

watts working

The Monthly Newsletter for Members of Randolph Electric Membership Corporation

Board Elects New Officers

Following the 73rd Annual Meeting of the Membership on June 17, Randolph EMC's Board of Directors elected Bob Wright to serve as President and Jerry Bowman to serve as Vice President after Director Steve Harris stepped down from his role as President.

Mr. Wright has been a member of the board since 1987, representing directorate district two. He has served as vice president for the past nine years and previously held the office of president from 1994 to 1995.

Jerry Bowman has been a member of the REMC Board for 18 years, serving as Assistant Secretary/Treasurer for the past nine years. He represents directorate district four.

Sue Spencer, representing directorate district six was elected Secretary/Treasurer. She has been a board member since 2003. Tammie Phillips, district seven director, will be the new Assistant Secretary/Treasurer. She was recently re-elected to the board in her third year of service.

Outgoing board president Steve Harris will remain a member of the board, representing



Bob Wright
President



Jerry Bowman
Vice President



Sue Spencer
Secretary/Treasurer



Tammie Phillips
Asst. Secretary/Treasurer

district nine. Harris said, "I appreciate the opportunity to serve as the membership's board president for the past nine years. You have eight other very capable people that serve on this board, and I believe one of them deserves the chance to serve in this capacity."



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Capital Credits Allocated for 2010

Capital credits are one of the core differences between investor-owned utilities and co-ops. Because members enjoy ownership of the company, each year they receive a share of the co-op's net margins—the amount of money that is left over after paying all expenses for the year. The cooperative refers to these shares as Capital Credits.

Randolph EMC's net margins totaled \$2,115,659 at the close of 2010. This amount has been disbursed among the Capital Credit accounts of members who had an active electric account during the year. Each member's share is based on how much electricity the member purchased and the rate at which the electric account was billed.

Remember, this is 2010's allocation. You will not receive a check for this amount at this time and this is not the amount of the capital credits retirement check you may have received in June.

CALCULATE YOUR ALLOCATION

- 1** Add together all of the energy-related charges from each monthly electric bill you received in 2010.
- 2** Add together the totals from each month's bill obtained in Step 1 to find the total for the year.
- 3** Multiply this total by 0.0351. This will give you the Capital Credits amount allocated to your account for 2010.

SWAPSHOP

For Sale

Maple dining table, 88" long w/ two 14" leaves & 6 chairs, \$50. New 32" storm door, \$50. 910-464-0077.

Little Wonder Blower, 3-wheel, 9 HP Honda. Like new. \$950. 336-362-3342.

50 lb bag feed wheat \$8.50 per bag. 336-622-2480.

86 acres, northern Moore Co., Sheffield Township, road frontage, surveyed. 336-685-0722 or 336-879-5653.

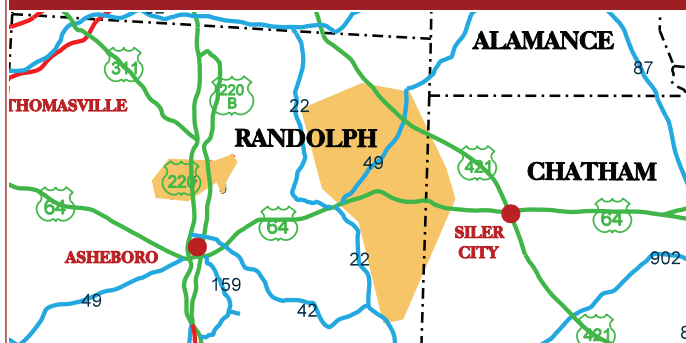
3,000 Red Sex Link pullets, brown egg layers, vaccinated and debeaked, \$5.95 and up. 336-708-2998.

Organic square bales of horse quality hay, no herbicides or chemical fertilizers, fescue & coastal bermuda, & fescue & orchard, for pricing that includes out of field, delivery, and in barn, 2.95/bale & up. 336-317-4105.

100' Spot fishing net, used once \$175. 336-879-8294 or 336-460-1075.

Members, email Swap Shop items to General@RandolphEMC.com

AUGUST SMART METER INSTALLATIONS



Randolph EMC crews will be installing smart meters in the highlighted areas of Randolph & Chatham counties during August.

