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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**

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

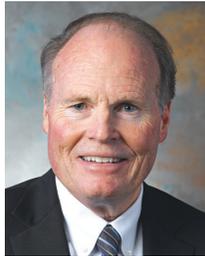
**PRESIDENT AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

Jim Lovinggood



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

## Another memorable annual meeting



**LITERALLY AND FIGURATIVELY**, the dust has settled on the two biggest events on the Blue Ridge Electric Cooperative calendar. The cooperative's annual meeting of members and our charity fund-raiser, Blue Ridge Fest, took place with just eight days separating

them in late April-early May. I'm pleased to report that both of these undertakings were very successful.

The attendance at our 78th annual meeting on April 26 was estimated to be about 5,000. In all, more than 2,700 members were registered. It was a very good turnout in view of the rain that fell for much of that evening. Fortunately, the cooperative's Pickens equipment facility is well-suited to accommodate rainy weather and keep everyone in the dry.

We've always designed our annual meetings to be both educational and enjoyable. The business meeting is sandwiched between other activities, such as musical entertainment and prize drawings.

### An emphasis on patriotism

There's also an emphasis on patriotism. At the start of the business session, the Pledge of Allegiance was recited, preceded by a unique and elaborate flag-raising by a team of Blue Ridge linemen. This was followed with a solo rendition of our National Anthem. Later in the program, we recognized all the military veterans and current members of our armed forces who were present.

In addition to introducing all the elected officials and other candidates for office in attendance, I had the opportunity to share a short

management report with the members. My remarks were devoted primarily to the ongoing maintenance and system-improvement activities that are under way on the cooperative's 7,000-mile system of power lines. I emphasized that our enduring aim is to keep raising service reliability for our members to an ever-higher level.

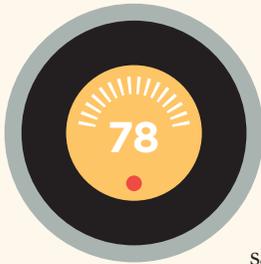
The other item of business on the agenda was the election of co-op directors. In a contested race featuring the use of paper ballots, incumbent Pickens County board member Frank Looper defeated challenger Jason Dennis. Mendel Stone of Oconee County and Pickens County's Jimmy Lee Dodgens ran unopposed and were reelected by acclamation. Congratulations to all these gentlemen.

### The main motivating factor

Someone has said that electric cooperatives represent "democracy in action." I rather like that description because, in my opinion, it speaks to the main factor that motivates the Blue Ridge organization—we're directly accountable to you, our members. My fellow employees and I take that relationship very seriously, and that's why we're constantly seeking ways to serve you better.

It looks like I've used all my space on this page to review the annual meeting. Consequently, I'll wait and utilize next month's report to provide a summary of the Blue Ridge Fest results. I look forward to visiting with you again then.

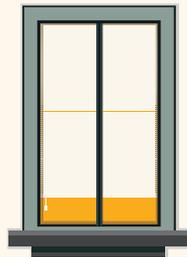
**JIM LOVINGGOOD**  
 President and CEO



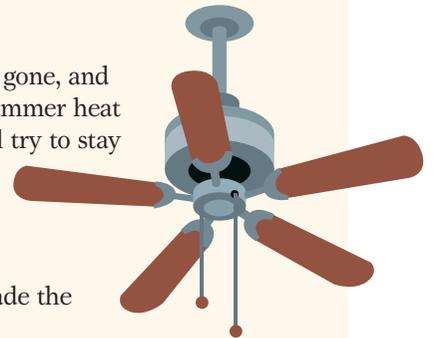
## Summer Energy-Saving Tips

**WHAT A CHANGE** a month can make! The cool, rainy spring of 2018 is gone, and already summer temperatures are hitting the 90-degree mark. With summer heat comes summer power bills as that air conditioning kicks on, and we all try to stay cool. The largest portion of your summer electric bill is associated with cooling your home. Below are some tips that can help you stay cool and save money:

- ▶ Close blinds and drapes during the day to keep heat out.
- ▶ Set your thermostat to 78 degrees when you are home. Set it to a higher temperature when you're away.
- ▶ Turn off lights and ceiling fans when you leave a room.
- ▶ Keep your garage door down. A cooler garage means a cooler home.



- ▶ Plant trees and shrubs to shade the exterior of your home.
- ▶ Replace disposable air filters or clean permanent filters once a month to maximize efficiency.
- ▶ Use solar lighting to brighten up your outdoor space. Solar lights are easy to install, low maintenance and provide free electricity.



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