

watts working

The Monthly Newsletter for Members of Randolph Electric Membership Corporation

Randolph EMC Celebrates Year of Co-ops at 74th Annual Meeting

“Building a Better World” was the theme as an estimated 1,500 people—including more than 600 registered members—crowded the Southwest Randolph High School gymnasium for Randolph EMC’s 74th Annual Meeting, held on June 15.

Before the business meeting began, members enjoyed free homemade ice cream, informational displays and live entertainment from bluegrass group, Carolina Lightnin’. Attendees also enjoyed a live high-voltage line safety demonstration by Randolph EMC employees.

The short business meeting provided an update on the REMC’s new capital credits policy, a report on the cooperative’s commitment to its communities, and re-election of all three incumbent directors, Del Cranford (District 5), Steve Harris (District 8), and Billy Maness (District 9). Former board member Paul Hurley, who retired last November, was also honored at the meeting for his 23 years of service.

Chief Executive Officer Dale Lambert spoke to the audience about issues facing the electric utility industry, such as the increasing cost of fuels, the need for infrastructure improvements, and growing government mandates and regulations. He emphasized that all of these issues could have an adverse impact on future electricity rates.

Lambert encouraged all members to become engaged in the co-op’s grassroots advocacy and provided cards for members to sign up for the “Our Energy, Our Future” campaign to stay abreast of any future issues that affect the co-op and rates.

Following the business meeting, bicycles of various sizes and 120 prizes were given out, including bill credits, cash, gift cards, small appliances, power tools, and housewares.

Thanks to all of the members who attended the annual meeting to take part in your cooperative!

Enjoy more photos from the 2012 Annual Meeting on the next page!



**Randolph Electric
Membership Corporation**

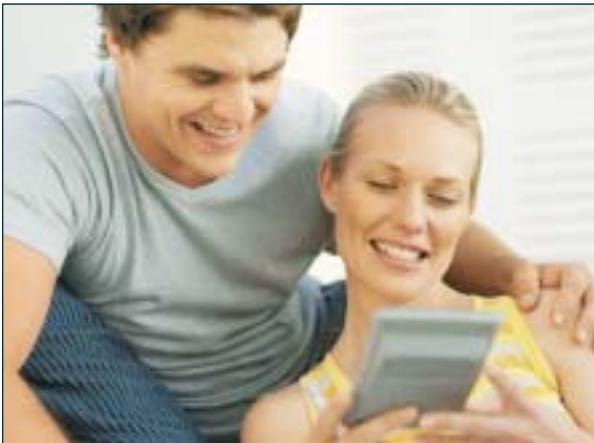
Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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Scenes from REMC's 74th Annual Meeting





Capital Credits Allocated for 2011

Capital credits are one of the core differences between investor-owned utilities and co-ops. 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 \$2,321,582 at the close of 2011. This amount, along with an additional \$1,000,000 from deferred revenues, has been disbursed among the Capital Credit accounts of members who had an active electric account during the year. Each member's share is based on a percentage of the \$3,321,582, calculated by how much electricity the member purchased and the rate at which the electric account was billed.

*Remember, this is 2011's **allocation**. You will not receive a check for this amount at this time and this is not the amount of the capital credits retirement check you may have received in June.*

CALCULATE YOUR ALLOCATION

- 1 Add together all of the energy-related charges from each monthly electric bill you received in 2011.
- 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 0.05403. This will give you the Capital Credits amount allocated to your account for 2011.

When Hurricanes Head Our Way

Q What are some preparation steps I should take as the potential for tropical weather increases?

A Hurricane season in the Atlantic runs June 1 through November 30, but our area typically sees tropical depressions and hurricanes in August and September. Prepare now for when tropical weather heads our way:



- Listen to a NOAA weather radio for critical information from the National Weather Service.
- Check your disaster supplies and replace or restock as needed.
- Bring in anything that can be picked up by the wind (bicycles, lawn furniture).
- Turn the refrigerator and freezer to the coldest setting and keep them closed as much as possible so that food will last longer if the power goes out.
- Turn off propane tanks and unplug small appliances.
- Fill your car's gas tank early to avoid lines at the pump.
- Create an evacuation plan with members of your household and practice it to minimize confusion and fear during the event.
- Learn about your community's hurricane response plan. Plan routes to local shelters, register family members with special medical needs as required and make plans for your pets.
- Evacuate if advised to do so by authorities. Be wary of flooded roads and washed out bridges.
- Because standard homeowners insurance doesn't cover flooding, it's important to have protection from the floods associated with hurricanes, tropical storms, heavy rains and other conditions that impact the U.S.

Seal Manufactured Home Air Leaks to Slash Electric Bills

If energy bills for your manufactured home seem too high, the likely culprits are air leaks.

