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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.

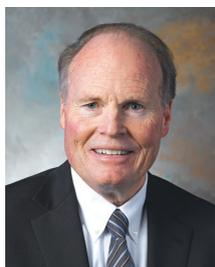
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
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 Jim Lovinggood

This organization is an equal-opportunity provider.



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



## A look back at 2022

**SINCE MY NOVEMBER** report is the last of the year, I thought I'd review some of the notable happenings at Blue Ridge Electric Cooperative in 2022. Here

are just a few highlights.

### **Back-to-back storm emergencies**

A windstorm on Jan. 3 and a heavy snowstorm on Jan. 17 required about two days of hard work each before power was restored. As always, the co-op's employees gave a great account of themselves.

**Pickens County Commerce Park** A successful switchover of high-voltage transmission service from 44 kilovolt to 100 kilovolt improved service reliability for the cooperative's large-power members operating within the complex.

**Economic development** Two new industrial members were welcomed to the Blue Ridge system—Cure Tec, a manufacturer of high-performance packaging, and Impact Housing, a producer of self-contained modular housing units. Both are located in the Oconee County Industry and Technology Park. Additional industry recruitment announcements are forecast for the near future.

**A sad observance** The co-op family mourned the passing of Anderson County director Ben Bolt. Ben served on the Blue Ridge board for a considerable number of years and is remembered as a dedicated public servant.

**2022 Annual Meeting of Members** In April, the cooperative hosted its 82nd event. During the two-day drive-thru registration at both Blue Ridge offices, a total of 6,487 members were registered.

**A notable service-quality achievement** In April, no outages were recorded on any of our 152 backbone feeder lines. Given the hundreds of miles of lines and the mountainous terrain within our service territory, this is a rare occurrence. However, we almost duplicated the feat in July, when only two three-phase circuits lost power.

### **Cracking the 70,000-member ceiling**

At the end of June, the cooperative was providing service to 70,121 members—a far cry from the 1,680 members Blue Ridge was serving when organized in 1940.

**Another safety milestone** On July 6, the cooperative's workforce completed a full year without a lost-time accident. Remarkably, we've experienced only three lost-time mishaps in the last 12 years.

**Dr. Johns Substation energized** This system improvement brought 2,100 members in western Oconee County much closer to their source of central-station power.

**Work initiated on a planned transmission-line loop** A 9.4-mile extension of the recently completed seven-mile-long Dr. Johns transmission line will feed into Oconee's Port Bass community. This project will culminate in a transmission-loop feed that will enhance service quality for the Blue Ridge members who reside in this region.

**Broadband progress** From January 2021 until today, our Upcountry Fiber operation has connected about 7,000 locations to high-speed internet. That number is expected to surpass 8,000 connections by the end of 2022. Our goal is to supply broadband, as soon as possible, to everyone within our service area who wants it.

As I noted, these items barely scratch the surface of all that was accomplished in 2022. My fellow employees and I are gearing up to make 2023 another year that will also be crowned with notable successes. I want to take this opportunity to wish you and yours a Happy Thanksgiving, a Merry Christmas and a prosperous new year.

**JIM LOVINGGOOD**  
 President and CEO

# Get ready for winter

The two-cents-per-kilowatt-hour surcharge from our wholesale power provider for the summer months has rolled off and temperatures have leveled out. But winter will soon bring colder temperatures and the normal winter bills. With that in mind, here are a few simple ways you can make your home more comfortable and more energy efficient this winter.

At the onset of the cold weather season, replace your HVAC filters for better air quality and to help the unit operate more efficiently. You can also keep your home cozier by caulking and weatherstripping windows and doors. If your home is chilly, tape or affix heavy, clear plastic to the inside of your window frames to create an additional barrier against the cold. Ensure that the plastic is tightly sealed to the frame to help reduce infiltration.

Set your thermostat at 68 degrees. If it feels a little chilly, add a sweater or other layer of clothing. If you feel drafts around windows or exterior doors, tightly roll up a towel and place it near the bottom of the door or window to eliminate the draft.

During the day, open your blinds and



curtains to allow sunlight to warm your home. Close window coverings at night for an added layer of insulation.

At Blue Ridge Electric Cooperative, we want to help you save energy and money. Visit [blueridge.coop](http://blueridge.coop) for additional energy-saving tips. We can provide advice to help you save energy and keep your family more comfortable during the winter season.

If you would like to install a smart thermostat, just visit the energy services tab on our website and learn about the benefits to you and your co-op.

## It's the Season!

May the lights of this season fill you with warmth and a joyous spirit!

### ANNUAL TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY

Tuesday, November 29 at 5:15 pm

Join us as we light the tree on the lawn at the co-op office in Pickens. This year's event will include a devotional and music. Following the lighting of the tree, light refreshments will be served. We hope you'll choose to be a part of this outdoor holiday tradition that signals the start of the Christmas season.

Wishing you a Merry Christmas and prosperous New Year from all of us at Blue Ridge Co-op.

<b>THANKSGIVING</b> Closed Thursday, Nov. 24 & Friday, Nov. 25	<b>CHRISTMAS</b> Closed Friday, Dec. 23 & Monday, Dec. 26
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**NEW YEAR'S DAY**  
Closed Monday, January 2

Although our offices will be closed for the holidays to allow our employees to spend this time with their families, dispatchers will be taking emergency calls and crews will be on standby. You may also access much of your account information or report an outage by using the BREC app that can be downloaded for your device.

## A Cool Deal on a Smart Thermostat!

Blue Ridge Electric's *Smart Thermostat Program* offers members the opportunity to purchase an *Ecobee 3* or *Ecobee Premium* smart thermostat at a discounted rate. As a participant, the member will allow the cooperative to control the thermostat during peak periods.

### Receive a discount on a smart thermostat...

Ecobee 3: \$85 *Retail Price: \$169*

Ecobee Premium: \$145 (w/ Siri & Alexa) *Retail Price: \$249*

Installation fees: \$50 for 1 thermostat; \$75 for 2

### ... and help your co-op with power costs.

\* Member reimbursed after 36 months

For additional information or questions, visit [blueridge.coop](http://blueridge.coop), or call 800-240-3400 and speak with an energy expert.

