AUGUST 2022

Watts Working

Successful 84th Annual Meeting for Randolph EMC

Randolph Electric Membership Corporation celebrated its 84th annual meeting of the membership Friday, June 17, 2022, at Southwestern Randolph High School in Asheboro. The theme of the meeting was "Stronger Together."

Randolph Electric recorded 279 registered members who attended the in-person business meeting, and 741 who registered online. An estimated crowd of 600 people attended the event. During the business meeting, the membership elected three directors: Lee Isley to represent District 1, Larry Routh in District

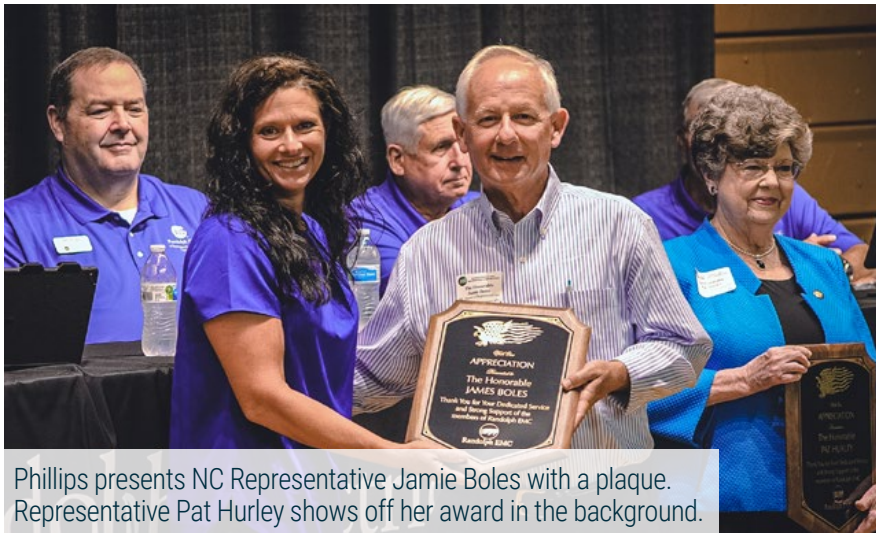
Continued on page B

Randolph EMC lineworkers provided a live line safety demonstration on the grounds of the high school.

A newsletter for the member-owners of Randolph Electric Membership Corporation

Attendees enjoyed Gilbert's Old Fashioned Ice Cream.

Vice President of the Board of Directors Tammie Phillips presents N.C. Representative Allen McNeill with a plaque of appreciation.



Phillips presents NC Representative Jamie Boles with a plaque. Representative Pat Hurley shows off her award in the background.

Continued from page A

3 and Jeff Sugg in District 6.

Dr. Neal Jackson of Beulah Baptist Church gave the invocation. The Southwestern Randolph High School Junior R.O.T.C. Cougar Battalion presented the colors. The Harvesters Gospel quartet sang the national anthem. Jon Sundell and David Hersh provided entertainment for children while their families attended the business meeting.

REMC Board of Directors President Jerry Bowman presented a report on events and investments over the past year. Secretary-Treasurer Billy Maness presented a 2021 financial report with $65.3 million in revenue and $62.2 million in expenses. CEO Dale Lambert spoke on the themes of safety, reliability, affordability and sustainability.

Randolph Electric recognized N.C. Representatives Allen McNeill, Pat Hurley, and Jamie Boles for their years of service in the North Carolina General Assembly. U.S. Representative Richard Hudson also addressed the crowd.

Many members won drawings for door prizes including cash and bill credits, gift cards, bicycles of all sizes, small appliances and local pottery.

"Tonight, we celebrate our 84th year of existence with a focus on how we are stronger together, a theme that describes the true meaning of our cooperative," said Lambert. "Since 1938, when community leaders met to discuss the need for power in rural areas, Randolph EMC has sought to provide safe, reliable and affordable energy for our rural member-owners. Those members serve a vital role in the life of the cooperative."

If you were not able to attend the meeting in person, you can watch the video at RandolphEMC.com/2022-annual-meeting.

Capital Credits Allocation for 2021

Capital credits are one of the core differences between co-ops and investor-owned utilities. 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 $3,104,986 at the close of 2021. This amount has been disbursed among the capital credit accounts of members who had an active electric account during 2021. Each member's share is based on a percentage of $3,104,986, determined by the total amount of energy purchased for the year.

Remember, the refund you may have received in April that included capital credits from 2021 represents only a portion of 2021's total allocation.

