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Anderson, SC 29622

Greenville

3751 Highway 11
Travelers Rest, SC 29690

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.

Board of Directors

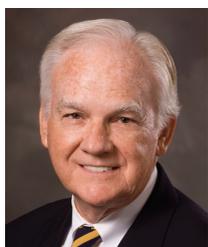
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A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Blue Ridge members achieve number-one ranking

IN NOVEMBER, Blue Ridge Electric Cooperative members realized \$56,624 in pharmacy discounts through use



of their Co-op Connections card. Since the program was introduced here in May of 2009, the cumulative savings have climbed to \$1,845,662.

Those are some amazing numbers. What makes those statistics even more impressive is that, among America's 900 electric cooperatives, Blue Ridge members rank number one in prescription-drug savings. Thousands of our members are employing the Co-op Connections card, and they're reaping some big benefits.

Savings of 10 to 85 percent

I'm personally delighted so many of you are enjoying these savings. Reduced costs for prescription medicines mean local families are able to direct more of their dollars toward meeting other needs. In addition to saving anywhere from 10 to 85 percent on the price of drugs, members can also receive substantial discounts on an array of medical-related services. These would include vision, hearing, dental, chiropractic, and lab and imaging work. That's on top of card savings available through participating restaurants, hotels/motels, and a host of other retail establishments.

As I've pointed out in previous reports, the Co-op Connections card is not a form of health insurance. At the same time, it does represent an effective avenue for our members to cut expenses.

The best news of all is that the Co-op Connections card is free. There are no monthly or yearly carrying charges. You can obtain your own card simply by visiting any Blue Ridge office or by communicating with us via telephone, email, snail mail, Facebook or Twitter. We'll see that your request is answered promptly.

Carbon-monoxide detectors

At the beginning of this winter season, I also want to remind our readers to make home safety a priority. For example, many homes across the Blue Ridge service area should be equipped with carbon-monoxide detectors. That would apply to any structure wherein natural gas, propane, fuel oil, or wood is burned. Incomplete combustion of any one of these fuels can result in unsafe levels of odorless, colorless carbon monoxide being released into a home's environment. Sadly, sickness and even death are sometimes the result. In those potential instances, a CO detector would be an absolute must.

Furthermore, all residences should have one or more operational smoke detectors within the premises. These low-cost devices are proven life-savers. Smoke detectors can be purchased at any number of retail outlets, are easy to install, and are typically powered by a small, standard battery. For your and your family's sake, I encourage you to put safety first in this New Year.

Charles E. Dalton
President and CEO

Co-op helps Oconee County attract aerospace supplier

A.I.D. Company moving into shell building

THE COMBINATION of an available, quality shell building and a strong local workforce helped Oconee County lure an aerospace supplier from nearby Georgia. A.I.D. Company, part of RBC Bearings Incorporated, is investing \$7 million to upgrade and occupy a new shell building in the Oconee County Commerce Center, an industrial park near Westminster.

When its new facility reaches full production, A.I.D. expects to employ 75 workers. "A.I.D. had run out of space at its Georgia location," said Richard Blackwell, executive director of the Oconee County Economic Development Commission. "Company officials were attracted to our county because of our available shell building. Our strong workforce and business-friendly environment then helped close the deal."

Powerful incentives

Another key player in the effort to attract A.I.D. to Oconee County was Blue Ridge Electric Cooperative. The co-op is a strong supporter of the Oconee County Commerce Center through funding designations authorized under the Rural Development Act. Among other improvements, Blue Ridge



Aerospace supplier A.I.D. Company will move into this building in the Oconee County Commerce Center near Westminster. A.I.D. expects to employ 75 workers when its new facility reaches full production in the spring of 2013.

WALTER ALLREAD

involvement helped the county construct two speculative shell buildings within the commerce center, including the structure A.I.D. will now occupy.

"We welcome A.I.D. to Oconee County and onto the Blue Ridge system," said cooperative President and CEO Charles Dalton. "We're proud to be their electric-power provider and will do all we can to contribute to their business success."

The Rural Development Act (RDA) of 1996 provides incentives for economic development in rural areas. Under the RDA, the state empowers electric co-ops, other taxpaying utilities, and transportation providers to divert a portion of yearly license-tax obligations to help underwrite infrastructure improvements for local job-creating projects. These taxes would normally be paid directly to the S.C. Department of Revenue. As a result, electric cooperatives have invested millions of dollars since 1996 in community infrastructure construction and improvement projects such as the Oconee County Commerce Center shell buildings.

Savings and jobs

Blue Ridge and other co-ops support local economic-development efforts because commercial and industrial

co-op members typically use larger volumes of power. The resulting revenues help co-ops hold down the cost of service for all members, including residential consumers. Dalton adds, "We take this role very seriously, because we know new industry means new jobs, and new jobs mean greater prosperity and better quality of life for our members



While planning the move to the commerce center, A.I.D. staffers used a conference room at the Blue Ridge Oconee division office to meet with contractors.

TIM MAYS

Fee changes announced

Effective January 1, 2013, the Basic Facilities Charge will increase by \$2 monthly. In addition, the late fee on balances left unpaid after 25 days will be either 3 percent of the amount or a minimum of \$10. For all delinquent bills after 40 days, a fee of \$30 will be assessed, and the account will be subject to disconnection without further notice. Most Blue Ridge members pay their bills within the 25-day time period and will not have a late or delinquent fee added to their bill.

and the greater community."

The South Carolina Power Team (scpowerteam.com) was formed in 1988 as a partnership between Blue Ridge and other independent S.C. electric cooperatives and state-owned Santee Cooper. This collaboration has helped to bring more than \$9 billion in capital investment to the state. The S.C. Power Team concentrates its economic-development efforts in rural counties, and the payoff has grown into more than 50,000 new jobs announced.