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Volunteers In Action Spread Christmas Cheer

The Halifax EMC Volunteers In Action were the busiest of elves this past December. As many of you know, this group is a big part of the Co-op's Annual Meeting each May. However, you may not have known what an important part they play in Christmas for the Co-op.

Each December, the Volunteers gather to decorate the office inside and out. They pull out all the stops, not only decorating the lobby, but also the employee break room and the meeting room—which held the Employee Christmas Luncheon. The festive decorations really get the employees in the Christmas spirit.

Each year, the Volunteers also choose a special Christmas project. In years past, the group has helped families who may have lost their home to a fire or are battling illness. This year, they chose to spread Christmas cheer at a local rest home. Fifty goody bags were fixed and delivered for residents of Woodhaven in Enfield.



Retirees Butch Hayes and Sonny Haney enjoyed the Christmas Luncheon held in the Co-op Meeting Room. Notice the Christmas tree in the background so beautifully decorated by the Volunteers.



Volunteer In Action member Debbie Greene delivering the goody bags to residents of Woodhaven Rest Home.



Join the conversation at www.facebook.com/halifaxemc

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Executive Vice President & General Manager

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Business Hours

8:30 a.m.–5 p.m.

Locations

Enfield/Macon: (252) 445-5111

www.halifaxemc.com

Tell Us...

Halifax EMC is your electric cooperative. Your comments and questions are very important to us. Please tell us how we may improve our service. Return your comments/questions along with your payment, or e-mail them to bamartin@halifaxemc.com. Specific account questions will be answered personally. Remember to include your account number for these types of questions.



Electric Lines

“Like all technology, the electric meter has evolved over the years.”

by Charles H. Guerry

Executive Vice President & General Manager

Aside from the poles and wires, the electric meter is probably the most recognized part of your cooperative’s delivery system. This device is an integral part of the objective HEMC has in providing the highest possible quality electric service at the lowest possible cost. Without the meter, we would be forced to rely on less reliable and less equitable methods of calculating the cost of each member’s electric service.

Like all technology, the electric meter has evolved over the years. The original style of meter would make a watchmaker proud. It relies upon an intricate set of gears to accurately measure the amount of electricity used in the same way a mechanical watch relies on its gears to tell time. Many members would recognize the flat spinning dial, its black mark rotating under the glass cover and the set of dial hands moving. These meters were installed by the Co-op during its first 50 years.

In the early 1990s, we began using meters with a digital display. KWh usage was displayed on an LCD display instead of dials.

Highly accurate and reliable, the drawback to the mechanical meter is that a human must read the consumption and input it into a

billing system, a process both time intensive and susceptible to human error.

HEMC investigated the use of an electronic module, the next major evolution of the meter, that could either use the home’s telephone line to transmit with a handheld device within 1,000 feet of the meter to communicate the meter reading electronically to the office or meter reader. This virtually eliminated human error and had modest reduction in cost.

Automated Metering Infrastructure (AMI) reflects the current stage of meter evolution and is used throughout the entire HEMC service area. As the name suggests, there are no longer any gears and rotating disks. Using electronics, the meter measures the use of electricity, stores the data and reports that data via the power lines back to our office multiple times per day. In a little homage to the original spinning disk, many digital meters replicate that feature with a series of horizontal bars that march across the face of the display.

So, where will meters go from here? It seems that the next step in meter evolution will depend largely upon how far the smart home develops. As ever more appliances, devices and even

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Annual Meeting **2015**

- February 5 Committee on Nominations Meets
- March 13 Deadline for Petitions
- April 24 Notice of Annual Meeting & Ballots Mailed
- May 13 Deadline for Ballots
- May 14 Validation & Counting of Ballots
- May 16 Annual Meeting

Nominations by Petition

Any 30 or more members of the co-op acting together, may make nominations by petition. The petition must include the member's legal signature and named printed legibly, member number, listing of nominee(s), the directorate district(s) for which they would represent, and the name of the incumbent director(s), if any. The petition must be filed with the Corporate Secretary, no later than 5 p.m., March 13.

The directorate districts up for election are Districts 1, 2 and 8. The incumbents for these seats are Morell Jones, District 1; Basil Williams, District 2 and Beverly Walker, District 8.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



Did you know that 90 percent of the energy used to operate a washing machine comes from using hot water? A simple switch from hot to cold can save a great deal of energy! Also, consider air drying or even line drying to save even more household energy.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy

RECIPE OF THE MONTH

Skillet S'mores

- 12 (1 oz.) squares semisweet baking chocolate, chopped
- 4 cups miniature marshmallows
- Graham Crackers

Preheat oven to 450°. In a 10-inch cast-iron skillet, add chocolate in an even layer. Sprinkle marshmallows over chocolate. Bake until marshmallows are browned and chocolate is melted, 4 to 5 minutes. Let stand for 5 minutes before serving. Serve with graham crackers.

Source: Taste of the South



New Co-op Connections Business

1800FlagPole.com,
Littleton, NC
This is the exclusive dealer for Titan Telescoping Flagpoles in Virginia and North Carolina, but it can ship flagpoles to anywhere, including commercial flagpoles.

Important Scholarship Deadlines

The deadlines are fast approaching for scholarship opportunities sponsored by HEMC. Don't miss out!

Youth Tour

February 28

Youth Basketball Camp Application

March 31

Retired Manager's Scholarship Application

April 1

Visit

www.halifaxemc.com to learn more and fill out applications.

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light bulbs become accessible via the Internet, members may drive the development of a new generation of meters that can also communicate with their home devices, smart phone, tablet or PC. Seems like we'll have to wait and

see, but it should be interesting. Rest assured, HEMC will make the best use of available technology to control costs, render accurate bills and keep your service quality high.



The electromechanical meter uses intricate gears to accurately measure the amount of electricity used.



AMI meters do not rely on gears and rotating disks. These meters are used exclusively throughout HEMC's system.

Halifax EMC Conducting System Inventory

Halifax EMC has contracted with Davey Resource Group to gather inventory information on our system. Some of the areas where two contractors are conducting inventory are Elams Substation, Wildwood Point, Warren County Acres and Twin Oak Shores. While they do have decals on their vehicles indicating they are Halifax EMC contractors, they often park and walk much of the area. If you see someone in your neighborhood and are concerned, please ask for identification as our contractors have been provided with a name badge. If you have questions, please contact our office at 252-445-5111.

Employee Spotlight

Please extend a warm welcome to the newest Halifax EMC employee, Daniel Hicks. Daniel joins the co-op as a Lineman 1.

Daniel and his wife, Amanda, live in Nashville and have two children; Sydney (3 years old) and Blaise (18 months old).

Daniel is a graduate of Northern Nash High School and previously worked with the City of Rocky Mount for eight years.

In his spare time, Daniel enjoys spending time with his family, hunting and playing softball.



Please say hello to Daniel if you see him out and about on the system!