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Mission Statement
Blue Ridge will be a competitive, quality provider of energy and other services, maintaining its history of integrity and adapting to the challenges of a changing world. While exercising leadership in the community, the organization's focus will be on exceeding customer expectations.

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President's report

Blue Ridge employees support United Way

IN THE MIDST of today's global Great Recession, I'm pleased to report that the Blue Ridge work force has again stepped forward in a big way through our support of the United Way. The cooperative's Oconee and Pickens divisions and our Blue Ridge Security Systems subsidiary all just recently completed their respective pacesetter campaigns.



The results of those campaigns were nothing less than gratifying. United Way drives in Anderson, Greenville, Oconee, and Pickens counties are all now benefiting from our employees' generosity.

Not only did the level of contributions increase markedly at each Blue Ridge location, but there were also record numbers of employees who signed on as Fair Share givers. As defined by the United Way, a Fair Share giver is one who donates one hour of his or her wage or salary for each of the 12 months in the campaign year.

When the pledges and contributions were all tabulated, the entire Blue Ridge gift stood at \$73,197. This represents a five-percent increase over last year's total.

Scores of local human-help agencies will receive United Way funding in these four counties where Blue Ridge provides service. In kicking off our pacesetter campaigns, we stressed to our employees that we've never seen the community needs as high as they are in the present economic environment. Multitudes are in desperate need of assistance.

I'm so thankful the Blue Ridge employees opened their hearts and their pocketbooks to those facing today's uncertainties. Their motivation to deliver quality service extends far beyond the hours they put in on their jobs.

Charles E. Dalton
President and CEO

Briggs & Stratton partners with Blue Ridge Security

Blue Ridge Security Systems recently became an authorized dealer of Briggs & Stratton stand-by generators. This announcement was made by General Manager Jim Lovinggood after months of research for the best fit in another generator provider. "We believe that Briggs & Stratton has the best technology currently available for home and business generators. Their patented 'Power Management System' allows our customer to purchase a smaller generator for larger loads. This is a great fit for our company and will give us even greater flexibility as we provide security and generator products to residential, business and industrial customers throughout the Southeast."

Briggs & Stratton is a long-time producer of gasoline engines used in lawn equipment, blowers and chippers. They are also the supplier of two series of home generators, EmPower and IntelliGEN, that will be installed and serviced exclusively in this area by Blue Ridge Security. The EmPower Series is a true workhorse, offering exceptional value with a full range of systems to meet your power needs and budget. The IntelliGEN Series efficiently manages the same essential and high-wattage appliances as a liquid-cooled standby generator nearly twice its size, while using up to 50-percent-less fuel — all for nearly half the cost.

For more information or a free consultation, contact Blue Ridge Security at (888) 407-7266.

House energy bill 'DOA' in Senate, Graham says

But EPA regulation would be 'nightmare,' senator warns



U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham tells co-op leaders he wants an energy bill that is “connected to our desire to be energy independent.”

BY WALTER ALLREAD

THE U.S. HOUSE'S Waxman-Markey energy bill is “dead on arrival” in the U.S. Senate, Sen. Lindsey Graham recently told South Carolina electric cooperative leaders and state energy policy makers.

Leaders from Blue Ridge Electric Cooperative and other South Carolina co-ops played host to the senator at a luncheon in Columbia September 2. As part of the Our Energy, Our Future grassroots action campaign, co-ops have asked Graham and fellow Senator Jim DeMint to look out for co-op members as the debate on energy legislation begins in the Senate this fall.

“The House bill is a disaster,” Graham said. He said he supports a cap-and-trade system to eliminate and control carbon-dioxide (CO₂) emissions, but not one with target dates that are unattainable with

current emissions-control technology.

He added, “I will not support a cap-and-trade system that will generate almost a trillion dollars in revenue to go back into the general treasury, not back into the energy economy. I will not support a cap-and-trade system that will be so draconian in implementation that average, everyday South Carolinians will have a \$600 to \$800 [annual] increase in their utility bills when they can barely pay their bills now.”

“We’ve asked Sens. Graham and DeMint to make sure that any revenues from any new energy taxes our members pay come back home,” Blue Ridge’s Charles Dalton said after the event. “We take very seriously our mandate to provide reliable, affordable and environmentally responsible electricity, while also meeting the standards of proposed climate legislation. However, we believe any energy tax revenues should help promote homegrown renewable resources, energy efficiency and non-emitting nuclear power right here in South Carolina.”