Older manufactured homes, especially those built before 1994, may be plagued by leaking ducts and inadequate insulation. Leaky ductwork can reduce the efficiency of your heating and cooling system by as much as 20 percent. A good time to check for leaks is on a windy day, when you'll be able to find drafty spots.

Experts recommend going after big leaks first. That means plugging all holes around chimneys, vents, water pipes, and heating system ductwork. Seal any duct leaks with mastic. Avoid the use of duct tape, which can dry out and disintegrate when used. Adding insulation to floor, walls, and ceiling cavities can improve energy efficiency, but may be a job for a professional contractor.

Once you've sealed major leaks, look for smaller ones—around windows, doors, electrical outlets, and light switches. Seal gaps around windows and doors, using caulk



on non-moving parts. And replace any worn weather stripping.

Caulk or expanding spray foam are perfect in spots where plumbing, wiring, vents and ducting penetrate through walls. Installing foam outlet gaskets behind electrical outlets and light switches—especially on outside walls—can save energy, too.

For safety's sake, make sure that all combustion appliances, such as furnaces, stoves, and water heaters, are properly vented.

Save Time & Money with Our Bank Draft Program

Having your payment automatically drafted from your checking or savings account each month is easy and convenient — no more writing checks, paying postage or forgetting to pay your bill!



No Checks No Postage No Late Fees



Receive a \$10 bill credit when you sign up for our bank draft program before September 30, 2012. Choose paperless billing, too, and get another \$5 bill credit!

CONTACT US

Electric Service:
 Asheboro(336) 625-5177
(800) 672-8212
 Robbins Area:(910) 948-3401
(800) 868-7014
Power Failures:(877) REMC-OFF
(1-877-736-2633)
Bill Payments:(877) 534-2319

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 Tammie PhillipsAssist. Sec.-Treasurer
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 Adam HargettVice President of Finance
 Dennis MabeVice President of Operations
 Fred SmithVice President of Member
 & Public Relations
 Jill VannessPublic Relations Coordinator, Editor

Office Hours:
 8:00 am – 5:00 pm | Monday–Friday

An Equal Opportunity Employer | M/F/V/H



Sign Up for People Helping People (and a Chance to Win \$100!)

*If every Randolph Electric member participates, we can raise more than **\$175,000** a year to donate to families and individuals in need of help right here in our communities.*

People Helping People (PHP) is a voluntary program that allows members to round up their electric bill to the nearest dollar each month. While members who participate probably don't even miss those pennies each month, their "spare change," combined with the contributions of fellow Randolph EMC members, adds up to a significant amount.

These funds, in turn, are donated to worthy programs of charitable organizations and to help individuals cope with hardship. Awarded for a specific purpose, each People Helping People application is reviewed carefully by the PHP Board of Directors to ensure members' donations are used responsibly to benefit people in our local communities.

Think About It...

- A member's donation averages just 50 cents per month, or \$6 per year.
- Maximum participation never exceeds \$11.88 per year.
- All donations are tax deductible. PHP is an approved 501(c)(3) not-for-profit foundation.
- Monthly contributions will be indicated on your bill.
- All People Helping People funds will be used locally, never outside our service area.



Return the form below to Randolph EMC before August 31, 2012, to be entered to win one of four gift cards!

Yes, I want to join **People Helping People!** By filling out this form, I give Randolph EMC permission to round up my electric bill to the nearest dollar each month.

Name (as it appears on your bill)

Address

Phone

Account #

Send in form with your bill or mail to PO Box 40 · Asheboro, NC 27204

Randolph EMC Sends Students to Summer Basketball Camps

A pair of middle-school students attended basketball camp on college campuses this summer, thanks to Randolph EMC's Touchstone Energy Sports Camp scholarships.

Mary "Faith" Latham, a student at Randleman Middle School, and Lauren

Gardner, a student at Southwestern Randolph Middle School, both won full scholarships to attend the Kellie Harper Wolfpack Basketball Academy June 24-27 at N.C. State University in Raleigh. Faith is the daughter of Brian and Jessica Latham of Asheboro, and Lauren is the daughter of Andy and Jennifer Garner of Pleasant Garden.

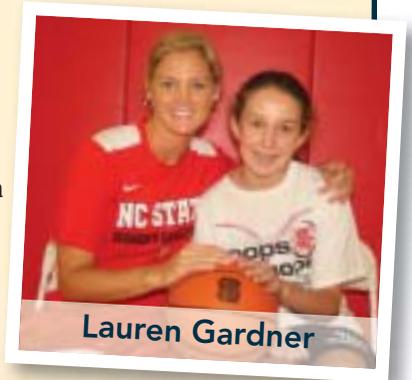
Jared Reeder of Faith Christian School was awarded a full scholarship to attend the Roy Williams Carolina Basketball Camp June 16-20 at UNC in Chapel Hill. Jared is the son of Johnny and Tina Reeder of Asheboro.

