

Power Lines

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



JULY 2008

Haywood EMC Annual Meeting on August 16, 8 a.m. to Noon

This year's entertainment includes ventriloquist Paige Parnell and the southern gospel quartet, Blue Ridge.

Paige Phillips Parnell is a native of Leeds, Ala. In 1980 at 17, She served as Miss Alabama and finished as first runner-up in the Miss America Pageant the same year. Paige traveled extensively across the United States during her reign entertaining corporate and church groups with her unique talent and vocals. Following her reign as Miss Alabama, Paige joined the Bob Hope/Miss America USO Team, entertaining members of the U.S. Army stationed in Germany and Italy. John Marsh, former secretary of the U.S. Department of Defense, awarded Paige a Certificate of Esteem for her role in entertaining U.S. Troops in Europe. Recently, Major General Mark Bowen presented Paige with a Medal of Service when she performed for the 167th

Support Command Corps for the National Guard.

Paige has been performing as a professional ventriloquist since the age of eight. Paige's unique "voice over" talents have been used in numerous commercials throughout the Southeast.

Paige graduated from Arizona State University with a major in Spanish. She also earned a law degree from Arizona State University College of Law in 1996. She is married to Hayes Parnell III. Paige and Hayes have three sons: Robby, Chase and Hayes IV. Paige and her family are members of the First Baptist Church of Leeds, Ala.



Ventriloquist Paige Parnell is set to entertain Haywood EMC members at its annual meeting.

appearances to enthusiastic audiences in Canada.

Blue Ridge has 22 recordings to its credit with more than 220 songs. Nine of these songs have been released nationally in the United States to Christian radio and have charted in the National TOP 100. Blue Ridge has recently been featured on several television shows including Gospel Music Television (GMT) specials as well as regular appearances on Southern Entertainment Television. GMT producers declared Blue Ridge as one of the Top 50 artists in Gospel Music with its appearance on the channel's Gospel World Premier.

While the style of Blue Ridge is unmistakably Southern Gospel, the diverse musical backgrounds of the members add some flavor to the style. The group is based in Franklin, N.C., in the heart of the Great Smoky Mountains.



Gospel quartet group Blue Ridge will perform at Haywood EMC's annual meeting in August.

The young men of Blue Ridge have developed a style of singing that has become popular with all who hear them. This Southern gospel quartet combines rich vocal harmonies with an exciting program of gospel music, which is enjoyed by young and old. The group has toured extensively throughout the United States and has made



Haywood EMC Director Stamey honored

Haywood EMC Director Roy Stamey has recently been honored for his 25 years of service to the cooperative. The commendable service award was presented at the North Carolina Association of Electric Cooperatives' (NCAEC) annual meeting held in Raleigh on April 3-4. NCAEC is the trade association for the 26 electric cooperatives in North Carolina, including Haywood EMC.

The cooperatives provide electric services that are reliable, safe and affordable to more than 900,000 homes, farms and businesses in North Carolina. The co-ops are not-for-profit organizations that are member owned and overseen by a board of directors elected by the membership.

Haywood EMC, a Touchstone Energy cooperative, serves 25,118 members in Buncombe, Haywood, Jackson, Macon, Madison and Transylvania Counties in North Carolina, Oconee County in South Carolina and Rabun County in Georgia.

Our Energy, Our Future: We need your help to keep rates low

Pressure is mounting in Congress to do something about climate change. And while political debates in Washington, D.C., may seem far away, the outcome will have a direct impact on our cooperative—and on you, the cooperative member and other electric consumers.

Climate change is but one aspect of a looming energy crisis created by increasing demand and decreasing capacity to meet that demand. Experts now say some areas of the country will be short of power within one or two years.

And yet energy supply isn't an issue our elected representatives are spending a lot of time on. These forces, the desire by government to reduce greenhouse gas emissions quickly and the growing demand for power by consumers, are about to collide.

Some people say we can meet demand through efficiency and renewable energy. The reality is we need all the efficiency and renewable energy we can get, but that will not be enough.

To avert an energy crisis, the federal government must exercise true leadership, the same leadership that got Americans to the moon in the 1960s. Without that leadership—without a sound, responsible plan—government risks not only the reliability of our electric system, but literally the ability of many Americans to be able to afford to pay their electric bill.