‘Your worst nightmare’

Graham said he agrees with these goals but noted that failure to pass an energy law would trigger a far more expensive outcome than Waxman-Markey — regulation by the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Oversight of emissions by the agency could be far more costly to co-ops and their member-consumers, the senator said. “The EPA is lurking over your shoulders,” he said.

The senator noted that the Supreme Court ruled two years ago that carbon dioxide, a so-called greenhouse gas blamed for climate

change and global warming, is a pollutant that can be regulated by the EPA, if Congress does not act first to set emissions standards. The state’s co-ops support climate-change legislation that clearly preempts other EPA authority over the regulation of carbon and greenhouse gas emissions.

“I cannot stress to you enough that if we allow the EPA to ‘own’ carbon reform, and they’re the czar of carbon, and they can regulate carbon because it’s a public health issue, some of the people on this EPA are your worst nightmare,” Graham said.

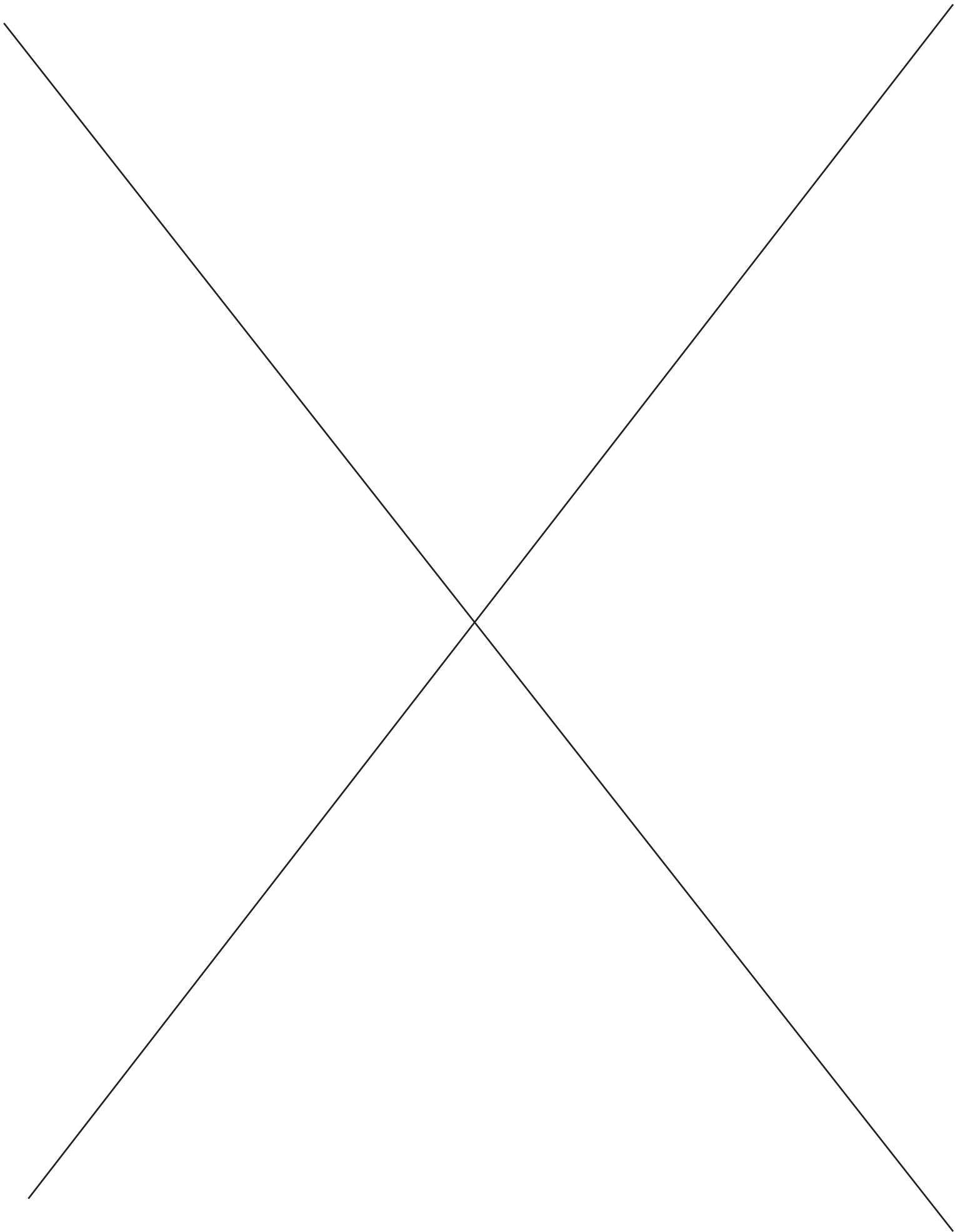
Energy independence

The senator said he will work with centrist Democrats to develop a cap-and-trade system that is part of a national energy strategy. “It must be connected to our desire to be energy independent,” Graham said.