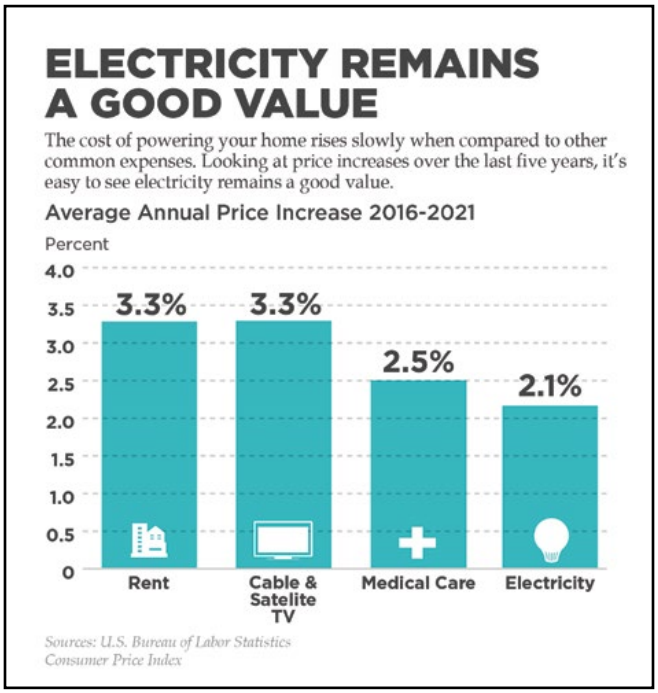
How to Calculate Your Allocation

1. Add together all the energy-related charges from each monthly electric bill you received in 2021.
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 0.047073. This will give you the capital credits amount allocated to your account for 2021.

Help Us Find Former Members

You can help us find former members who may have an outstanding capital credits check by visiting RandolphEMC.com/unclaimed-capital-credits.

If you recognize a name of the list, please ask that person to call the local Randolph EMC office to update their contact information.



Scholarship Winners Train with Wolfpack Women's Basketball Camp

Two local students practiced alongside athletes and coaches from top-ranked college basketball programs this summer, thanks to Randolph EMC's Touchstone Energy Sports Camp scholarships.


Kayla Hinton


Anna Hamilton

Anna Hamilton and Kayla Hinton from Southwestern Randolph Middle School attended the Wolfpack Women's Basketball Camp at NC State University in Raleigh, led by head coach Wes Moore. The basketball campers enjoyed instruction from June 19-22, 2022.

"Anna and Kayla are outstanding students, athletes and community members," said Nicole Arnold, communications and public affairs manager at Randolph EMC. "We are proud to partner with NC State to help provide such a unique leadership and learning experience for our local students and future leaders."

The campers joined more than 50 electric co-op scholarship winners statewide at the camps, where they stayed overnight in dorms and experienced life as a college student. Coaches and student-athletes worked directly with campers to develop basketball fundamentals and practice skills such as teamwork that will help them excel on and off the court.

Touchstone Energy Sports Camp scholarships are available each year as part of Randolph EMC's commitment to supporting youth and education in our community. Congratulations to Anna and Kayla for earning these scholarships and representing Randolph EMC at basketball camp this summer!

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

An easy way to save energy is to seal air leaks and holes where plumbing pipes run through walls in your home. You can also check wall-mounted cabinets for plumbing holes or air gaps in the back.

Fill any holes or gaps with spray foam. Wear protective gloves and use a damp rag for cleanup.

Source: Dept. of Energy

Know the Signs of a SCAM

It's no secret that consumers with a water, gas or electricity connection have long been targets for utility scams, but fraudsters have changed their tactics since the Covid-19 pandemic. As consumers became more reliant on technology for work, school and commerce, scammers noted these shifts and adapted their tactics to this changed environment.

Imposter scams are the number one type of fraud reported to the Federal Trade Commission. While scam artists may come to your door posing as a utility worker who works for the "power company," in today's more connected world, attempts are more likely to come through an electronic device via email, phone or text.

Common Types of Scams

A scammer may claim you are overdue on your electric bill and threaten to disconnect your service if you don't pay immediately. Whether this is done in-person, by phone, text or email, the scammers want to scare you into immediate payment so you don't have time think clearly.

If this happens over the phone, simply hang up. If you're concerned about your bill, call us at 336.625.5177. Our phone number can also be found on your monthly bill and on our website, RandolphEMC.com. If the scam is by email or text, delete it before taking any action. If you're unsure, you can use the mobile app or log in online to check the status of your account. Remember, Randolph EMC is just a phone call away, and we will help you with your account.

