

BGEnergy welcomes Lu Young as director

The Board of Directors of Blue Grass Energy is pleased to announce the appointment of Lu Young as director for District 9.

She represents the members of Jessamine County, where she has been a longtime resident. Young currently serves as a clinical assistant professor in the Department of Educational Leadership Studies and Director of Next Generation Educational Partnerships at the University of Kentucky.

Prior to her position with the University of Kentucky, she served as Chief Academic Officer for Fayette County Public Schools. Young also served the Jessamine County Public School district for over 30 years. She held the positions of superintendent, assistant superintendent, assistant principal and teacher.

She earned principal and superintendent certifications from the University of Kentucky and holds a doctorate in education leadership from Northern Kentucky University.

Lu and her husband, Tim, have two children, Tyler and Natalie; and they are members of Southland Christian Church in Nicholasville.

She also serves on the Advisory Council for AdvancEd KY and is actively involved with the Kentucky Association of School Administrators, the United Way of the Bluegrass and the UK College of Education Board of Advocates.

The Board of Directors looks forward to the experience and leadership Young brings.



Director Lu Young represents District 9.

Message from the President

The value of electricity continues to shine

As a child, I'm sure many of you remember running errands with your parents or grandparents. One stop was usually to pay the electric bill.

Electricity keeps us connected to the modern world. Consider all the necessities and conveniences we enjoy in part because of the power lines running to your home.

Most of us have in-home appliances that make life better. Appliances like our clothes washer, air-conditioning units and even our coffee makers. Whether they get used every day or occasionally, the electricity that keeps them working comes from Blue Grass Energy.

The good news is, even as we rely more on electricity, it's still a bargain—as your cooperative's rates are competitive. For example, \$1 of power from Blue Grass Energy will wash about 730 bath towels in a front-loading washer. It will also brew nearly 970 individual coffee pods or charge today's cell phones about 1,200 times.

Even though it is such a bargain, we're always looking for ways to help you manage your usage. That's why we regularly share information to help you make energy-efficient choices. We offer things like an online energy audit (*BillingInsights*), a phone app and an online portal where members can monitor and evaluate their daily usage. These tools give you the information you need to help control or trim your monthly utility bills.

Utilities across the country have reported a decline in average residential use per household since 2010. That means we're doing more things with

Michael I. Williams
President & CEO

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After 57 years, her home has electricity

In the early 1940s, there was a farmer giving witness in a rural Tennessee church. He said, "Brothers and sisters, I want to tell you this. The greatest thing on earth is to have the love of God in your heart, and the next greatest thing is to have electricity in your house."

Recently, Blue Grass Energy member Callie Isaacs knew what it was like to have electricity in her home for the first time in 57 years.

In 1959, Callie was only 20 years old and newly married to Kentucky native Charles Isaacs. They were living in Dayton, Ohio, when she surprised Charles by wanting to move to his hometown—Floyd's Branch in Madison County.

They moved to the cabin where she's lived for nearly 60 years. "It was built in 1933. It had set empty for 17



Clockwise, this page: The sign hanging on the front porch lets everyone know it's "Callie's Place"; Callie stands in front of her cellar house; Callie sits in her favorite spot on the porch, her swing.



taught me a lot about living off the land. I learned to sew and make quilts, can meats, make cheese and cottage cheese. We planted fruit trees and raised a big garden each year—canning at least 1,000 jars every summer. We canned apples, dried apples, made apple butter. Thanks to the cellar, we could have apples all year long."

They also raised a lot of animals, kept honey bees, made sorghum, and ground cornmeal.

A mother to 10 children, Callie delivered five boys and five girls at

years. Trees were grown up all around it. The floors had cracks a cat could crawl through," recalls Callie.

She reminisces about some of her first impressions. "The cabin didn't have electricity and our water came from a well. Part of our road was in a creek bed. I'd never seen a creek before. One side of the road was black; it was slate rock. I remember thinking, 'I don't know how people live like this.' When I woke up the next morning, I realized that was the first mountain I had ever seen," says Callie, who had grown up in the flatlands of North Carolina.

Many repairs were needed, and the Isaacs worked on the cabin and farm for about a year before moving into it in 1960. "I had a lot to learn about mountain living. We lived like pioneers. My mother-in-law, Bessie Isaacs,





Clockwise: The new addition of outside lighting that illuminates one of her many flower gardens; (inset) a new light fixture hangs above the family dining table; Callie sits on her favorite swing with daughter Damaris Robbins, left, and granddaughter Angela Hobbs; Callie in her kitchen with her wood cook stove and biscuit cabinet.

the cabin without a doctor nor medication. “God saw me through having all my kids at home.”

Unfortunately, Charles passed away nine years ago before the power lines were run on the mountain. They were married 50 years. “Charles would have liked to have electricity run to the cabin before he died, but we couldn’t manage it at the time. I wanted it for him and for my children,” Callie says.

But, in the fall of 2017, after seven weeks of cutting rights-of-way, three weeks of building more than 3,500 feet of lines and setting 13 poles, her meter was installed. Electricity began to light up the cabin for the first time. “We are really enjoying it (electricity). I catch myself back in the rooms without the lights on and the kids come in and remind me, ‘Grandma, we’ve got electric.’ I’m still getting used to it,” Callie laughs.

“Actually, before we got electricity, we were set up really good with generators, a propane stove, water heater, sweeper, you name it. We had everything we needed except for a washer and dryer. We didn’t have enough current for that. We even had a small television that ran off of a 12-volt battery.”

The first items they purchased were light fixtures. “This is much easier than before,” she laughs. “I believe I would change a few little things (about the past), but not the decision about the electric. Being young helped. But as I’ve gotten older, I don’t see as well without good light, and electricity really helps.”

One of her most recent, vivid memories is from last Christmas. “It was really beautiful. It was the first year the cabin had ever been lit up like that,” Callie shares.

Receiving electricity has certainly helped in making life better, the cooperative way for Callie Issacs.



How to reach us

24-Hour Service: (888) 546-4243

Automated payment: (877) 934-9491

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bgenergy.com

Headquarters

P.O. Box 990
1201 Lexington Road
Nicholasville, KY 40340-0990

District Offices

P.O. Box 730
327 Sea Biscuit Way
Cynthiana, KY 41031-0730

P.O. Box 150
1200 Versailles Road
Lawrenceburg, KY 40342-0150

P.O. Box 276
2099 Berea Road
Richmond, KY 40476-0276

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Rachel Settles, Editor



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President's message (continued)

less energy. That's good for those trying to live within a budget—and it's going to be more important as digital devices and internet-connected technologies become even more prevalent in our lives. Technology and the gateways that keep it working use electricity, so you'll depend upon Blue Grass Energy for more than the power that keeps the lights on.

That's why we focus on making life better, the cooperative way and working to provide safe, reliable, affordable energy services, while improving the quality of life for our members. So remember, no matter your future energy needs, Blue Grass Energy will provide you the reliable service you deserve.

A letter of appreciation from the American Cancer Society

Blue Grass Energy Members,

We want to say THANK YOU to every person who has helped the American Cancer Society (ACS) this year. We truly have the best volunteers, participants and donors. ACS has made so many important breakthroughs because of each of you. We will continue to fight the fight until we find a cure!

We had several Relays in your communities this year and they have raised an astonishing \$135,000 so far. Our teams and committees will continue to work through the remainder of the year to increase this total.

Thank you,

*Becky Manley
Community Development Manager
American Cancer Society*

Thank you!



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 the American Cancer Society.