

# Watts Working

## The Power of Preparation

By Nicole Arnold, Communications and Public Affairs Manager, REMC

Do you have a storm safety plan for when bad weather strikes? At REMC, we encourage our members to be prepared before a devastating event hits the area.

During a prolonged power outage or other emergency, this means having enough food, water and supplies to last at least a few days.

In honor of National Preparedness Month in September, I want to remind members of our community about the power of preparation. While you don't have to achieve a "doomsday prepper" level of preparedness, there are several practical steps you can take to keep you and your family safe.

Even at a modest level, preparation can help reduce stress, anxiety and lessen the impact of an emergency event. We recommend starting with the basics.

When large storms bear down on our service territory, you may see me on local news stations, reminding our members of the "3 Bs." I like to keep storm prep easy to remember by focusing on the most important things.

**1 Basics:** If you lost power, do you have enough water to last for a few days? You will need drinking water, but also water for hygiene purposes. If you are on well water, fill the bathtub before you lose power, so you will have water to flush toilets during an outage.

**2 Batteries:** Before the storm hits, make sure you find all your flashlights and fill them with new batteries. The entire family should know the location of the flashlights so that when the outage occurs, you are not left literally "in the dark."

**3 Back-up plan:** Have you communicated a Plan B to others? If you had to leave your home, where would you go? Discuss these plans with your family and loved ones before the storm.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency discusses

these steps and more in their general guidelines for storm preparation:

- ▶ Assemble a grab-and-go disaster kit. Include items like nonperishable food, water (one gallon per person, per day), diapers, batteries, flashlights, prescription medications, first-aid kit, battery-powered radio and phone chargers.
- ▶ Specify how you will communicate with family and friends (i.e., via text, social media, third party, etc.).
- ▶ Have some extra cash available; during a power outage, electronic card readers and cash machines may not work.
- ▶ Store important documents (birth certificates, property deed, etc.) in a safe place away from home (for example, a bank safe deposit box).
- ▶ Keep neighbors and coworkers apprised of your emergency plans.

Continued on page B

**C** Drive Electric Event at the Zoo

**D** Sharing Success Community Grants Announced

**E** Last Call for Bright Ideas Grant

**F** Dale Lambert's AWARE Column

**H** Scholarship Winner Trains at Basketball Camp



- ▶ Fill your car with gas.
- ▶ Organize all your supplies so they are together in an easily accessible location that family members know about.

### Generator Safety

If you have a generator, ensure that it is in good working order. Remember never to use your generator in an enclosed space because it will give off carbon monoxide (CO) fumes. CO is an odorless, toxic gas, so generators must operate with plenty of air circulation away from you and family members. We will have more information about generator safety in *Watts Working* issues to come.

### Caring for vulnerable family members before the storm

If you have older family members or those with special needs, check to see if they have enough medication and supplies for a few days. If they don't live with you, arrange for a

neighbor to check in on them. If a severe weather event is expected, consider having your relative stay with you if feasible, otherwise call them daily. If you have an infant or young children, make certain that you have ample formula, diapers, medication and other supplies on hand to weather an outage lasting several days or more.

### Keeping four-legged family members safe

For families with pets, having a plan in place in the event of a prolonged outage or an emergency will help reduce worry and stress especially if you need to make a decision during an emergency.

- ▶ Bring pets indoors at the first sign of a storm or other emergency. Pets can become disoriented and frightened during severe weather and may wander off during an emergency.
- ▶ Microchip your pet and ensure the contact information is up to date.

- ▶ Store pet medical records on a USB drive or in an easy-to-remember location.
- ▶ Create an emergency kit for pets (include shelf-safe food, bottled water, medications and other supplies).

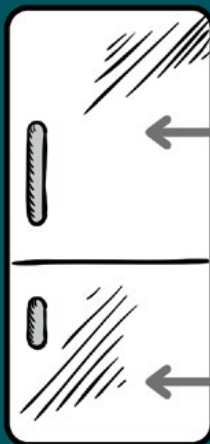
If you experience an outage, call 1-877-REMC-OFF (1-877-736-2633) to report the outage. We will post updates on our social media channels and major news outlets to keep you apprised of the situation.

At Randolph Electric, we care about your safety. Every day, we work to reduce the probability of power outage events and to limit their duration. Despite our precautions, we must acknowledge that catastrophic events can occur and lead to prolonged outages. In the event of such weather, we want our members to be safe. Planning for an emergency situation today can give you more confidence to deal with severe weather and potential outages in the future.

# Keep Food Safe

## During and After a Power Outage

Refrigerated or frozen foods may not be safe to eat after a power outage. Use these tips to minimize food loss and reduce risk of illness.



