



A Telecommunications Provider

# THE BUZZ

## MERGER VOTE PASSES!



During a special meeting held on October 30, 2008, members of Surry Telephone Membership Corp. and members of Piedmont Telephone Membership Corp.

voted to merge the two cooperatives.

Surry Telephone Membership Corporation has managed Piedmont Telephone Membership Corporation, under an agreement between the two Boards, since April 1, 2005.

The management and boards of directors of the two companies met this summer to discuss merging the Cooperatives. After much deliberation, the directors of both Cooperatives unanimously approved a resolution recommending the merger.

Informational meetings were held for members of Surry Telephone Cooperative on October 28, 2008 at 7:00 and members of Piedmont Telephone Cooperative on October 23, 2008 at 7:00. The Board of Directors and staff attended each meeting to discuss the proposed merger, its benefits and answer questions that members may have concerning the merger.

Special meetings to vote on the merger were held simultaneously at Surry Community College in Dobson and Tyro Middle School in Davidson County on October 30, 2008. Members of each cooperative voted to merge the two cooperatives.

Piedmont Telephone Membership Corporation has experienced difficulty operating at a profitable level in recent years. In addition, Surry Telephone is always seeking ways to increase efficiencies, keep costs under control by sharing resources, as well as partnering with similarly operated telephone cooperatives or companies

to make state of the art communications services available to all of its members. Surry has successfully provided management service to Piedmont for the last three years that has been mutually beneficial to both cooperatives. The elimination of work duplication and improved service levels will enhance the success currently being experienced.

Projections indicate merging the coops will save \$250,000 in annual operating costs beginning year three of the merger.

"This was truly a joint effort of two Cooperatives, Boards, and Staffs working to bring efficiency to today's operations while focusing on future challenges of providing modern products and services to the membership," stated Michael W. Stanley, General Manager.

New Board members consist of: Bruce A. Younger-President, Gilmer Ray Jessup -Vice President, Gary L. Brown-Secretary, M. Joe Atkins, Imogene (Jean) Hardy, Joseph (Billy) W. Pratt, Sam L. Snyder and Barbara W.Wood.



### MERGED COMPANY BOARD MEMBERS



Bruce A. Young



Gilmer Ray Jessup



Gary L. Brown



M. Joe Atkins



Imogene (Jean) Hardy



Joseph (Billy) W. Pratt



Sam L. Snyder



Barbara W. Wood

## HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

Surry Telephone's Business Offices

Will Be Closed

December 25 in observance of the Christmas Holidays!

### IT'S EASIER THAN EVER TO PAY YOUR BILL!



Bank Draft or Credit Card



Payment Box



Mail



Drive Thru



Online  
www.surry.net

Surry Telephone Membership Corp. offers online bill payment with your Visa or Mastercard. Visit [www.surry.net](http://www.surry.net) to use this free, convenient feature. Save postage costs, pay online.

# NOMINATING COMMITTEE ELECTED

At a meeting of the Board of Directors of Surry Telephone Membership Corp. held in September, 2008, the following members of the Corporation were appointed to serve on a Nominating Committee to nominate candidates for directors:

## Exchange

Beulah  
Level Cross  
Red Brush  
Shoals  
Westfield  
Zephyr  
At Large

## Member

Billy Ray Hodge  
Joe Riddle  
Jimmy Draughn  
Van Tucker  
Fred E. Venable  
Bill Smith  
Clarence Cropps, Jr.

The Nominating Committee will nominate at least one member as a candidate to serve a three year term from the Shoals Exchange and Beulah Exchange.

The Committee will meet on Monday, January 5, 2009 at 7:30 at the headquarters building located at 819 East Atkins Street, Dobson, NC 27017.

The list of nominations for directors will be posted at the headquarters business office in Dobson.



# In Memory of Harold Harbour Layne

Harold H. Layne, Board of Director member for Surry Telephone Membership Corp., passed away October 25, 2008 at Forsyth Medical Center with his loving family by his bedside. He was born May 28, 1929 to the late Festus Elhannan and Alma Harbour Layne. Mr. Layne was a retired farmer and served on the board of Directors for Surry Telephone for 30 years.

He was a dedicated member of Double Creek Church of Christ and a veteran of the United States Army having served our country in the Korean War where he earned a Purple Heart among other medals. He was a Mason with the Copeland Masonic Lodge #390 and charter member of the Order of the Eastern Star #22.

Surry Telephone employees and Board of Directors wish to express our deepest sympathy to Harold's family and many friends.

## JUST JOKING!

(For the Kids)



**What do  
snowmen  
wear on their  
heads?**

If your child would like to submit a joke to be printed please e-mail your joke to [msenter@surry.net](mailto:msenter@surry.net)

A. Ice Caps

## Pumpkin Bread

- 1 (15 ounce) can pumpkin puree
- 4 eggs
- 1 cup vegetable oil
- 2/3 cup water
- 3 cups white sugar
- 3 1/2 cups all-purpose flour

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Grease and flour three 7x3 inch loaf pans. In a large bowl, mix together pumpkin puree, eggs, oil, water and sugar until well blended. In a separate bowl, whisk together the flour, baking soda, salt, cinnamon, nutmeg, cloves and ginger. Stir the dry ingredients into the pumpkin mixture until just blended. Pour into the prepared pans. Bake for about 50 minutes in the preheated oven. Loaves are done when toothpick inserted in center comes out clean.

## RECIPE OF THE MONTH

- 2 teaspoons baking soda
- 1 1/2 teaspoons salt
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1 teaspoon ground nutmeg
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cloves
- 1/4 teaspoon ground ginger

## WELCOME TO OUR NEW CUSTOMERS

### BEULAH EXCHANGE

Adame, Santana C. 352-3027  
Bobbitt, Keith 352-3600  
Chavez, Lucia O. 352-3732  
Gullion, Brian 352-4900  
Prette, Kellen 352-3651  
Wilmoth, Vicky 352-3495

### DOBSON EXCHANGE

Dollyhigh, Ellen 356-2326  
Stubbs, Todd 356-2278

### LEVEL CROSS EXCHANGE

Atkins, William S. 374-3081  
Clark, Linda 374-2907  
Lawson, JoAnn 374-3238  
LeBlanc, Joshua 374-3096  
Martin, June A. 374-3400  
Martinez, Pedro 374-4751  
Snow, Elizabeth 374-3033

### RED BRUSH EXCHANGE

Johnson, Priscilla W. 320-2987

### SHOALS EXCHANGE

Miller, Linda S. 325-3234  
Perkins, Jimmy L. II 325-3035

### WESTFIELD EXCHANGE

Aguilar, Mark 351-4079  
Beasley, Amber 351-2752  
Blackmon, Krystle 351-2237  
Deanda-Orduna, Juan 351-5051  
Edmonds, Ronald 351-3545  
Eleew, Gail 351-4659  
Evans, Elaine L. 351-0881  
Gammons, Timothy D. 351-4295

Hill, Ted 351-2626  
Jackson, Crystal 351-3600  
Jackson, Ted 351-2670  
Martin, Dean 351-3450  
Morgan, Robert 351-3869  
Nunn, Matthew G. 351-5171  
Oakley, Nikki 351-3195  
Otto, Dana D. 351-4260  
Strickland, Kim E. 351-1131  
Vaden, Jayson Blake 351-3776  
Wells, Micheal S. 351-4387  
Wilkins, Patrick H. 351-4398

### ZEPHYR EXCHANGE

Chavez, April T. 366-3439  
Hiatt, Elizabeth 366-2928  
Mitchell, Brandi 366-2801  
Scott, Brandon M. 366-3085  
Unsworth, Alan 366-3458