

# Watts Working

## Prioritize Electrical Safety Year-round

Electricity lights homes and businesses, provides warmth and keeps appliances and equipment running smoothly. May is National Electrical Safety Month, but we at Randolph EMC want to protect you and your family all year long, every day. Please talk with your loved ones about the importance of safety, both inside your home and outdoors. Here are some tips that can keep you safe.

### Staying safe inside

- ▶ With so many people working from home, the workplace and where you live can be one and the same. This means more devices are plugged into outlets or circuits that may not be able to handle the load.
- ▶ Have a qualified electrician or licensed contractor check for hazards if you notice the following: dimming lights, a sizzling or buzzing sound, the smell of warm plastic, a warm or scorched switch plate, circuits that trip often and sparks that appear when you plug in or unplug an item.
- ▶ When working with electrical equipment inside the house or shop, be aware that this equipment can spark when flammable vapors, gases or dust are present.
- ▶ Do not overstretch a cord or use frayed or damaged cords.
- ▶ During storms, lightning can enter homes through corded phones, televisions, radios or computers. Lightning can also travel through plumbing, so do not take a bath or shower or wash dishes when you see lightning strikes. If possible, unplug appliances and electronics before the storm, including cell phones that are charging via electricity. Surges caused by lightning can damage electronics and appliances.



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**Staying safe on the road**

- ▶ Downed power lines can happen because of wind, storms, animals or an auto accident.
- ▶ If you see a downed power line, call 9-1-1 to report it and stay in your car. You cannot tell by looking or listening if the power line is de-energized. Wait in your vehicle until an electric utility crew member says it is safe to get out.
- ▶ Do not drive over a downed power line. Doing so could cause a domino effect and bring down other lines, poles and equipment.
- ▶ The only time you should exit is if your vehicle or cab is on fire. If this is the case, make a solid jump from the car or cab without touching it, landing with both feet together. Then,

hop away with your feet together as far as you can.

**Staying safe outside**

- ▶ When working outside, be aware of overhead and underground power lines.
- ▶ Keep at least 10 feet away from overhead power lines. Keep any items you are carrying or using, such as long poles or other extended equipment, 10 feet away from power lines at all times. Carry an extension ladder or other far-reaching tools or equipment horizontally.
- ▶ Make sure that all outside outlets are ground-fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) protected.
- ▶ Before digging, call 8-1-1, the state’s underground locating service. Buried lines such as electric, gas, water, sewer

and other lines bring services indoors. Besides the dangers of coming in contact with a gas or electric line, fines due to damage are the responsibility of the homeowner or landowner. Privately owned lines and systems will not be marked by the free service.

- ▶ When you see lightning, take shelter inside the house, shop or a hard-topped vehicle for protection. Stay away from high places, and do not take shelter under an isolated tree. Stay away from items that conduct electricity, such as metal fences. If you are swimming or in a hot tub, get out. Water is an electrical conductor that is dangerous during a storm.

For more information on electrical safety, visit [RandolphEMC.com](http://RandolphEMC.com).

**PLUG INTO SAFETY**



**ELECTRICAL SAFETY MONTH**

Make electrical safety a priority this month and every month.

# Money Back to You

*That's the Cooperative Difference!*



## \$2.5 Million in Capital Credits Returned to Members in April

Earlier this spring, nearly 97% of Randolph EMC members received a check or bill credit for their share of the annual general capital credit retirement.

As members of Randolph EMC, you are not a customer. You are an owner of this cooperative. This is a difference that sets Randolph EMC apart from other electric utilities.

As member-owners, you are entitled to share in any excess revenue left over

at the end of each year. The capital credit refund is just one example of the cooperative difference.

At Randolph EMC, we count it a privilege to touch the home of every member in a positive way. Our core values of integrity, accountability, innovation and community involvement guide us in every decision we make. You, our member-owners, are our top priority. We appreciate the opportunity to serve you.

## How Do Capital Credits Work?

Because electric co-ops operate at cost, excess revenues are returned to you in the form of capital credits.

*Since inception, Randolph EMC has returned more than \$52 million to members.*



REMC tracks how much electricity each member uses & purchases throughout the year.



Each year, after expenses are paid, REMC calculates margins (leftover funds) & allocates each member's share to their account.



REMC uses the margins for a time to pay down debt & to invest in plant advancements & improvements.



When financially feasible, REMC retires (returns) capital credits to members.

