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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*
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Joel R. Davis, *Secretary*
Joel Spencer Dalton, Jr., *Treasurer*
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A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Two very satisfying outcomes

I WANT TO begin my June report with some comments on what a positive experience the cooperative's 76th



annual meeting was! We welcomed a little larger crowd than last year. In addition, our directors, my fellow employees, and I had numerous opportunities for quality conversations with many of the nearly 3,000 members who registered.

Furthermore, the business meeting went very well. I used that portion of the program to provide members with the financial details of the Blue Ridge operation. My remarks also included highlights of some of the significant construction and economic-development projects that are presently under way on the cooperative system. As always, we saluted our folks now serving in the military, as well as our veterans—including three attending World War II participants!

The business meeting saw three incumbent directors—Joel Davis of Oconee County, Pickens County's Spencer Dalton, and Kenneth Southerlin representing Greenville and Spartanburg counties—all reelected to new terms. Congratulations to each of these gentlemen.

There's so much more I would want to cover about the annual meeting—the excellent entertainment, the fine food, the plentiful prizes, the wonderful weather, and on and on. However, I need to devote at least some space in this report to Blue Ridge Fest. Some of the photos found elsewhere within these pages will perhaps give you a better sense of the annual-meeting experience.

As far as Blue Ridge Fest is concerned, I'm very proud to share that the May 6 event tallied \$201,000 in net proceeds—a new record.

We had another big crowd in the neighborhood of 5,000 that attended this yearly charity fund-raiser. The 100-plus corporate sponsors who lent their support to the evening again deserve accolades for their generous involvement. This year's musical groups—Jim Quick and Coastline, Jimmy Beaumont and the Skyliners, and Jay and the Americans—gave attendees their money's worth and more, in my opinion. I noticed smiling faces galore among the folks exiting the grounds at the conclusion of the show. It was that good!

The most-special aspect from that evening is the \$201,000 sum soon to be divided among the 12 Blue Ridge Fest-supported charities. Checks will be presented to all these organizations in the immediate upcoming weeks. In 19 years, Blue Ridge Fest has produced an incredible \$2,270,000 for distribution to local charities.

Both the annual meeting and the Fest require a great deal of time and effort from our employee team. Once again, our workforce rose to the occasion to ensure that each event resulted in a very satisfying outcome. That's the character of these folks who are serving you all year long, and I'm consistently gratified to witness the professionalism they all bring to their jobs.

In honor of Independence Day, all Blue Ridge offices will be closed on Monday, July 4. However, emergency crews will be on hand for any emergency situations. You have our best wishes for a wonderful holiday, as we pause to celebrate our nation's 240th birthday!

Charles E. Dalton
President and CEO

Annual events inform, entertain thousands

MEMBER GROWTH, new economic development, as well as system improvements were all topics that were shared with Blue Ridge Electric Cooperative members at the 76th Annual Meeting. Prior to the business meeting, members enjoyed hot dogs, Moon Pies, and drinks as they visited with friends and neighbors. Highlights of this event as well as the recording-breaking Blue Ridge Fest, are told in these photographs. We thank everyone who made his/her way to the outdoor equipment facility in Pickens and joined us during one of these two evenings.



Hundreds of classic cars were on hand, shined and polished, for the thousands of admiring Festival goers.

Stephen Jewell of Liberty accepts the keys to the Annual Meeting Grand Prize.



One of the most impressive sights of the evening was the presentation of the American flag by Blue Ridge linemen.



These young Blue Ridge members enjoyed getting their picture made as a lineman. In just 60 seconds they had a photo to remind them of their co-op.



Fest burgers, hot dogs, ice cream and nachos were served throughout the evening at Blue Ridge Fest.



Jay and the Americans ended the night with songs that brought back great memories for many people.