4  
Refrigerated food will last four hours. After four hours, place refrigerated foods in a cooler with ice.

24 OR 48  
Food in a half-full freezer will last 24 hours. Food in a full freezer will last 48 hours.

### Food Safety Tips

1. Keep refrigerator and freezer doors closed as much as possible.
2. Throw out any food with an unusual odor, color or texture.
3. Throw out perishable food in your refrigerator after four hours without power or a cold source (like a cooler with ice).

When in doubt, throw it out!



# REMC Invites the Public to Drive Electric Event on Sept. 30

On Friday, September 30, from 9 am to noon at the North Carolina Zoo, Randolph Electric Membership Corporation will sponsor a public event that showcases the clean-air and cost-saving benefits of electric vehicles. This event, planned during National Drive Electric Week (September 23 to October 2), draws attention to the positive aspects of driving all-electric and plug-in hybrid automobiles.

Local and state dignitaries will be invited to participate. Vehicles from various dealerships, along with EV chargers, will be on

display. Participants can see EV technology firsthand and learn about specific buyer incentives.



Representatives from Triad Electric Vehicle Association will also be present with their EVs.

“More of our members are asking about the benefits of EV ownership,” said REMC’s Director of Innovative Energy

Solutions Michael Trent. “Randolph Electric is dedicated to educating our members on the issues they care about.”

At the event, representatives from Randolph EMC will describe how they work with EV owners to evaluate their vehicles’ impact on the electric grid. The REMC Electric Vehicle Utility Program (REVUP)

offers members of the cooperative a \$500 rebate on a level 2 EV charger for their home, as well as a special time-of-use rate that encourages them to charge during off-peak hours when energy is less expensive.

For more information about Asheboro’s Drive Electric Week, visit: [bit.ly/driveelectricasheboro](https://bit.ly/driveelectricasheboro)

## Make Sure your Voice is Heard this Election Day

Did you know that National Voter Registration Day is September 20? The November 8 midterm elections are right around the corner.

While Randolph Electric is a locally-owned cooperative, we’re part of a larger network of electric co-ops. Together, we are working to enhance the political strength of electric co-ops and boost voter turnout. There’s power in numbers, and when we all show up at the polls, we can voice the issues that matter most to our community.

If you’re looking to get involved or simply make sure you’re ready to vote, here are some easy ways you can exercise your civic duty.

- ▶ **Check your voter registration status.** In North Carolina, you can check your voter registration on the State Board of Elections website at <https://vt.ncsbe.gov/RegLkup>. The site will also detail your Election Day polling place, your congressional district and other jurisdictions.
- ▶ **Get informed.** After ensuring your registration is up to date, learning about local policy issues and candidates is one of the best ways you can prepare to vote.



- ▶ **Vote!** It’s the easiest and most important way you can exercise your civic duty.

Voting is a form of personal empowerment that gives you the opportunity to voice your opinion on the issues that matter most to you. Make a plan to vote this fall.



# Randolph EMC's PHP Board Announces *Community Grant Winners*

On August 1, the People Helping the People (PHP) Board of Directors announced awards totaling \$20,000 in community grants to benefit charitable nonprofits in Randolph Electric's five-county service area.

"For eight years, People Helping People has given back to communities in Randolph, Chatham, Moore, Montgomery and Alamance Counties through the Sharing Success grant program," said REMC Communications and Public Affairs Manager Nicole Arnold. "The board is excited to announce these awards, which represent a significant investment in the organizations that help our members."

The board of directors for PHP, a nonprofit program of Randolph EMC, awards grants that contribute to one or more of three focus areas: the health and well-being of individuals, financial support for income-challenged families or educational advancement through enriching learning opportunities. The following sixteen recipient organizations demonstrate a mission aligning with these goals.

---

**Randolph Senior Adults Association:** \$1,000 for family caregiver support supplies.

---

**Spirit Horse Ranch Education Center:** \$1,200 for need-based scholarships for children to attend a summer program that provides a unique, outdoor learning environment centered around therapeutic interaction with horses.

---

**Sandhills Coalition:** \$1,000 to support the food pantry to feed the hungry of Moore County.

---

---

**Habitat for Humanity of Randolph County:** \$1,000 to assist with home building costs for a young woman who has been saving to attain the dream of homeownership.

---

**Boys and Girls Club of the Sandhills:** \$1,000 to fund Summer Brain Gain, a STEM and literacy program that fights against learning loss.

---

**Communities in Schools of Montgomery County:** \$2,000 to purchase school supplies for the Backpack Pals program.

---

**Jordan Memorial United Methodist Church:** \$1,100 for Back to School Bash, an event open to the public in which students receive backpacks filled with school supplies.

