



OCTOBER 2019

Making life better, the cooperative way®

National Cooperative Month

The nation's member-owned, not-for-profit electric co-ops constitute a unique sector of the electric utility industry—and face a unique set of challenges.

Distribution cooperatives form the foundation of the rural electric network delivering electricity to more than 20 million American homes, businesses, farms and schools in 48 states.

Generation and transmission cooperatives (G&Ts) provide wholesale power to distribution co-ops through their own generation or by purchasing power on behalf of distribution members.

Whether it's a co-op serving a remote fishing village above the Arctic Circle or a co-op serving a horse farm in central Kentucky, electric co-ops share a common goal: providing safe, reliable and affordable electric service to their members.



TIM WEBB



SHEILA FIGGINS

"From our experience of owning a business, Blue Grass Energy is always there for the community. People know the employees personally. They are so professional and always quick to respond.

"When I talk to them, they display integrity and I can tell they care; and no matter the conditions, they take care of the needs of their community."

—Sheila Figgins, Blue Grass Energy member

CONTACT INFORMATION

24-Hour Service: (888) 546-4243
Automated payment: (877) 934-9491
Report an outage: (888) 655-4243
bgenergy.com

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ENERGY AS A SERVICE TO OUR MEMBERS.**

Rachel Settles, Editor



This institution is an equal opportunity
provider and employer.



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

By the Community, for the Community

When you think of October, pumpkins and fall foliage naturally come to mind. But October is notable for another reason—National Co-op Month. This is the time of year when cooperatives across the country celebrate who we are and more importantly, the members we serve.

Cooperatives are different than other types of businesses.

They are in business for the common good. Your electric cooperative exists to fulfill one purpose: making life better, the cooperative way.

As a co-op, we are well-suited to meet the needs of the community because we are local. Blue Grass Energy's leadership team and employees live right here in the community. Members of our board of directors live locally on co-op lines.

We know our members have a valuable perspective. That's why we seek your input—so we can continually strive to meet and exceed your expectations.

Our close connection to the community ensures we get a firsthand perspective on local priorities enabling us to make more informed decisions on long-term investments, like renewable energy.

Several features set our co-op apart from a traditional utility. One of the seven cooperative principles is, "Concern for Community." We partner with local organizations like Kentucky Wounded Heroes. We participate in the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour, where we take our young members to Washington, D.C., for a weeklong immersion to experience democracy in action. We are involved in growing our local communities through economic development. Also, a unique feature of a cooperative is capital credits (also called margins). Blue Grass Energy takes any revenues that exceed the cost of doing business and returns that money to members in the form of capital credits.

We hope you will think of Blue Grass Energy as more than your energy provider. We are providing you with a good value while delivering electricity to you at the lowest possible cost. We are a local business that supports this community and powers economic development in fulfilling our purpose of making life better, the cooperative way.

*By President/CEO
Michael I. Williams*



Co-ops are guided by 7 principles

- 1 Voluntary and Open Membership
- 2 Democratic Member Control
- 3 Members' Economic Participation
- 4 Autonomy and Independence
- 5 Education, Training and Information
- 6 Cooperation Among Cooperatives
- 7 Concern for Community



Cooperative facts

- Cooperatives form a community of 140 million members nationwide.
- 1 in 3 Americans is a co-op member.
- Co-ops are local.
- Co-ops are member-owned.
- There are more than 64,000 co-ops in the U.S.
- There are many types of co-ops including:
 - » Agriculture
 - » Energy
 - » Healthcare
 - » Housing
 - » Credit unions
 - » Grocery/food and more

Cooperatives are: Community Born | Community Led | Focused on You

Planting windbreaks can make your home more energy efficient

Properly selected, placed and maintained landscaping can provide excellent wind protection known as windbreaks which can reduce wind speed. A variety of vegetation—such as shrubs, grasses and evergreens—can be used to create these barriers that can help keep your home warmer in the winter and heating costs down.

More information on windbreaks can be found at www.arborday.org.



Blue Grass Energy is a certified Tree Line USA Utility.

USDA

CHARITY PARTNER

KENTUCKY WOUNDED HEROES

Efforts are underway to secure Kentucky license plates that highlight the Kentucky Wounded Heroes.

