



## Annual Meeting Timeline

**April 27**  
Mail Annual Meeting  
Notices & Ballots

**May 13**  
Deadline for Ballots

**May 14**  
Validation/Counting  
of Ballots

**May 16**  
Annual Meeting

## Ten Reasons to Participate in Your Annual Meeting Process:

10. Enjoy a delicious FREE breakfast and lunch.
9. Take home a great door prize.
8. Hear some great entertainment from Steve Hyman.
7. Fun for kids with Moon Walk and Bouncers, as well as sno-cones and popcorn.
6. See presentations for grants from Halifax Helps and recognition of the 2008 Bright Ideas recipient
5. Check out the progress for the past year and plans for the coming year.
4. Participate in the democratic process by mailing in your vote for your board of directors.
3. Socialize with other cooperative members—greet old friends and meet new ones.
2. Meet your cooperative employees and directors.
1. It's your cooperative! You are a member, and as a member you own the business.

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## Halifax Resolves—One of Two Important Dates on the North Carolina Flag

There are two important dates displayed on the North Carolina state flag—May 20, 1775, and April 12, 1776. “These dates represent two important dates in the history of our state and nation; however, most North Carolinians do not know why the two dates are there,” says Maxville Burt Williams, author of the book “First For Freedom.”

The book, “First For Freedom,” is about the signing of the Halifax Resolves on April 12, 1776, one of the dates on the flag. May 20, 1775, the date of the Mecklenburg Resolves, is the other date on the flag.

The Halifax and Mecklenburg Resolves were the first official acts for independence by any of the 13 colonies. However, the Halifax Resolves was the first written document calling for independence from Great Britain and proclaiming the colonies’ desire for freedom. The Resolves were passed by the Fourth Provincial Congress, which met in the town of Halifax.

Why did the Provincial Congress meet in Halifax? The spring of 1776 was a dangerous time with the British fleet heading for Wilmington. Halifax had developed into a commercial and

political center, so it was selected as the safest place to meet.

Later that year the Fifth Provincial Congress met in Halifax, drafted and approved North Carolina’s first state constitution, and appointed Richard Caswell the first governor.

Another historical fact about Halifax is that Abraham Hodge, printer to George Washington



during the winter Washington’s troops spent at Valley Forge, is buried in Halifax. Hodge reported and printed about the heroic efforts of our soldiers. He also started newspapers in New Bern, Wilmington, Raleigh, and Halifax.

Each year Halifax Day is celebrated in Halifax to honor the patriotism of the men and women who put their lives and fortunes on the line so that we might have freedom.

A scene and songs from the drama “First For Freedom” will be presented at the Halifax House in Halifax on Market Day, April 11.

**Charles H. Guerry**

*Executive Vice President & General Manager*

**Board of Directors**

BEVERLY CARTER  
President, District 8 At-Large

BASIL WILLIAMS  
Vice President, District 2

STAN BROTHERS  
Sec.-Treas., District 6

ROBERT T. HARRIS  
Asst Sec.-Treas., District 5

MORELL JONES  
District 1

JERRY PACKER  
District 3

LEON S. WILLIAMS  
District 4

RICHARD H. GREENE  
District 7

ROBERT EDWARDS  
District 8 At-Large

**Business Hours**

8:30 a.m.–5 p.m.

**Locations**

Enfield: (252) 445-5111  
Macon: (252) 257-3900

[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

“Our mission is to bring you reliable electricity at an affordable price.”

by Charles H. Guerry  
*Executive Vice President & General Manager*

Our mission at Halifax EMC is to bring you reliable electricity at an affordable price. While we work hard at this daily, our costs have increased in recent years. As we have previously explained, these cost increases are a direct result of higher fuel prices and the cost of maintaining our electric system.

Also, we understand that due to today's economic recession, many of you are cutting back to save money, and some are having trouble paying bills.

We want to let you know how things look for the future. Our Congressional representatives and senators are discussing possible legislation that will make our country more energy efficient and energy independent. Halifax EMC believes that these are worthy goals; however, we are concerned about how that will happen and how much it will cost members like you.

There's been a lot of talk in Congress and the news media about making electricity from renewable resources, such as the sun and the wind; addressing climate change by using new technologies to produce electricity; and changing the ways in which we use electricity. Along with other cooperatives, we have invested in sun and wind energy and are working hard to help you save electricity with energy efficiency advice. But the big question for us: How can we balance our commitment to provide you with reliable and affordable electricity, while

helping the environment at the same time?

Congress is currently looking at some bills that would require your cooperative to invest in additional renewable energy projects as well as take steps to address climate change—all of which will result in increased costs and, thus, higher electric-

ity rates. The pace at which these changes take place will determine the amount and timing of increased costs. For example, past proposals considered by Congress last year would

have increased your electric bill by an additional \$4 to \$10 a month, or \$48 to \$120 a year, and would have raised Halifax EMC's annual cost from \$550,000 to nearly \$1,400,000. Although the outcome is uncertain and depends on Congress' decision, the increases to you, our member, could be even more.

We will continue to keep you informed. To better help us represent your interests in Washington, DC, please email or write us at the address below to let us know your views on these very important issues. You may also wish to visit the cooperatives' Our Energy, Our Future Web site at [www.ourenergy.coop](http://www.ourenergy.coop) for updates and more actions you can take to make your voices heard to your member of Congress.

Halifax EMC is looking out for you, as we continue to provide you affordable and reliable service during these challenging times.



**Our Energy, Our Future**  
A Dialogue With America





## Energy-Efficient *Ideas*

Did you know that appliances account for about 20 percent of your household energy costs? When shopping for a new appliance, remember that the purchase price doesn't equal the total cost of owning the appliance. You also need to consider the energy cost of operating that appliance.

