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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
J. Spencer Dalton, Jr., *Chairman*
Len D. Talley, *Vice-Chairman*
Franklin M. Looper, Jr., *Secretary*
J. Mendel Stone, *Treasurer*
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



The total package

BLUE RIDGE ELECTRIC
Cooperative's 2023 Annual Meeting of Members is on the horizon. That presents

me with an opportunity to explain how your co-op represents "the total package."

On one hand, Blue Ridge fits the category of a hometown kind of business. Our people live here, work here, go to church here and shop and play here. We look out for the communities we serve because they are our communities. At the same time, we're part of some bigger organizations. These associations enable us to bring you the benefits that size and sophistication offer. What follows is a summary of how these elements all work together to your benefit.

The Blue Ridge physical plant (poles, wires, substations and the like) constitutes an investment of more than \$500 million. Standing alone, your cooperative would certainly command enough volume buying to claim desirable discounts on many of the items needed to stock our inventories. However, Blue Ridge and our fellow South Carolina co-ops decided decades ago that we could improve even more on that picture. Consequently, we formed a utility supply purchasing organization called CEEUS. With CEEUS now ordering even larger quantities of needed line-construction and other material on behalf of all co-ops, the discounts are considerably greater. That translates into more value for all our members.

Blue Ridge is also a member of a statewide trade association—The Electric Cooperatives of South Carolina (ECSC). ECSC is staffed by professionals who provide leadership in vital areas such as government relations and legal matters. Also, during major storm emergencies, the association plays an important role in coordinating the deployment of repair crews. That entails securing linemen and other operations employees from neighboring co-ops. Those workers are then directed to assist fellow

co-ops where the storm has produced widespread power outages.

Our state's cooperatives even pool resources when it comes to economic development. The SC Power Team is the arm of South Carolina's electric cooperatives that helps us recruit industries (and their associated jobs and investments) to our area. Furthermore, these types of businesses buy larger volumes of power. This helps to hold our costs down, thereby reducing upward pressure on your retail rates.

Lastly, Blue Ridge and the state's 19 other cooperatives own and control Central Electric Power Cooperative for one purpose—to secure the absolute best wholesale electricity rate for you, our members. While Blue Ridge is a comparatively large cooperative, buying electric energy together with 19 other co-ops enables us to get the best deal on wholesale power for you. Furthermore, since Central oversees our pooled generation and transmission needs, your cooperative can focus on why we were created—the distribution of electricity throughout our service territory.

All these ingredients work together to enable Blue Ridge Electric Cooperative to realize its top two goals—delivering quality service and providing that service at affordable rates.

Electric cooperatives were chartered in the 1930s and '40s to serve the areas that investor-owned utilities had deemed unprofitable because they were sparsely populated. While this makes our task challenging, the hard work of the team at Blue Ridge and at our critical partner organizations allows us to deliver both reliability and affordability to you.

JIM LOVINGGOOD
President and CEO

Election ballots have new look

VOTING FOR LOCAL board members is one of the privileges you have as a member of your electric cooperative.

As in the past, ballots will be given, one per member, to those who attend the annual meeting on April 26 and 27. Previously, supervised groups of employees counted the ballots at the close of the annual meeting. This was a lengthy process after an already long day and required quite a bit of manpower to complete.

This year, a new process will be in place for ballot counting. Pictured here is the ballot that will be distributed to members at the annual meeting.

As you can see, there is a place to vote for three board seats, two that are unopposed and one with two members nominated for the one seat. All members are eligible to vote for each of the three seats. Pencils will be given out with the ballot so they can be marked by filling



in the circle by the appropriate name. Ballots will be secured in lock boxes until after the polls close each night.

Blue Ridge has engaged Survey and Balloting Systems to assist with ballot counting. They already conduct director elections for a number of cooperatives in South Carolina. Using a scanning method, they will tabulate the votes and provide the final tabulation on the evening of April 27. As always, our legal team, as well as the candidates, will be on hand during the counting if any questions arise during the counting process.

**BLUE RIDGE
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE**

The term of office for each director shall be three (3) years.

MARKING INSTRUCTIONS

- Use black or blue ink or No. 2 pencil only.
- Fill circles completely.
- Error: erase or draw line through name.

CORRECT
○●○○

District 1
Vote for ONE (1)

Len Talley

District 2
Vote for ONE (1)

William Elrod

District 4
Vote for ONE (1)

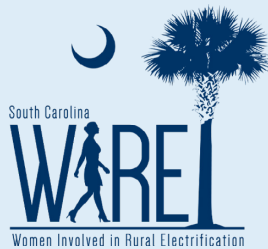
Paul Brown
 Will Anderson

Annual Meeting April 27th, 2023

DirectVote®

Apply now for scholarships

ADULT FEMALE members of Blue Ridge Electric Cooperative returning to school to earn college degrees may now apply for financial assistance from the 2023 Jenny Ballard Opportunity Scholarship program.



Sponsored by Women Involved in Rural Electrification (WIRE), a service organization associated with South Carolina's not-for-profit electric cooperatives, the \$2,500 scholarship is a one-time award based on financial need and personal goals. Applicants for the program must have graduated from high school or earned a GED at least 10 years ago and be accepted into an accredited college or university.

For full details and to apply online, visit ecsc.org/wire.

Blue Ridge Electric Co-op 2023 Annual Meeting

Drive-Thru Registration at Pickens & Oconee Offices

Wednesday, April 26, 2023 • Thursday, April 27, 2023

7 a.m. - 7 p.m.

7 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Registration open both locations both days.

**GRAND PRIZE... 2015 Chevrolet Silverado
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