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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.

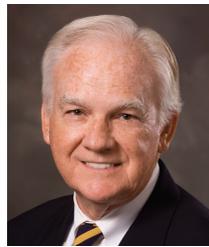
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Major system improvements on track

THE OLD FARMER'S ALMANAC, which has an amazingly accurate record of weather prognostication, is forecasting another frigid winter for much of the eastern United States. Since this region's last two winters have featured subnormal, record-setting temperatures, we could experience more of the same this time around. Couple that expected chilliness with



abundant moisture, and we might have the makings of one or more storm emergencies during the winter of 2015-16.

None of us can control the weather. Our best alternative is to make appropriate preparations for whatever Mother Nature might hurl at us. At your cooperative, that means continuing to apply improvements to the 7,000-mile system of power lines that supplies service to you and your fellow members. Blue Ridge has at least a dozen Engineering Work Plan projects in the pipeline that will help to fulfill that purpose.

For example, cooperative crews are beginning work on a 2½-mile section of line along Cleveland Pike Road in Oconee County's Madison community. This four-month task will include right-of-way clearing and the moving of portions of the power line from wooded areas to new locations adjacent to the roadside. In addition, the line will be converted from single-phase to three-phase and will be up-fitted with a much-larger cable size.

I'd also mention two new substations the cooperative plans to energize within the next two to five months. The Golden Corner substation will service an industrial park in southwestern Oconee County.

Additionally, other circuits feeding from a distinct and separate part of this facility will become the new source of electricity for existing Blue Ridge members residing in the surrounding vicinity.

Astride the Greenville-Spartanburg county line, work is progressing on our new Landrum substation. Adding that station to our system will produce a similar result to that of the Golden Corner unit—hundreds of existing members brought much closer to their power source. All these improvements will serve to make the cooperative grid stronger and more resilient in the face of inclement weather conditions.

As Blue Ridge works to prepare for a cold winter, there are things you can do at home to keep your power bill as low as possible—lower the thermostat to 68 degrees, properly seal doors and windows, make sure you have adequate insulation, lower the temperature on your water heater to 120 degrees. These are just a few of the ways you can take control of your power bill and save money this winter. For more details on savings, go to blueridge.coop and click on togetherwesave.com.

This November-December issue of *South Carolina Living* magazine is the last edition for 2015. With that in mind, I don't want to let the opportunity slip by to wish you a Happy Thanksgiving, a Merry Christmas, and a prosperous New Year. The rest of the Blue Ridge team and I look forward to serving you in 2016.

Charles E. Dalton
President and CEO

Upstate teen is a statewide winner

ANNA WHITE has transformed her concern for other young women into a positive community service project that has earned her the distinction of being named the recipient of the 2015 Robert D. Bennett Community Service Scholarship presented by The Electric Cooperatives of South Carolina, Inc. The \$5,000 college scholarship is presented to a student who completes a project that best exemplifies the cooperative principle of “concern for community.”

White, 16, from Cleveland, was one of three ambassadors chosen by Blue Ridge to represent the co-op this summer on the 2015 Washington Youth Tour, a week-long trip to our nation’s capital, where students learn about government and its relationship to the nation’s cooperatives. She is a senior at Hampton Park Christian School in Greenville.

White’s winning community service project, “Heart & Sole Running &



Liza Holder of Blue Ridge Electric Cooperative and Van O’Cain of The Electric Cooperatives of South Carolina, Inc. present Anna White (center) with the R.D. Bennett Community Service Scholarship award.

Reading Club,” helped a group of girls from Miracle Hill Children’s Home learn the value of physical fitness while also helping them improve their reading skills and self-esteem.

“I’m working with teenage girls, many of whom were abused,” said White. “The purpose of the club is to strengthen them physically and to give them self-confidence that will empower them to make

better life choices.”

The project included raising money—more than \$600 and counting—to buy running equipment and books for the girls. She then held weekly sessions with the teens to exercise, discuss books and hold devotions and prayer.

“Anna’s project had the perfect name because she really did put her heart and soul into the effort to help these young ladies,”

said Van O’Cain, director of public & member relations for The Electric Cooperatives of South Carolina, Inc.

The project is continuing this fall with White tutoring the girls weekly to help them prepare for the SAT/ACT examinations.

“All of these girls have big dreams,” said White. “I want to help them achieve their dreams.”

The \$5,000 scholarship is named for Robert D. Bennett, the first general manager and executive vice president of The Electric Cooperatives of South Carolina, Inc. Bennett, who led the state association from 1950 until his retirement in 1980, strongly believed that electric cooperatives should support their local communities, providing a better quality of life for their members. His spirit of community service is reflected in this scholarship opportunity.

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. 24, 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.

