

The Monthly Newsletter for Members of Randolph Electric Membership Corporation

\$10,000 Awarded for Bright Ideas



Each year, Randolph Electric Membership Corp. celebrates innovation in education by awarding \$10,000 in Bright Ideas education grants.

“We’re thrilled to award eight Bright Ideas grants this year,” said Jill Vanness, Director of Communications for Randolph Electric. “These dedicated educators’ creative projects will no doubt help students reach their full potential and spark higher interest in learning for years to come.”

Bright Ideas education grants, sponsored by REMC and North Carolina’s electric cooperatives, are available to Tar Heel teachers for innovative, hands-on, classroom projects that would not otherwise be funded.

“Randolph EMC is committed to bettering the communities we serve, and we believe there is no better way than through the education of our youth,” Vanness said.

Statewide, the electric co-ops are awarded more than \$620,000 in Bright Ideas grant funding to educators this school year.

Since the Bright Ideas grant program began in 1994, Randolph Electric has contributed \$180,000 to local teachers, and North Carolina’s Touchstone Energy cooperatives collectively have awarded more than \$7.9 million to teachers across the state. The Bright Ideas program has reached more than 1.4 million North Carolina students and sponsored more than 7,700 projects in all subjects including math, reading, science and technology, history, music and the arts.

Check out this year’s winners on the next two pages!

In 2013, Randolph Electric celebrates 75 years of service! Be sure to read each issue of *Watts Working* for details about special events throughout the year.

Randolph EMC offices will be closed Tuesday, **January 1**, for New Year’s.

Happy New Year!



Randolph Electric
Membership Corporation

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

in this issue

Bright Ideas Grant Winners	B
Conservation Corner	E
Dale Lambert’s AWARE Column F	

2012 Bright Ideas Winners



Mrs. Pam Brice
Eastern Randolph High School, \$400

"NOOKs for Learning" provides resources and educational opportunities for students by using a NOOK. Students will use apps and books downloaded to the NOOK for educational purposes to help them in areas of academic weaknesses.



Mrs. Sally Cagle Britt
Star-Biscoe Elementary School, \$1,000

"Using Digital Technology to Promote Reading" lets students share their thoughts and ideas about award-winning books on the school's web page. Students will post blogs and videos for other students to see in an effort to motivate them to read the books as well.



Mr. Josh Cvijanovic
Eastern Randolph High School, \$840

"SmartMusic" is a program that revolutionizes the way complete musicians are built. The program's many features include non-biased, instant assessment of student performance, practice assistance, sight reading, and singing exercises.



Mr. Michael Fleming
Asheboro High School, \$1,315

"Digital Renaissance — The Magic Drawing Board" provides software to increase students' technical skills in a Scientific Visualization class.

2012 Bright Ideas Winners

Mrs. Laura Heflin Farmer Elementary School, \$1,900

"Nutty for Netbooks" provides several netbooks to enhance language arts instruction, as well as motivate fifth graders to engage in literacy activities through various technology applications.



Mrs. Rausie Hobson Eastern Randolph High School, \$1,785

"Practice Produces Writing" utilizes four netbooks for English as a Second Language students to plan, compose and edit their own writing to improve their English language skills.



Mrs. Amy Kidd Providence Grove High School, \$1,860

"FFA Promotes Healthy Living" will develop an obstacle course/nature trail that will allow students from agriculture classes to learn about the trees around the school while also learning about physical fitness. This project will be used in conjunction with a program that reaches 300 elementary school students.



Mrs. Kaye Williams Randleman Middle School, \$900

"Freedom and Civil Rights" is a project that involves students reading novels in small groups and conducting research on various topics, events and individuals. Once students have completed their research, they construct a parade float and participate in a "Freedom Parade" at the end of the unit.



EMPLOYMENT POLICY

All applicants for employment shall be considered and hired on the basis of merit, without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age or disability. The employment practices shall insure equal treatment of all employees without discrimination in rates of pay or other opportunities for advancement because of the employee's race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age or disability.

