

## Generator Safety: Our Lives Are On the Line

**T**he safety of you, our members and our employees is a top priority at BARC, especially during dangerous times. When storms impact our area, we rush to your aid as soon as weather conditions allow our lineworkers to travel and make repairs safely.

Our line crews take necessary precautions before they work on downed power lines. First, they verify a circuit has been de-energized, and that proper switches are opened and tagged to isolate the circuit from the system. We place ground chains on the circuit — on both sides of workers — to make sure the line cannot be energized while work is being done.

But even after these measures, our workers' lives remain in your hands.

BARC is proud of our outstanding safety record, but sometimes, no matter how many steps we take to keep everyone safe, the very people we are there to help unknowingly put our lives — and their own — in danger.

Portable generators, widely used when power lines are down, can prove fatal to lineworkers and your neighbors when used improperly.



Of course, no one would ever purposely cause the death of a lineworker. Nevertheless, a generator connected to a home's wiring or plugged into a regular household outlet can cause backfeeding along power lines and electrocute anyone who comes in contact with them — even if the line seems de-energized.

BARC employees are not the only ones in danger when a portable generator is used improperly. Generator owners themselves may be at risk of electrocution, fire injury, property damage or carbon monoxide poisoning if they do not follow the necessary safety rules.

Portable generators can be very helpful during outages. But we urge you to follow these safety guidelines when using one:

- Never connect a generator directly to your home's wiring unless your home has been wired for generator use. This can cause backfeeding along power lines and electrocute anyone coming in contact with them, including lineworkers making repairs. Have a licensed electrician install the equipment necessary to safely connect emergency generators to your home.
- Always plug appliances directly into generators. Connecting the generator to your home's circuits or wiring must be done by a qualified, licensed electrician who will install a transfer switch to prevent backfeeding.
- Use heavy-duty, outdoor-rated extension cords. Make sure extension cords are free of cuts or tears and the plug

has three prongs. Never plug multiple extension cords together. Overloaded cords can cause fires or equipment damage.

- Ensure your generator is properly grounded.
- Never overload a generator. A portable generator should only be used when necessary to power essential equipment or appliances.
- Turn off all equipment powered by the generator before shutting it down.
- Keep the generator dry. Operate it on a dry surface under an open structure. Never operate a generator inside a home, garage, basement, crawl space or any partially enclosed area. Keep outdoors, away from doors, windows and vents that could allow carbon monoxide to come indoors.
- Always have a fully charged fire extinguisher nearby.
- Never refuel a generator while it is operating.
- Read and adhere to the manufacturer's instructions for safe operation. Never cut corners when it comes to generator safety.

We encourage you to protect the well-being and safety of your family during outages, and safeguard those who come to your aid during emergency situations. When we work together for safety and the good of our communities, we all benefit.

### BARC ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

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barcelectric.com  
barconnects.net

Come join us on Facebook  
facebook.com/BARCElectricCooperative



Chief Executive Officer  
Bill Buchanan

Local Pages Editor  
Amanda Cunningham

*BARC Electric Cooperative is an equal opportunity provider and employer.*

# BARC Annual Meeting Announcement

BARC will hold its 2023 Annual Meeting on Wednesday, July 19, at 2 p.m. The meeting will take place at the Rockbridge office located at 1972 Big Spring Drive, Lexington, VA 24450 in the solar room.

If you are unable to attend the Annual Meeting, you may return a signed proxy, found on the back cover of this month's *Cooperative Living* magazine. Members returning a signed proxy prior to the meeting will be eligible to participate in a prize drawing for \$150 in free electricity.

On May 25, 2023, a district meeting was held in District 3. On June 5, 2023, a district meeting was held in District 4. The purpose of these meetings was to select nominees to serve on the board of directors for a period of three years. Listed below are the names of the nominees from their respective districts whose names will appear on the official ballot. Members may make additional nominations from the floor at the Annual Meeting.

**District 3** – Keith L. Swisher

**District 4** – Albert J. “Jay” Lewis, II

## Bylaws Pertaining to Election of Directors

**Article IV, Section 4.5: Director Elections.** Not less than seven days before an Annual Member Meeting or a Special Member Meeting at which Directors are to be elected, the Secretary of the Cooperative shall be responsible for mailing to each Member a list of the candidates selected at all District Meetings, the names to be arranged by districts. This list may be included with the notice of the meeting. At the meeting the Secretary of the Cooperative shall place in nomination the names of the official candidates of each district.

Additional nominations for Director for a particular district may be made from the floor. Election of the Directors shall be by printed or mimeographed ballot. The ballots shall list the candidates selected at the District Meetings, the names to be arranged by districts. A candidate nominated from the floor of the meeting may be voted for by writing in the name of the official candidate of the particular district. Each Member of the Cooperative present at the meeting in person or by proxy shall be entitled to vote for one candidate from each district. The candidate from each district receiving the highest number of votes at the meeting shall be considered elected as Director.

**Article IV, Section 4.6: Director Terms.** A Director's term is three (3) years (“Director Term”). The Cooperative shall stagger Director Terms by dividing the total number of authorized Directors into groups of approximately equal number and members will annually elect an approximately equal number of Directors. Decreasing the number of Directors or length of Director Terms may not shorten an incumbent Director's Director Term. Despite the expiration of a Director Term, the Director continues to serve until a new Director is elected, or until the number of Directors is decreased. Unless otherwise provided in these Bylaws, the Director Term of a Director filling a vacant Director's position is the remaining unexpired Director Term of the vacant Director's position.

