



blueridge.coop

**FOR ALL YOUR
CUSTOMER SERVICE NEEDS**
Call Toll-Free (800) 240-3400

AUTOMATED OUTAGE REPORTING
1-888-BLUE RIDGE

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.

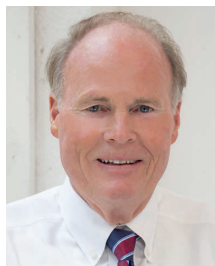
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
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**PRESIDENT AND CHIEF
EXECUTIVE OFFICER**
Jim Lovinggood

This organization is an
equal-opportunity provider.



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



Summer ready

OUR CO-OP PRIDES ITSELF on member service and reliability. But summer is here, and we can't control the weather, so there's always a risk of

outages caused by thunderstorms.

I want to use this month's column to refresh you on how Blue Ridge responds to outages. This is also a helpful reminder as we are now in hurricane season, which began June 1 and goes through November.

The two easiest ways you can report an outage are through our app or by texting OUT to (800) 240-3400. Consider bookmarking our outage center to view a live map at **blueridge.coop/outage**.

Please know that the moment an outage occurs, our crews are already at work. Restoring power after a major storm is not always as simple as flipping a switch. Not all outages are the same, especially across a service territory as rural as ours. We follow a proven process used by co-ops across the country to get the most members back on as safely and quickly as possible.

We start with the high-voltage transmission lines. These carry power to the substations that serve thousands of members at once, so any damage here must be repaired first. Until transmission lines are restored, nothing downstream can operate.

Next, our crews move to the distribution substations. A single substation can serve hundreds or even thousands of homes and businesses, so repairs at this level quickly bring a large group of members back online. Crews inspect each one to find out whether the trouble started with the transmission lines feeding it or within the substation itself.

From there, we check the main distribution lines. These carry power to entire

communities and neighborhoods. If the problem was not solved at the substation, this is where our teams look next.

After that come the tap lines, sometimes called supply lines. They feed the transformers that serve individual businesses, schools and homes. When outages are still scattered across an area, these are the lines crews inspect.

Finally, we look at the service line that runs between the transformer and your house. Sometimes your neighbors will have their lights on while you are still waiting, and a damaged service line is often the reason.

Safety around power lines is our top priority, and it should be yours, too. If you see a downed line, stay far away from it and anything it may be touching, and call us or 911 right away. Always treat a fallen wire as live.

If you know bad weather is in the forecast, charge your phones ahead of time and stock up on drinking water. A battery-operated fan and a flashlight within reach can go a long way, too. Keep your refrigerator and freezer doors shut to maintain temperatures longer.

A little preparation ahead of time can keep your family comfortable and safe until power returns. I hope this gives you a clearer picture of the work that happens behind the scenes to get your power back on as quickly as possible.

Thank you for trusting us to keep your lights on.

Cooperatively Yours,

JIM LOVINGGOOD
President and CEO



RILEY MORNINGSTAR

A friendly pupper gets a scratch behind the ears from Stephen Strickland, energy services technician.



PHOTOS BY JOSH P. CROTZER

Jason Ambrose Dennis greets members at the Oconee office event. Dennis was elected by the membership to represent Pickens Seat 2.

Annual Meeting snapshots

THANK YOU to the nearly 7,000 members who participated in the 2026 Annual Meeting in May.

Congratulations to Jason Ambrose Dennis, who was elected by the membership to represent Pickens Seat 2. He succeeds William Elrod, who served the cooperative for more than 40 years. Mr. Dennis is a small business owner, Pickens High School alumnus and a member of Holly Springs Baptist Church.

Blue Ridge Electric thanks Mr. Elrod for his service and welcomes Mr. Dennis as he begins representing his neighbors on the board.

Here are a few snapshots from the Annual Meeting.



RILEY MORNINGSTAR

Lineman B Class Seth Nicholson assists a member with registration and voting.



RILEY MORNINGSTAR

Stephanie Dalton, purchasing clerk, directs traffic at the Pickens office drive-thru event.



Always a favorite at the Annual Meeting, a Moon Pie and a Coke put a smile on the faces of Tabitha Blackwell of Seneca and her daughter, Samantha.



Patrick Gilstrap of Seneca arrived at the Oconee drive-thru in style on his Triumph motorcycle to register and vote.

Bill design makeover

BEGINNING with July bills, Blue Ridge Electric Cooperative members on the

EmPOWERment (three-part) rate will notice a change in how their bills look. Now, you can conveniently find your itemized bill on the front page.

To be clear, there have been no changes to rates. If you have any questions, please call Member Services at (800) 240-3400 or go online to [blueridge.coop/about-my-bill](https://www.blueridge.coop/about-my-bill).