Some scammers may falsely claim you have been overcharged on your bill and say they want to issue a refund. It sounds easy. All you have to do is click or press a button to initiate the process. If you proceed, you will be prompted to provide banking or other personal information. Instead of depositing money into your bank account, the scammers can drain your account and use personal information such as a social security number for identity theft.

If this "refund" scam happens over the phone, just hang up and block the phone number to prevent future robocalls. If this scam attempt occurs via email (known as a "phishing" attempt) or by text ("smishing"), do not click any links. Instead, delete it and if possible, block the sender. If you ever overpay on your energy bill, Randolph EMC will automatically apply the credit to your next billing cycle. When in doubt, contact us.

Defend Yourself Against Scams

Be wary of call or texts from unknown numbers. Be suspicious of an unknown person claiming to be a utility worker who requests banking or other personal information.

Never let anyone into your home that you don't know unless you have a scheduled appointment or reported a problem. Randolph Electric employees wear our logo and carry ID badges. When we perform work on our members' property or come into your home, our employees are professionals and will always identify themselves.

We want to help protect our community against utility scams, and you can help create the first line of defense. Please report any potential scams to us so we can spread the word to prevent others in the community from falling victim.

A Word About Randolph Electric

From CEO Dale Lambert

SAFE, RELIABLE, AFFORDABLE AND SUSTAINABLE POWER

Dear Members,

The topic of reliability was the focus of last month's AWARE column. We reviewed some of the steps your cooperative has taken to improve the reliability of the energy delivery to your homes and businesses. This month I would like to continue that theme but expand the focus to a much broader picture.

A member's question about recent news headlines prompted this month's article. Some of the headlines were the following:

Fox News: Renewable Energy Dependence could Lead to Rolling Blackouts in Michigan this Summer

The Wall Street Journal: America's Summer of Rolling Blackouts

The Washington Post: A Summer of Blackouts? Wheezing Power Grid Leaves States at Risk

CBS News: Facing a Sizzling Summer, Large Parts of the U.S. Risk Blackouts, Government Agency Warns.

Here are some excerpts from the CBS News article dated May 20, 2022, and written by Irina Ivanova. This sums up the situation pretty well:

> *"In its annual summer assessment released this week, the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) noted that the Upper Midwest is facing a capacity shortfall leading to a 'high risk of energy emergencies.' The entire Western U.S. also could face a power outage emergency in the event of spikes in energy use.*
>
> *"'We've been doing this for close to 30 years. This is probably one of the grimmest pictures we've painted in a while,' John Moura, NERC's director of reliability assessment and performance analysis, told CBS Moneywatch."*

There were many more articles that I could have included, but you get the picture. There's growing concern for having enough reliable generation online to meet this summer's peak demand in the western half of the United States. I read one article that said the concern centers around what was noted as "the disorderly retirement of reliable generation."

During the COVID pandemic, we all experienced firsthand the impacts and stress caused by supply and demand issues. It led to shortages of everything from disinfecting supplies and face masks to paper towels and toilet paper. But since electricity is consumed the instant it's generated, it creates a whole different level of supply and demand nuances related to keeping the power flowing and the lights on.

I'm going get some flack about this being a bad example but since we have all lived it in the last couple of years, here goes. Take a factory that manufactures paper towels, something our family uses a lot of each week. What if this paper towel factory made a new roll only the instant you needed one? That would create some interesting issues.

The power sector has started incorporating battery storage into grid applications. (In fact, I will share some exciting news about these developments at REMC in a future AWARE column.) But these storage applications have their limitations. Current technology does not allow for massive storage of energy so this energy can be delivered only when required.

Back to the blackout issue this summer. The bottom line is this: each region of the country may have taken different paths to where they are today, but they all ended up in the same dilemma—a shortage of reserves for reliable electric generation that meets peak demand. My opinion is that this shortage has been caused by a couple of factors. Aggressive, shortsighted sustainability goals established for low-carbon generation ignored

reliability. This, coupled with power markets that allowed reliable, dispatchable generation plants to go offline for the sake of efficiency within the system, has resulted in this serious issue.

I've had the privilege to travel to a few third-world countries on mission trips. It's widely known that in those countries, reliable electricity is a luxury. In fact, people expect that the power will be out a lot. Are we in America prepared to have our regional electrical grids less reliable when we need power the most? I'll let you answer that question for yourself.

Our sustainably goals at Randolph EMC are part of the North Carolina's Electric Cooperatives long-term strategy for the future. I've written about those goals in previous columns.

But we cannot, as a utility, or as a state and nation, allow the safety, reliability and affordability of the electric grid to take a back seat to sustainability. These goals all must meet up at the same point of reality, not where we may wish them to be.

