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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



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

## April 20 & 28—a look back

BLUE RIDGE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE and its employees hosted the co-op's 77th annual meeting of members on April 20.



Soon thereafter, on April 28, essentially the same personnel conducted our yearly charity fund-raiser, Blue Ridge Fest. Without question, both events were solid successes.

The annual meeting attracted a crowd of close to 6,000. This was the largest attendance we had welcomed in quite some time. Even so, the cooperative's Pickens equipment facility was well-positioned to accommodate this wonderful turnout of members.

Acres of nearby parking made for easy access to the meeting site. In addition, the food, door prize, program content, sound/video systems, entertainment, quality venue, and an array of other ingredients paved the way for a large audience. Every step was taken to make the gathering as enjoyable and meaningful as possible for attendees.

### Truly gratifying

I had the opportunity to share my management report with the large attendance of members. The agenda also included recognition of the cooperative's employees, a salute to the military, and several other items of interest. Following the re-election of Ben Bolt (Anderson), William Elrod (Pickens), and Len Talley (Oconee) to the co-op board, the membership approved two bylaw changes. All in all, the evening was truly informative and gratifying.

Turning my attention to Blue Ridge

Fest, I'm pleased to announce that this undertaking, held at the same equipment facility, was another record breaker. After all the donations, ticket and other sales, and expense statistics had been compiled, the fund-raiser had produced an incredible \$215,000 in net proceeds! I'm also proud to note that more than 4,000 persons joined us on that Friday.

### Energetic show

The four musical groups that performed on Beach Night—headlined by Little Anthony and the Imperials—were all greeted by a wildly enthusiastic assembly of spectators. Paralleling that energetic show was the 2017 version of the Upstate's largest cruise-in. Hundreds of collectible autos were parked on the adjoining grounds and created an appropriate backdrop for the classic songs emanating from the Blue Ridge Fest stage.

In the weeks just ahead, 12 local charities will be on the receiving end of that \$215,000 in fest funds. With this latest 20th-anniversary outcome, Blue Ridge Fest has raised nearly \$2.5 million in support of area human-assistance agencies. I don't need to tell you, our employees are extremely proud of their participation in both a first-class annual meeting and a genuinely benevolent charitable extravaganza.

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

## Annual Meeting was a well-attended event

**ONE OF THE** most-anticipated happenings for all the employees at Blue Ridge Electric Cooperative is the Annual Meeting of Members. This year's meeting brought thousands out to sample Blue Ridge hospitality, as well as our delicious hot dogs. In addition to food and great music, a business meeting updated members with the things that shaped the cooperative during the previous year.

Along with a report on finances, a portion of this year's review was dedicated to the success Blue Ridge has seen in economic development in 2016. Accompanied by a video of several new and expanded industrial sites in Oconee, Anderson and Pickens counties, President and CEO Charles Dalton announced, "The addition of six industrial projects in our area translates to \$141 million in investment, 598 new jobs and an additional 7.6 megawatts of load to the Blue Ridge System. The high-volume kilowatt-hour sales to these industries will serve to spread benefits to all the cooperative's other members by helping to hold down the price you pay for electricity."

Other information shared included the good news that the system was experiencing slow but steady growth. This, along with the announcement that \$1,000,000 had been distributed to co-op members in capital credit refunds, drew applause from the crowd. Dalton also brought news of the sale of Blue Ridge Electric's subsidiary, Blue Ridge Security Solutions, to members' attention.

In case you missed the cooperative's annual meeting, here is a glimpse of some of the activities.



Crowds begin to gather early on the day of the annual meeting.



Reba Butts, of Westminster, claims her door prize, an electric skillet.

Young Robert Hinton is proof that the annual meeting is great for all ages. He thoroughly enjoyed the hot dogs and cheese crackers during the evening!



LIZA HOLDER



Hot dogs, cheese crackers, Moon Pies and all you can drink make for a great evening.



Traveling and singing gospel music for 43 years, the Primitive Quartet continues to spread the gospel through song.