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**Mission Statement**  
Blue Ridge will be a competitive, quality provider of energy and other services, maintaining its history of integrity and adapting to the challenges of a changing world. While exercising leadership in the community, the organization's focus will be on exceeding customer expectations.

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



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## An Annual Meeting to remember

**AS I PREPARE** this report, it's been exactly one week since we hosted Blue Ridge Electric Cooperative's 75th annual meeting. If you



were among the estimated 5,000 folks in attendance, thank you for making it the great occasion that it was. I came away from the event with the best feeling!

There were so many wonderful aspects to the evening, I could devote page after page in this magazine elaborating on each

one. Space, however, will allow me to make brief mention of just some of them:

- ▶ Thunderous applause greeting the many military veterans—including a handful of World War II servicemen—along with current armed-forces members and those serving in the National Guard and military reserves
- ▶ Introductions of the three young ladies who would represent Blue Ridge on this year's Rural Electric Washington Youth Tour
- ▶ Election of three director candidates—Jimmy Lee Dodgens and Frank Looper of Pickens County and Oconee County's Mendel Stone—to new three-year terms on the Blue Ridge board
- ▶ Presentation of my short Management Report, which focused on construction of three new electrical substations in 2015, and a financial update that spotlighted the \$1,000,000 in capital-credit refund checks that were mailed in April
- ▶ Recognition of the Blue Ridge Electric and Blue Ridge Security workforces that were working both the annual meeting

and our Blue Ridge Fest charity fundraiser, while also providing year-round quality service

- ▶ Excellent entertainment by the Sweet Potato Pie Kids, Doyle Burton and the Silver Dollar Gang, and the Chuck Wagon Gang

The main theme of the evening was our celebration of Blue Ridge Electric Cooperative's 75 years of operation. One of the first items on the agenda was the reading of a resolution approved by the S.C. General Assembly which commended the cooperative on this 75th anniversary milestone. All the members of the Oconee and Pickens County legislative delegations came on stage to make this presentation.

An 11-minute video recounting the cooperative's history had its premiere showing at the meeting and received a warm reception from the audience. We also paid special recognition to the late A. J. "Jud" Hurt, the cooperative's first CEO and my immediate predecessor. Hurt's daughter, Lucy Beard, and grandson, Bailey Beard, were attendees at the meeting and were feted to an ovation and also presented with some 75th anniversary memorabilia. In addition, a special 75th anniversary cast-iron skillet was given as a door prize to each registered member.

All this transpired at the cooperative's Pickens equipment facility, which had just recently undergone some major additions. The improvements, which included new, permanent rest rooms, were the source of many compliments from attending members. As I had already discussed in an earlier report, we expect the 2016 annual meeting to be even better. By then, we'll have a considerable number of new, close-in parking spaces ready for members' added convenience. I sincerely hope your schedule will permit you to be there.



DENISE MCCORMICK

*Charles E. Dalton*

**Charles E. Dalton**  
*President and CEO*

## New substation work goes forward

**SITE CLEARING HAS** been approved for Blue Ridge Electric Cooperative's planned substation near the town of Landrum. The facility is to be erected in the center of a tract of land situated on the border between Greenville and Spartanburg counties. Cooperative officials predict the new substation will come on line sometime during the fourth quarter of this year.

Once the apparatus is energized, Blue Ridge members in northeastern Greenville County and northwestern Spartanburg County will find themselves positioned considerably closer to their source of central-station power. That should translate into a higher level of service reliability for those members.

In addition, the Landrum facility will take some electrical load off the cooperative's existing Tyger substation that is now in place some miles west of the new station. A further positive outcome is that the tying together of main three-phase circuits feeding from both Tyger and Landrum will enable Blue Ridge to implement back-feeding. This feature will give the cooperative the means to shift load from Tyger to Landrum, and vice versa, in the event of a power failure at either station. The prime advantage of back-feeding is that it can greatly reduce the outage time for those members who might be affected.

Many miles separate this extreme northeast corner of the cooperative's service territory and the distant southwest portion of Blue Ridge country that abuts the Georgia state line. It's in this second area that Blue Ridge is prepared to unleash crews to begin construction of another new substation at Oconee County's Golden Corner Commerce Park. Work is scheduled to commence on this project as soon as an expected confirmation is received that a new industry has committed to locate within the industrial center.

Blue Ridge President and CEO Charles Dalton says both of these substation projects represent good news for cooperative members. "Not only will two additional substations on our system point to more-dependable service for many of our members, but a new industrial load can contribute to holding down power costs for everyone we serve. Blue Ridge continues to build for the future, with the aim that our members will benefit from the improvements we're making to our system."

### Independence Day closing

Blue Ridge Electric Cooperative will be closed on Friday, July 3, in observance of Independence Day. Crews will be on standby to handle emergency situations. We hope that you and your family will enjoy this holiday as you celebrate the birth of our nation.



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