# sc co-op news BLUE RIDGE



### 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

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

PRESIDENT AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER Jim Lovinggood

This organization is an equal-opportunity provider.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



## **Statistical analyses** are essential

**EACH MONTH**, a number of reports come across my desk. A variety of information is contained in these periodic statements, many of which are generated by the co-op's department heads.

These records "paint pictures" that indicate how well our organization is performing. Covered are subjects such as finances, operations, engineering and member services, as well as other functions. The information

spotlights how well our employee team is progressing with regard to meeting the goals outlined in the current year's Work Plan and Budget.

Statistics are essential as a means of measuring what has been accomplished. For example, a recent look at 12 consecutive months of doing business revealed that co-op crews marked hundreds of poles on our system for change out. Field

## **Public Auction**

SATURDAY, NOV. 4, 10 A.M.

Preview items to be auctioned Nov. 3, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Visit **blueridge.coop** for details.

inspections determined that these poles had degraded to the point that they had expended most of their useful life.

A regular cycle of inspections ensures that potentially faulty poles are tested and then replaced with new power line structures. This work makes a vital contribution toward our efforts to provide reliable service to our members. It also helps to ensure a safer work environment for our crews. In addition, having accurate records of locations where new poles have replaced substandard ones is essential to the cooperative's system planning.

Another report that came to my attention recently was truly gratifying. The latest data from our Upcountry Fiber initiative showed that the number of customers receiving high-speed internet service has exceeded 12,000. From a starting point of zero subscribers in the first quarter of 2021, we're now providing a needed service to many homes and businesses. By year's end, I expect that our customer count will have moved well beyond that latest number.

Beginning on day one, our intention was to extend broadband to everyone within our service area who might want it. The information received from the field would indicate that we're well on our way to realizing that goal.

At Blue Ridge, we are in an ongoing mode of self-evaluation. We want to continue to get better at what we do. Statistics provide a valuable tool for determining our level of success.

ngood

JIM LOVINGGOOD President and CEO

Effective Oct. 1, the power cost adjustment will be .0655.

# Your bill has a new look

**BLUE RIDGE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE** is excited to introduce a new bill format for its members. This new bill will have all the information included in your previous bill, but it will be easier to understand. In addition, the new bill now includes information on programs the co-op offers and messages to help keep you informed.

The new bill is two-sided and has important information on both sides. We encourage you to review your first bill with the new format. Below is an explanation of each part of your new bill.

- 1. Account Information The top section contains account information and the date of your bill. Please review the telephone number listed there to make sure it's accurate.
- 2. **Previous Bill** Shows your previous bill amount and when payment for that bill was received. **Current Bill** represents the amount of the current charges.

**Total Amount Due** is the current bill plus any amount that was unpaid on the previous bill along with the due date.

**Please note:** If there is an unpaid balance that is scheduled for disconnection, a red bar containing that information and the disconnect date will be printed under the billing information.

- 3. Daily Usage Graph This graph showing daily usage, as well as the high and low temperatures for the month, will help you understand how you are using energy at your home.
- 4. **Service Details** Includes the rate information and the service period for this billing.
- 5. **Meter Details** Includes the amount of energy, measured in kilowatt-hours, used during the billing period and registered by your meter.
- 6. Charge Details This section is a summary of the bill amount and includes current charges, any unpaid balance, miscellaneous charges for things such as lighting, on-bill financing, credits for program participation and any other charges specific to this account.
- 7. **Energy Usage History** A graphic view of the last 12 months' billing history.



For 24/7 power outage reporting, please call: 888-BLUERIDGE or report your outage on the BREC mobile app.