---

**West Chatham Food Pantry:** \$2,000 to support the food pantry to feed the hungry of Chatham County.

---

**Arts Council of Moore County:** \$2,000 to provide arts education at Carthage Elementary, Elise Middle, North Moore High, Westmoore Elementary and Robbins Elementary Schools.

---

**Three Rivers Land Trust:** \$500 to fund outdoor park infrastructure improvements.

---

**Sandhills Student Assistance:** \$1,000 to purchase food, clothing, and hygiene items for at-risk students in Moore County schools.

---

**Montgomery Community College Foundation:** \$2,000 to purchase meals for the hungry of Montgomery County at the college's annual day of service.

---



---

**Drug-Free Moore County:** \$1,000 to support drug prevention services in northern Moore County.

---

**Grace Given:** \$1,000 to support the purchase of a mobile shower unit for the homeless in Randolph County.

---

**Seagrove Elementary PTO:** \$700 to replenish Clothes Closet supplies of shoes, clothing and undergarments for students in need.

---

**Chatham Literacy Council:** \$1,500 to provide instructional materials for Transforming Lives, an English for Speakers of Other Languages program that helps adult learners improve their job opportunities and become self-sufficient members of their communities.

Randolph EMC partners with CoBank, a cooperative lender, to fund the Community Grants initiative. Through its Sharing Success program, CoBank awarded \$10,000 to People Helping People earlier this year. Randolph EMC then matched this donation to fund its Community Grants program. The PHP Board of Directors oversees the grant-awarding process. Since 2015, Randolph EMC's PHP program has invested \$106,700 in Community Grants.

# Teachers: Don't Wait to Apply for a Bright Ideas Grant

The deadline for interested teachers to apply for a Bright Ideas grant is quickly approaching, and applicants have until Thursday, September 15, to submit an application for the REMC-funded award. The grants will support local teachers with creative ideas to innovate teaching and improve student success in K-12 classrooms. To find the application or learn more about the program, visit [www.ncbrightideas.com](http://www.ncbrightideas.com).

A shared initiative of Randolph EMC and electric cooperatives statewide, Bright Ideas grants have funded over 13,500 projects with more than \$14 million awarded to teachers across North Carolina since 1994. Millions of students have benefited from the projects, technology and enhanced teaching methods made possible by Bright Ideas.

Teachers in any discipline, from engineering to art, can apply to receive a grant of up to \$2,000.

"At Randolph Electric, we believe that education is an essential part of building and bettering our community, and Bright Ideas grants enable us to help local teachers who continue to go above and



beyond in the classroom," said Nicole Arnold, communications and public affairs manager. "Randolph EMC will award \$14,000 this fall in our service area of Randolph, Moore, Montgomery, Alamance and Chatham Counties, and we look forward to partnering with exceptional educators to accelerate learning this year and into the future."

To find out more about the Bright Ideas education grant program and how Randolph Electric is powering a Brighter Future, visit [RandolphEMC.com](http://RandolphEMC.com).

## Energy Efficiency Tip

Water heating accounts for a large portion of home energy bills. To save energy (and money!) used for water heating, repair any leaky faucets, install low-flow fixtures and insulate accessible hot water lines. When it's time to purchase a new washing machine or dishwasher, look for models that are ENERGY STAR®-certified.



Source: Department of Energy

## Annual Meeting Survey Winner

Congratulations to Walter Luther, who was randomly selected from respondents who answered a survey about our 2022 Annual Meeting. Walter won a REMC bucket full of gifts, including an outdoor thermometer, a tape measure, a coffee mug, a plush blanket, a rain gauge, a USB-A wall outlet and a footstool with REMC zipper pouch.

We appreciate all members who took the time to complete our 2022 online Annual Meeting Survey. We value your input, as we continually seek to exceed your expectations.

*Congratulations, Walter!*



Walter and Janet Luther recently claimed their prize from our Annual Meeting survey.

# A Word About Randolph Electric

From CEO Dale Lambert

## LEAVING THE LIGHT ON FOR YOU

Dear Members,

Growing up, did your parents ever shout these words at you?

*“Turn those lights off. Are you trying to light up the world?”*

*Or, “Close that door! Were you raised in a barn?”*

Brooke McNeill, our Energy Efficiency Specialist, said her mom frequently told her, “We’re not the Motel 6 around here; we’re not leaving the lights on for you,” playing off the phrase Tom Bodett made famous.

I’ve been on both sides of this issue myself. When you’re a kid and don’t have to pay the power bill, it’s no big deal. But when you’re the power bill payer, dollar signs flash before your eyes when unnecessary lights are on or when the thermostat setting is not even close to conservation mode. When our kids were home and the house would be lit up like an airport, I was guilty of loudly singing a snippet from the familiar Trace Adkins song as I went through the house flipping switches, “Every light in the house is on...”