“Let’s pass a bill where the money invested in new [energy] technology stays in our state. Let’s create standards that are achievable,” he said. “Let’s don’t bankrupt major industry.”

Graham said he would retain improvements made by the full House to the Waxman-Markey bill, including the exemption of local distribution co-ops and power companies with 4 million megawatt-hours or less in annual sales from renewables and energy-efficiency standards. Co-op leaders had sought the changes to reduce financial impacts on their members.

More Blue Ridge news
is in the center of
the magazine.



SOLD!



PUBLIC AUCTION

Saturday, **October 24 – 10 A.M.**
Preview Friday, **October 23 9 A.M. – 2 P.M.**

Location: Blue Ridge Electric Cooperative, Inc.
734 West Main Street, Pickens, South Carolina

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VEHICLES

1-1999-CHEV C-8500 KODIAK 2X4 REGULAR CAB MEDIUM-DUTY CAB AND CHASSIS WITH AN ALTEC AA 755-55-FOOT PERSONNEL LIFT AERIAL DEVICE "BUCKET TRUCK" MOUNTED ON CAB AND CHASSIS WITH AUTOMATIC TRANSMISSION, 7.2-LITER CATERPILLAR DIESEL MOTOR, AND FRONT HYDRAULIC WINCH

5-FORD F-550 XL 4X4 REGULAR CAB SUPER-DUTY CAB AND CHASSIS WITH AUTOMATIC TRANSMISSION AND 7.3-LITER POWER STROKE DIESEL MOTORS AND A/C, YEAR MODELS: 1-2002, 1-2001, AND 3-2000

3 - CHEVROLET – SILVERADO 1500 4X4 REGULAR CAB FLEETSIDE 6-FOOT-BED PICKUP TRUCKS, YEAR MODELS: 1-1999, 1-2000, AND 1-2004

1 –2001-FORD F-150 XL 4X4 REGULAR CAB FLEETSIDE 6-FOOT-BED PICKUP TRUCK

2-2001-DODGE RAM-1500 4X4 V-8 MOTORS REGULAR CAB & FLEETSIDE 6-FOOT-BED PICKUP TRUCK

1-YEAR MODEL 1998 PERFORMANCE 200 + XR BRUSH BANDIT PORTABLE WOOD/BRUSH CHIPPER WITH JOHN DEERE 100-HORSEPOWER DIESEL ENGINE

1-2000-CHEVROLET SILVERADO 3500 4X4 REGULAR CAB FLEETSIDE 8-FOOT-BED PICKUP TRUCK

1-1994-FORD F-800 2X4 REGULAR CAB MEDIUM-DUTY CAB AND CHASSIS WITH A TELELECT 4045 DIGGER DERRICK WITH 45' SHEAVE HEIGHT AND PIN ON BUCKET MOUNTED ON CAB AND CHASSIS WITH AUTOMATIC TRANSMISSION AND CUMMINGS 8.3-LITER DIESEL MOTOR, FRONT HYDRAULIC WINCH AND LINE BODY

1-1998-CHEV C-8500 KODIAK 2X4 REGULAR CAB MEDIUM-DUTY CAB AND CHASSIS WITH A TELECT COMMANDER 4045 DIGGER DERRICK WITH 45' SHEAVE HEIGHT AND PIN ON BUCKET MOUNTED ON CAB AND CHASSIS WITH AUTOMATIC TRANSMISSION AND CATERPILLAR 3116 DIESEL MOTOR FRONT HYDRAULIC WINCH AND LINE BODY

1-1999 FORD-F-550 2X4 REGULAR CAB SUPER-DUTY CAB AND CHASSIS WITH A VERSALIFT V-032-I AERIAL DEVICE "BUCKET TRUCK" WITH 32' WORKING HEIGHT PERSONNEL LIFT MOUNTED ON CAB AND CHASSIS WITH AUTOMATIC TRANSMISSION 7.3-LITER POWER STROKE DIESEL MOTOR AND HEAVY-DUTY SERVICE BODY