The new license plates are expected to be available in 2020. Prior to production, 900 license plates have to be preordered.

More information on this project and how to apply for or gift a license plate that benefits this worthy cause can be found under the "News" section at kentuckywoundedheroes.net or by calling (606) 495-8805.



Kentucky Wounded Heroes is a nonprofit organization that serves Kentucky's current and former members of the United States Armed Forces, sworn law enforcement, sworn firefighters, and sworn or affirmed EMS, that have been injured during combat operations or line-of-duty service. Their mission is to honor and empower the emotional wellness of these heroes through outdoor activities, programs and services that enable them to reconnect to nature's healing properties.

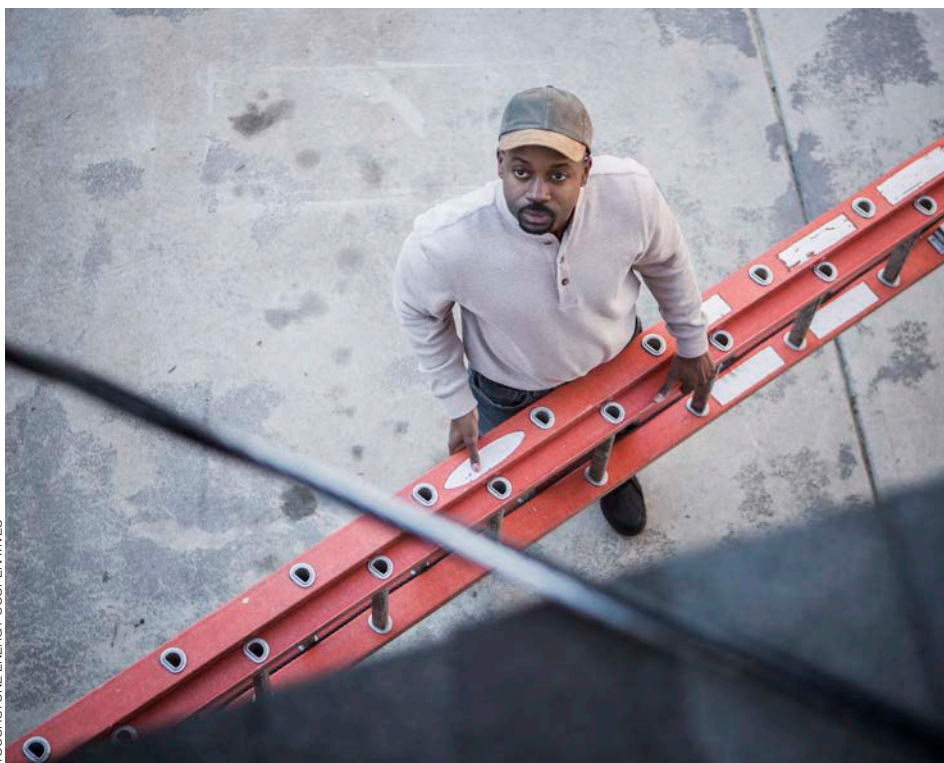
Each year, Blue Grass Energy chooses a charity to work with for the year. We partner with a local nonprofit organization that benefits the communities in which we live and serve. Our fundraising efforts for the entire year go to that cause. This year, we are partnering with the Kentucky Wounded Heroes.

Fall safety tips

Sweep dry leaves—Be sure to sweep leaves away from outdoor outlets, light fixtures and power cords. Dry leaves can easily catch fire, so be careful of sparks and flammables. Also, keep your outdoor air-conditioning unit clean and clear of any autumn debris. Keep your driveway and walkway clear of falling leaves. Wet leaves can create a hazard for pedestrians by making sidewalks slippery.

Use caution on ladders—Wear appropriate footwear when using a ladder. Shoes or boots can be wet, causing you to slip as you climb the ladder. Position the ladder on a flat surface before use.

Look up before pruning trees—Be sure to look up and survey the area carefully before you start. Make careful note of where power lines are located before you set up your ladder so that it is positioned properly.



TOUCHSTONE ENERGY COOPERATIVES