CONTACT US

Electric Service:

Asheboro(336) 625-5177
(800) 672-8212
 Robbins Area:(910) 948-3401
(800) 868-7014

Power Failures:(877) REMC-OFF
(1-877-736-2633)

Bill Payments:(877) 534-2319

Board of Directors:

Bob WrightPresident
 Jerry BowmanVice President
 Sue SpencerSec.-Treasurer
 Tammie PhillipsAssist. Sec.-Treasurer
 James Andrews Paul Hurley
 Delbert Cranford Larry Routh
 Steve Harris

Senior Staff:

Dale F. LambertChief Executive Officer
 Bob PhillipsSenior Vice President & Chief Operating Officer
 Jay AlbrightDistrict Vice President
 Ron GunnellVice President of Engineering
 Adam HargettVice President of Finance
 Dennis MabeVice President of Operations
 Fred SmithVice President of Member & Public Relations

Office Hours:

8:00 am – 5:00 pm | Monday–Friday

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Jill VannessPublic Relations Coordinator, Editor

Set It & Forget It



Programmable thermostats offer a lot of value by maximizing energy savings without sacrificing comfort. Best of all, they can be tailored to match a family's schedule.

A programmable thermostat is one of the quickest, easiest and most inexpensive ways to save on energy bills year-round. The average household in central North Carolina spends more than \$1,200 in heating and cooling costs. Programmable thermostats are a smart investment because they can reduce energy costs by as much as 15 percent, or about \$180 annually.

Using a programmable thermostat is like putting your house on "cruise control." By using preprogrammed settings that regulate the home's temperature during the night and while your home is unoccupied, you'll save energy and money while still maintaining overall comfort.

Get the most out of your programmable thermostat:

- Look for the ENERGY STAR label when buying a new thermostat.
- Use the pre-programmed settings to maximize energy savings.
- Have the thermostat installed correctly using a certified HVAC contractor.

Learn more about buying and setting a programmable thermostat at TogetherWeSave.com.



I DON'T LEAVE THE TV ON FOR THE COFFEE TABLE. WHY COOL AN EMPTY HOUSE?

Programming my thermostat to a higher temperature while I'm at work during the day saves me money. What can you do? Find out how the little changes add up at

TOGETHERWESAVE.COM

Do You Qualify for Medical Alert Status?

Q My elderly mother resides with me and uses life-sustaining equipment powered by electricity. How can we receive top priority in an outage?

A If you or someone at your location uses life-sustaining equipment powered by electricity, you may qualify for placement on our "medical alert" list. Your account will be coded to make our service technicians aware of your situation. We will notify you before any scheduled outages (for maintenance or repair). And, during unexpected outages, you'll receive high priority as we restore power.

Contact a Customer Service Representative to receive an application form, which requires documentation from your physician to support your medical need.

Once we code your account as critical, please let us know any changes to your phone number, mailing address, physical address or e-mail address so we can update your information in our systems.



Remember—unexpected outages (due to weather, animals on the lines, etc.) mean that we can't guarantee continuous electric service, even for members with critical care status. You should make arrangements to have a backup power source for this equipment.

Randolph EMC Celebrates 73 Years

“Together We Save” was the theme as more than than 1,200 people crowded the Southwest Randolph High School gymnasium for Randolph EMC’s 73rd Annual Meeting, held on June 17. Nearly 590 REMC members registered at the meeting for their chance to win one of several door prizes and to receive parting gifts that included a bucket and 18 compact fluorescent light bulbs.

Members enjoyed free homemade ice cream, energy-related informational booths, live gospel music by The Callicutt Family, and a children’s program by the N.C. Zoo. The event also included Line Superintendent Mike Hodges’ account of REMC crews’ recent trip to Alabama to help restore power to cooperative members affected by the tornadoes there.

The short business meeting provided various annual reports, re-election of all three incumbent directors, Bob Wright (District 2), Jerry Bowman (District 4), and Tammie Phillips (District 7). Director Steve Harris stepped down from his position as President after serving nine years in that role.

