



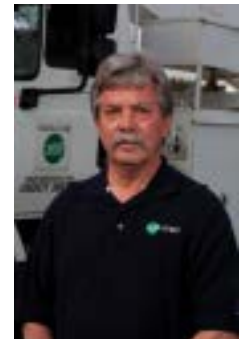
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*Length of service awards were recently given to these employees (L–R): Wanda Cooke, Manager of Finance; Debra Montgomery, Executive Assistant; Leona Padgette, Manager of Human Resources and Facilities; and Jerry Roberson, Meter Tester/Warehouseman.*

## Employees Honored with Service Awards

During the December Safety Meeting, the Co-op recognized employees who had reached service milestones in 2015.

Employees who reached a 10-year milestone were given a monetary gift based on their time of service.

Monetary gifts were awarded to Wanda Cooke for 20 years of service; Debra Montgomery for 30 years of service; Leona Padgette for 40 years of service, and Jerry Roberson for 40 years of service.

Our sincerest thanks to these employees who have been so dedicated in their service to the cooperative. What an achievement for each of them!

Don't forget!

VOTE

VOTE

VOTE

North Carolina's  
primary election is March 15

**Charles H. Guerry**

*Executive Vice President  
& General Manager*

**Board of Directors**

BEVERLY WALKER

President, District 8 At-Large

LEON S. WILLIAMS

Vice President, District 4

RICHARD H. GREENE

Sec.-Treas., District 7

ROBERT F. HARRIS

Asst Sec.-Treas., District 5

MORELL JONES

District 1

BASIL WILLIAMS

District 2

JERRY PACKER

District 3

STAN BROTHERS

District 6

ROBERT EDWARDS

District 8 At-Large

**Business Hours**

8:30 a.m.–5 p.m.

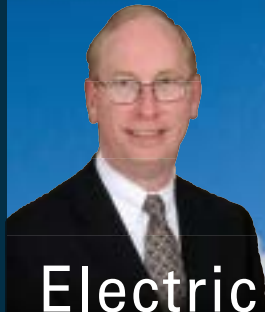
**Locations**

Enfield/Macon: (252) 445-5111

[www.halifaxemc.com](http://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](mailto:bamartin@halifaxemc.com). Specific account questions will be answered personally. Remember to include your account number for these types of questions.



## Electric Lines

**“To cut back on potential tree-related problems, Halifax EMC operates an aggressive right-of-way maintenance program.”**

by Charles H. Guerry

*Executive Vice President & General Manager*

The ice and snow of this past January may be far from your mind as you anticipate the promise of Spring, but wintry conditions, or any weather-related activity that has the potential to cause outages, are always at the forefront of your cooperative’s mind. It is no secret that we cannot control the weather, but your cooperative has taken significant steps to improve reliability where outages caused by icy or windy conditions are concerned.

A large percentage of outages that occur during winter weather are due to tree-related problems. To “cut back” on potential tree-related problems Halifax EMC operates an aggressive right-of-way maintenance program. Our contractors look for foliage growing under lines, overhanging branches, leaning or other types of “danger” trees that could pull down a power line if they fall, and trees that could grow into lines. It’s a never-ending job. By the time crews finish trimming activities along our 1,358 miles of distribution lines, vegetation has started to grow back at the starting point.

We realize that at times, right-of-way maintenance can look unsightly, but over time the process of cutting trees and spraying vegetation enables Halifax EMC to keep costs affordable for you, our members. Fewer and shorter outages save money for

everyone. When crews work in well-maintained areas, we can reduce risks for employees and equipment too; another way to keep costs low.

In working to keep a safe, reliable, and affordable supply of power flowing to your home or business, we need your help. Let us know if you notice trees or branches that might pose a risk to our power lines. Even more important, before planting trees in your yard, think about how tall they may grow and how wide their branches may spread. As a rule of thumb, 25 feet of ground-to-sky clearance should be available on each side of our utility poles to give power lines plenty of space. Choose tree varieties with care and plant with power lines in mind.