STATEMENT OF NONDISCRIMINATION

Randolph Electric Membership Corporation is the recipient of Federal financial assistance from the Rural Utilities Service, an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and is subject to the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended; the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended; and the rules and regulations of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. In accordance with Federal law and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's policy, this organization is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, age or disability. The person responsible for coordinating this compliance is Olivia Simpson. To file a complaint of discrimination, write to:

USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights
 Room 362-W, Whitten Building
 1400 Independence Avenue, SW
 Washington, D.C. 20250-9410

or call 202.720.5964 (voice or TTD). Both USDA and Randolph Electric Membership Corporation are equal opportunity providers and employers.

REMC Directors James Andrews and Steve Harris Receive Professional Development Certificates



Randolph EMC Directors James Andrews and Steve Harris were recently recognized by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) for their efforts toward professional

development as an electric cooperative director.

Mr. Andrews was awarded his Board Leadership and Credentialed Cooperative Director Certificates and Mr. Harris obtained his Board Leadership Certificate.

Your Board places a great deal of importance on continuing education. Completing the NRECA's curriculum for these certificates shows that directors are committed to developing the competencies that will help them to be successful in the electric utility industry's competitive environment.



The Credentialed Cooperative Director (CCD) Certificate is awarded upon the successful completion of five courses that provide a broad range of knowledge and skills required of cooperative directors.

The Board Leadership Certificate is awarded when a director has earned a total of ten credits from courses designed to keep directors abreast of current issues and topics impacting directors in today's changing environment.

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 Billy Maness
 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

An Equal Opportunity Employer | M/F/V/H

Jill Vanness Director of Communications, Editor

Efficiency TV Guides

by Paul Caviness, Energy Use Advisor

According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration, 44 percent of American homes have three or more television sets, and each new set adds to a home's monthly energy bill.

To keep your electric bills in check, here are some tips to consider before buying a new television:

DISPLAY TACTICS

Three parts of a TV impact energy use: display technology, screen size, and resolution.

- Plasma screens often are cited as the largest energy user, typically drawing between 240 watts to 400 watts.
- LCD TVs don't need much power to operate—111 watts on average.
- LED units offer better picture quality and thinner and lighter screens. They also use slightly less energy, at 101 watts.

Remember—the larger the screen, and the better the quality, the more energy you'll drain.

ENERGY STAR BOOSTS RATINGS

ENERGY STAR TVs cut an estimated \$3.5 billion from consumer electric bills annually.

Standards are constantly ratcheting up since the program started in 1998. ENERGY STAR provides an online guide so potential buyers can find qualified televisions ranked by energy use, size, brand, and display type at www.energystar.gov.

LOOK FOR LABELS

The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) has recognized the need for education and easy comparisons for the amount of energy televisions consume. In 2011, a yellow Energy Guide label—a common sight on large appliances—became a requirement for TV.

The label compares the annual operating cost of a specific television to the plug-in cost of similar models. The label must be attached to the front of all televisions; websites selling televisions must also provide an image of the label for prospective buyers.

Sources: ENERGY STAR, Federal Trade Commission, Cooperative Research Network, CNET.com, Energy Information Administration



SWAPSHOP

For Sale

Pine wood bunk bed with steps at one end to bunk, drawers under steps & lower bunk, hardly used. Paid \$600 new, will take \$300. 336-376-6103.

2002 Dodge 1500 work Van. 45,000 actual miles, V-6, automatic, air, very clean. \$5,500 obo. 910-572-2667 or 910-572-7560.

Hand held portable nebulizer \$150. Assorted porcelain dolls—Indians, Angels, Country & Western \$35 each. Boys infant clothes size 0-12 months EC \$150 OBO. 919-663-4596.

1983 Cadillac Fleetwood Brougham \$1500. Handmade quilts, western books. 336-625-4548.

Guardian Ultra Source 12,500-Watt 26 HP Portable Generator 04451. Like new, less than 4 hours run time, only run for periodic maintenance, \$1,500. 336-301-3313.

Electric Organ \$50. Piano \$150. 336-629-6351.

Oak wood for winter, needs splitting, \$50 & up a load. 336-824-8445.

3,000 Red Sex Link pullets (16-18 week old chickens) laying-age, brown eggs, vaccinated & debeaked, \$6.50 & up, Liberty area. 336-708-2998.

Organic Square bales of horse-quality hay, fescue blend \$3.90 & up from barn. Quantity discounts. Also, second-quality mixed-grass hay, cattle, goats, mulch or horse hay, square bales, \$1.75/ bale, Liberty area. 336-317-4105.