Chief Executive Officer Dale Lambert also addressed the membership, reporting the cooperative’s plans to deliver more value-added services to members and its commitment to energy efficiency, conservation and safety.

Thanks to all of the members who attended the annual meeting to take part in your cooperative!



Help Randolph EMC Curb Copper Crooks



Soaring metal prices have been blamed for an increase in thefts of copper and aluminum, primary components of electric distribution lines. Copper in wire is appealing to thieves who want to sell the metal for scrap, and the cooperative has recently been the victim of numerous crimes related to copper theft. Burglars have severed copper ground wires in substations and from distribution poles and have damaged transformers and other structures, resulting in power outages, diminished service reliability and increased costs.

“To a would-be thief, stealing copper may seem like a quick way to make a buck,” says Aubin Reynolds, System Planning Engineer. “But it’s illegal and it’s not worth a life. Working with any metal and electricity is a dangerous combination, even for trained employees using proper equipment.”

“Public safety is the cooperative’s main concern. Thieves may not understand that they are risking their lives by taking copper from substations, where high transmission voltage is stepped down to a lower voltage for distribution lines. All power lines carry a potentially deadly charge,” Reynolds adds.

THE COSTS OF COPPER THEFT

In addition, when the lines are not properly grounded, we are at risk for lightning damage to our equipment and members homes. Reynolds says, “We rely on a good ground system to provide reliable and safe electricity to our members. Without it, our equipment on the line and in the substation may not clear faults that occur during outage situations like it is designed to.”

Aside from being extremely dangerous, theft and damages are extremely costly for the membership. The equipment and structures that make up our the electric system are expensive and damages cost thousands of dollars to repair.

Randolph EMC offers the following guidelines to guard against electrical dangers and prevent copper theft.

- Never enter or touch equipment inside a substation; stay away from power lines and anything touching a power line.
- If you notice anything unusual with electric facilities, such as an open substation gate, open equipment, or hanging wire, contact the co-op immediately.
- Install motion-sensor lights on the outside of your house and business to deter possible thieves.
- Store tools and wire cutters in a secure location, and never leave them out while you are away.
- If you work in construction, do not leave any wires or plumbing unattended or leave loose wire at the job site, especially overnight.
- Help spread the word about the deadly consequences that can result from trying to steal copper or aluminum.

As a member-owner of Randolph EMC, the costs associated with theft directly affect you. Keep a look-out for suspicious vehicles in or around substations, as well as vehicles parked near distribution poles along the side of the road. If you notice anything unusual or see anyone other than co-op personnel around substations or other electric facilities, call the police or Randolph EMC at 800.672.8212.

SWRHS Teacher John Weeks Spends Five Days in the Co-op World

Each year, Randolph EMC hosts an educator for one week as part of the Asheboro/ Randolph Chamber of Commerce's Summer Teacher Internship Program. This year, the co-op welcomed Mr. John Weeks, JROTC director at Southwestern Randolph High School as our guest.

Mr. Weeks spent five days learning the inner-workings of the electric cooperative business. Over the course of the week, he spent time with customer service representatives, billing specialists, engineers, GIS technicians, energy use advisors and communications specialists. With each employee he visited, he inquired about their educational background so that he could gain a better understanding of what skills the business is looking for in a potential employee.



REMC's overhead line crew welcomed Mr. Weeks' help when he spent the day with them. He fell right in like a regular member of the team, lending a hand to help remove old poles and set new ones, as seen in the pictures above.

Thank you, Mr. Weeks, for participating in the Chamber's Teacher Internship program!



Mrs. Pat Buck, a first-grade teacher at Charles McCrary Elementary School in Asheboro was awarded a grant for her outdoor classroom idea. This project was a favorite among judges because the entire school can utilize this outdoor space.

In the picture above, McCrary first-graders celebrate the first purchase with the grant money—sturdy blue picnic tables that seat an entire class.



The early-bird deadline for the 2011 Bright Ideas grant program is quickly approaching!

All grant applications submitted by August 15 will be entered into a drawing for a \$500 Visa gift card.