"We are so pleased to provide Faith, Lauren and Jared the opportunity to learn from an acclaimed NCAA coach in a college setting," said Jill Vanness, public relations coordinator at Randolph EMC. "They are outstanding students, athletes and community members, and we're proud to have them represent us at the camps."

Touchstone Energy Sports Camp Scholarships are available to middle-school students every year and are part of Randolph Electric's commitment to community.



Faith Latham



Lauren Gardner



Jared Reeder

SWAPSHOP

For Sale

Pro Form 585 Treadmill \$50. Lowe's garden dump wagon, used twice \$40. Lowe's pull behind mover dump card, new, \$100. 336-857-0138.

1995 Excel Boat w/ two trailers—fixer upper. \$400 OBO. 336-302-4644.

Noritake Princeton China 45 pc set plus salad serving set, never used. Pristine condition—still in original box, discontinued set 1986. \$100. 336-266-7350.

Upright Kimball Piano in excellent condition w/ padded bench included. Good for church piano or beginner's piano, asking \$1000, negotiable. Buyer must move, located in Snow Camp. 336-266-7350.

1999 16ft Bass Boat 40 horse Evinrude motor, Tilt & Trim, 3 fish finders, on board battery charger, GC. \$5,000 OBO. 336-381-3717.

3,000 Red Sex Link pullets (16-18 wk old chickens) laying age, brown eggs,

vaccinated & debeaked, \$6.50 & up, Liberty area. 336-708-2998.

Horse quality, weed free, organic fescue & coastal bermuda square hay bales in field @ \$2.75/bale, off trailer \$3.60, in barn \$3.85 & up, delivery available, some goat & cattle quality at reduced price of \$1.65/bale, Liberty area. 336-317-4105.

Little Wonder Blower, 3-wheel, 9 HP Honda. Like new. \$695. 336-362-3342.

50 lb bag feed wheat \$8.50/bag. 336-622-2480.

For Rent

Singlewide 2 BR mobile home on Kidds Mill Rd, Franklinville. 336-824-4308.

2 BR, 1 BA house in country Robbins/Carthage area. No pets, on private land, \$450/month + deposit. 910-947-5910 or 910-639-8535.



The early-bird deadline for the 2012 Bright Ideas grant program is quickly approaching!

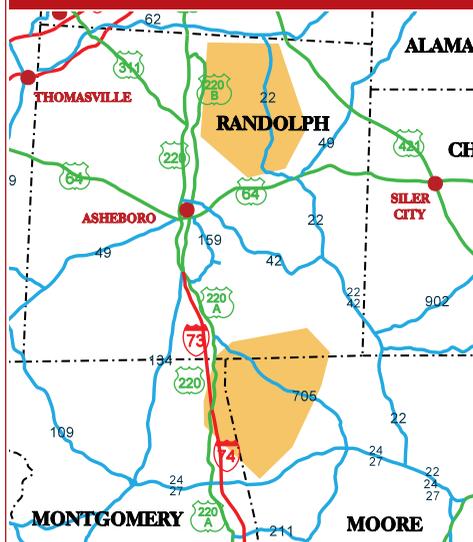
All grant applications submitted to Randolph EMC by August 17 will be entered into a drawing for a \$500 Visa gift card.

The final deadline is September 21. Visit www.ncbrightideas.com to apply online!*

*Only online applications will be considered for grant funds.

Members, email Swap Shop items to General@RandolphEMC.com

AUGUST SMART METER INSTALLATIONS



Randolph EMC crews will be installing smart meters in the highlighted areas during August.

New Law Helps to Prevent Metal Theft

Electric utilities across the state are celebrating new legislation passed by the North Carolina General Assembly that will make it harder for thieves to cash in on stolen metal.

The Metal Theft Prevention Act of 2012 prohibits recyclers from making any cash payment for copper to any seller. In 2011 and so far this year, REMC has sustained losses of \$73,427 in copper theft and damages related to the thefts. Utilities consider this a victory not only because it will help to eliminate copper as a quick source of cash, but because it can do a great deal to prevent utility employees—and possibly consumers—from being hurt or killed due to improperly grounded facilities.

The law will require recyclers to have a license, to take photos of sellers and their metals, and to record information about the seller's vehicle. Sellers will be required to present valid identification at the time of sale and have a limit to how much metal they may recycle per visit.

