



AUGUST 2023

Making life better, the cooperative way®

Member Appreciation Days a success

On Thursday, June 1, Blue Grass Energy hosted a virtual annual meeting, concluding two days of member appreciation at local offices.

From 7:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m. on May 31 and 7:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m. on June 1, registration was held at the four local offices. More than 700 members registered. The business meeting was livestreamed from the Nicholasville office at 3:30 p.m. on Thursday.

Board Chair Dennis Moneyhon opened by saying, “I’m pleased to report that Blue Grass Energy has had another successful year. We dealt with challenges like supply chain delays and weather events, but learned and grew through each one and were better for the experience.”

Moneyhon went on to say, “Some good news I’d like to share is, in 2022, our members awarded us our highest member satisfaction rating in our history. Thank you for recognizing our commitment to serving each of you.”

Director and Board Secretary-Treasurer Jane Smith presented the treasurer’s report.

Cooperative Attorney David Royse performed the installation of the re-elected directors. They were:

- Richard Cobb, District 2
- Jody Hughes, District 6

President and CEO Mike Williams also addressed the membership.



WADE HARRIS
DENISE MYERS



Williams gave a report that focused on the cooperative’s purpose.

Williams said, “We talk about purpose often, because everything we do is centered around it. It is what keeps us focused on what is important, and that is serving you and our communities.”

SCHOLARSHIPS

Blue Grass Energy awarded \$15,000

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WADE HARRIS



WADE HARRIS

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Richmond, KY 40476-0276

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dennis Moneyhon | Chair | Foster
Gary Keller | Vice Chair | Harrodsburg
Jane Smith | Secretary-Treasurer | Waddy
Richard Cobb IV | Richmond
Doug Fritz | Paint Lick
Jody Hughes | Lawrenceburg
Paul Tucker | Sadieville
Lu Young | Nicholasville

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AS A SERVICE TO OUR MEMBERS.

Denise Myers, Editor



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in scholarships. Following the business meeting, 10 high school graduates served by Blue Grass Energy were selected during a random drawing. They each received a \$1,500 scholarship from the co-op.

We congratulate the following young members for being selected:

- Brayden Murphy, Lexington
- Emilie Ann Von Hagel, Lexington
- Kornelia Lyons, Cynthiana
- Kylie Fornell, Harrodsburg
- Hannah Phillips, Lawrenceburg
- Hannah Pittman, Lawrenceburg
- Shelby Foxworth, Cynthiana
- Ryan Mora, Nicholasville
- Leah Hendrickson, Berea
- Dorsey Bryce Watkins, Carlisle

ONLINE CHARITY AUCTION

The cooperative also hosted its second online charity auction. This auction raised \$3,820 to benefit the charity Blue Grass Energy is supporting in 2023—CASA organizations in our service area.



Pennies for Purpose

Benjamin Franklin said, "A penny saved is a penny earned." He certainly knew the value of a penny, and we do, too.

Pennies for Purpose (PPF) is a way to help our neighbors and communities for just pennies each month. This program is funded by Blue Grass Energy members who round up their monthly electric bills to the nearest dollar. It provides funding to charitable causes across our 23-county service area.

For example, a \$64.89 bill would round up to an even \$65. By rounding up, the average yearly contribution would be \$6.

If you would like to help us help others by enrolling your account(s) in PPF, visit bgenergy.com and select the Pennies for Purpose button.





Honoring Those Who Served

Welcome Home Celebration

Let's give a hero's welcome to the veterans of our co-op sponsored Honor Flight.

Join others at the Lexington Blue Grass Airport on Sept. 16 by 8:15 p.m. to show your support of these American heroes as they return from Washington D.C.



CASA EXPANDS TO HARRISON COUNTY

Community volunteers needed

BY KATIE SALTZ

As Kentucky continues to rank among the top in the nation for cases of child abuse and neglect, Kentucky CASA Network rallies local communities to step up and help those children find a stable home.

Court Appointed Special Advocates, or CASA, trains volunteers to work with children in the legal system and advocate for their best interests. Blue Grass Energy has selected CASA as the 2023 charity to support for its annual giving campaign.

In 2022, more than 16,000 Kentucky children were involved in court cases of child abuse, neglect or dependency. One CASA chapter served 186 of those children, with more cases on the horizon as its territory expands.

CASA of the Northern Bluegrass Region has grown to serve seven counties, the most recent being Harrison County. A recent merger will add Boone and Gallatin counties to the roster within the next year.

The expansion of the service area means more children to serve, but also more potential volunteers. Nicky Jeffries, executive director of CASA of the Northern Bluegrass Region, says engaging local residents is vital for success in the new territory. Harrison County alone had 103 children in the family court system under the Dependency, Neglect and Abuse Docket in 2022.

“Expanding into those rural communities and finding new volunteers can be challenging,” Jeffries says. “But we could use board members from Harrison County, volunteers from Harrison County. We are serving the children of Harrison, so we could use the help of the constituents of Harrison.”

The funds received from Blue Grass Energy will go directly to recruit, train and retain volunteers, Jeffries says. It costs \$1,000 to train a volunteer for one year.

Raising awareness of the issue is the first step, Jeffries says. Child abuse and neglect is not isolated and can happen anywhere in Kentucky.

“People need to realize it happens everywhere,” she says. “People assume it only happens in certain neighborhoods. They look around at their white picket fences and think ‘child abuse doesn’t happen in our community,’ but that’s not true.”

Jeffries hopes more Kentuckians will step up and take part in changing the future of the children in these cases. Just one CASA volunteer can have a ripple effect on the whole community.

“If you can help a child find a safe, permanent home, they are less likely to end up back in the legal system, which removes the burden on the justice system and it can break the cycle of child abuse,” Jeffries says. “If you can break the cycle, you can change a whole generation.”



CASA volunteer Dixie Freeman is sworn in by Judge Heather Fryman in Harrison County.



A group of CASA volunteers attends a training session. Photos: CASA of the Northern Bluegrass Region