

## Distracted driving affects us all

BY DEBRA GIBSON ISAACS

Three to five seconds.

One cooperative. Two cooperative.  
Three cooperative. Four cooperative.  
Five cooperative.

That's how long it takes to read an average text.

In that tiny sliver of time, if you are reading a text while driving 60 miles

per hour, you travel 100 yards—the length of a football field. You are blind for those 100 yards.

Distraction comes in many forms, according to Matt Thomas, safety coordinator for Blue Grass Energy.

"We all know the dangers of texting or talking on the phone while driving,"

he says, "but we can also be distracted by other things as well, such as people in the car—especially children—and eating and drinking."

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, distracted driving is any activity that diverts

*CONTINUED ON 26C*



Safety Coordinator Matt Thomas responds to many of the public accidents involving vehicles and power outages. Photo: Tim Webb

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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

## HEADQUARTERS

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

## LOCAL OFFICES

327 Sea Biscuit Way  
**Cynthiana, KY 41031-0730**  
1200 Versailles Road  
**Lawrenceburg, KY 40342-0150**  
2099 Berea Road  
**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

**PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY BLUE GRASS ENERGY  
AS A SERVICE TO OUR MEMBERS.**

**Rachel Settles**, Editor



This institution is an equal opportunity  
provider and employer.



## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

# Your satisfaction is a priority

Our members' satisfaction is discussed daily at Blue Grass Energy. Because we are owned by our members, that is exactly what we should be doing. After all, our members are the only reason we exist, and you deserve the most reliable and outstanding service we can provide.

To make sure we are meeting your expectations, we regularly measure our members' satisfaction. And we are honored by the results. We consistently score higher than many of our national and local counterparts. We believe our highly rated service is directly tied to the cooperative difference.

The cooperative business model automatically makes us different than many other companies and utilities. And we are proud of those differences: 1) We are accountable to you, not a stockholder. 2) We are a not-for-profit business. That means you purchase your power at cost. 3) We are local. Our decision-makers are your friends and neighbors. 4) We invest in our communities. Making life better, the cooperative way, is our purpose on which our vision rests. 5) And you are at the center of that vision.

So, if you receive one of our many surveys, consider taking a few minutes to fill it out—and know that we value this information. We want to know our members' perspectives, and we are always happy to hear from you. Whether through surveys, social media channels, website, email or in conversation, we greatly appreciate it when you let us know how we are doing.

We will use your feedback to help guide our efforts in meeting the needs of our members. Thank you for the opportunity to serve you.

*By President/CEO  
Michael I. Williams*



CONTINUED FROM 26A

attention from driving, including talking or texting on your phone, eating and drinking, talking to people in your vehicle, fiddling with the stereo, entertainment or navigation system—anything that takes your attention away from the task of safe driving.

This includes social media which is a major distraction. “I drive to work on I-75 each day and am constantly amazed at how many cars are lit up by social media,” Matt says. “Even using Bluetooth or your car’s audio system is a distraction. If you get into a long discussion, your mind often wanders to that subject rather than your driving.”

Why would an electric cooperative care about distracted driving?

Matt explains: “Besides the obvious—we care about people—but our numbers show in 2021, Blue Grass Energy had 19 outages due to vehicle accidents. Of those, 12 involved broken poles.

“Their power is off anywhere from an hour and a half to six hours depending on the severity. For instance, a broken pole is considered severe, and requires much more time and resources for restoration. And the community responds

by sending an ambulance as well as, police, firetrucks and EMTs.

“The cooperative must send linemen, trucks and equipment to restore the power. If it occurs after hours, that means overtime for the co-op and missed dinners and bedtime stories for the lineworkers’ families.”

So, the next time you’re sitting at

home and it’s a sunny, calm day and your power goes out for an extended period of time, it’s very likely that it’s due to distracted driving.

You can help prevent this from happening by remembering to count “cooperatives” to see just how quickly time flies. And, you can count on cooperatives to care.



## Juniors, apply for a trip to Washington, D.C.



## Scholarships available for high school seniors





**OUR 2022 CHARITY PARTNER**

# KENTUCKY CANCERLINK

March is National Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month. Get screened. Regular screening tests for cancer can improve and save your life.

As partners with the Kentucky Colon Cancer Screening and Prevention program, Kentucky CancerLink navigates Kentucky residents to no-cost colonoscopy or Cologuard kits. There are eligibility requirements.

There are tests that can be done at home and returned to Kentucky CancerLink for testing.

Call Kentucky CancerLink today to learn how you may qualify for a free colon cancer screening at (877) 597-4655.



KIRK/ADOBE STOCK

*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 Kentucky CancerLink.*

# From Blue Grass Energy's Bylaws:

*Members will elect one director from each of the following districts: District 1, District 3 and District 7. Directors serve a four-year term. The following, from Article IV, Section 5, of Blue Grass Energy's bylaws, outlines the nomination process:*

Article IV, Section 5—Nominations. It shall be the duty of the Board of Directors to appoint, not less than fifty (50) days and not more than one hundred twenty (120) days before the date of a meeting the members at which a report of the election of directors is to be made a committee on nominations consisting of not less than five (5) nor more than ten (10) members who shall be selected so as to give equitable representation on the committee to the geographical areas served or to be served by the Cooperative. No officer or member of the Board of Directors shall be appointed a member of such committee. The committee shall prepare and post at the principal office of the Cooperative at least forty-five (45) days before the meeting, a list of nominations for Board of Directors.

One-half percent (1/2%) or more of the total number of consumers shown on the Financial and Statistical Report of RUS Form 7 as of December 31 of the calendar year preceding the election may make other nominations in writing over their original dated signatures, signed within 120 days prior to the annual meeting, together with printed names, telephone numbers, and addresses by filing such nominations not more than ninety (90) days and not less than fifty (50) days prior to the meeting and the Secretary shall post the same at the same place where the list of nominations made by the committee is posted, if, after examination of the Provost, it is determined by said Provost that said petitions meet the requirements of the Bylaws, Articles of Consolidation, and the laws of the Commonwealth of Kentucky. In no event shall a member sign more than one petition for the nomination of a director from a district. All nominating petitions shall be submitted on the form of "Nomination Petition" provided by the cooperative. All shall certify their qualifications

by signing a "Certification of Candidate for Director" and completing the "Application for Candidate for Director" form provided by cooperative and file same with the cooperative not less than 50 days before the date of the meeting of the members.

The date of the first working day not less than forty-five (45) days prior to the Annual Meeting shall be established as the certificate date which determines whether a member is in good standing and qualified for the purpose of signing a nominating petition and/or voting. A member in good standing is any active member who is in compliance with the Bylaws, Rules and Regulations of the Cooperative, and Rules and Regulations of the Public Service Commission as of forty-five (45) days prior to the Annual Membership Meeting. The Secretary shall deliver a list of members in good standing on the certification date to the Provost.

Any member, whose service is disconnected for any reason, will automatically become a nonvoting member until said member is reconnected and receiving electrical current.