JULY 2019

Watts Working

$2.5 Million in Capital Credits Returned to Members in June

Putting money back into members' pockets with capital credits is just one unique difference that sets Randolph EMC apart from investor-owned utilities. This year, the Randolph EMC Board of Directors authorized a general retirement of $2.5 million, with this year's estate retirements estimated at $600,000. That's a total of more than $3 million that's flowing back to our members and into the local economy in the five counties we serve.

This retirement will return 86 percent of the remaining patronage capital from 1994's remaining allocation, and 24 percent of 2018's capital credits allocation.

As a cooperative business, Randolph EMC doesn't earn profits. Instead, any revenues remaining after all expenses have been paid each year are considered "margins." They are returned to the members after being used for a period of years as capital to help finance major long-term reliability projects, including substations and power lines and poles.

Each year, the Board of Directors decides on a capital credit retirement based on the financial health of the cooperative. The amount of capital credits allocated to a member's account is based upon the amount of capital they contribute to the cooperative through payment of their monthly bills. The more electricity a member buys, the greater their capital credit allocation. Capital credits are allocated on

a continuous cycle: the cooperative collects for current needs to deliver reliable electricity while returning funds collected in previous years. This helps offset the need to borrow funds, thereby helping keep your electricity rates lower.

Capital credit checks were mailed out to members in early June, however, if the refund amount was less than $20, it was issued as a bill credit. You can help us find former members who may have an outstanding capital credits check by visiting RandolphEMC.com/UCC. If you recognize a name on the list, please ask that person to call the local Randolph EMC office to update their contact information.

A newsletter for the member-owners of Randolph EMC

Educators:

Apply Early for a Bright Ideas Grant and You Could Win $100

It pays to apply early for a Bright Ideas education grant! Teachers who submit their grant application by the Aug. 15 early bird deadline will be entered into a statewide drawing to win one of five $100 gift cards.

The final deadline to apply for a Bright Ideas grant of $12,000 from Randolph EMC is Sept. 23.

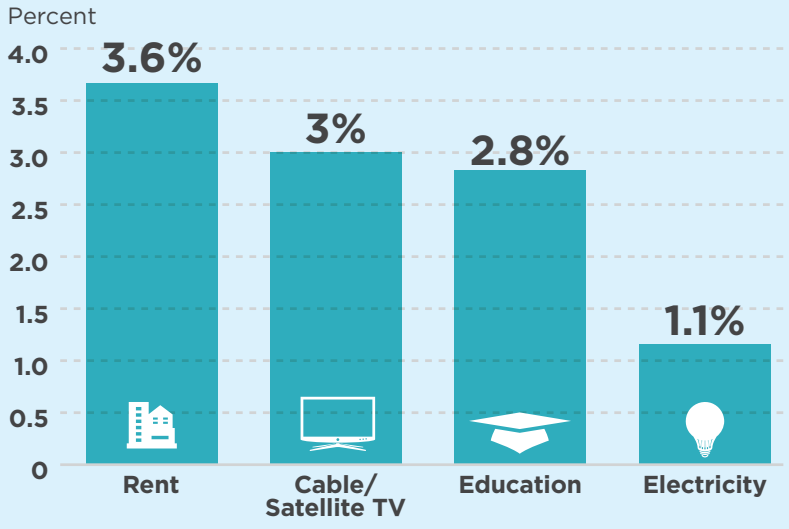
The Bright Ideas education grant program is celebrating 25 years of making creative, innovative projects possible in North Carolina K-12 classrooms. Since the program began in 1994, educators statewide have received more than $12.2 million in Bright Ideas grant funding for nearly 11,700 projects benefiting 2.3 million North Carolina students.

To learn more about the program and apply, visit NCBrightIdeas.com.

ELECTRICITY REMAINS A GOOD VALUE

The cost of powering your home rises slowly when compared to other common expenses. Looking at price increases over the last five years, it's easy to see electricity remains a good value!

Average Annual Price Increase 2013-2018



Sources: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics Consumer Price Index

AMERICA'S ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES

REMC offices will be closed **Thursday, July 4,** in observance of Independence Day.

NC Renewable Energy Charge Adjusted

The monthly NC Renewable Energy Charge was adjusted for each rate class in the following amounts, which became effective May 1, 2019:

Residential:	$ 0.64
Commercial:	$ 5.54
Industrial:	$ 13.27

Vacation or Staycation this Summer?

