

## Blue Ridge Mountain EMC Board of Director Candidate Biographies

### Clay County, N.C.



#### **Jeff Ledford**

Jeff Ledford is a lifelong resident of Hayesville, North Carolina. He and his wife, Wendy, have been married for 33 years. Ledford is the used car manager at Ware Chevrolet in Blairsville, Georgia. He has over 30 years of experience in new and pre-owned vehicle sales and is skilled in negotiating transactions with customers to close deals and increase sales. He has proven leadership skills that help team members achieve individual sales, enhance customer service, and drive business goals. Ledford has dedicated his career to delivering high quality service and building relationships with customers and wholesalers in the southeast. He has served three years as a Board of Director for Blue Ridge Mountain EMC.

### Towns County, Ga.



#### **Bert Rogers**

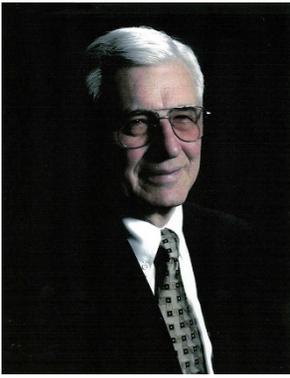
Bert Rogers is a lifelong resident of Towns County, Georgia. He and his wife, Diane, have two daughters Kelli and Jessica; and three grandchildren. Rogers retired from the Georgia Department of Transportation after 30 plus years of service. After retiring he went on to farm full time; raising beef cattle and selling hay. In his spare time he enjoys riding horses and spending time with his family. He has attended Macedonia Baptist Church his entire life. Rogers has served three years as a Board of Director for Blue Ridge Mountain EMC and has completed all the necessary board training.

### Union County, Ga.



#### **Agustin J. Abalo**

Agustin J. Abalo resides in Blairsville, Georgia and is member of the Board of BAC Florida Bank in Miami, Florida. Before retiring, he held the position of president of the Latin American Business Unit of Terremark. Abalo started his career as a systems engineer for Grumman Aircraft in Long Island assigned to the Lunar Module Program of the Apollo Project. He has held numerous positions including: senior vice president, CIO and director of operations for Banco Santander International in Miami; director of the Latin American Banking Consulting Practice for EDS; vice president of Grupo Financiero Popular, where he also served as general manager and agent of the Miami Office of Banco Popular Dominicano, president of the Dominican Bank in New York and executive vice president of GFP Commercial Bank and Trust in Grand Cayman; senior manager of the Management Consulting Services Practice at Price Waterhouse in Miami; managing director of the Puchades Group (Spain); and manager in charge of the Management Consulting Unit for Coopers & Lybrand in San Juan. Abalo holds a degree in physics from the University of Puerto Rico, an M.B.A. from Long Island University, and completed the Advance Bank Management Program at Columbia University and the International Banking Program at the University of Miami. He is recipient of numerous professional awards, including NASA's Apollo Achievement Award, Grumman's Sterling Pin Award and the Veritas 2005 Visionary Award.



### **Michael Desparte**

Michael Desparte and his wife have four grown children and reside in Blairsville, Georgia. Blairsville has been his home for over 20 years. Desparte was an officer in the U.S. Army Reserves for 26 years and holds a bachelor degree in earth sciences and a masters in urban and regional planning. As a planner for the state of Wisconsin, he worked with plans for growth and development. In Minnesota, Desparte was chief of planning for the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency developing water quality management plans between Canada and the U.S. He then went on to be the state director of the Minnesota Environmental Quality Council. Desparte moved back to Wisconsin and worked as an associate professor for the University in Economic and Community Development. He and his family later moved to Florida where he was a county commissioner for Flagler County and manager of growth and development in the Florida Keys.



### **Danny J. Henson**

Danny Henson born in Murphy, NC and moved his family to Blairsville, Georgia in 1973. He owned and operated Henson & Associates from 1989 until 2019. Henson has had the privilege of serving you on the Board of Directors of Blue Ridge Mountain EMC as a Director from Union County the last three years. During that time he has completed the classes required of all directors on the Board. Continuity on the Board has helped the success of Blue Ridge Mountain EMC. Since 2017, the Board has increased the number of broadband customers by 40%, the equity position has increased from 29.38% to 37.94%, \$6 million less in debt and are adding approximately 900 new electric customers a year. No single Board member can change anything by him or herself. Working together is what makes the difference. If reelected, Henson will do his best to continue to serve the membership as he's done for the last three years.



### **Jason Hughes**

Jason Hughes is a lifelong resident of Union County, Georgia; graduating from Union County High School. After high school, Hughes attended the University of North Georgia and earned a bachelor of science. He is owner and president of G & A Contracting, Inc. located in Blairsville since 1996. The company specializes in the installation of low voltage (fiber optics and data) cabling for various large businesses and industries throughout the southeastern states. Hughes and his wife of 29 years, Leslie, reside in Blairsville. They have two children, Hannah and Hunter. He is an active member of Hayesville First Free Will Baptist Church. When he isn't working, he enjoys spending time with his wife and children, traveling, reading, and working in the yard.



### **Solomon Patrick**

Solomon Patrick lives in Blairsville, Georgia with his wife and two daughters. He was born in a dirt floor log cabin in Trackrock, and remembers the day in the early 1980s that electricity was installed in the farm house where he grew up in Brasstown, North Carolina. He owns Patrick Construction, Inc.; a residential-light commercial contracting company focusing on energy-efficient, low maintenance construction and design. Patrick is a strong believer in community involvement and has served with a number of local and regional non-profit organizations including Builders for Christ and Habitat for Humanity. He has attended House of Prayer for 22 years.