

Watts Working

America the Beautiful! Home of the Free! Land of the Brave!

No better place than Washington, D.C., to be reminded of our country's history

By Macy Henson



I was honored to be chosen as Randolph EMC's 2019 Rural Electric Youth Tour Delegate and would like to thank the Members and Board of Directors for allowing me to partake in such an amazing experience. Throughout the week I spent in Washington D.C., I was able to learn about our great country's history, learn more about electric cooperatives, interact with youth from all over the country, and form friendships that will last a lifetime. I came home even more patriotic than I left and with a new respect for electric cooperatives.

The historic memorials and museums were incredibly insightful and had a huge impact on me. For instance, each of the war memorials that we visited really opened my eyes to the number of

people who sacrificed their lives for our country and for you and me. Viewing firsthand the statues and the individual names of soldiers who died in various wars made me deeply grateful for all of the brave men and women who keep our country safe each day. One of my favorite memories of the trip occurred while we were at The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. While visiting, there was a reunion for Korean War veterans and I had the honor and privilege to shake many of their hands and thank them for their service. It was touching to see their reaction when they received a simple "thank you" from me.

Continued on pg B

C Harvest Safety for Farmworkers

D REMC's Teacher Intern

E No- & Low-Cost Tips to Beat the Heat

F Dale Lambert's AWARE Column

H Join REMC for Drive Electric Week



I also had the opportunity to visit the Smithsonian Museums, the American History Museum, and the Holocaust Museum. Each museum we visited was amazing and I learned a great deal from them all.

My favorite day of the trip was definitely the day we spent on Capitol Hill. Here, we were able to really experience our legislation at work. After taking many photos at the Capitol, we had the incredible opportunity to meet and briefly speak to our North Carolina Senators, Richard Burr and Thom Tillis. They were extremely friendly and seemed pleased to have our group representing North Carolina. We also toured our beautiful Capitol building and learned about the rich history of it. We even got the chance to sit in the House Gallery to observe. To my amazement while we were in the gallery, Chuck Schumer, a senator from New York, briefly spoke. It was inspiring to see a well-known senator in person and not just on the news, regardless of your party affiliation.

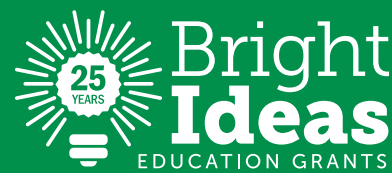
In addition, I was able to hear from a few of our N.C. Representatives. They were willing to speak to us and answer any questions that we had for them about their jobs or stances on various political issues. While the representatives were speaking to us, I recognized a pattern in what they spoke about. They continually spoke about how important it is for them, our legislators, to work to find a common ground. That is an important lesson for all. When watching the news, it often seems as if our legislators don't agree on anything, so it was reassuring to hear that our N.C. Representatives are striving to find that common ground and together



work to make our country better. The representatives stressed that our country, The United States of America, will soon be in the hands of the youth and that we must learn about our government and be informed so that we can effectively serve our country in the future.

This experience also allowed me to form friendships with other youth that will last a lifetime. I was able to speak with people from nearly all of the fifty states across our nation and I became best friends with people that I had only known for one week. We are already planning our 2019 Youth Tour Reunion!

In conclusion, the Rural Electric Youth Tour was an amazing experience that allowed me to indulge in our country's history, experience our legislation first-hand, encourage my love and respect for my country and form lifelong friendships. I would highly recommend for any rising junior or senior to apply for the Youth Tour and I would again like to thank REMC for allowing me to proudly represent them in Washington, D.C., this year!



Final Deadline to Apply for Bright Ideas Grants is Sept. 23!

It's the final call for Bright Ideas Education Grant applications! Educators with innovative ideas for hands-on classroom projects can apply for a Bright Ideas grant of up to \$2,000 from Randolph EMC until September 23. Interested teachers can find the application, grant-writing tips and other helpful information at ncbrightideas.com. Educators may apply for the grants as individuals or as a team.

