolina Home Outlet was also named the runner-up for the Independent Retail Center of the Year in 2014.

"From being involved with so many people from our industry that would nominate me as one of the finalists of the awards, there is a lot of competition out there. We have, I'd say, a few hundred sales people in the state," Howard said. "To be honored as one of the finalists is very important, and is a very good feeling being in the industry a very long time."

As a salesperson — and for the sales center — Howard said that first and foremost they treat people the way they would want to be treated. After that, they strive to get customers the best financing possible for whatever their situation may be.

"They may be looking for a land-home package, may be looking to do a land in lieu, where they already own the land and use it for a down payment, or they may have credit issues that we need to deal with, and we do have a lot of different programs



AWARD RECIPIENTS — Carolina Home Outlet has been named runner-up for the Independent Retail Center of the Year and Mitch Howard was runner-up for Salesperson of the Year in the Manufactured Housing Institute of South Carolina 2018 Best in the Industry Awards. Pictured are Mitch Howard, general manager, and Ellen Howard, owner. Carolina Home Outlet is located at 2300 Wilson Road in Newberry.

for the different type of needs of the customers," he said.

Howard added that the honor shows they have had no issues with the state as far as customers being upset or not getting the merchandise or commitments that were promised. He added that judges want to see industry participation as well, including being on select committees, of which Howard is on two.

"To receive the award you have to have a good year in a lot of ways, such as no issues with the Board, no issues with banks or finance companies, provide the best financing possible for the particular situations," he said.

Carolina Home Outlet arranges financing through South State Bank, Triad Financial Services and 21st Mortgage, as well as other local banks and credit unions.

Carolina Home Outlet has been licensed and bonded since 1999, and opened their doors in August of that year. Howard has been in the industry since 1971, and was licensed and bonded since the first year the industry did licensing, 1974.

Carolina Home Outlet is located at 2300 Wilson Road in Newberry and is owned by Ellen Howard and managed by Mitch Howard.



LMS WINNERS — Each student at Laurens Middle School has the opportunity to win tickets for the Score Big/Win Big prize drawings. Students can earn tickets by doing their very best academic work. During the first SB/WB prize drawing of 2019, Jamalachi Powers, seventh grade, and Lane McCracken, eighth grade, were the student winners. As future Raiders, they received a LDHS Raider ball cap and a Laurens Raider tumbler respectively. Pictured are, from left, Coach Eddie West, Jamalachi Powers, Principal Anna Brink, and Lane McCracken.

Laurens Electric offers students free trips and scholarship opportunity

Laurens Electric Cooperative is offering four local students an expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C. or Columbia, this summer.

The annual Washington Youth Tour and Cooperative Youth Summit contest includes submitting an application, securing two references and participating in an interview process. After co-op officials judge the entrants, four students will be awarded one of the two trips, which begin June 15 and July 9, respectively.

Students within the cooperative's service area who are entering their senior year in high school next fall are eligible to enter the contest. Students do not have to receive power from Laurens Electric Cooperative to qualify.

The deadline for submitting applications will be Feb. 8, 2019.

Participants in Washington Youth Tour will travel with more than 40 other South Carolina students to Washington where they will meet with their state representatives and senators, visit many historical sites, learn about cooperatives and spend time with other students from across the country.

Cooperative Youth Summit participants go on a private tour of the S.C. Statehouse, meet with the Governor or Lt. Governor, engage in team-building exercises and learn about electric cooperatives and the co-op business model.

Contest winners also will be eligible to compete for a

\$5,000 college scholarship that will be awarded to one South Carolina trip participant. The scholarship will be granted based on a community service project completed by the student.

For more information or to get an application, visit the co-op's web site at laurens-electric.com/YouthTour-YouthSummit, or contact Laurie Riser at laurier@laurens-electric.com or 1-800-942-3141.

Laurens Electric Cooperative serves 55,000 member-owners in Laurens, Greenville, Spartanburg, Anderson, Newberry, Union, and Abbeville counties. Since 1939, the co-op has been dedicated to being the provider of choice for energy and related services in the Upstate.

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