The final deadline is September 23. Visit www.NCBrightIdeas.com to apply online!*

**Applications must be submitted electronically via the Bright Ideas website be considered for grant funds.*



Stake Energy Vampires with Smart Strips



In an average home, 5 percent to 8 percent of electric use stems from “energy vampires”— devices that use power even when turned off. Smart power strips help you unplug energy-draining devices when not in use easily.

There are typically three different types of outlets on a smart strip:



The blue outlet serves as a control plug (ideal for a TV or computer).



Devices plugged into red outlets stay on—electricity to these receptacles never cuts off, making them perfect for satellite boxes and other items that need constant power.



Remaining outlets, often green or neutral in color, are sensitive to current flowing through the blue outlet. Turning off a device plugged into the blue outlet cuts power to items connected to these outlets.

Smart strips are available online or at specialty electronic retailers and generally cost \$20 or more depending on their size.

Source: Cooperative Research Network, Bits Ltd.



Enjoy Peace of Mind at Bill-Pay Time

BANK DRAFT

The easiest way to pay your bill each month is to enroll in Randolph EMC’s Bank Draft program. This free service will automatically deduct your payment from your checking or savings account on the due date each month. You save time and postage, and best of all, you enjoy the peace of mind that comes with knowing that your bill is always paid on time!

BUDGET BILLING

Take one step further and sign up for Budget Billing. With this program, you’ll always know how much your bill will be, even in the peak seasons of summer and winter. Budget billing provides a consistent monthly payment for 11 months by averaging your electric bill totals from the previous year. In the 12th month, you pay the difference if you’ve used more electricity than you’ve paid for or if you’ve overpaid, we’ll pay you. It’s that simple!

Contact your local REMC office to sign up for one or both of these programs today!

a word about Randolph Electric

by Dale Lambert



It's Hurricane Season—Take Precautions Now

Dear Members,

Well, it is that time of the year again. The official start of the Atlantic hurricane season began on June 1st, and the experts predict a “very active” hurricane season for 2011.

The experts that are relied on each year to provide the seasonal tropical forecast is a team from Colorado State University directed by William Gray. This is the 29th year they have made these predictions, using forecast techniques that integrate a variety of climate and oceanic information that has been gathered through the years.

Their prediction is that sixteen named storms will form, resulting in nine hurricanes. They also project that five will attain major hurricane category status of three, four or five. With numbers like that, it seems that North Carolina may be in for an interesting year, after a few years of relative calm hurricane activity. The last major hurricane to affect our area with extensive damage was Fran in 1996, which, for many, has been long forgotten.

As I noted in last month's AWARE column, your line personnel have already been very active in helping other cooperatives recover from tornadoes and severe thunderstorms. With those thoughts in mind, I do not want our members to ignore making the necessary preparations for a major hurricane to hit our area. If one does strike, power may be out for several days as we rebuild our system.

MAKE PREPARATIONS BEFORE THE STORM

I will never forget the call I received from a member around 3:00 a.m. on the first night of the major ice storm that hit our area in January 2002. On this very cold morning, this member had not prepared an alternative heat source for his family, and had not even prepared a way to heat the bottle for his little baby. He wanted us to drop the coordinated storm plan we had in place and “come to his house” to get

“his” power back on. If we took that approach, it would take twice as long to fully restore power after a storm!

Through the years, Randolph EMC has proven numerous times that we are committed to providing the quickest outage restoration possible to the total membership. Rest assured, we will continue to maintain and even improve on that standard.

Taking simple precautions and being properly prepared makes the possibility of a prolonged outage more bearable. Here are a few suggestions for how to make preparations before a hurricane or major storm arrives.

- Keep several flashlights and a portable battery-operated radio with extra batteries.
- Have a First Aid Kit readily available.
- Have a sufficient supply of non perishable food and drinking water and essential medications.
- Make plans early for the needs of elderly or handicapped family members and pets.
- Have enough cash on hand for a few days and gas up your car.

Additional information can be obtained from your local emergency management office, your local American Red Cross, or at www.RandolphEMC.com. Please remember—always stay away and keep others away from downed power lines.

I commit to you that Randolph EMC will be as prepared as possible in the event a major hurricane comes our way this year. I ask you take these suggestions to heart to help you and your family “weather the storm” together.

Cooperatively Yours,

Dale F. Lambert
Chief Executive Officer