# Spotlight on a Bright Idea:

## Randolph EMC Brings Sphero Robotics to Local Classroom

For the past 28 years, Randolph EMC has demonstrated our commitment to education by sponsoring the Bright Ideas education grants in K-12 classrooms of public, charter and private school teachers. During this time, Randolph Electric has invested more than \$300,000 in innovative projects that have benefited students in our five-county area.

In the 2021 grant cycle, two teachers from Uwharrie Charter Academy won a Bright Ideas grant to bring Sphero robotics to their classrooms. Marley Knapp, Digital Learning Coordinator, and Jessica Hoffmire, STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math) teacher, collaborated on their grant-winning project called Making Waves for the Environment.

Using a tech tool called a Sphero robot, students in fourth grade coded their robotic balls to move from side to side and all around

in a tub of water. Through trial and error, students learned how to make their robotic balls agitate the water, creating waves. Next, the students experimented with different surface covers and additions (such as popsicle sticks held in place by rubber bands) to create more potential angles for agitational flow in the water. Finally, students returned to programming code that moved their balls in different ways in the water. Their goal was to make their waves as large as possible.

In their next step, students will

add sand to their water tanks to understand how erosion wears away the shoreline.

Knapp and Hoffmire will follow this demonstration with discussions of real-life applications. Students will learn how the Cape Hatteras lighthouse was moved because of beach erosion.

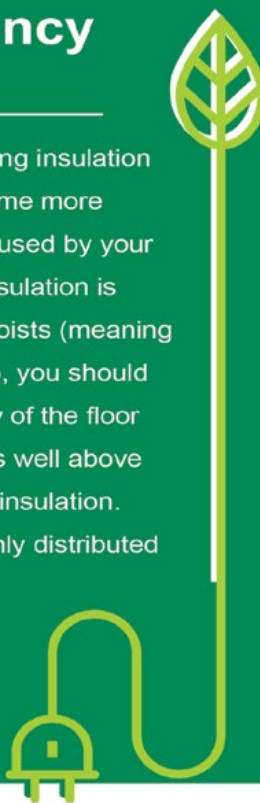
Through the lessons, the students master how to solve problems as a team and glean valuable critical thinking skills, all through the fun of interactive, hands-on learning. The children also gain confidence

### Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Even in summer months, adding insulation to your attic can keep your home more comfortable and save energy used by your cooling system. If your attic insulation is level with or below your floor joists (meaning you can easily see your joists), you should add more. If you can't see any of the floor joists because the insulation is well above them, you likely have enough insulation.

Attic insulation should be evenly distributed with no low spots. Make sure the areas along the eaves are adequately covered.

Source: [energystar.gov](http://energystar.gov)





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in computer programming while building their knowledge of environmental education.

Knapp said one of the highlights for her while teaching this project has been watching students with special needs delight in the hands-on, multi-sensory learning. In addition, the project has brought a unique opportunity to all students who have experienced a couple years of pandemic-based isolation.

“The exploration that the kids are doing is giving them the opportunity to make decisions and solve problems as a team,” said Knapp.

When asked their favorite part of the project, many of the students said that they love the robots. One fourth grader named Levi said, “My favorite thing is getting to see what you’ve programmed.”

If you know of an educator whose classroom would benefit from an innovative learning opportunity, please tell him or her to apply for a Bright Ideas education grant of up to \$2,000. Applications and more information about the program can be found at [NCBrightIdeas.com](https://www.ncbrightideas.com).

Bright Ideas grant applications will be accepted through September



15, but teachers are encouraged to apply early. Those who submit their application by August 15 will be entered to win one of five \$100 Visa gift cards.

Supported by all 26 electric cooperatives in North Carolina, Bright Ideas grants have contributed \$14.3 million to N.C. classrooms, funding a total of 13,536 projects that have benefited well over 2.8 million students statewide since 1994.

Support for youth and education is part of our continued commitment to building a brighter future for the communities we serve. To learn more, visit [RandolphEMC.com](https://www.randolphemc.com).



# A Word About Randolph Electric

From CEO Dale Lambert



## STRONGER TOGETHER: JOIN US FOR OUR 84<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MEETING

Dear Members,

After two years of COVID-19 protocols and virtual Annual Meetings, I am really looking forward to meeting members in person at this year's Annual Meeting of the membership. This is always one of the highlights for me each year.

So please mark your calendars now for the 84<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting, which will be held on Friday, June 17, 2022, at Southwestern Randolph High School in their air-conditioned gymnasium. Registration opens at 5:00 p.m. The Harvesters gospel group will be performing from 5:15–6:15 p.m., with the business portion of the meeting starting at 6:30 p.m.