Save Energy (and Money) Either Way

Headed out of town? Use your time away to help cut home energy use:

- Give your AC and water heater a vacation, too. Set your thermostat to 85 degrees and turn your water heater down to the lowest setting to prevent them from working hard while you're not there. Smart and programmable thermostats can be set to automatically adjust the temperature setting when you are away. In addition, smart thermostats allow you to control the temperature in your home remotely.
- Turn off lights and unplug devices. Consider using a timer if you want to leave a light on for security at night, and a power strip that will turn off multiple items with a single switch.
- Monitor energy use while you're away. Don't forget you can monitor your home's energy use on the Randolph EMC Mobile App while you're out of town. If you notice a sudden spike it may signal a bigger issue, like a malfunctioning cooling system or water heater.

Staying at home? Here are some easy ways to save when it's hot outside:

- Resist cranking the AC. Set the thermostat as high as comfortably possible. The less difference between indoor and outdoor temperatures, the lower the amount of energy used for cooling. Keep exterior doors, windows and blinds closed, and interior doors and vents open, to reduce strain on your HVAC system.
- Watch the clock. Wait to use major appliances, especially those that generate heat like the clothes dryer and dishwasher, until the late evening, overnight or early morning hours to help your home stay cooler. As an added bonus, Randolph EMC offers a time-of-use rate, which allows you to pay a lower rate for energy you use during off-peak hours.
- Stay in the know about your energy use. Sign up for free high usage alerts that automatically notify you if your energy use exceeds a certain threshold, helping you avoid surprises on your bill. You can also monitor your energy use 24/7 on our Online Member Service Portal.

Go to **RandolphEMC.com** to learn more about the energy services mentioned above and to get additional tips to help you save energy this summer and year-round.

As Temps Rise, So Could Your Bill

Seasonal fluctuations in temperature can have a significant impact on electricity use.

In fact, just a few days of temperatures over 100 degrees can cause cooling systems to operate at maximum capacity, which you could see reflected in your bill. When the air conditioner needs to run longer to keep indoor air temperatures cooler, this additional electricity causes a higher bill.

Even high humidity levels without high temperatures during the summer can raise your electric bill if you set your thermostat to keep your home more comfortable with lower humidity. While our area is notorious for having high humidity and hot weather, your bills don't have to be notoriously high.

You can reduce the amount of electricity you use during the warmer months by raising the thermostat a few degrees. Setting the temperature at 78 degrees Fahrenheit could save you up to 8 percent on monthly cooling bills.

Also, use fans to move air and help you feel more comfortable while you are in a room. Keep in mind, though, that fans cool people, not rooms, so turn them off when you leave.

Loans for energy efficiency improvements available to members

Randolph EMC wants to help make energy efficiency improvements more affordable for our members.

We have partnered with ElecTel Cooperative Federal Credit Union to offer our members financing for a wide variety of home energy projects from HVAC systems, improved insulation to even solar panels and battery storage.

Qualified members can now borrow up to $35,000 ($5,000 for mobile homes) for up to 10 years at competitive interest rates.

Contact ElecTel at 800-849-5600 or visit electelccu.org for more information or to apply today!

Ravonda Hanes, Executive Assistant at Randolph EMC, was recently elected to the Electel Cooperative Federal Credit Union's Board of Directors.

Ravonda has been employed at Randolph EMC for 23 years and a volunteer ElecTel loan officer for 10 years. Ravonda resides in Asheboro with her husband, Greg.

Electel Credit Union is open to employees, directors, and officers of the electric and telephone cooperatives in North Carolina, Virginia, Maryland, Delaware, Tennessee and West Virginia, and to the members of Randolph EMC.

Ravonda looks forward to serving the members of ElecTel and urges everyone to check out ElecTel Credit Union and all it has to offer.

How an Air Conditioner Works:

Similar to how a refrigerator works, air conditioners transfer heat from a home's interior to the warm outside environment.

(A) Evaporator

Cooling coils remove heat and humidity from the air using refrigerant.