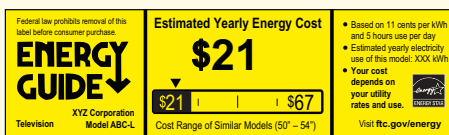
Little Wonder Blower, three wheel, 9 HP Honda. Like new. \$695. 336-362-3342.

50 lb bag feed wheat \$9 per bag. 336-622-2480.

For Rent

Two-bedroom mobile home five miles from Biscoe just off 24/27. \$450 per month. 910-571-1978

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



a word about Randolph Electric

by Dale Lambert



Understanding Basic Facilities

Dear Members,

In last month's column, we discussed the electric utility industry and the impact that changes within the wholesale generation market are having on retail rates. In looking at our wholesale power cost budget for 2013, the cost Randolph EMC pays for electricity has increased by 19 percent since 2007. Even though I consider this a substantial increase, the cost is lower than projections from a couple of years ago.

As noted last month, your cooperative has undertaken a Cost of Service and Rate Study to review revenues, expenses, plant cost, kilowatt-hour purchases and sales and the different types of rate classes we serve. These classes include residential, commercial, industrial and outdoor lighting. The residential, commercial and industrial classes have a common component that I would like to review this month—the Basic Facilities Charge.

WHAT IS THE BASIC FACILITIES CHARGE?

This component is included in every electric utility's rate schedules. Many other utilities—such as your home phone, cell phone, cable or satellite TV—include some sort of monthly charge to cover the cost of providing the service.

Randolph EMC's Basic Facilities Charge is designed to cover the cost of our power delivery system, which includes transmission lines, substations, the distribution lines, power poles and transformers. Everything it takes just to deliver the energy to your homes and businesses is considered our basic facilities. It also is

designed to cover any required maintenance on the system and the cost to restore power when the lights go out.

Our goal is to have the most reliable electric system possible. When you flip on that switch or plug in that appliance, we want to be sure that power is available for you. Randolph EMC has historically maintained a very reliable system and it takes a concerted effort to ensure this occurs.

Our budget to operate and maintain the electrical system for 2013 is \$7.2 million. There are 8,760 hours in a year. For the calendar year 2011, Randolph EMC kept the power flowing across the system 99.97 percent of the time. This translates to the members being out of power on average only 2 hours and 18 minutes for the entire year. Even though this is a small number, our goal is to reduce this time as much as possible.

Historically, electric utilities do not collect the full cost associated with basic facilities through the rate being charged. Much of the cost associated with having the system available to deliver kilowatt-hours when they are needed is collected in the energy portion of the bill. This is true for Randolph EMC as well.

The preliminary analysis from the recent rate study shows the actual cost for REMC's basic facilities being significantly higher than our current Basic Facilities Charge. As we review our current rate structures, your Board of Directors and management team are discussing slightly increasing the Basic Facility Charge to more fairly collect a portion of these fixed costs instead of collecting them through the kilowatt-hour usage.



75

Seventy five years ago, it was virtually impossible for people in rural areas to receive electric service at a reasonable cost. Investor-owned utilities simply did not believe it would be worth their time or money to string miles of line to sparsely settled areas.

AN EXAMPLE

Let me give you a personal example. I have two accounts with Randolph EMC. One is for my home and the other is for a meter at what we refer to as the “old place.” It’s a farm account for the place where my father was born and grew up. No one currently lives there, but I have a meter there just in case we need lights and for an electric fence. This is a very low kilowatt-hour usage account.

But my home account is much different. For the previous twelve months, we have averaged 2,401 kilowatt-hours per month. (I still have kids at home, OK?) I pay the same amount for the Basic Facilities Charge for both accounts, \$15.80. However, my home account is clearly subsidizing the farm account. The farm account is not using enough energy to pay its “fair share” of what it takes to deliver electricity to the house and fence, and the higher kilowatt-hour usage at my home is making up for it.

I wanted to provide you some information concerning the Basic Facilities Charge and reason it is in the rate schedules. As we continue to work through this rate review process, we will provide you with additional information concerning any changes that will impact you.

From your Board of Directors and employees, we wish you a happy, safe and prosperous New Year.

Cooperatively Yours,

Dale F. Lambert
Chief Executive Officer



When the Rural Electrification Act passed in 1936, though, folks in these rural areas were able to obtain low-interest loans from the federal government to electrify their homes and farms.

