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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

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Jim Lovinggood



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

What to expect from the new CEO



EVERY NOW AND then, we hear about the coach of a highly successful athletic program who has retired after an impressive and lengthy run.

These successful coaches are often labeled as a “Legend” by their many fans, given their incredible accomplishments,

and are held in high esteem by almost everyone. However, after these legendary individuals have coached their final game, most fans feel a deep sense of loss and great concern about the future direction of their team.

That’s not unlike the position in which I find myself at this point in time. After a 36-year term as the president and CEO of Blue Ridge Electric Cooperative, Charles Dalton is entering retirement this very month. His has been a career that could definitely be classified as “impressive, lengthy, and successful.”

As we look to the future, it’s my plan to build on the legacy Charles has cultivated over his nearly four decades of service. We’ll continue to focus on serving our members as efficiently and effectively as possible, remaining faithful to our slogan of “Service Second Only to Safety.” As your new president and CEO, I pledge to you to be available, attentive, and vigilant as to the needs of the cooperative membership. Throughout my 35-year career at Blue Ridge, the values of integrity, accountability, innovation, and commitment have been at the core of all we do. Those same values will be my guide during the coming years.

While the evolution of technology is a constant challenge, our organization is in the midst of exciting times when it comes to new and emerging

technologies. My goal as CEO is to keep Blue Ridge on the cutting edge of all technology, especially in the way we communicate with and provide service to our members. However, as these advancing methodologies continue to evolve, I pledge that we’ll never forget that person-to-person interface is the most-important form of service. The goal is always the same—to provide reliable and affordable power to each of you. Moreover, I look forward to continuing to strive for excellence for the duration of my tenure here.

As I assume the co-op’s reins, there are several factors I find reassuring. First of all, I’m blessed to have a very supportive board of directors. They truly believe in the cooperative concept and fully endorse what our organization is seeking to accomplish. Secondly, I’m inheriting a great group of dedicated employees. Finally, I recognize that the cooperative’s members are some of the best people in the world. Those foundational ingredients represent a recipe for further favorable outcomes in the years ahead.

Becoming President and CEO of Blue Ridge Electric is, no doubt, one of the great honors of my life. I take this responsibility as the caretaker of your electric cooperative very seriously, and as the caretaker, I vow to make decisions with the best interests of the members in mind. As I conclude this report, I want to wish each of you a happy and prosperous New Year.

JIM LOVINGGOOD
 President and CEO

Basic Facilities Charge to change

BLUE RIDGE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE'S 7,000 miles of electric-distribution power lines and related facilities represent a huge investment. Ongoing and growing expenses associated with that investment include property and other taxes, debt service, maintenance, administrative costs, depreciation, and the like. To cover a portion of those total expenses, the co-op employs a monthly Basic Facilities Charge. Essentially, the BFC helps to underwrite the cost of providing the member with access to the electrical grid. Effective immediately, a \$2.00 monthly upward adjustment in the BFC will go into effect for Blue Ridge members. This change would amount to an average increase of less than seven cents per day for the individual member account. The co-op's price per kilowatt-hour has not changed since 2008.

Stay Connected with Member Connections

DO YOU HAVE 5 minutes to spare? That's all it takes to read Blue Ridge's Member Connections—A Monthly eNewsletter. We'll bring you the latest news once each month, and you can determine how much information you want to read.



Sign up is simple:

1. Go to <http://blueridge.coop/eneews>
2. Complete registration with email address and name

There will be news, features and lots of information provided each month to you on your phone, iPad or computer. Sign up today!

Just for High School Juniors...

apply now!
compete for both free trips
with just one
application

You could
be selected for
one of these two
unforgettable
experiences.



June 9–14, 2018

Experience Washington, D.C., with 1,500 high school juniors from across South Carolina and the country, meeting lawmakers and touring all the sights. Blue Ridge Electric will cover your round-trip plane ticket, tours and meals. In other words, it's all free!



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Application Deadline:
Friday, February 2, 2018
Fill out the application for
the tours at
blueridge.coop/wyt or
through your local
guidance counselor.



COOPERATIVE YOUTH

SUMMIT

July 10–13, 2018

Experience South Carolina's capital like never before. Tour the Statehouse, meet lawmakers and see how co-ops are preparing for our state's energy future. Plus, there's plenty of fun with visits to popular Columbia attractions like Riverbank Zoo & Garden. Blue Ridge Electric will cover all of your expenses.

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