We, as electric co-op members and constituents, must call on elected officials to provide this leadership. That's why Haywood EMC wants to encourage you to contact your elected officials.

Now.

You don't need to be an energy expert to ask questions. Asking questions helps find the answers to solve the problem of balancing climate change goals with keeping your lights on and your electric bills affordable.

Right now, members of Congress as well as state elected officials are hearing from lots of different interest groups who have ideas about how to address climate change. No one is talking to consumers,



Our Energy, Our Future A Dialogue With America

however. We need a plan people can live with today while we deal with the climate change problem of tomorrow.

To make things easy, we have a Web site that will send an e-mail for you. Go to www.ourenergy.coop and plug in your address. There you'll be able to ask a series of questions to your representatives in Washington. We're kicking this effort off with a basic but critical question: What are they doing to make sure we'll have the power we need in the future? If you did not send in the card that was included in June issue of Carolina Country, you can fill out and mail the attached postage paid card in this issue that will allow your electric cooperative to send e-mails asking your representatives the key questions on the card on your behalf. There will also be an information booth at our Annual Meeting for you to pick up additional cards for your friends and family and to ask any questions you may have.

Far too often questions don't get asked by policy makers until plans go wrong. We believe it makes sense to know the answers before laws are passed.

You can help your elected officials and yourself by having this conversation. The electric bill you save will be your own.



Your electric cooperative appreciates Congressman Heath Shuler for recently taking time out of his busy schedule to meet with your co-op's General Manager/Executive Vice President Norman Sloan to discuss and hear our concerns on climate change issues.

Haywood EMC provides lightning protection options

Haywood EMC has been offering surge protection products to its members for several years. Hundreds of members have signed up and are protected by this special surge protection system. Unfortunately, many folks who sign up for the program make their decision after they have experienced surge damage to their home.

The package includes the meter base arrester, which is installed by one of our experienced technicians. The technician also checks the house ground and looks for any other problems with the electrical feed during the installation. Also included are a 10-outlet plug strip suppressor with telephone and cable/video/data ports and a single outlet plug suppressor with a telephone port. Additional suppressors can be purchased if desired.

Haywood EMC installs a high-energy surge arrester directly behind the electric meter. It creates the first

“wall” of protection from damaging surges created by storms and other electrical events.

A direct lightning strike usually creates visible structural damage to the home or tree right next to the house. It also creates an “electro-magnetic pulse” (EMP) that travels through the air and can induce damaging surge voltage directly onto the TV, speaker wiring, alarm wiring or the computer. Fortunately, 95% of surge damage issues are created by indirect strikes occurring somewhere near but not “at” the home. Haywood EMC’s surge protection program is designed to protect homes and electronics from 95% of surge incidents. We have not located a simple solution to protect against direct strikes.

Haywood EMC has designed the program to make it affordable for all our residential members. Folks who sign up for the program pay nothing



for Haywood EMC to install the system. A low monthly lease fee of \$6.99 is added to their electric bill.

If you have problems or if the suppressor fails, simply call us and we will arrange for repair or replacement of the suppressor.

As we mentioned, folks tend to wait until they have already experienced a problem before they call. We would only recommend that they call before they experience a problem! 1-800-951-6088 or (828) 452-2281.

Haywood EMC receives a Spotlight on Excellence Award



Haywood EMC Manager of Marketing and Communications Ken Thomas accepts the award from Maggie Tilley, administrator for the awards.

Haywood EMC recently received recognition in the 2008 “Spotlight on Excellence” national awards program, sponsored by the Council of Rural Electric Communicators and the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. Haywood EMC received an Award of Excellence in the Best Video/DVD Category for “The Cooperative Difference.”

“One judge summed it up by describing the overall quality of work as simply outstanding,” said Maggie Tilley, administrator of Spotlight on Excellence. “In quality of writing,

clarity of presentation, and level of creativity these professionals are excelling at serving the people with whom they are communicating.”

A special luncheon honored the award recipients during the national Connect 2008 Conference held in Portland, Ore., on May 13-16. Participants in the awards competed with electric cooperatives of similar sizes in 19 categories. More than 910 entries were submitted in the Spotlight on Excellence program. Faculty members from the University of Missouri–Columbia, University of North Carolina–Chapel Hill, and the University of Southern Mississippi judged the entries.

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