So it was in 1938 that Randolph Electric Membership Corporation was organized and chartered. Under guidance from the Rural Electrification Authority (REA), local leaders from Randolph, Moore, Montgomery, Chatham and Alamance counties scoured the countryside signing up members for the cooperative, securing right-of-way easements and otherwise organizing the business. With their perseverance, the cooperative built 300 miles of power lines to serve 1,040 members with an initial \$300,000 loan from the REA.

Ever since then, REMC has remained a local leader with the same commitment to providing reliable electricity to members. Thank you for allowing us to serve you for the last 75 years; we look forward to celebrating with you in 2013.



Keep Track of the Energy You Use

Monitor your monthly usage & cost of electric service. Be sure to read your meter on the same day each month.

Month	Date Read	Reading	kWh Used	Amount Bill	Date Paid
January					
February					
March					
April					
May					
June					
July					
August					
September					
October					
November					
December					
Totals					

2013 Billing Schedule

READING COMPLETE BY	1	Dec 28	Jan 29	Feb 26	Mar 28	Apr 26	May 28	Jun 28	Jul 26	Aug 28	Sep 27	Oct 29	Nov 27
	2	Jan 4	Feb 8	Mar 8	Apr 5	May 3	Jun 7	Jul 5	Aug 2	Sep 6	Oct 4	Nov 8	Dec 6
	3	Jan 11	Feb 15	Mar 15	Apr 12	May 10	Jun 14	Jul 12	Aug 9	Sep 13	Oct 11	Nov 15	Dec 13
	4	Jan 18	Feb 22	Mar 22	Apr 19	May 17	Jun 21	Jul 19	Aug 16	Sep 20	Oct 18	Nov 22	Dec 20
BILL IN MAIL BY	1	Jan 4	Feb 8	Mar 8	Apr 5	May 3	Jun 7	Jul 5	Aug 2	Sep 6	Oct 4	Nov 8	Dec 6
	2	Jan 11	Feb 15	Mar 15	Apr 12	May 10	Jun 14	Jul 12	Aug 9	Sep 13	Oct 11	Nov 15	Dec 13
	3	Jan 18	Feb 22	Mar 22	Apr 19	May 17	Jun 21	Jul 19	Aug 16	Sep 20	Oct 18	Nov 22	Dec 20
	4	Jan 25	Mar 1	Mar 28	Apr 26	May 24	Jun 28	Jul 26	Aug 23	Sep 27	Oct 25	Nov 27	Dec 27
PAST DUE DATE	1	Jan 28	Feb 28	Mar 28	Apr 28	May 28	Jun 28	Jul 28	Aug 28	Sep 28	Oct 28	Nov 28	Dec 28
	2	Feb 5	Mar 5	Apr 5	May 5	Jun 5	Jul 5	Aug 5	Sep 5	Oct 5	Nov 5	Dec 5	Jan 5
	3	Feb 12	Mar 12	Apr 12	May 12	Jun 12	Jul 12	Aug 12	Sep 12	Oct 12	Nov 12	Dec 12	Jan 12
	4	Feb 19	Mar 19	Apr 19	May 19	Jun 19	Jul 19	Aug 19	Sep 19	Oct 19	Nov 19	Dec 19	Jan 19
SUBJECT TO DISCONNECT	1	Feb 11	Mar 11	Apr 8	May 6	Jun 10	Jul 8	Aug 5	Sep 9	Oct 7	Nov 12	Dec 9	Jan 6
	2	Feb 18	Mar 18	Apr 15	May 13	Jun 17	Jul 15	Aug 12	Sep 16	Oct 14	Nov 18	Dec 16	Jan 13
	3	Feb 25	Mar 25	Apr 22	May 20	Jun 24	Jul 22	Aug 19	Sep 23	Oct 21	Nov 25	Dec 23	Jan 20
	4	Mar 4	Apr 1	Apr 29	May 28	Jul 1	Jul 29	Aug 26	Sep 30	Oct 28	Dec 2	Dec 30	Jan 27

AUTOMATIC DRAFT DATES

CYCLE 1 18th of month	CYCLE 2 25th of month	CYCLE 3 2nd of month	CYCLE 4 9th of month
---------------------------------	---------------------------------	--------------------------------	--------------------------------