



www.blueridge.coop

FOR ALL YOUR CUSTOMER SERVICE NEEDS

Call Toll-Free (800) 240-3400

AUTOMATED OUTAGE REPORTING
 1-888-BLUERIDGE

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

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.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Joel R. Davis, *Chairman*
 Joel Spencer Dalton, Jr.,
Vice-Chairman
 Len D. Talley, *Secretary*
 Franklin M. Looper, Jr., *Treasurer*
 Ben G. Bolt
 Jimmy Lee Dodgens
 William G. Elrod
 Kenneth G. Southerlin
 J. Mendel Stone

PRESIDENT AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

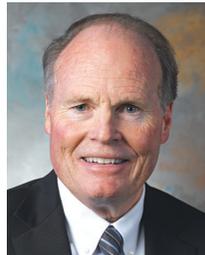
Jim Lovinggood

This organization is an equal-opportunity provider.



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Service in the midst of a coronavirus pandemic



WITH SOME FREQUENCY, I make mention in these monthly reports that we're keenly aware of the fact that Blue Ridge Electric Cooperative is member-owned. That prominent aspect of our business model motivates the cooperative's workforce to strive ever harder

in the quest to supply you with the most reliable electric service.

This motivation is having a strong bearing on our efforts to contend with the challenges presented by the coronavirus COVID-19 that's now creating havoc around the world. Immediately after it became apparent that this pandemic was likely to cause significant problems within our own service area, the Blue Ridge team went to work.

CDC protocols

Right off the bat, we familiarized ourselves with the various coronavirus protocols developed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (CDC). We then held meetings with all members of the Blue Ridge workforce to bring them up to speed on those protocols. Next, we set about integrating those codes into the operational fabric of our organization.

For example, one of the first actions we took was to close our office lobbies. Obviously, this step was designed to limit close contact (and the potential spread of germs) between our employees and members and other visitors to the cooperative. With the lobby closings, members continue to have available options such as using our drive-thru windows to pay power bills and transact other business. Employees in our

member service center are still in place to answer telephone calls, as well as to use online means to address members' needs.

I won't spend time listing all the other measures we've employed to conform to the CDC instructions. What I can relate is that the cooperative is attempting to maintain a work environment for our employees that's both safe and healthful.

Our greatest asset

At Blue Ridge, we've long had the understanding that our employees are our greatest asset. The quality of our operation is directly dependent on how well these folks perform their jobs. My assessment is that they're applying themselves quite well to their responsibilities.

There's a real understanding across our workforce that the cooperative has to keep our members connected. We have to supply you with dependable service. That's why we're exercising every possible means to protect our employees' health. Each day, for instance, our operations crews are continuing to build new power lines and to make improvements to existing facilities. In spite of the reality of COVID-19, we're on the job and are intent upon sustaining that high level of service.

Electricity is a necessity; it is indeed an essential service. Consequently, we're endeavoring to take care of our employees so that they can keep on seeing that your service needs will be well met.

JIM LOVINGGOOD
 President and CEO

Community needs continue to be our priority

IN ALMOST EVERY message or article you read from Blue Ridge Electric Cooperative, you'll notice one of the common themes is the commitment our co-op and employees have to the communities we serve and live in. Blue Ridge Fest is an excellent example of that commitment.

Although the Fest has been cancelled, our sponsors and employees have given donations and sold raffle tickets to make sure that local agencies receive a contribution equivalent to what has been given in other years. Considering the stress that COVID-19 has put on local charitable agencies, this will be an important year for Blue Ridge Fest to step up.

Just recently, when our management team received word that several of the local hospitals were in need of N95 masks, Blue Ridge began looking at our inventory of this important personal protective equipment. Our numbers were not excessive, however, Vice-President Zach Hinton estimated we could donate several hundred masks to two of our



Denise McCormick presents masks to Cortni Nations, manager of the Oconee Memorial Hospital Foundation. (right)

OMH FOUNDATION



Accepting masks for Cannon Memorial Hospital in Pickens is Rebekah Hemphill, director of patient care services. (left)

BRETT MCCALL

local hospitals and still have enough to protect our employees.

Zach shared, "My wife is a physician, and when she began talking about the need for more PPE, it was natural for us to turn to our local hospitals and offer them what assistance we could."

New Dates Set for Blue Ridge Electric Co-op 2020 Annual Meeting & Drive-Thru Registration

Drive-Through Registration at Blue Ridge Electric Pickens & Oconee Offices

Tuesday, May 19: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
 Wednesday, May 20: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
 Thursday, May 21: 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Special drive-thru maps with directions are on our website at blueridge.coop.

Drive-Thru Registration, Voting & Gift Giveaways



Each member who drive-thru registers will receive a free Toastmaster 10" x 16" electric griddle and a goody bag. Registration automatically enters members into the prize drawings. Please bring your REGISTRATION CARD (found on the lower front cover of this issue of *South Carolina Living*) AND PICTURE ID with you when you drive-thru register.



(800) 240-3400 • blueridge.coop