Grants for the 2019-2020 school year will be awarded in November for projects in all grade levels and disciplines, including music, art, history, language, reading, science, mathematics and information technology, just to name a few. Last year, Randolph EMC awarded \$12,000 to local teachers to fund nine projects.

This year also marks the 25th anniversary of the Bright Ideas program. Since its inception in 1994, North Carolina's electric cooperatives have awarded more than \$12.2 million to sponsor nearly 11,700 projects benefiting 2.3 million students.



Interested in reducing your farm energy costs?

The North Carolina Energy Audit Program provides discounted energy audits to help your farm prioritize energy efficiency projects and access funding for equipment upgrades. It provides an unbiased third-party evaluation of energy efficiency and demand reduction opportunities on your farm and ranks each project by simple payback period. Each energy audit also includes a detailed inventory of your current equipment and an analysis of your energy usage by farm activity.

This program will cover 75% of the cost of your energy audit. Your energy audit can be used to access funding through USDA programs such as the Rural Energy for America Program (REAP), which provides grants up to 25% of your project cost and loan guarantees up to 75% of your project cost. There is no obligation to move forward with projects once you receive your audit report.

This program is funded by USDA Rural Development and operated by the North Carolina Electric Membership Corporation and EnSave, Inc.

This program is offered on a first-come, first-served basis and funding is limited. Call 1-800-672-8212 today to learn more!



HARVEST SAFETY TIPS FOR FARMWORKERS

- **Maintain a 10-foot clearance** around all utility equipment in all directions.
- **Use a spotter and deployed flags** to maintain safe distances from power lines and other equipment when doing field work.
- **If your equipment makes contact with an energized or downed power line, contact us immediately** by phone and remain inside the vehicle until the power line is de-energized. In case of smoke or fire, exit the cab by making a solid jump out of the cab, without touching it at the same time, and hop away to safety.
- **Consider equipment and cargo extensions of your vehicle.** Lumber, hay, tree limbs, irrigation pipe and even bulk materials can conduct electricity, so keep them out of contact with electrical equipment.

Source: Safe Electricity





REMC's Teacher Intern: Mrs. Lauren Wood

Lauren Wood, a chemistry teacher at Randolph Community College's Early College High School, recently participated in the Asheboro/Randolph's Chamber of Commerce Teacher Intern program.

Through this opportunity, educators from different local school systems are paired with local businesses in a variety of industries to learn about what type of employable skills are needed from students when entering the work force. Each educator is paired up with a business for one week to learn the inner workings of the company, learn skills their students will need to acquire and finally create a lesson plan that incorporates those skills.

Mrs. Wood joined Randolph Electric the week of July 22 - 26. She started her week by touring the facilities and meeting with members of the application, energy and safety departments. She spent the next several days learning about the process of detecting and restoring outages in the dispatch center and also joining crews in the field. She completed her week by meeting with our CEO, Dale Lambert, and learning about the general retirements

process of returning allocated funds back to the membership.

REMC was extremely happy to participate in this program and spread the knowledge of our industry and required skills with a local educator. Mrs. Wood was the highlight of the week and was incredibly inquisitive. She learned a lot about the role each department plays in the overall success of the cooperative and we can't wait for her to share her experience with students.



Randolph EMC offices will be closed Monday, September 2, for Labor Day.

Stay connected by updating your contact information



In the utility business, we know rough weather will occur, and sometimes power outages simply can't be avoided. But did you know there are steps you can take to ensure your electricity is restored as quickly as possible? By keeping your contact information up to date, you can take full advantage of the services Randolph EMC offers.

If we don't have the correct phone number linked to your home address, it makes it much less efficient for you to report an outage. At Randolph EMC, we use the phone number you provide to link your service address to our outage management system.

Having correct information is also helpful because it helps speed up the power restoration process. With correct information, our outage management system can predict the location and the possible cause of an outage, making it easier for our crews to correct the problem.