2-2000 CHEVROLET SILVERADO 1500 2X2 EXTENDED CAB FLEETSIDE 6.5-FT BED PICKUP TRUCKS

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News EXTRA

The Carolina Foothills Heritage Fair is coming

IF YOUR CHILDHOOD memories include an evening of good old-fashioned fun at the local county fair, then you'll want to make sure to bring your family to the Carolina Foothills Heritage Fair. The West-Oak FFA and Young Farmers & Agribusiness Association members are working hard to transform a vacant tract of land into a learning environment, a cultural experience and a place for children and adults alike just to enjoy the fair.

It has not been an easy task to bring the Carolina Foothills Heritage Fair to Oconee County. Gwen McPhail, with other local organizers, has worked for more than a year to find the right site and locate groups to support all the events. Tim Donald, president of the Fair Board, feels strongly about the importance of having this event in Oconee County, "There is a whole generation of children who know very little about agriculture and where their food comes from. We live in a society where food is purchased frozen or canned, and few know or care where vegetables, fruits and meat are grown. Kids are not interested in learning about agribusiness. So much of our food is imported now – we have to educate children and adults about our business and preserving the farmlands in this region." Other members of



West-Oak High School FFA students help prepare the ag field for the Carolina Foothills Heritage Fair.

the Fair Board include Rick and Linda McAvoy, Ronnie Head, Stanley and Beth Gibson and Charlie Whiten. Board member Jeff Blackwell will be heading up the antique tractor event at the fair.

Oconee County elementary school students will visit the fair during planned field trips on October 22-23. The fair is open October 22-25. There will be livestock shows and exhibits, plant and gardening exhibits, cooking contests, food exhibits and BBQ demonstrations. Other features will offer antique car, truck and tractor exhibits along with children's activities including face painting, pony rides, a pumpkin patch, petting

zoo, hayrides and fair rides. Cultural exhibits will include basket weaving, blacksmithing, soap-making, spinning and weaving, blue-grass concerts, student art exhibits and agricultural equipment demonstrations.

Thanks to a number of sponsorships, ticket prices for the fair are only \$3 for adults and \$2 for children. So, make it a family event and come to the West-Oak High School Ag Field just off Hwy. 11 in Westminster and enjoy a day or evening of good old-fashioned fun at the county fair. For more information, call (864) 886-4530.

Oconee County Historic Quilt Trail enlists volunteers

The Blue Ridge Arts Council is taking the lead in bringing the National Quilt Trail to Oconee County. The Quilt Trail began in 2001 in Ohio when Donna Sue Groves installed a painted quilt design on her barn to honor her mother, a fifth-generation Appalachian quilter. From that simple act, the project has spread to more than 1,000 colorfully painted quilt designs on barns and other structures in 24 states.

In Oconee County, a group of dedicated citizens is working to put South Carolina on the map by establishing the Oconee Heritage Quilt Trail. The first quilt will be mounted on the Oconee Heritage Center in Walhalla, in the Rocky Mountain Road pattern made in 1930 by Lena Mae Land Talley, of Mountain Rest. Hers will be one of the first in the state. It will be recreated on an 8'x8' weather-resistant wooden panel mounted on the outside wall of the Heritage Center. It is also being used as part of a promotional logo created for the campaign to bring the Quilt Trail to South Carolina. Volunteers are gearing up for a training course October 23-24, on how to recreate the lines and patterns of the quilt and then to paint it. Others are sponsoring quilts to be painted on other buildings in the county. Costs run from \$125 for a 4'x4' quilt



This is one example of a quilt painting found along the National Quilt Trail.

to \$500 for an 8'x8' quilt.

Quilting has a long and distinguished history in the United States. Not only were quilts used to provide warmth and protection from the elements, but also they added beauty to bleak surroundings and told stories about the events of the times. The names

of quilt patterns reflect much of the history of the United States and of quilt making – the westward expansion, the Civil War, the Depression, even the games that children played.

It's fortunate that the family of Lena Mae Land Talley, only 14 when she finished her first quilt, saved this family heirloom and cared for it. It will be the first step on the South Carolina Quilt Trail.

If you are interested in attending the training course on October 23-24, contact Chris Troy at (864) 985-1096, or if you would like to sponsor a quilt, please contact Martha File at (864) 885-1018.