The chorus from A. R. Lewis Elementary School will once again share songs of the season at the annual tree-lighting event.





News EXTRA



TAYLOR CASH

Certificates of Appreciation were awarded the Bolts of Brightness winners, "In sincere gratitude for the selflessness exhibited by your service to others."

Anniversary year concludes with a special recognition

IT'S BEEN A SPECIAL YEAR at Blue Ridge Electric Cooperative with the celebration of our 75th Anniversary. Throughout the year you have seen many reminders of the early history of the co-op—the 2015 calendar, the Blue Ridge video that was a major attraction at the annual meeting, and the release of the book, *A History of Blue Ridge Electric Cooperative*, in August. But in early September, one of the most memorable events took place, the recognition of the Bolts of Brightness honorees.

This special group of 75 individuals was nominated by you, our membership, in response to a call for outstanding volunteers within your communities. The stories of the deeds performed by this select group were heart-warming. But the theme that tied all of them together was simply their willingness to give of themselves to help someone that had a need.

Recipients of this special award are listed along with a photograph of many of them on the following two pages. They, along with the person that nominated them, were treated to a celebratory dinner in September where they were recognized and received a framed certificate. Following the announcement of the winners, \$500 was given in their honor to the charitable cause they champion.

As Charles Dalton addressed the men and women present that night, he said, "When we started talking about how we could use our anniversary celebration to impact our communities and membership in some way, the idea of Bolts of Brightness was born. Just like Blue Ridge has brought light or brightness to upstate South Carolina, so have each of you, that are being honored here tonight, brought brightness to someone." We congratulate these very special people, and the 75 charities, churches, organizations, schools, Scout troops and the like that will benefit in a big way from these big hearts in their communities. ☺

In Praise of Unsung Heroes...



Many good things happen every day in our communities that can be attributed to the actions of individuals who simply respond to a need they see. As part of Blue Ridge Electric Cooperative's 75th Anniversary, 75 members were recognized as "Bolts of Brightness" for their contribution to an individual, club, church, school, or other cause.

From serving meals to tutoring, to running

errands or organizing afternoon activities for school kids, these individuals truly make a positive difference in the lives they touch. Blue Ridge Electric Co-op has honored these folks by donating a gift of \$500 to each for the charitable use of their choice. The idea behind Bolts of Brightness was to "find a few big hearts that light up our community", and we congratulate each of those who were chosen. ☺



