



For All Your Customer Service Needs,
Call Toll-Free (800) 240-3400

Automated Outage Reporting
1-888-BLUERIDGE
www.blueridge.coop

Pickens
P.O. Box 277
734 West Main St.
Pickens, SC 29671

Oconee
P.O. Box 329
2328 Sandifer Blvd.
Highway 123
Westminster, SC 29693

Anderson
1212 North Fant St.
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.

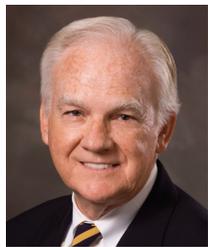
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A Touchstone Energy[®] Cooperative

Winter storm delivers blow to the Upstate

IT ALWAYS IS a little surprising to me how eagerly we anticipate spring. Don't get me wrong, it is certainly a



beautiful time of the year with renewal so visible at every turn. However, the quietness and crispness of a winter morning, with a bright blue sky also has a real appeal for me. But when Ole Man Winter brings out the ice and snow, that beauty quickly becomes treacherous for all of us at Blue Ridge. On Friday, Jan. 22, Winter Storm Jonas began dropping ice and snow across our area, creating power outages, impassable roads, and freezing conditions.

Although we were well prepared before the storm arrived, it's always impossible to know just where the brunt of a weather event like this will be. This time, about 95 percent of the outages occurred across the northern portions of Oconee, Pickens, and Greenville counties. According to our outage-management system, a total of 13,582 members lost power during the storm. The most locations we had out at any one time were about 10,500 at midday on that Friday. Our trouble started before daybreak on Friday, and the last outage was cleared up on Sunday afternoon at 4:30. The storm produced more than 20 broken poles.

Extra support

Before the first outage was reported, we had a large number of outside-the-area linemen and right-of-way workers either already here or headed this way. By the time the outage

numbers peaked, 150 extra men from Lowcountry co-ops and contractor organizations had joined us. That total swelled to 230 on Saturday. The co-ops who generously helped us out included Berkeley, Horry, Coastal, Palmetto, Edisto, Newberry, and Aiken. That extra support made a huge difference, allowing us to respond in multiple areas more quickly.

Each major storm we experience, teaches us something new. This January, it was the power of technology in communicating information. More than ever before, you responded to us on Facebook and Twitter, and used our Automated Reporting system to report your outage. For these new technologies to benefit you, we need updated phone and email information. You will see a request for this in your bill in the next few months.

Challenges ahead

We are grateful for your understanding and patience as we worked to restore power to those of you that were affected. Your words of praise, thanks, and prayers for safety and rest warmed our spirits. As 2016 unfolds, we may be faced with more challenges, but rest assured that we will be working to keep you comfortable and safe.

Charles E. Dalton
President and CEO

Membership has its privileges

HOW OFTEN WE have heard this slogan when someone refers to a product or service you have by virtue of being a member. As a member of Blue Ridge Electric Cooperative, you really do have some benefits that belong only to you. Designed to enhance the quality of life our members enjoy, below are just a few of the programs you have at your disposal. Visit our website or call to check on these membership privileges that are yours.

- ▶ **Co-op Connections Card**—In 2015, our members saved more than \$300,000 on prescription drugs simply by having this card that is available to all members and their families. But this card has additional advantages, including a national listing of participating merchants and their services, and a group of local business partners that offer members a discount right here at home.
- ▶ **H₂O Select**—Get money back on your next water heater with the H₂O Select program. Replace your existing water heater with an approved electric water heater and get up to \$600 in rebates.
- ▶ **Heat Pump Loan Program**—BREC offers a low-interest financing



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program to assist you in replacing your heat-pump system in your home. The program allows your payment to be included in with your monthly electric statement.

- ▶ **Convenient bill paying**—The options are numerous! Pay online with an e-check or credit card, have your monthly payment drafted from a bank account or credit card, avoid surprises with leveled billing or download our free mobile app for payments or account information.

- ▶ **Capital Credits**—Each year, all

Each year, co-op members come together in Pickens to hear about their co-op, as well as visit with friends, neighbors and co-op employees. Pictured here are veterans that were recognized at last year's meeting. With door prizes, free hot dogs, entertainment and prize drawings, it's a very enjoyable evening. The 2016 Annual Meeting will be held on April 28, and we look forward to seeing you there.

revenue over and above expenses is assigned by the cooperative to your Capital Credit Account. The amount is determined by your yearly payments for electricity. As an electric cooperative, we are here to provide at-cost electric service. We aren't here to make a profit, and we don't have shareholders. As a member of an electric cooperative, you invest in the efficient operation of your co-op.

We hope you will join other cooperative members at the 2016 Blue Ridge Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting on April 28. Held at the Pickens office location, members will receive door prizes, free hot dogs and drinks, and be eligible for a number of prize-drawing gifts. We're your co-op, and we're looking out for you!

Blue Ridge Fest promises great entertainment

With a backdrop of hundreds of classic cars, Blue Ridge Fest will once again bring an outstanding line-up of entertainers to Pickens to raise money for 12 local charities. On May 6, Fest goers will be entertained by Jay and the Americans, Jimmy Beaumont and the Skyliners, and Jim Quick and Coastline.

Blue Ridge President and CEO Charles Dalton is proud of the tradition Blue Ridge Fest has established. "Now in its 19th year, this event continues to bring unmatched entertainment to the stage. This, along with the largest cruise-in in the upstate, a hundred supportive sponsors, and attendees that come year after year allow us to help thousands of people in the local area. If you've been to our charity event, I hope you'll be back; but if you haven't spent an evening at Blue Ridge Fest, I hope this will be the year you decide to come." Bring the entire family and enjoy "Good Times for Great Causes."