Co-op Connections producing results

THE CO-OP CONNECTIONS program was designed to offer cost savings to our members. After only four months, more than \$62,000 in savings has been realized on prescription drug costs alone. The list of participating businesses continues to grow with discounts on everything from whitewater rafting to picture framing and dining offers. Below is a list of the businesses that are currently participating and the discounts they are offering. **For additional travel and entertainment discounts, check out the national list of participants at www.connections.coop.**

Local participants

Anderson

- ▶ **28 Barber Shop** — \$10 haircuts for men and boys
- ▶ **America's Best Value Inn** — 20% off rack rate
- ▶ **Diamonds-n-Gold Direct** — 20% off repair; 10% off regular-price jewelry
- ▶ **Matty's Downtown** — Buy one meal get one half off
- ▶ **Postage Plus** — \$1 off a book of stamps

Belton

- ▶ **Maynard's Home Furnishings** — \$100 off purchase of \$750 or more

Central

- ▶ **Fresh Bet Home Fragrances** — 10% off select fragrances
- ▶ **Pizza Pro** — free 8-pc breadsticks w/regular-price large pizza
- ▶ **Radio Shack** — 10% off; excludes TVs, Ipods, computers
- ▶ **Villa Novella American Trattoria** — 10% off food purchase
- ▶ **Xpress Lube and Car Wash** — Save \$2 on full-service oil change

Clemson

- ▶ **Comfort Inn** — 20% rack rate; not valid football or graduation weekends

- ▶ **Curves** — 50% off service fee with 12-month check draft for new members
- ▶ **Fiesta Mexican Grill** — 15% off regular-priced items
- ▶ **My Garage by Essex** — Special offers
- ▶ **Ramada Inn** — \$59 rate; excludes football and graduation

Easley

- ▶ **Acme Auto Care** — 10% off all repairs
- ▶ **Black Electrical** — 5% discount on total purchase
- ▶ **Chef's Secret Thai and Sushi Bar** — 15% off food order
- ▶ **Comfort Inn** — 10% off regular rate
- ▶ **Days Inn** — 15% off rack rates
- ▶ **Jameson Inn** — \$59.99 rate
- ▶ **Poco Music & More** — Special offers
- ▶ **Quick Copy/Print Center** — 10% off print or copy
- ▶ **Rail and Spike Trains** — 10% off train items; 20% off Thomas the Tank
- ▶ **Steve's Tire & Service Center** — 5% off purchase of any set of 4 tires

Fair Play

- ▶ **Carolina Pizza Company** — 10% off order

Long Creek

- ▶ **Chattooga Whitewater Outfitters** — \$5 off any river trip or equipment rental

Pendleton

- ▶ **Mountain Made** — 10% off one craft item
- ▶ **Timeless Tours & Travel, LLC** — Call for discounted rates

Pickens

- ▶ **Aunt Sue's Country Corner** — 15% off all purchases
- ▶ **Michael's Restaurant** — Free drink with meat and three

- ▶ **Nestfeathers, Inc.** — 15% off all purchases

- ▶ **Town and Country Florist** — 10% off excluding delivery

Seneca

- ▶ **Athens Restaurant** — Special offers
- ▶ **Blackberry Hollow** — 20% off floral arrangement or wreath
- ▶ **Cheer's Café** — 10% off order
- ▶ **Clemson 4 Wheel Center Inc.** — 5% off excluding labor and shipping
- ▶ **DJ's Pools and Spas** — 10% off chemicals and parts
- ▶ **Fitway Personal Training Studios** — \$200 off personal training
- ▶ **Jameson Inn** — \$69.99 plus tax per night
- ▶ **Los Amigos Mexican Restaurant** — 5% off full purchase
- ▶ **Rapid Refill Ink** — 10% off all purchases
- ▶ **W.W. Thraves Jewelers** — 1/2 price watch battery

Walhalla

- ▶ **Candle Creations** — 10% off storewide
- ▶ **Peez N Carrots** — 10% off storewide
- ▶ **The Village Framer** — 10% off purchase
- ▶ **Thistle Ridge Soaps** — 10% off in-store purchases
- ▶ **Walhalla Liberty Lodge Restaurant** — 20% off entrees

Westminster

- ▶ **Magnolia Manor Bed & Breakfast** — 10% off lodging or event/wedding packages