...and Selfless Givers

- **Olivia Adams**, *Others First Food Ministry*
- **Brian Allen**, *Westminster Cub Scout Troop 129*
- **Justin Anderson**, *New Hope Independent Baptist Church*
- **Jack and Virginia Arve**, *Walhalla American Legion Post 124*
- **Avery Leroy Ashe**, *Pleasant Grove Baptist Church*
- **Vernon Bacher**, *Fair Play Camp School*
- **Chuck Baker**, *Prevent Child Abuse Pickens County*
- **Blake Berry**, *FFA Pendleton High School*
- **Jenna Black**, *Safe Harbor-Oconee County*
- **David Blizzard**, *Oakdale Baptist Church*
- **Cheryl Brewer**, *Widow Ministry at Hepsibah Baptist Church*
- **Toni Brewer**, *Heath's Haven*
- **Manella Calhoun**, *Roberts Presbyterian Church Community Trail*
- **Jean M. Carter**, *Long Creek Baptist Church*
- **Esther Corn**, *Gleaning House Ministries*
- **Deanna Counts**, *Liberty First Baptist Summer Mission Trip*
- **In Memory of Theron Crenshaw**, *Crescent Hill Baptist Church*
- **Kenneth Curtis**, *Saluda Rest Ministries, Natural Burials and Preserve*
- **Sam Dunn**, *Building Fund of Pickens First Baptist Church*
- **Sharon Durham**, *Smith Grove Baptist Church*
- **Dwaine Eubanks**, *Osher Lifelong Learning Institute*
- **Martha Frady**, *Safe Harbor-Oconee County*
- **Darragh Geist**, *Safe Harbor-Oconee County*
- **Donald W. Gilstrap**, *Greenville Shriners Hospital for Children*
- **Paul Graber**, *Fair Play Camp School*
- **Rollan Green**, *Gap Creek Baptist Church*
- **Lee Halleck**, *Meals on Wheels – Anderson County*
- **Frank and Shirley Hamilton**, *Easley First Baptist Church*
- **Leslie Shay Hardin**, *Scholarship Fund*
- **Albert Steven Hartsell, Jr.**, *Double Springs Community Association-Anderson County*
- **In Memory of Shirley Hawkins**, *Others First Food Ministry*
- **Jimmie J. Haynes**, *Pickens Literacy Association*
- **Billy Lee Herman**, *Greenville Shriners Hospital for Children*
- **Marti Jennings**, *Salem Fire & Rescue Department*
- **Teresa Johnson**, *SC Awareness & Rescue for Equines (SCARE)*
- **Brenda and LJ Jones**, *Holly Springs Baptist Church*
- **Joseph Jones**, *DAV-Oconee Chapter 41*
- **In Memory of Alice Hall Lawton**, *Saluda Hill Baptist Church*
- **Meg Leatherwood**, *Scholarship Fund*
- **Betty McDaniel**, *Preserving Our Southern Appalachian Music, Inc.*
- **Debbie & Lewis McMahan**, *Oconee Memorial Hospital Foundation-Hospice*
- **Gwen McPhail**, *South Carolina Foothills Heritage Fair*
- **Gary Monroe**, *Pickens High School Athletic Association*
- **David Moody**, *United Christian Ministries*
- **Jason Moore**, *Seneca Church of God-Judah Drama and Dance Ministry*
- **Jeanne Moore**, *Storehouse Food Pantry-Locust Hill Baptist Church*
- **Butch Morris**, *Charles F. Rogers Scholarship Fund*
- **Kevin Nicholson**, *East Pickens Baptist Church-Food Pantry*
- **Tim Nix**, *Westminster Rescue Squad R-5*
- **Lynn Owen**, *Westminster First Baptist Church Good News Club*
- **Phillip Owens**, *Mary's House*
- **Doug and Kathy Palmer**, *Anderson County Meals on Wheels*
- **Evelyn Phillips**, *Others First Food Ministry*
- **Judy Rackley**, *Manna Health and Rehabilitation-Activities Department*
- **In Memory of Regina Day Reece**, *Samaritan Health Clinic*
- **Anita Richardson**, *McKissick Elementary School*
- **Kim Richardson**, *Shaken Baby Syndrome*
- **David Schaub**, *Cliffs Resident Outreach*
- **Debbie Ann Sloan**, *Orchard Park Elementary*
- **Patty Snyder**, *Greer Christian Learning Center*
- **Mildred Spearman**, *Osher Lifelong Learning Institute*
- **Linda Stone**, *Children's Ministry*
- **Sam Thrift**, *Anderson University*
- **Tom Thrift**, *Collins Children Home in memory of Patsy C. Thrift*
- **Ann Trammell**, *Tigerville Fire Department Emergency Assistance*
- **Bart Turner**, *The Meyer Center in honor of Jordan Leigh Turner*
- **Patricia Underwood**, *SC Baptist Hospital-School of Nursing*
- **Helen Westmoreland**, *Seneca Rotary Club Foundation*
- **Anna White**, *Miracle Hill Children's Home*
- **Larry Wilkerson**, *Fair Play Fire Department*
- **Ronnie Williams**, *Emerson Rose Heart Foundation*
- **Chris and Jim Wilson**, *The Dream Center*



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Looking for a bargain?

With the holidays just around the corner, everyone is looking for ways to save money. Blue Ridge is eager to help you shop and save with local merchants. Your Co-op Connections card provides an entry into many varied locations, all with special discounts. All you need is your card, identifying you as a co-op member. Look for a bargain at any of the stores listed and stretch that holiday dollar.

And remember, the quickest way to savings for prescriptions and other health benefits is your card. For nationwide discounts and other information on how you can save, visit connections.coop.

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

Central

- ▶ Fresh Bet Home Fragrances
- ▶ Newtons 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.

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- ▶ Carolina Pizza Company

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- ▶ Chattooga Whitewater Outfitters

Maggie Valley, NC

- ▶ Clarketon Motel

Pendleton

- ▶ Mountain Made
- ▶ Timeless Tours & Travel, LLC

Pickens

- ▶ Auntie Ann's Kitchen

- ▶ Aunt Sue's Country Corner Restaurant
- ▶ Flowers & Gifts by Virginia
- ▶ Michael's Restaurant
- ▶ Nestfeathers, Inc.
- ▶ Town & Country Florist

Seneca

- ▶ Clemson 4 Wheel Center, Inc.
- ▶ DJ's Pools and Spas
- ▶ Heavenly Hogs BBQ & More, LLC
- ▶ Hidden Treasures
- ▶ Los Amigos Mexican Restaurant
- ▶ Oasis Pools, Inc.
- ▶ Quality Inn

Walhalla

- ▶ Candle Creations
- ▶ Peezs n Carrots
- ▶ Walhalla Liberty Lodge Restaurant

West Union

- ▶ Arbonne Skin Care & Nutrition
- ▶ Holcomb's Office Supply

Westminster

- ▶ Garrett Repair & Remodeling
- ▶ Magnolia Bed & Breakfast
- ▶ The Lodge at Foxwood Hills



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