



**Join us for  
Blue Grass  
Energy's  
Annual Meeting  
June 1, 2017  
Keeneland  
Entertainment  
Barn**

**Registration  
4:30-6:30 p.m.  
Business Meeting  
starts at  
6:30 p.m.**

## Message from the President

# Blue Grass Energy is using high-tech innovation to attract jobs to our communities

Kentucky has a lot to offer in-state, out-of-state, even out-of-country companies looking for the next opportunity to open or expand a manufacturing facility.

We have a skilled workforce and

access to over two-thirds of the U.S. population within a day's drive. We have outstanding transportation — airports, railroads, highways, and waterways — plentiful water, abundant natural resources, and some of the nation's lowest utility rates. The challenge is to tell our story in a way that convinces companies searching for new locations to look our way.

That's why we are using high-tech innovations to showcase our communities.

At Blue Grass Energy, we believe data is power. Working with our local communities, we are using technology to tell their stories through economic data. We are featuring Kentucky in unique ways that have never before been available. Blue Grass Energy is leveraging three technology initiatives to give our communities a competitive edge in the high-stakes world of economic development.

One key initiative is called PowerMap. We worked with other electric co-ops to develop this app for

*Continued on 30D*



Michael I. Williams  
President & CEO

# Driving carefully has many benefits

Have you ever had your power go out on a beautiful day? We typically think about power outages during foul weather yet they happen on pretty days too. Reliable service along with safety are priorities for us at Blue Grass Energy. However, circumstances sometimes occur outside of our control causing power outages. These can be squirrels, birds, and snakes just to name a few.

Unfortunately, distracted drivers are growing on that list. In our digital world, it's easy to remain in constant contact, even behind the wheel. When we refer to distracted drivers, they aren't necessarily driving motor vehicles. They could also be operating heavy equipment or even farm equipment.

Since 2014, we have had 283 instances where distracted drivers have come in contact with a device on our system, a device such as one of our utility poles, a transformer, or a guy wire. These instances can cause injuries to occur and they can be very costly to repair.

According to the National Safety Council, distracted drivers can miss seeing up to half of what is around them. As mobile technology increases, talking, texting, and sending emails while behind the wheel is definitely a growing concern.

Most of us have seen distracted drivers. It can be scary watching a vehicle in front of you drift into another lane or toward a utility pole. According to the Centers for Disease Control, more than 1,153 people are injured, and more than nine are killed in crashes each day in the U.S.

While we are concerned about power reliability, we are even more concerned with safety. At this time of year, when people are traveling on vacation and kids are out of school, we want to raise awareness about the dangers of distracted driving.

We are committed to making life better, the cooperative way, and that includes keeping you safe. Please don't be a distracted driver.

**“It Was Just...”**  
**It was just a quick call**  
**It was just a short trip**  
**It was just one drink**  
**It was just a picture**  
**It was just an email**  
**It was just a glance**  
**It was just a text**  
**It was just a bite**  
**‘Just’ is all it takes**

**Just Drive** 

## PLEASE MOVE OVER FOR EMERGENCY AND UTILITY CREWS

If you see police, firefighters, utility crews, or other emergency personnel on the side of the road, please slow down and move over when possible.

Together, we can keep our crews safe.



# Stay organized with Alerts and Reminders

*It's difficult to stay organized with the busy lifestyles we lead. We are here to help. By setting up alerts and reminders on your account, you can receive alerts by email and text for due dates, past due notices, returned checks, payment confirmations, and high kilowatt-hour usage.*

Why should you sign up for alerts and reminders? Just ask Denise Myers, Blue Grass Energy member and employee.

“I had been receiving daily electric usage alerts for about a year and had a good idea of how many kilowatt-hours I used in a normal day. A few days before Christmas in 2015, I noticed my usage jumped. It continued to rise abnormally for the next two days. I knew something had to be wrong. Only a few appliances in the home will use that much electricity—one of those is a water heater. As I walked down the stairs to check my water heater, I saw standing water on the floor of my unfinished basement. My water heater had leaked, causing the heating elements to engage.

“Thank goodness I caught it after only three days instead of weeks! We rarely go to our basement and I wouldn't have known there was an issue until I received my monthly bill.

“The second time text alerts saved me money was this past fall when we transitioned from cooling to heating. We had accidentally moved the thermostat to emergency heat. I caught it after two days of what I knew was above-normal usage instead of after receiving a 30-day bill.”

So what are you waiting for? Sign up today. It's easy. Just log into your account and select which alerts you would like to receive. Alerts and reminders... just another way we are making life better, the cooperative way.



## Alerts & Reminders

are easy to set up.



Go to the  
My Account tab  
at [bgenenergy.com](http://bgenenergy.com).

## How to reach us

24-Hour Service: (888) 546-4243

Automated payment: (877) 934-9491

Report an outage: (888) 655-4243

[bgenergy.com](http://bgenergy.com)

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Rachel Settles, Editor



This institution is an equal  
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## President's message (continued)

smartphones and other mobile devices, using GPS mapping of our co-op's service territory. People are using PowerMap to quickly and precisely pinpoint locations and retrieve information about our communities.

Housed within PowerMap is an online platform called StateBook, which provides the latest economic data about our communities. StateBook has 63,000 data points and can relay instant information about local sites available for development.

The latest upgrade to PowerMap is called PowerVision. This initiative uses drone imagery so companies can virtually visit prospective industrial sites. With our five-minute PowerVision videos, interested parties can see available lots, property lines, highways, railroads, and nearby businesses. In minutes, anyone sitting anywhere in the world can get critical information that could put our communities on the short list for their next industrial project.

We are using high-tech tools to put our communities on the map of site selectors around the world. Powered by our purpose of making life better, the cooperative way, we are bringing good jobs to our communities and improving the lives of our members. We want our service area to be filled with healthy, growing communities. And that is what happens when our purpose meets technology.

*Each year, Blue Grass Energy chooses a charity to work with for the year. We partner with a local nonprofit organization that benefits the communities in which we live and serve. Our fundraising efforts for the entire year go to that cause. This year, we are partnering with Make-A-Wish. We are excited about the opportunity of making wishes come true for some of our youngest members.*

## About Make-A-Wish

### A Child's Eligibility for a Wish

The local chapter of Make-A-Wish is the largest in the country, granting 149 wishes per year in Kentucky. The funds raised stay here to help grant more wishes locally. There is still much more work to be done to grant the wish of every eligible child in Kentucky. You can help by identifying children with life-threatening medical conditions and help make their wishes come true. Following are three eligibility requirements.

- 1 The child is between the ages of 2 1/2 and 18 at the time of the referral.
- 2 The child's medical condition is currently "life-threatening," which is typically progressive, degenerative, or malignant, and has placed the child's life in jeopardy. While this includes any illness or condition defined as terminal, patients with life-threatening medical conditions often live long, full lives.
- 3 The child has not received a wish from Make-A-Wish or any other wish-granting organization.

For more information on the referral process and eligibility criteria,  
please visit [oki.wish.org](http://oki.wish.org).