(B) Blower

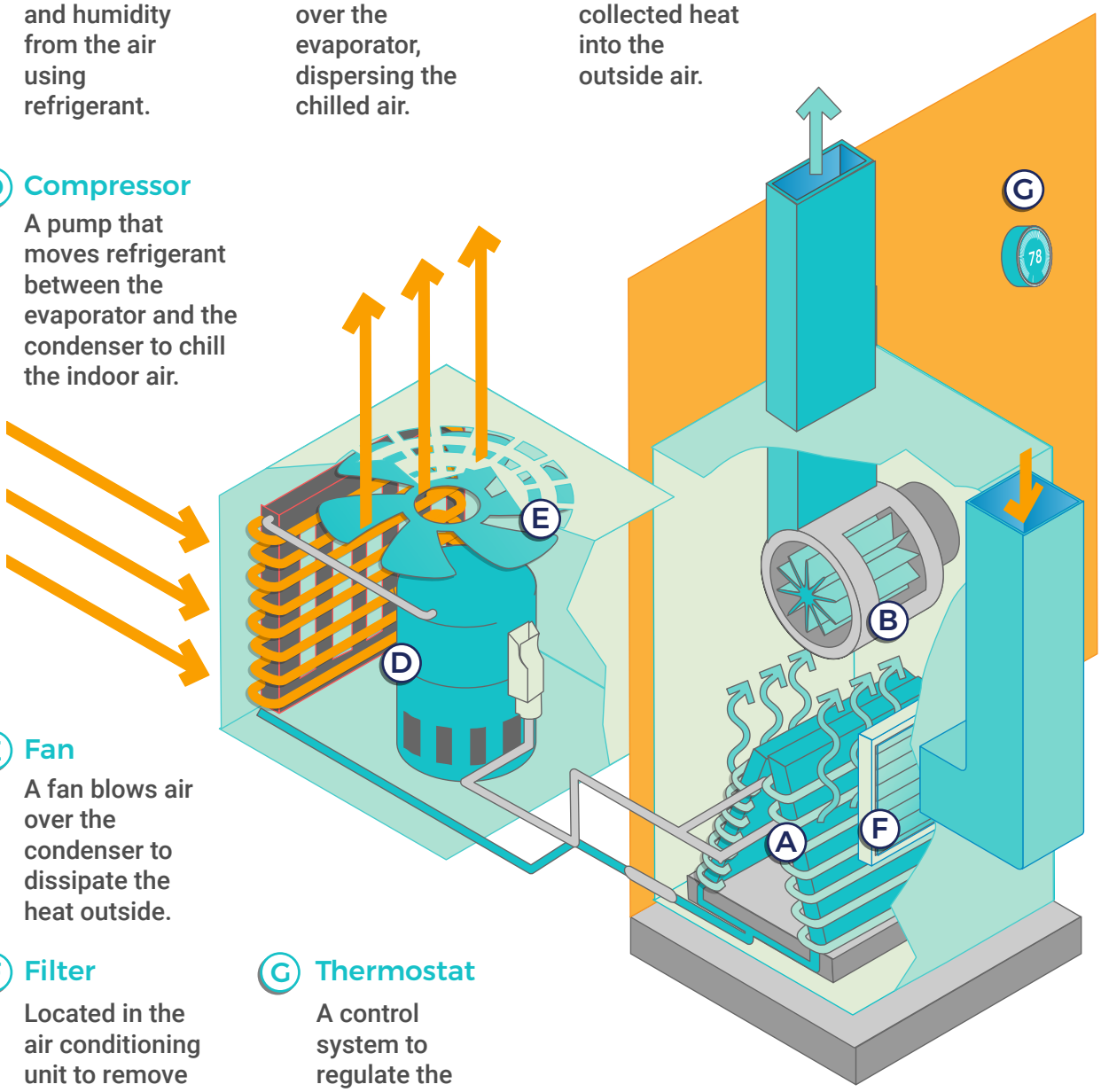
A blower (or fan) circulates air over the evaporator, dispersing the chilled air.

(C) Condenser

Hot coils release the collected heat into the outside air.

(D) Compressor

A pump that moves refrigerant between the evaporator and the condenser to chill the indoor air.



(E) Fan

A fan blows air over the condenser to dissipate the heat outside.

(F) Filter

Located in the air conditioning unit to remove particles from the air.

(G) Thermostat

A control system to regulate the amount of cool air that is distributed.

SOURCES: Energy Saver (www.energy.gov/energysaver), the Energy Department's Building Technologies Office (www.energy.gov/eere/buildings/building-technologies-office), ENERGY STAR (www.energystar.gov), Weatherization Assistance Program Technical Assistance Center (www.waptac.org)

A Word About Randolph Electric

From CEO Dale Lambert

REMC'S ROAD TO BOLIVIA

Dear Members,

Think of all the things you use every day that require electricity. From the time you wake up, until you go to bed, and even while you sleep, electricity powers your life in so many ways. Now, imagine life without it, not just during a power outage, but electricity being non-existent in your community or your home. This is unheard of in America, but in many other parts of the world, millions of people do not have access to electricity.

Two Randolph EMC linemen recently participated in a trip to the country of Bolivia in South America and brought electricity to homes that never had it before.

From April 27 through May 14, 13 lineworkers from seven N.C. electric cooperatives, including REMC, joined forces to bring first-time electricity — and new opportunities — to a remote village in Bolivia thanks to the Brighter World Initiative. The Brighter World Initiative was coordinated through NRECA International, a national cooperative philanthropic group that has brought electricity to more than 160 million people in 44 developing countries since 1962. Funding for this initiative was supported by all 26 N.C. electric cooperatives, the North Carolina Association of Electric Cooperatives (NCAEC), the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), and a financial lender, the Cooperative Finance Corporation.