Lastly, in the event an outage does occur it is also important that we have your correct telephone number and service address. Halifax EMC’s outage reporting system recognizes phone numbers and service addresses that are currently on file for each member. If you have a new telephone number, our outage reporting system will not recognize the number and therefore, cannot match the caller to a service location. Like an overgrown right-of-way, having incorrect data slows down power restoration response time. Please update your information with one of our member service representatives.



# Annual Meeting 2016

The Committee on Nominations met Thursday, February 4, to make their nominations for Districts 4, 6 and 8 At-Large. The following incumbents were nominated: Leon Williams, District 4; Stanley Brothers, District 6; and Robert Edwards, District 8 At-Large.



## 2016 Committee on Nominations Members

Paul Bernard  
C. Wayne Boseman  
Bennie P. Collier  
Anthony Farmer  
Jeffrey Jenkins  
Nathanle Kimble  
Elton Newbern, Jr.  
Cynthia Rose

## Important Dates

March 11	Deadline for Petitions
April 25	Notice of Annual Meeting & Ballots Mailed
May 18	Deadline for Ballots*
May 19	Validation & Counting Ballots
May 21	Annual Meeting (Inborden/Enfield Middle School)

\* Return your ballot by May 18 in order to be entered in a drawing for an electric service credit.

## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



Consider purchasing rechargeable batteries – and an ENERGY STAR charger for them – which are more cost effective than disposable batteries. In the U.S. alone, more energy-efficient battery chargers could save families more than \$170 million annually.

Source: [energy.gov](http://energy.gov)

## RECIPE OF THE MONTH

### Mystery Pie

- 1 graham cracker pie shell
- 1 small can crushed pineapple
- 16 oz. sour cream
- 1 lg. box vanilla instant pudding mix

Mix pineapple, sour cream, and pudding mix. Pour into pie shell. Chill 30 minutes before serving.

Source: *Bon Appetit*  
by the Halifax EMC  
Volunteers in Action.  
Submitted by  
Cheryl Casper.

## Understanding energy issues, engaging in democracy creates stronger communities

North Carolina's primary election is Tuesday, March 15, and electric cooperatives, including Halifax EMC, are paying close attention to the candidates' stance on energy issues, as well as other issues that may affect our local communities.

Ahead of the primary, North Carolina's electric cooperatives are asking all presidential candidates a question important to electric cooperatives and their members—what is your plan for providing Americans with safe, reliable and affordable electricity?

Their answers are contained in a special voter guide in this issue of Carolina Country, as well as in an online voter guide found at [carolinacountry.com/vote](http://carolinacountry.com/vote), available for cooperative members as a resource without commentary or conjecture. It is important for members to have facts because members of Halifax EMC are also owners. The cooperative has a board of directors that sets the strategic direction and policies

for Halifax EMC, and members, those who receive electric service from the cooperative, elect representatives to that board.

The information within the voter guide will provide cooperative members with the knowledge necessary not only to make decisions about presidential candidates but also to understand more about how energy issues impact Halifax EMC, its members and the local community. Cooperatives are locally owned and operated, and together, the cooperative and its members can navigate the changing energy industry to determine what's best for the cooperative and local community.

Learn more about the NC Primary Election on pages 26–27 in this issue, and visit the online voter guide before heading to the polls on March 15. The online guide will be continually updated as more information involving the candidates and their stance on energy issues becomes available.



*Directors Basil Williams (left) and Leon Williams (right) accept their service plaques from Executive Vice President Charles Guerry.*



## Directors Recognized for Service

Two Halifax EMC directors were recently honored with plaques for their years of service to the cooperative.

Basil Williams received a plaque honoring his 10 years of service. As the District 2 representative, Basil has served on the board since January 2005. He is certified as a Cooperative Director by NRECA.

Leon Williams received a plaque honoring his 35 years of service. Leon joined the board in 1980. He obtained his Director's Certificate in 1992. Leon represents District 4.



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