The U. S. Department of Energy suggests thinking of an appliance purchase like buying a car or even a home. The purchase price is the down payment; the energy costs are the interest rate. The lower the energy consumption, the lower the total cost of owning the appliance.

Most appliances display a prominent yellow and black Energy Guide label. The information on this label can help you determine how much you can expect to pay to use the appliance.

The largest number on the guide states the estimated annual operating cost of the appliance. When comparing appliances, be sure to compare between models of similar size and capacity.

### Members Have Several Options In Paying Electric Bills

There are several options available for Halifax EMC members to pay their electric bills. Some methods save time and money.

**Online Bill Pay:** Sign up for Online Bill Pay and pay/view your electric bill online. Requires a debit/credit card. Pay your bill from the convenience of your home computer. No going to the Post Office. No stamp to purchase. Online payments are posted to the member's account when paid.

**Bank Draft:** Have your electric bill drafted from your bank account. No stamps to purchase and no checks to write. We will take care of it for you.

**Debit/Credit Card:** We will accept, in person, by phone, or online, payments by VISA or MasterCard debit/credit cards for your electric bill.

To help manage your budget, Halifax EMC provides two types of billing--Levelized Billing and Budget Billing.

Also look for the Energy Star logo from the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency and Department of Energy. This identifies appliances as being among the most energy-efficient products in their classes. They usually exceed minimum federal energy use standards by a significant amount. Remember, to look for the appliance that wears the star--the Energy Star.

The economic stimulus package has become a fact. It provides a tax credit of up to \$1,500 for energy efficiency upgrades. Now would be a good time to upgrade your heating and cooling system to an energy efficient heat pump. Combine it with Halifax EMC's heat pump rebate and finance package, and you will have a stimulating deal indeed!

**Levelized Billing:** Under levelized billing bills are based on the average electric usage for the past 12 months. To realize the full benefit of this method of billing, the member needs to stay on this program for at least 12 months.

**Budget Billing:** With budget billing, electric usage for the past 12 months is divided by 11 to establish the average monthly usage used for billing. There is a catch-up month where the difference between the actual amount billed and the budgeted amount is settled.

Under either one, levelized or budget billing, the member still needs to conserve energy. Levelized and budget billing help to keep bills on a more even level so there are no extremely high or extremely low bills throughout the year.

As always, we also accept cash, checks, or money orders in payment of electric bills.



### RECIPE OF THE MONTH

#### Blackberry Wine Cake

- 1 box white cake mix
- 1 cup vegetable oil
- 4 large eggs
- 1 box blackberry gelatin mix
- 1 cup blackberry wine

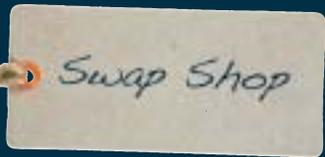
Mix all the above ingredients in a large bowl for 3-4 minutes until mixed well. Pour into a greased bundt pan and place in a 350° oven and bake for 45-55 minutes or until a toothpick inserted in middle comes out clean. Remove from oven and cool. Remove from pan and drizzle glaze over top.

#### Glaze

- 1 cup powdered sugar
- 3 tablespoons blackberry wine

Mix powdered sugar and wine together and drizzle over cooled cake.

Source: *Carolina Country Kitchen*, 2007, pg. 46.



**For sale:** Small camper, good condition, \$600. Call 252-445-5015 or 252-567-7675 (Enfield).

**Lawn maintenance:** Complete lawn maintenance for commercial/residential, fully insured, free estimates. For more details, Call: 252-904-1598 or 252-826-3957 (Lawn Ranger, Sonny Padgette, Scotland Neck).

**For sale:** Oak dining table w/ 4 chairs, 5' x 3', excellent condition, \$100. Iron weight set w/various weights included, \$20. Three 16" tires, good condition, \$15 ea. Call: 252-826-5194 (Scotland Neck).

## Winter Storm Blankets Area with Snow

As if winter were hanging on by its fingernails, it blanketed the area the first week of March with a cold blast of snow—one cold fling before spring. We were very fortunate that we only had a few outages caused mainly from falling limbs.



This winter storm has shown the value of right-of-way clearing. Keeping trees trimmed away from the power lines has helped to prevent many power outages that could have otherwise occurred.

As lucky as we were, areas north of us were not so lucky. Seven

linemen from Halifax EMC went to assist Southside Electric in Crewe, Virginia. These linemen were Roger Chappell, Arthur Bailey, Dash Cannon, Raymond Conner, Jeff Smith, Butch Vogel, and Carson Walker. They were busy assisting there for at least two days.

Assisting other cooperatives with power restoration is part of a mutual aid agreement among the 1,000 electric cooperatives across the nation. Because all cooperatives use the same type of engineering design, linemen from other cooperatives can easily assist sister cooperatives with power restoration.

This was the second time that these linemen had come to the rescue of another cooperative. Approximately a month earlier they had assisted Kenergy Corporation in Kentucky after they had experienced major outages from a winter storm.

## New Business Opens in Halifax



With all the reports of a sluggish economy, it is good to see a new business open. On Friday, February 28, a ribbon cutting, sponsored by the Lake Gaston Chamber of Commerce, was held at Ernie's Place in Halifax.

Ernie's Place is a consignment shop for local craftsmen. It is located on King Street in Halifax.

*Holiday Closing*

*Halifax EMC  
will be closed on*

*Friday, April 10,  
for  
Good Friday!*

*We will re-open on  
Monday, April 13.*



**Bright Ideas  
Launching April 20!**

**For 2009–2010 education  
grant applications, visit  
[www.ncbrightideas.com](http://www.ncbrightideas.com)**