I want to give you a little insight into the place that our men spent almost 24 hours traveling to. At an elevation of 11,600 feet, Laphía is in a mountainous region of Cochabamba located between the capital city of La Paz and the city of Santa Cruz within Bolivia. Its villagers live in clay/straw dwellings and farm potatoes and onions. Prior to the completion of the project, they used kerosene lights, candles and battery-powered lanterns for light and were some of about 285,000 people in Cochabamba without electricity.

Joining the volunteer team from Randolph EMC was Journeyman Foreman Dennis Kidd and Journeyman Lineman Tim Williamson, both from our Robbins office. During their time in Bolivia, the volunteer team built about five miles of power line to connect more than 75 buildings to electricity. Most of the work, including pulling long spans of wire and lifting heavy transformers, was done by hand, as access to trucks and machinery was limited. "In this day and time, it's easy to take for granted the materials and supplies we have access to work with that make our jobs much easier on a daily basis," said Tim Williamson. "On this trip, we went back to our roots — those roots that were sowed back in 1939. We climbed the poles with traditional gear and used pure manpower for pulling lines and putting up transformers. We definitely got our work-out in," he added.

The language barrier was bridged by local translators, which our crews were extremely grateful for. The volunteer team was also joined by Randy White, Job Training & Safety Specialist with North Carolina's Electric Cooperatives, who provided additional support for all local villagers and line workers who had to navigate through coarse terrain. Safety was always the top priority throughout all the work being performed. The most challenging terrain included crossing a 2,000-foot ravine. Tim said, "In the first day alone, we pulled about 8,000 feet of line through the ravine. You don't realize how heavy that wire is until you don't have a reel truck. We only had two Toyota pick-up trucks to help us with transporting materials and getting lunch to line workers."

From left: Journeyman Lineman Tim Williamson and Journeyman Foreman Dennis Kidd

While sharing stories from the trip, Dennis Kidd said, "Many of the villagers were so eager to have electricity that they were willing to move their current homes if they were in the way of where power poles needed to go. They had been waiting for the construction of bringing electricity to their town for over 10 years and they wanted to do everything they could to make that possible."

He added, "villagers were building their own meter bases. They had a meter mold and would make their own. As construction progressed, all the villagers would haul the meter base molds on their motorcycles or even on their backs to make sure they were where they needed to be for power." Tim and Dennis said that if they had to guess, the villagers probably made anywhere from 60-80 bases during the two weeks the volunteer crews were there.

It's hard to imagine what our lives would be like today if we still didn't have electricity. Our very own linemen got to experience what that's like first hand from this small village. I commend Dennis and Tim and all other volunteers a part of the Brighter World Initiative for their dedication to this mission, hard work, time spent away from their families and the selfless acts of service they provided to complete strangers.

At the completion of the 18-day project, Dennis and Tim joined other volunteers, local leaders and community members for a ribbon-cutting ceremony and celebration. Co-op volunteers shared gifts of school supplies, books and soccer balls with the local children. Cheers, applause and fireworks rang out when the volunteer crew leader flipped the switch to illuminate light bulbs throughout the school building for the first time.

I can't thank all the volunteers enough for the extraordinary service they provided — from the planning stages at home, to the volunteers working in the village. This act is truly the meaning of what being a cooperative is all about and I'm proud to support a mission that works to further illuminate our world.

If you see our linemen out and about, especially Dennis or Tim, please help me in thanking them for their hard work and participation in this initiative. We've included some photos from their trip on the next page, but we'll be sharing even more stories and photos on Facebook (@Randolph EMC). Take a moment to follow Randolph EMC's page and keep an eye out for more updates from the Brighter World Initiative.

Cooperatively Yours,

Dale F. Lambert
Chief Executive Officer

Randolph EMC

Randolph Electric Membership Corporation provides safe and reliable power with exceptional value to more than 32,000 member accounts in Randolph, Moore, Montgomery, Chatham and Alamance counties.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Electric Service

Asheboro ..... (336) 625-5177
..... (800) 672-8212

Robbins: ..... (910) 948-3401
..... (800) 868-7014

Report Outage ..... (877) REMC-OFF
..... (877) 736-2633

Account Info
& Bill Payments: ..... (877) 534-2319

Business Hours: .....8 am – 5 pm, M-F

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RandolphEMC.com

BRIGHTER WORLD INITIATIVE: LAPHÍA, BOLIVIA