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MISSION STATEMENT

Blue Ridge Electric Cooperative will operate as a competitive provider of energy services and a partner with local communities, with a focus on safety, service and integrity.

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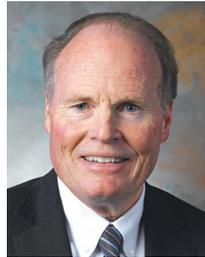
Jim Lovinggood

This organization is an equal-opportunity provider.



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Energy Services Department rollout



BLUE RIDGE ELECTRIC

COOPERATIVE is a member-owned power supplier. That's a conspicuous fact we strive to keep ever before us as we go about the business of serving our 66,000-plus members.

In the interest of staying on the cutting edge when it comes

to quality service, your co-op team has embarked on an added course of action. On August 1, we established what we're calling our Energy Services Department. This department is staffed with a group of employees who are well-equipped to offer expertise across a range of energy-related matters. A partial listing of these areas of discipline would include solar systems, battery storage, emergency generators, geothermal technology, and electric vehicles.

Number-one ranking

For this month's report, I'm going to single-out one of these specific items. I'll begin by noting that among South Carolina's 20 electric co-ops, Blue Ridge ranks number one when it comes to involvement with solar. In addition to the 250-kilowatt community solar farm that your co-op maintains, we have more than 300 individual solar systems now in operation at members' premises.

The rollout of our Energy Services Department, in part, signals a co-op desire to be engaged at an early stage in a member's decision-making regarding solar. Our own experience has demonstrated that some solar dealers have oversold the potential benefits of this renewable power source

to a number of Blue Ridge members. Because we've assembled our own solar-installation crew, you can count on our team being upfront about the pros and cons of sun-generated energy. An inquiring member will receive an honest assessment of the potential savings that might result from a solar array. In addition, an onsite visit, for instance, would determine the expected effectiveness of rooftop solar panels, based on the roof's alignment with the sun's path.

Education is key

A clear understanding of the total solar picture is especially important now that "net metering" in our state is being supplanted by "net billing". As one of my staff members has observed, "education is the key to ensuring our members are making the right decisions with their energy spending." That's one of the responsibilities we've placed on the able shoulders of the trustworthy experts in the co-op's Energy Services Department. I'm excited about all the support this department has to offer.

It's my sincere hope that you'll make these folks your first stop as you contemplate employing any of these new technologies. Your email, telephone call, correspondence, and/or personal visit would all be welcome. We're here for you!

JIM LOVINGGOOD
 President and CEO

Creativity and skill combine to make a winner

BLUE RIDGE CO-OP member Carolyn Harris is truly a person of many talents. She is equally comfortable maintaining her yard, entertaining grandchildren, teaching a Bible study, or volunteering for one of the many organizations she supports. But when her mind is allowed to focus on her creative gifts, she sits down to the sewing machine and produces quilts of incredible design and beauty—very fitting for the newly named “Quilter of the Year” for the Upstate Heritage Quilt Trail.

A product of family influences, Carolyn recalls that her maternal grandmother knew thread and fiber. While she didn’t quilt, she did needlepoint and sewed. Most importantly, she introduced her granddaughter to the sewing machine. Carolyn’s mother taught Fashion Design at Anderson University and was an excellent seamstress and tailor. Spurred on by the influence of these two women, Carolyn sewed all her own clothes until she graduated from college. She still owns that first



CAROLYN HARRIS

“store-bought” dress.

Her journey with quilting began in the 90’s. In her own words, “I’ve always had an interest in thread and fibers. I love to see how they can be transformed into something magical.” Through her association with the Lake and Mountain Quilters Guild, she has been exposed to local talent, as well as nationally and internationally known quilters. Working with thread and fabric vendors has taken her to large international shows, “There you are exposed to so many techniques and styles that you could never imagine. It opens a whole new world and challenges the individual

quilter to move in a different direction.”

Surrounded by books, patterns, fabric and thread, Carolyn Harris spends as much time as she can find in her day to create traditional and art quilts. Her love for color and texture are found in each design.

Carolyn’s favorite work is *Red Tobacco Leaf*. “I feel like I have more of myself in this piece. From the design using a paper-pieced method, to sewing and quilting, I did it all myself. Quilting is a wonderful mental exercise—there is math, perspective and elements of design involved. For me, it keeps my mind active. I want to see, to do and to keep learning about quilting and how this industry is evolving.”

Congratulations to Carolyn on receiving this recognition.

Her quilts along with works by the members of the Lake and Mountain Quilters Guild can be seen at their biennial show on September 21-22 at Shaver Recreation Center in Seneca, SC. For more information visit lmgq.org.



Fifty-six high school students from across the state returned to school this fall with a better understanding of how electric cooperatives are preparing for the future.

Blue Ridge Electric co-sponsored the Cooperative Youth Summit in July, giving seniors Addison Arey, Jackson Cudd and Emily Gilstrap a chance to tour renewable energy sites, meet with state government leaders, explore careers in the electric industry and take rides in all-electric vehicles. In its second year, the Cooperative Youth Summit included visits to Black River Electric Cooperative’s Community Solar Farm in Sumter. Support of programs like the Cooperative Youth Summit demonstrates Blue Ridge Co-op’s Commitment to Community, one of the Cooperative Principles. Learn more about the cooperative difference at BlueRidge.coop.

A colorful poster for the 'Kaleidoscope of Quilts' event. The title is written in a large, white, cursive font over a background of various quilt patterns. Below the title, the event dates and times are listed: Friday, Sept. 21, 2018 (9:30 am - 6:00 pm) and Saturday, Sept. 22, 2018 (9:30 am - 5:00 pm). The location is Shaver Rec Center, 698 W. S. 4th Street, Seneca, SC. At the bottom, it says 'Sponsored by the Lake and Mountain Quilters Guild' with a Facebook logo and the website 'LMQG.org'.