West Union

- ▶ **Holcomb's Office Supply** — 20% off purchase



Legislative profile

REX FONTA NE RICE [R] — (District 26, Greenville-Pickens counties); businessman residing in Easley; b. 1957; son of Frank Towers and Claire



Fontaine Rice; 1982 married Ruth Britts, 2 children, Toni and Meredith; Greenville Salvation Army Advisory Board; Easley Rotary Club; member,

Easley Presbyterian Church; previous service in S.C. House 1995-09

Rex F. Rice had his original introduction to elective politics when he served as a poll worker in the 1980's. That experience whetted his interest, and not long afterwards, a local Republican Party official suggested he seek appointment to the Pickens County Water and Sewer Commission. The county council subsequently selected Rice for this post, and he enjoyed his initial involvement in public service. In 1994, he won election to the District 26 seat in the South Carolina House of Representatives. Rice has since been reelected to his House seat for seven more two-year terms, running unopposed each time.

A career in his own construction operation, which began when he was in his early 20's, has provided Rice with strong pro-business outlook. He sees two essential components to fostering a more-effective economic-development program for the state. "First of all, we need to reduce the tax burden on businesses and give them the opportunity to earn a profit. Secondly, the level of red tape that these firms face should be cut back substantially. Oftentimes, the permitting process can be quite unreasonable." Rice believes that if South Carolina would employ measures to enhance its existing businesses, especially small businesses, it would also serve to create an environment favorable to the recruitment of new industries.

Rice has a positive outlook about South Carolina and its economy.

"Economic activity is depressed at present. However, this downturn has also been a learning experience for many business owners, and they are now doing an even better job of managing their operations. That is setting the stage for good economic times for our state in the future."

Rice believes it is vital for the United States to become non-dependent on foreign-oil producers. "I support exploring, in an environmentally responsible and cost-effective way, for petroleum and natural gas in South Carolina's coastal waters. In addition, we already have nuclear power plants operating in the state and are also home to the Savannah River Site. Nuclear energy has a big role to play in the years to come, and I want to see that resource developed further here. We also need to research how effective renewables such as wind, solar, and bio-fuels might be in meeting some of our energy needs."

Wrong bill, wrong time

On the other hand, Rice views the cap-and-trade legislation that is currently under debate in Congress as the wrong bill at the wrong time. "If cap and trade in its present form is enacted, it will work to drive many American jobs offshore. At the same time, the legislation's provisions will put tremendous upward pressure on consumer prices through both higher direct energy costs and the indirect added costs to energy-intensive products and services."

After just two terms in the General Assembly, Rice was appointed to the powerful House Ways and Means Committee. During his time there, he has shown a particular interest in health-care issues. "I'm a strong advocate for preventive medicine."

Rice had previously spearheaded passage of "sunset legislation" in the House of Representatives. His bill would require an audit review of each agency of state government. "I'd like to see a cost-benefit analysis done periodically on every agency to be certain they are performing as expected. If the research were to show that any such department or commission had become irrelevant and was a waste of taxpayers' dollars,

the provisions need to be there to terminate its operation." The sunset bill ultimately did not come to a vote in the Senate, but Rice has hopes of the issue being revived during a future session of the General Assembly.

Among his influences, Rice readily credits his parents and grandparents for the life lessons they imparted to him. "I would especially mention that my dad is a former U.S. Marine. He taught me discipline, for which I'm deeply grateful."

Limited government

Rice is also an admirer of Thomas Jefferson. "I have the utmost respect for Jefferson's belief in limited government. In my observation, governing on both the state and local level is enhanced when the federal government is not heavily involved there."

That conviction, along with a desire to make a difference in Washington, has prompted Rice to offer for the Third District seat in the U.S. House of Representatives. "I want to bring my perspective to the budgeting process in Congress. It's imperative that our federal government get spending under control, and I want to try to have a positive impact there. Coming from both a small business and a farming background, I would seek to blend those disciplines into what government is seeking to accomplish."

Throughout his legislative career, Rice has endeavored to make himself readily approachable to his constituents. "My cell phone number is publically available through my Web site and other channels, and I welcome calls from those who desire to communicate with me. If I'm elected to Congress, I plan to maintain that easy accessibility for the folks back home."

Rice emphasized that his most-valuable assets are his wife, Ruth, and daughters Toni and Meredith. "The three ladies who represent the majority in the Rice household are my most-enthusiastic supporters. They've all been devoted to my previous campaigns for office. I'm fortunate to have them on my team as I contemplate this upcoming run for the U.S. House."