# Unclaimed Capital Gains

In accordance with Section 7.4 of the bylaws of BARC Electric Cooperative, notice is hereby provided that BARC is making payment available to members for certain previously allocated and/or retired capital credits. Current active members will get a credit on their bill during the month of June for these capital credits.

The following inactive members are required to contact our office to claim these capital credits. Checks will only be issued to inactive members who verify their identity and provide a physical mailing address. Our desire is to make sure every eligible member gets their share of this refund. Please call Member Services at 800-846-2272 with questions or to submit a claim.

AGNOR SADIE A  
BECK AVENT C  
BISHOP REALTY COMPANY  
BURCH BEVERLY A  
FITZGERALD MAVIS C  
GIVENS DANIELLE N  
GORDON BRIA  
HAMM JESSICA K  
HAROLD RANDOLPH W II  
HART ROBERT J  
HAYNES PATRICIA D  
HINTY CHARLES T  
JOHNSON JACKIE L  
KEENER JANICE T  
KEYSER HAROLD W SR  
KNICK CALVIN E  
LAPRADE SUZANNE T  
LEE WALTER J IV  
LEWIS CHRISTINA M  
MCKEMY WILLIAM L JR  
MESNER BRANDI P  
OPPENHEIM ARNOLD R  
O'SHAUGHNESSEY PETER  
PANTAZE ADAM T R  
PRIMOZIC KATHY A  
QUICK KELSEY R  
ROYAL ELK PARK MANAGEMENT INC  
SHKRLAC VIRGINIA C  
SMITH LINCOLN J  
SODOLSKI JOHN  
STEINBRENNER BARBARA B  
VESS DUSTY  
WAGNER HARPER R  
WALLACE EUGENE W  
WEAVER JAMES E/RUTH H

# BARC Communities

## 4-H Camp Supports Bath and Highland Youth

Junior 4-H Camp is a summer camp program designed for young people who are interested in learning new skills, making friends, and having fun in a safe and supportive environment. Participants typically engage in a variety of activities, including outdoor adventures, arts and crafts, sports and team-building exercises. They may also learn about nature, wildlife and conservation, as well as develop other life skills. The programs are led by trained counselors who provide guidance and support to campers, and help create a positive and inclusive atmosphere.



Youth from Bath and Highland counties have been attending Junior 4-H Camp at the W.E. Skelton 4-H Center in Wirtz, Va., since the center first opened in 1966. In those 56 years, local youth have discovered new interests, made new friends from different parts of the state, developed leadership skills, and had rewarding summer experiences away from home. This year campers will return to the camping center the week of July 10-14 with youth from Alleghany, Augusta, Bath, Highland and Rockingham counties.

The true cost of camp for 2023 is approximately \$395 per camper. Bath and Highland 4-H award scholarships to youth with financial needs and opportunities for discounts (including club members and returning campers). We are always seeking support in the form of scholarships and sponsorship to help reduce the cost of camp for local youth. In addition to helping to reduce the cost of camp for local youth, sponsorships also help to subsidize expenses, such as bus transportation to and from the camping center, teen training, as well as program and class materials, to keep the overall cost of 4-H Camp as low as possible. If you are interested in helping support local youth attend Junior 4-H Camp through a scholarship or sponsorship opportunity, please contact Ben Hindman, Bath and Highland's Associate Extension Agent for 4-H & Youth Development. Hindman can be reached by email at [benjaminh@vt.edu](mailto:benjaminh@vt.edu) or by phone at the Bath Extension office at 540-839-7261 or the Highland Extension office at 540-468-2225.

## Stay Connected with Your Co-op on Social Media

*BARC Connects is now on Facebook*



@BARCConnects

@BARCElectricCooperative



## Congratulations!

On April 21, BARC Connects fiber technician David Hamilton (third from left) and four other young men proudly accepted certificates of completion on their final day of the inaugural class of the Fiber Technician Apprenticeship Program.

This was a joint effort among the Fiber Broadband Association, S&N Communications and the Virginia, Maryland & Delaware Association of Electric Cooperatives.



**YOUR LIFE IS CONNECTED,  
MAKE SURE IT'S  
PROTECTED**



## BARC Connects Smart Home Solutions

Protection means peace of mind.\*

**PROTECTIQ** - Protect your network. You have locks on your doors and windows, why not your network?

- Protect ALL devices on your network and lock out the predators
- Receive alerts when cyber criminals attempt to access your network
- Block data from thousands of malicious sites and protect your entire network

*\*Add for \$5 per month. Must have a Gigaspire device and basic package of 100/50 or higher to add feature.*

**EXPERIENCEIQ** - Enhanced parental controls. Set your boundaries and let us help you keep them.

- App and website filtering of specific content you control
- Safely enforce screen time usage, with time limits you manage
- See accessed content and usage and know where your children spend their time online

*\*Add for \$5 per month. Must have a Gigaspire device and basic package of 100/50 or higher to add feature.*



Visit our Home Solutions page at [barcconnects.net/smart-home-solutions](http://barcconnects.net/smart-home-solutions)  
Or contact us at 800-846-2272 today



## Connecting a Portable Generator is now Safe and Easy with GenerLink™

- The GenerLink™ is a UL-listed transfer switch
- Comes with a 20-foot cord
- Works with generators from 4.4kW up to 10kW
- No back-feeding of the utility lines
- Must be purchased & installed through  
BARC Electric Cooperative
- Made in the USA



For more information, visit [barcelectric.com/generlink](http://barcelectric.com/generlink) or call 800-846-2272