Our theme is Stronger Together. And hopefully with COVID-19 in our rearview mirror, this rings true like never before. I encourage you to be an active member-owner and attend this year's Annual Meeting of your electric utility.

Your cooperative's electric distribution system covers over

1,500 square miles of area in five counties. It stretches from Mt. Gilead to Snow Camp, from Badin Lake to Goldston, and from Randleman to Pinehurst. Each year since Randolph EMC's inception, dedicated members from across the service territory have converged to conduct the business of the cooperative. This is a tradition that should continue and grow even stronger in the future.

The Annual Meeting is important because it gives our members the opportunity to hear reports about the condition and operation of your cooperative over the past year. The electric utility industry is undergoing tremendous change, with many challenges and opportunities, and this gathering allows your leadership to provide updates on our strategic response to this changing environment.

Unlike with investor-owned utilities, those receiving their electric service from Randolph EMC own the cooperative. The members have a voice in

the operation of the business through their participation at the Annual Meeting.

In addition to the business portion of the meeting, members will elect three individuals to represent their interests on the Board of Directors. Randolph EMC's Board of Directors is comprised of nine members who meet monthly to hear reports, make decisions and set the strategic direction for the cooperative. The three directorate districts that will stand for election this year are the following: District 1, currently held by Lee Isley; District 3, currently held by Larry Routh; and District 6, currently held by Jeff Sugg.

The Annual Meeting is not all business, though. It's a great time to get together with old friends and a chance to establish new friendships from other parts of the Randolph EMC cooperative family.

In addition to some great music, there will be homemade ice cream, information about electric vehicles, energy efficiency and

**SAVE THE DATE:**  
**Friday, June 17th, 6:30 p.m.**  
**Southwestern Randolph H.S.**



**REMC's 84th ANNUAL MEETING**



the many programs we offer that deliver value, help you save money on your electric bill and make your lives easier.

Another reason to attend the Annual Meeting is that we award some really nice door prizes that range from small appliances to local pottery. We'll also have bicycles of all sizes and other fun prizes for the children who attend. No one leaves empty-handed, though. Each registered member who attends will receive a gift at the conclusion of the evening.

In next month's *Carolina Country*, you will receive the Annual Report and additional information about the Annual Meeting. I look forward to seeing you there!

Cooperatively Yours,

Dale F. Lambert  
 Chief Executive Officer



Randolph Electric Membership Corporation provides safe and reliable power with exceptional value to more than 33,000 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

**Board of Directors**

Jerry Bowman ..... President  
 Tammie Phillips ..... Vice President  
 Billy Maness ..... Secretary-Treasurer  
 Lee Isley ..... Assistant Secretary-Treasurer

Scott Cole                      Larry Routh  
 Delbert Cranford              Jeff Sugg  
 Steve Harris

**Senior Staff**

Dale F. Lambert ..... Chief Executive Officer  
 Jay Albright ..... District Vice President  
 Adam Hargett ..... Vice President of Finance  
 Dennis Mabe ..... Vice President of Engineering & Operations  
 Fred Smith ..... Vice President of Economic Development & Compliance

Nicole Arnold ..... Editor

Visit Randolph EMC Online  
[RandolphEMC.com](http://RandolphEMC.com)

# Powering Up After an Outage

When the power goes out, we expect it to be restored within a few hours. But when a major storm or natural disaster causes widespread damage, extended outages may result. Our line crews work long, hard hours to restore service safely to the greatest number of consumers in the shortest time possible. Here's what's going on if you find yourself in the dark:

## 1. High-Voltage Transmission Lines:

Transmission towers and cables that supply power to transmission substations (and thousands of members) rarely fail. But when damaged, these facilities must be repaired before other parts of the system can operate.

## 2. Distribution Substation:

A substation can serve hundreds or thousands of consumers. When a major outage occurs, line crews inspect substations to determine if problems stem from transmission lines feeding into the substation, the substation itself or if problems exist further down the line.

## 3. Main Distribution Lines:

If the problem cannot be isolated at a distribution substation, distribution lines are checked. These lines carry power to large groups of consumers in communities or housing developments.

## 4. Tap Lines:

If local outages persist, supply lines (also known as tap lines) are inspected. These lines deliver power to transformers, either mounted on poles or placed on pads for underground service, outside businesses, schools and homes.

## 5. Individual Homes:

If your home remains without power, the service line between a transformer and your residence may need to be repaired. Always call to report an outage to help line crews isolate local issue.