The Act also ties penalties of metal theft to the associated property damage, which means that convicted thieves will serve a stiffer sentence for their actions.

Asheboro High School Teacher Michael Fleming Spends a Week with Randolph EMC

Each year, Randolph EMC hosts an educator for one week as part of the Asheboro/Randolph Chamber of Commerce's Summer Teacher Internship Program. This year, the co-op welcomed Mr. Michael Fleming, a Computer Engineering teacher at Asheboro High School as our guest.

Mr. Fleming spent five days learning the inner-workings of the electric cooperative business. Over the course of the week, he spent time with member service representatives, billing specialists, engineers, GIS technicians, energy use advisors and communications specialists.

One of Mr. Fleming's most valuable experiences was having the opportunity to follow a job from start to finish during his week at the co-op. At the beginning of the week, he observed a member applying for service and then followed the job as it was staked out by a staking specialist. He then spent the day in REMC's warehouse gathering all the necessary materials to construct the job. Next, he spent the day with an overhead line crew to



Michael Fleming assists crews with bringing new service to a Franklinville location.

assist and observe the job as it was constructed and completed.

Mr. Fleming plans to share his experience with students in the upcoming school year. Thank you, Mr. Fleming, for participating in the Chamber's Teacher Internship program!

a word about Randolph Electric

by Dale Lambert



What's Contributing to Rising Costs?

Dear Members,

Last month we talked about the transition that is under way within the electric utility industry. In case you missed it, the main point was that there are several factors that, combined in a short duration of time, will increase what we all pay for electricity. I would like to continue our discussion this month and look a little deeper at some of the causes for this rising power cost trend.

As was discussed in detail at our recent Annual Meeting and in last month's AWARE column, environmental regulations are being instituted that will increase the cost of wholesale power generation. For the last few years, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has been on a path to decrease the level of carbon emissions and other pollutants from electricity generation plants using coal and other fossil fuels.

Because of the absence of action by the Congress on our national energy policy, the courts have also weighed in and directed the EPA to move forward with new regulations under the Clean Air Act. The main problem with this is that the Clean Air Act—last updated in 1990—was not designed to address carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions.

As these new regulations take effect, electric utilities perform a cost/benefit analysis to determine if it is beneficial to install environmental controls on an existing generation plant. In many cases, due to the plant's age and capacity output, the analysis shows that it's more cost effective to remove them from service and build a new plant.

In North Carolina, this means new natural gas-fired generating plants are being built and older coal plants are being shut down. This is creating a fuel shift from coal to natural gas.

The good news is that natural gas prices are currently very low and will help keep the costs of the fuel needed to fire the plants in check. Historically, however, natural gas prices have been much more volatile than coal prices. I have a lot of concern that our industry is being forced to generate electricity with natural gas in order to meet the load, and that this is reducing our fuel diversity, or "putting a lot more eggs into one basket." In addition, when these new plants are constructed, the costs to construct them are passed on to consumers.

Another major concern I have is that the new emissions standards being proposed by the EPA will effectively eliminate coal as a generating resource for our nation. As I

mentioned last month, the only practical way to meet this new proposed standard is to capture a significant amount of emissions, mainly CO₂, and pump these emissions underground for storage—a practice known as carbon capture and storage (CCS). CCS reduces the generation capacity of the plant, and since it adds cost to the plant's operation, this means less energy generated from a more expensive plant. This new proposal from the EPA is ahead of the technology that is presently available and also proposes an unreasonable time frame to implement it.

To try to understand the utilities' position, consider the following scenario as it relates to these new emissions proposed by the EPA.

Let's say the EPA instituted a new regulation that required all new vehicles that burn gasoline to capture 50 percent of their exhaust emissions and pump them into storage facilities. Now this new rule would not apply to vehicles that burn diesel. Oh, and this regulation would be effective in a relatively short period of time.

How are the various stakeholders affected by this new regulation? Number one, the automakers are not geared up to build the vehicles; it would take years to retrofit their plants. Where and how would we pump the captured emissions? The service stations are not geared up for it. Surely there would be fees associated with pumping the emissions as well. This new technology would also reduce the vehicle's miles per gallon, giving the consumer less bang for their buck. I think a lot of folks would be switching from gasoline cars to diesel ones, don't you?

This may not be the best way to illustrate the situation, but I hope it has given you some understanding about the challenges the electric utility is facing. A real difference between this example about your car and electricity is, the car stays parked a vast majority of the time and is not being used. You depend on electricity 24 hours a day, seven days a week. That's why we are fighting to do our part to keep electricity affordable for the member at the end of the line, and keeping you informed as we navigate the challenges that lie ahead.

Cooperatively Yours,

Dale F. Lambert, Chief Executive Officer