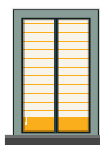
You can also use our SPOTT Alerts to report outages via text messaging. When your current cell phone numbers are listed on your account, you can text the keyword "TEXTREMC" to the outage reporting number at 1-877-736-2633 to enroll. Then, whenever you have an outage, report it by texting the keyword "OUT" to the outage reporting number.

Update your information online at [RandolphEMC.com](https://www.randolphemc.com) or call your local office for assistance



A SCORCHING SUMMER

A look at the weather data reveals that 22 out of 31 days in July were at 90 degrees or above, and 12 of them were consecutive! That means there were only nine days when air conditioners were not working overtime. Many members will see an increase in their bill because of these higher temperatures. Here are some summer savings tips to help beat the heat!

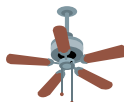


NO-COST TIPS

Close blinds and drapes during the day to keep heat out.



Set your thermostat to 78 degrees when you are home. Set it to a higher temperature when you're away.



Turn off lights and ceiling fans when you leave a room.



LOW-COST TIPS

Plant trees and shrubs to shade the exterior of your home.



Replace disposable air filters (or clean permanent filters) once a month to maximize efficiency.



Use solar lighting to brighten up your outdoor space. Solar lights are easy to install, low maintenance and provide free electricity.

BONUS TIP:

Create a high usage alert to let you know when your daily energy usage exceeds the dollar amount you choose.

Login to your account at [RandolphEMC.com](https://www.randolphemc.com) & enroll today!

A Word About Randolph Electric

From CEO Dale Lambert



SURVEY SAYS... PART 2

Dear Members,

This AWARE column is part two of a three-part series that began last month to provide insight to survey questions posed to the members in June. Prior to the annual meeting, we sent a survey to every member who had an email address listed on their account. A total of 573 members responded to the survey and gave their input.

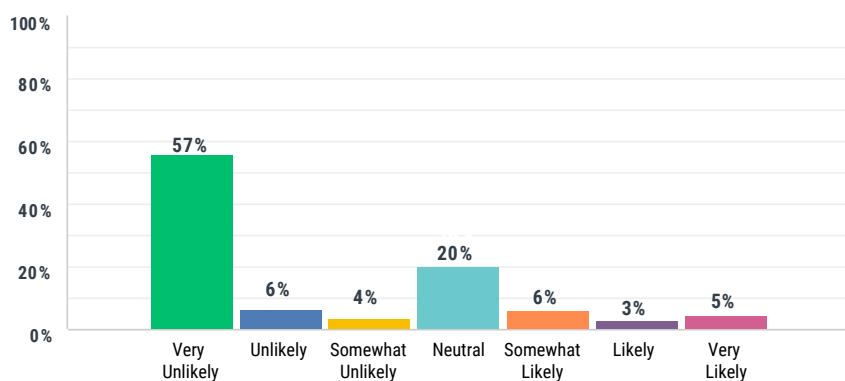
Last month, we addressed the survey questions posed to members about the cooperative's response to outages during the multiple major storm events over the last year. We also provided details about the survey question that asked you to rank the importance of the community outreach programs we have as a service to the membership.

This month, I want to follow up on the question in the survey about electric vehicles. The question was, "How likely are you to purchase a plug-in electric hybrid or all-electric vehicle in the next five years?"

Around 67 percent of the survey participants responded they would not be likely to purchase one.

The ownership of electric vehicles (EV) continues to grow among the membership but at a slow pace. Car manufacturers have announced plans to significantly increase plug-in electric hybrid and all-electric vehicle production in the next few years. Last October, Governor Cooper announced the 2025 Clean

If you were to purchase a new vehicle within the next 5 years, how likely is it that you would purchase a plug-in electric hybrid or all-electric vehicle?



Energy Plan that calls for 80,000 zero-emission vehicles operating in our state within six short years.

Your cooperative is also preparing for an increase in electric vehicles charging on the Randolph EMC system. A couple of years ago, your Board of Directors approved the REMC Electric Vehicle Utility Program, also known as REVUP.

