



# BLUE GRASS LIVING

JULY 2021

*Making life better, the cooperative way®*

## Co-op Connections

### SHOW IT AND SAVE

Co-op Connections is one of the many benefits of co-op membership.

Blue Grass Energy is always looking for ways to increase the benefits of being a member. Co-op Connections is a national discount card program that has long been free to Blue Grass Energy members. Today, the program offers more discounts and ways to save than

ever before. It offers up to 85% discounts on prescription drugs at participating pharmacies, as well as special discounts and deals from local businesses, online retailers, hotel discounts, event ticket discounts and more. And, don't forget to take advantage of another feature—the Cash Back Mall, a “cash back” program that sends you a check for the savings you earned while shopping online.

When our very own Member Service Dispatcher Kyle Jeffries took his family of nine (four adults and five children) on vacation to Florida in February, he was glad he checked the discounts on Co-op Connections first. Using the discount for SeaWorld, his family saved \$315 when they purchased the all-day

*CONTINUED ON 28C*



TOUCHSTONE ENERGY COOPERATIVE

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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

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AS A SERVICE TO OUR MEMBERS.

Rachel Settles, Editor



Know what's below.  
Call before you dig.

This institution is an equal opportunity  
provider and employer.



## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

# Independence Day this year is loaded with promise

As our state and nation emerge from pandemic restrictions, a celebration of freedom takes on added significance in 2021. One of the iconic images of the July 4th holiday is Mount Rushmore, the faces of four presidents: George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Theodore Roosevelt and Abraham Lincoln carved into stone, symbolizing American ideals of freedom and democracy.

Though we don't read as many quotes from Teddy Roosevelt compared to the other three patriots on the memorial, on this Independence Day, I would like to share some fitting words from the 26th president of the United States.

Submitting a 1909 report to Congress by the Commission on Country Life, Roosevelt specifically pointed to cooperatives as key to the success of rural Americans.

"The Cooperative is the best plan of organization. Under this plan, every business is (governed by a board), every person has one vote and only one vote," Roosevelt wrote. "Everyone gets profits based on their use of the co-op. It develops individual responsibility and has a moral as well as a financial value."

More than a century later, Roosevelt's words ring true at Blue Grass Energy.

We are led by, belong to and were built by members of the communities we serve. In other words, Blue Grass Energy is independent. We are not owned or controlled by any out-of-town interests. That's something to celebrate on this Independence Day.

Twenty-four years after Roosevelt left office, his fifth-cousin, President Franklin D. Roosevelt, established the Rural Electrification Administration. When Congress authorized funding through the Rural Electrification Act, it enabled not-for-profit electric cooperatives like Blue Grass Energy to secure low-cost loans to acquire the necessary facilities to bring electricity to farms and other rural areas.

And we have been making life better, the cooperative way, since then.

Happy Fourth of July.

By President/CEO  
Michael I. Williams



tickets which included meals, or \$35 per ticket. He also had significant savings on his Disney World tickets.

“Not only did I get the savings benefit, another great advantage of using Co-op Connections was purchasing the tickets online. I was able to print them at home and not have to wait in line when we reached the park,” says Jeffries.

### PHARMACY DISCOUNTS

Co-op Connections is not insurance, and cannot be used in conjunction with insurance, but it can help you get a great price on prescriptions that are not covered. Also, the pharmacy can help you determine if the prescription price is lower with your insurance or with the card.

### CASH BACK SHOPPING

With almost 3,000 online retailers participating in the Co-op Connections Cash Back Mall, earning real money back while you shop has never been easier. Your savings are deposited into your secure “virtual wallet.” After 90-days (to allow time to return any items you may decide you no longer need or want), a check for the discounts earned to date is mailed directly to you.

### PARTICIPATING LOCAL BUSINESSES

We have lots of local businesses participating in our Co-op Connections program. There are also discounts offered by national chains, pharmacies and other national merchants.

### THERE'S AN APP FOR THAT!

The Co-op Connections app download is on the Co-op Connections website. When you're ready to create your online account, simply visit the site. Once registered, you can then download the mobile app for either iOS or Android

directly from the Co-op Connections website.

The mobile app provides a digital card (front and back) with vital prescription discount information on your phone, as well as a way to get your discount with participating local merchants. You can also use your phone's GPS feature to locate local businesses that accept the card nearby.

Then, you can identify your favorite discount deals and save them in your account for easy access.

Did we mention that this program is FREE? We make sure we provide each new member with Co-op Connections information so they can start saving right away. Once you create your online account, you can print a card from there if you prefer.



The Jeffries family enjoying Magic Kingdom at Disney World. Photo: Megan Jeffries

**OUR 2021 CHARITY PARTNER**

## **PARKINSON'S FOUNDATION**

Parkinson's Foundation offers PD (Parkinson's Disease) Health at Home—free online virtual events. These events include a variety of topics and many are available in Spanish.

These virtual programs are live events using Zoom. Instructions on joining the webinar are provided after registering for the event.

To participate, go online to [parkinson.org](http://parkinson.org) and under the Get Involved tab, go to Search for Events. Find the event that interests you and register.

If you or someone you know has Parkinson's disease (PD), there are more resources available at [parkinson.org](http://parkinson.org).



*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 Parkinson's Foundation.*

## **Pennies for Purpose**

**P**ennies for Purpose is a way to help our neighbors and communities for pennies each month.

This program is funded by our members who round up their monthly electric bills to the nearest dollar; and provides funding to charitable causes across our 23-county area.

A \$64.89 bill would round up to an even \$65. By rounding up, the

average yearly contribution would be about \$6.

For more information on enrolling and to see the donations made to date, visit [bgenergy.com](http://bgenergy.com). You can also call (888) 546-4243 to participate.



**Pennies**  
*for purpose*

**Our offices will be closed Monday, July 5, in observance of Independence Day.**