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Anderson, SC 29622

Greenville

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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

Another “by the numbers” report

IN THE MARCH 2012 edition of *South Carolina Living*, my monthly report consisted of a listing of several numbers and



some narrative explaining the significance of each number. For instance, “5,625” was the number of poles that were inspected on the Blue Ridge Electric Cooperative system in 2011. I realized a great deal of enjoyment in researching those statistics and then elaborating on their importance to the cooperative’s operation.

Recently, I came across some numbers that pertain specifically to all the hundreds of electric cooperatives nationally. I hope you’ll find them—as I did—both interesting and educational.

\$1,400,000,000—America’s electric cooperatives pay about \$1.4 billion in taxes per year to states and localities. In 2013, Blue Ridge paid \$3,932,000 in local property taxes.

\$600,000,000—That’s the amount electric co-ops return to their members each year in the form of capital credits. Last April, Blue Ridge refunded \$1,000,000 in patronage capital to those who were co-op members in 1986. To date, the cooperative has paid back a total of \$22.2 million.

42,000,000—The nation’s 900-plus cooperatives provide electric service to more than 42 million American homes and businesses. S.C. co-ops serve in excess of 1.5 million residents and businesses, while Blue Ridge serves an estimated 130,000 of those here in our five-county area.

2,500,000—Stretched across the U.S. are more than 2.5 million miles of cooperative-owned power lines, enough to circle our equator a full 100 times. About 7,000 of those miles of line are found on the Blue Ridge system.

70,000—That number represents

all the individuals employed by electric cooperatives nationwide. Here at Blue Ridge, we have 163 employees working in our electric operation. Our subsidiary organization, Blue Ridge Security Solutions, has another 79 persons on its workforce.

75—Fully 75 percent of the nation’s land area is covered by electric cooperatives. That’s also the percentage of South Carolina’s total territory that our state’s 20 electric cooperatives are serving.

74—This statistic represents the number of member-accounts served by electric cooperatives per mile of power line. Blue Ridge has about 9.5 members per mile. Municipally owned electric utilities have an average of 43 customers per mile, while that number for investor-owned utilities is 23.

From their humble beginnings in the 1930s and ’40s, electric cooperatives have grown to be a large and truly irreplaceable portion of our country’s infrastructure. Blue Ridge is proud to be a part of what has been deemed to be “Co-op Nation.” Each co-op has its own unique features, but all of us are member-owned. As such, we take pride especially in delivering the best possible service for our members.

We’re rapidly approaching what is my favorite time of the year, the Thanksgiving season. This is also the last edition of this magazine to be published in 2014. With both of those realities in view, I want to take this opportunity to wish you and yours a Happy Thanksgiving, a Merry Christmas, and a rewarding New Year. The Blue Ridge organizations and I look forward to being of service to you in 2015.

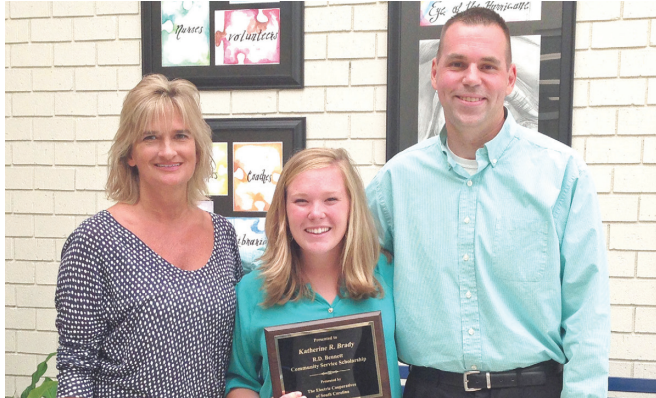
Charles E. Dalton
President and CEO

Tree lighting

EACH YEAR BLUE RIDGE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE heralds the holiday season with the lighting of the tree on the co-op lawn in Pickens. This year, we will light the tree on Nov. 25, at 5:15 p.m. This festive event includes holiday music as well as hot cocoa and cookies. Bring your family and celebrate the beginning of the Christmas season with us.

Blue Ridge's Brady wins

R. D. Bennett Scholarship and NRECA grant



KATE BRADY, who represented Blue Ridge Electric Cooperative on the 2014 Youth Tour, is the winner of a national service grant. She was one of 19 students selected nationwide for the \$500 award presented by NRECA and generationOn, the youth service division of Points of Light.

Brady also received the South Carolina Electric

Kate Brady (center), with Liza Holder of Blue Ridge Electric Co-op and Van O'Cain of the Electric Cooperatives of South Carolina, receives the news of her scholarship.

Cooperatives' R.D. Bennett Scholarship earlier this year. The scholarship in the amount of \$5,000 is awarded based on the successful completion of a community service project. Brady lives in Piedmont and attends Wren High School.

Fee change

EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2015, the cooperative's monthly Basic Facilities Charge will increase by \$2. For industrial and large power members, the monthly BFC addition will be \$10. This change will bring the BFC into closer alignment with the actual cost of providing service each month. A small adjustment will also be made in the monthly SurgeGuard fee, changing that amount to \$6.50.

We'll see you again here in January!

SOUTH CAROLINA LIVING publishes a combined November-December edition this time each year. We'll return with our biennial Legislative Guide issue in January. Also in that issue, we will announce our Bolts of Brightness program that begins the celebration of Blue Ridge's 75th Anniversary.

Our offices will close on Thursday and Friday, Nov. 27-28, for Thanksgiving as well as Thursday-Friday, Dec. 25-26, for Christmas. We'll also close the following Thursday, New Year's Day. Happy holidays from Blue Ridge Electric Cooperative!

A season for savings

IF YOU'RE LOOKING for bargains or somewhere to eat after a long day of holiday shopping, take a look at this list of Co-op Connections retail partners and make your plans to drop in. Have a holiday season filled with savings—your gift from Blue Ridge Electric Cooperative.



Anderson

America's Best Value Inn
Diamonds-n-Gold Direct
Electric City Grill
El Jimador Restaurant
M & L Mobile Home Supplies
Maynard's
Postage Plus
Sharps and Flats Unlimited
Sunday's Restaurant

Central

Fresh Bet Home Fragrances
Newton's Shoes
Palmetto Pizza Co.
Xpress Lube and Car Wash

Clemson

Comfort Inn
Curves
El Jimador Restaurant
My Garage by Essex
University Inn
Valvoline Instant Oil Change

Easley

Acme Auto Care
Baymont Inn & Suites
Black Electrical
Days Inn
DreamShots Photography, LLC
Easley Electric Inc.
Quick Copy/Print Center
Rail and Spike Trains
Steve's Tire & Service Center, Inc.

Fair Play

Carolina Pizza

Long Creek

Chattooga Whitewater Outfitters

Maggie Valley, N.C.

Clarketon Motel

Pendleton

Mountain Made
Timeless Tours & Travel

Pickens

Auntie Ann's Kitchen
Aunt Sue's Country Corner
Flowers & Gifts by Virginia
Michael's Restaurant
Nestfeathers, Inc.
Town & Country Florist

Seneca

Chastain Insurance Agency
Clemson 4 Wheel Center, Inc.
DJ's Pools and Spas
Heavenly Hogs BBQ
Hidden Treasures
Los Amigos
Oasis Pools, Inc.
Quality Inn
Sundance Realty LLC

Walhalla

Candle Creations
Peezs n Carrots
Walhalla Liberty Lodge Restaurant

West Union

Arbonne Skin Care
Holcomb's Office Supply

Westminster

El Jimador Restaurant
Magnolia Bed & Breakfast
The Lodge at Foxwood Hills