At Randolph EMC, we’re working hard to keep your power bills affordable. With dramatic, inflation-fueled increases in prices for everything we buy, the electricity you purchase from us

has been the most stable source of energy during these trying times. We work to keep the kilowatt-hour price stable, even with the dramatic monthly swings in the amount of energy we use driven by hot or cold weather, at our homes and businesses.

Just like all businesses, we’re also seeing dramatic increases in everything we use for our operations. This includes line hardware, conduit, transformers, wire and poles. We’ve also experienced supply chain issues, including delays in the timely delivery of materials our construction crews need to serve new members and upgrade the system.

But, taking all this into account, when you consider the average Randolph EMC residential member’s daily usage for a 24-hour period on an annual basis, it’s less than the cost of a value meal (burger, fries and drink) from a local fast-food restaurant. A value meal costs more than a whole day’s use of electricity. I would consider that a tremendous value.

Back to the phrases I started out with. We do not want you wasting hard-earned dollars on energy that’s not providing you value and running up your power bill because of an issue you were unaware of at your home. With data from our

Advanced Metering system, we’re able to monitor trends in members’ usage to look for unusual spikes that may indicate a problem.

In 2021 alone, our energy advisors identified 60 issues where members were unaware of a problem. The usual culprits were leaking water heaters, HVAC systems running on auxiliary heat only, broken and leaking ductwork and well pumps running non-stop.

Because our team found these issues early, this saved those members almost a quarter of a million kilowatt-hours that would have resulted in excess energy usage. These members saved at least \$28,000 on their electric bills, and these dollars were used to meet other needs within their families’ budgets. Randolph EMC must sell electricity to pay the bills. But more importantly, we do not want members to spend unnecessary dollars on wasted energy. We care more about our member-owners than we care about electricity sales.

The largest expense we have is wholesale power generation, representing 55% of all our expenses. Containing that cost is critical to maintaining affordability.

We are working closely with our cooperative-owned power supplier, North Carolina Electric







Membership Corporation (NCEMC), and the other electric co-ops in North Carolina, to control the cost of wholesale power. Our goal is to reduce the amount of power we need during the highest usage times of the day. This is called controlling the peak.

In July, working with NCEMC, we've completed the installation of the first utility-scale battery storage project for the electric cooperatives in North Carolina. It's a five megawatt battery storage installation located at our Five Points substation, which is off highway 42 in Randolph County. In addition to saving money through peak control, this project will also strengthen the grid and improve reliability for members in that area.

This battery installation is one of 10 substation batteries being deployed at electric co-ops throughout the state. Collectively, these batteries will provide 40 megawatts of power that will be charged when demand for electricity is low and discharged during high usage times, during our peak demand period.

You can be an active partner with us to keep power bills affordable. Earlier this year, your board of directors approved the co-op's participation in a program that was launched in July, called **Connect to Save**.

Connect to Save is an effort put

together by our NCEMC staff, with the purpose of reducing wholesale power cost during peak hours of high demand, while also providing members with technology at their fingertips, to help you have more control of your individual power bills.

Members whose homes are totally electric are eligible to participate. Participants have the opportunity to purchase a smart thermostat at a significantly reduced amount, have it installed for free and receive a free hot water control device that can track usage and be placed into "vacation mode" when you're heading out of town. All this can be done from your smart device. There are also incentives for members' participation.

If you believe you qualify and are interested in partnering with us, please contact one of our offices and we'll add your name to the list. After all, this is your electric utility, and your participation is critical in making our efforts to maintain affordability successful.

I'll close with my twist on Tom's famous words from that Motel 6 commercial, "At Randolph EMC, we'll leave that affordable, reliable and energy efficient light on for you."

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)

## Scholarship Winner Tyler Williams Trains with Top-Ranked Carolina Basketball Program

One local student practiced alongside athletes and coaches from the top-ranked Carolina college basketball program this summer, thanks to Randolph EMC's Touchstone Energy Sports Camp scholarship.

Tyler Williams from Randleman Middle School participated in the Carolina Basketball School, led by head coach Hubert Davis, at the University of N.C. in Chapel Hill from June 18 to 22.

"Tyler is an outstanding student, athlete and community member," said Nicole Arnold, communications and public affairs manager at REMC. "We are proud to partner with the University of North Carolina to help provide such a unique leadership and learning experience for our local students and future leaders."

Tyler joined more than 50 electric co-op scholarship winners

statewide at the camp, where he stayed overnight in dorms and experienced life as a college student. At the camp, 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 Electric's commitment to supporting youth and education in our community. Congratulations to Tyler Williams for earning this scholarship and representing Randolph EMC at basketball camp this summer!



Randolph Electric offices will be closed Monday, September 5, for the Labor Day holiday.