As more members purchase electric vehicles, it's extremely important we have a program in place that promotes charging them at a time when demand on the system is lower, such as through the night. If not, these EVs may be charged during a time when our system load is higher, resulting in higher wholesale power costs and increased rates for all the members.

With the REVUP program, participating members are rewarded for charging during

non-peak times, which helps keep power costs down for everyone and saves the participating members money because they are charging during off-peak hours.

This is really one of the major benefits to driving electric. According to Energy.gov, on average, a gallon of gas in N.C. costs around \$2.51, while the equivalent electric "e-gallon" costs around \$1.05. But if an EV owner charges their vehicle overnight, they'll get an even lower price—around 35 cents per gallon! That's like gas being about 1/8 of the price if you visit the gas station after 10 p.m. Except with electricity, you'd get that price without ever having to leave the comfort of your home!

Randolph EMC was one of the first utilities in the state and nation to put a program like this in place. We're learning a lot by having this program so we can better understand impacts

BATTERY REPLACEMENT CHARGE TIME
NOT ENOUGH CHARGING STATIONS
UGLY **COST TOO MUCH**
ELECTRIC BILL MAINTENANCE
CARGO SPACE **RANGE** PREFER TRUCK

of electric vehicles on the electrical system and owners' charging habits. Among the other reasons shown in the word cloud graphic above, two main concerns were given by those who responded to the question on why they were reluctant to purchase an EV—they cost too much and there are not enough charging stations to travel long distances. The latter is referred to as “range anxiety.”

It's understandable that cost and range anxiety are major concerns.

The purchase price of electric vehicles continues to decline every year, and pre-owned models are becoming increasingly available. As factories get up to speed, battery costs continue to decline, and more plug-in hybrid and electric vehicles come into the marketplace, EVs will become more attractive.

One of the most attractive features of an electric vehicle is lower operating costs. With fewer moving parts, electric motors are less susceptible to mechanical issues, and there is no need for oil changes, emissions inspections, or trips to the gas station, so you'll save time as well as money.

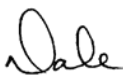
Randolph EMC can't impact the retail price of an EV, but we can help provide a solution to the issue of range anxiety. You can't travel to the beach or the mountains of North Carolina without going through an electric cooperative's territory, so we

are engaged with the other North Carolina electric cooperatives and our statewide organization to create a network of EV chargers across the state. By installing this network of charging stations and expanding it over time, our goal is to relieve some of this “range anxiety” about electric vehicles, especially in rural areas.

Your cooperative took an initial step in 2018 to build this charging network. We partnered with the N.C. Zoo and ChargePoint to install four EV chargers for anyone who is traveling through the area or visiting the zoo. These charging stations are staying very active and anyone visiting the zoo in an electric vehicle doesn't have to worry about having enough juice to get back home.

Be sure to check out next month's AWARE as we address additional questions posed in the survey. I'm asking again this month, if you have an email address, please share it with us so you can stay up-to-date on relevant programs and services, participate in surveys and provide your input. You'll also receive information about storm response efforts and other important topics that impact you as a member. Until next month...

Cooperatively Yours,



Dale F. Lambert
 Chief Executive Officer



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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Visit Randolph EMC Online

RandolphEMC.com



Join Randolph EMC at the NC Zoo to Kickoff

National Drive Electric Week

Experience different electric vehicle (EV) models and charging options on-site at the NC Zoo. We'll have informational material about the benefits of EVs and speak with knowledgeable EV owners and energy advisors.

WHEN

Friday, September 13, 2019
9 a.m. – 12 noon

WHERE

N.C. Zoo

4401 Zoo Pkwy

Asheboro, N.C. 27205

North America parking lot directly across from the Stedman Building

WHO SHOULD ATTEND

- ▶ Anyone interested in learning about the potential capabilities of electric vehicles
- ▶ Anyone interested in the benefits of purchasing an EV
- ▶ Current EV owners of any make and model
- ▶ School educators and administrators
- ▶ Business professionals and owners
- ▶ Zoo visitors

The first 100 event visitors will receive a free gift! Let us know if you can make it at RandolphEMC.com/2019NDEW