I'm sure you can still recall the news that came out of Texas in February 2021 of the massive, multi-day blackout that left millions out of power during a cold snap. This blackout was not due to physical damage to the transmission and distribution systems from a massive storm. Rather, it was due to several factors such as:

- Inadequate power generation being online when it was needed during very cold temperatures;
- Wind turbines that failed to produce because of icing on the blades;
- And the failure of natural gas pipelines to deliver fuel to plants in order

to generate power.

The common theme in all these factors was a shortsighted, failed energy policy.

The Texas grid experienced widespread outages without the ability to bring the power back online. As bad as things were, the grid came within a few minutes of catastrophic, systemwide failure that would have resulted in a much larger and longer outage.

I read one article where a retired army veteran who lived in the Dallas suburbs was fortunate that he didn't lose power. The downside was, since Texas is a deregulated energy market, his power bill for the month was $16,752. All I can say is, "Wow."

Up until that point, Texas was held up as an example for the nation to follow on how to do energy policy right. Obviously, they no longer are.

We have to get our energy policy right, and policy makers must understand that energy policy decisions must be viewed through the lens of affordability and reliability. Jim Matheson, the CEO of our national cooperative association NRECA, lobbies on behalf of electric cooperatives in Washington, D.C., and he believes that energy policy should

Continued on page H

Randolph EMC

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
Delbert Cranford
Steve Harris
Larry Routh
Jeff Sugg

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

Continued from page G

revolve around the "3 Ts."

1 Time: There must be enough time to make major transitions and shifts in how power is generated and delivered.

2 Technology: It's going to take new technology that must be woven into the current generation and transmission networks.

3 Transmission: It's going to require a substantial investment in new bulk transmission lines to be installed across America to interconnect new renewable energy generators to the load centers.

There's a quote that's arguably attributed to Paul Batalden about business that states, "Every system is perfectly designed to get the results it gets." We need to be careful about the power delivery systems that we design.

The intentional system design model raises an interesting point on the Texas issue. Those who pushed for and designed their deregulated energy market pointed their fingers at the electric utilities when the system failed. The people at the end of the line suffered for it. No one stood up to take accountability. It was a blame game.

Who would have ever thought that large portions of our country would be grappling with reliability concerns of this magnitude for the electrical grid? The good news is the southeastern region, including North Carolina, currently has adequate, reliable generation to meet peak periods of high demand.

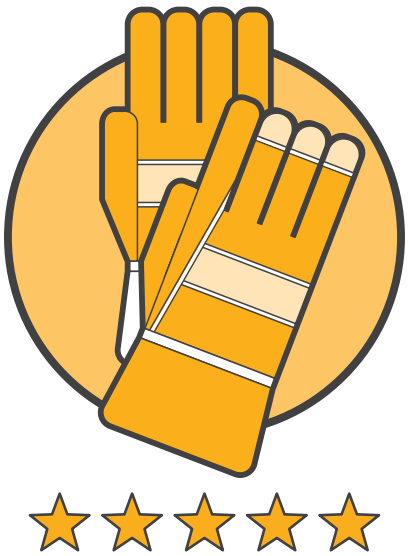
But we must be wise in planning and implementing North Carolina's future energy policy so that we do not end up like Texas and the western United States. Randolph EMC's board of directors and leadership team will continue to be a voice of reason and advocate for a safe, reliable, affordable and sustainable generation mix and electrical grid. These goals must all meet up at the same point of reality, not where we may wish them to be.

Cooperatively Yours,

Dale F. Lambert
Chief Executive Officer

Five Tips for Hiring an Electrician

A licensed electrician can help with a variety of home projects from lighting upgrades to full renovations. Keep the following tips in mind if you're looking to hire an electrician.



1. **Hire a licensed, qualified electrician for the job.**
   Look for a master electrician to manage the project. Master electricians have the most experience and will often oversee the work of a journey-level electrician or apprentice.
2. **Make sure the electrician is insured.**
   Seasoned electricians know the importance of protecting themselves in case of an accident.
3. **Read *all* the reviews.**
   Hire an electrician that has several positive reviews – not just one or two. Read reviews on different sites, like Nextdoor, Yelp and HomeAdvisor, and consider asking your neighbors for recommendations.
4. **Determine your budget. Get two quotes.**
   Knowing your budget upfront helps move the process along. Prices can greatly vary, so get multiple quotes (at least two).
5. **Talk timeline.**
   Some electricians accidentally overbook projects. If your job is time-sensitive, convey that early on and discuss a realistic timeline with the electrician.