

watts working

The Monthly Newsletter for Members of Randolph Electric Membership Corporation

Use Your Co-op Connections to Save This Holiday Season!

Like the old song goes, the Co-op Connections Card has been everywhere, saving Randolph Electric members money across the country. From rental cars and gas to lodging in all 50 states, the card will make your next getaway more affordable.

Co-op Connections offers discounts on Hertz, Alamo and National rental cars, so when you're ready, your "deal on wheels" will be waiting. For large hotel chains such as Wyndham, Ramada, Days Inn, Motel 6 and Best Western, we have secured the best prices around. Just visit www.Connections.coop/RandolphEMC and click on the Co-op Connections Card link to book in advance. We even have discounts at Six Flags and other great theme parks for weekend fun that the whole family can enjoy.

In addition to helping reduce your travel costs this holiday season, be sure to check

out our online-exclusive offers. Partners such as Pro Flowers, Sprint, 1-800-PetMeds and 100 other companies have posted discounts on the Co-op Connections website. Check back regularly for seasonal promotions and limited-time offers.

If you are visiting neighboring towns, remember that our card is good wherever Co-op Connections discounts have been established. There is a network of more than 23,500 discounts throughout the country, and they're all accessible online or by using the Co-op Connections smartphone app. Just show your card at participating businesses and save on a bite to eat or supplies for the road. Our national discounts will work for you wherever you may be headed. It's just another member benefit brought to you by Randolph EMC.



Randolph EMC offices will be closed

December 24, 25 & 26 for Christmas and

January 1 for New Year's.

*Merry
Christmas
& Happy
New Year*



Randolph Electric
Membership Corporation

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

in this issue

REMC Featured in RE Magazine	B
Conservation Corner	C
Dale Lambert's AWARE Column	D



Did You Know?

Randolph Electric members have saved more than \$35,000 in prescription medication costs since February 2012 using the Co-op Connections card!

How will you use your card to save?

Randolph EMC Featured in RE Magazine



The October 2012 issue of Rural Electric (RE) Magazine featured Randolph Electric Membership Corp. in its cover story titled "Tailgate Talks." The cooperative's top-level commitment to the Rural Electric Safety Achievement Program (RESAP) prompted the magazine to contact CEO Dale Lambert to talk about how employees have worked together to cultivate a successful safety culture. RESAP is a service of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) and strives to promote the highest standards of safety among electric cooperatives.

"Tailgate talks" are simply crew meetings that take place at the beginning of each day to discuss the details of the tasks the crew must complete that day. As is referenced in the article, REMC considers it one of the most important practices in safety for its line technicians working in the field.

"Getting together at the beginning of the day to look at the job that has to be done is the key to setting safety as the priority," said Lambert. "These job briefings get everybody on the same page and gives them a chance to identify safety concerns before tackling the job at hand," he added. "The most important step in any project is working safely and going home to family at the end of the day."

A link to the RE magazine article is available at www.RandolphEMC.com.

SWAPSHOP

For Sale

Guardian Ultra Source 12,500-Watt 26 HP Portable Generator 04451. Like new, <4 hrs. run time, only run for periodic maintenance, \$1,500. 336-301-3313.

1999 FORD F-250 SuperDuty 4X4 XLT Ext.Cab, 29,000 miles, one owner, immaculate condition, always garaged, driven monthly, red/tan. \$22,500. 336-301-5966

Easy Vac Leaf Vac (sold by John Deere) New (<20hrs.) 5-HP Honda engine. Ready to pick up leaves, \$675 OBO. Folding Ping Pong table, \$60. Foosball table, \$60. Recumbent exercise bike, \$75. Dorm refrigerator, \$40. 336-622-6950 Liberty.

1972 Lone Star Boat, 16 ft w/ motor & new trailer, \$700, OBO. 336-498-2967.

1993 Coachmen Camper Van. 105,000 miles, EC, 17 MPG. \$8,000. 336-857-2374.

Electric Organ \$50. Piano \$150. 336-629-6351.

Oak wood for winter, needs splitting, \$50 & up a load. 336-824-8445.

Jet 3 Hoveround chair, \$500 OBO. 336-736-8105.

3,000 Red Sex Link pullets (16 - 18 week old chickens) laying age, brown eggs, vaccinated & debeaked, \$6.50 & up, Liberty area. 336-708-2998.

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

50 lb bag feed wheat \$9/bag. 336-622-2480.

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

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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Office Hours:

8:00 am – 5:00 pm | Monday–Friday

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5 Easy Ways to Stay Warm & Save Energy this Winter

The average family spends \$2,024 a year on energy; nearly half of that goes towards heating and cooling costs. Stay warm and save energy with these helpful winter tips:



- 1 Check furnace filters.** Be sure to clean or replace your heating and cooling system's air filter. At a minimum change the filter every three months; a dirty filter clogs the system, making the system work harder to keep you warm.
- 2 Install a programmable thermostat.** Is your home alone most of the day? Programmable thermostats can knock up to 10 percent off heating bills with the ability to automatically turn temperatures down 10 to 15 degrees for 8 hours a day.
- 3 Insulate water heaters and pipes.** Wrap water pipes connected to the water heater with foam, and insulate the water heater, too. To save about \$75 annually, consider lowering the water heater temperature from 130 degrees to 120.

- 4 Bundle up your home.** The more heat that escapes from cracks, the more cold air enters, causing your system to work harder and use more energy. Use an incense stick to spot air leaks. When it's windy outside, hold a lit incense stick near your windows, doors, and electrical outlets. If the smoke blows sideways, you've got a leak that should be plugged with weather-stripping, caulk, or expandable foam.
- 5 Use a low-flow showerhead.** About 14 percent of your energy bill funds water heating. Low-flow showerheads can minimize water use by up to 50 percent — a helpful change, especially when extended family members visit for the holidays.

12 Days of Holiday Safety

Day 1 **What's that noise?** Test your smoke and carbon monoxide alarms. Make sure everyone knows what to do if they hear them.

Day 2 **What a shocker!** Before use, inspect all electrical lights, decorations, and extension cords for damage.

Day 3 **Two's company, three's a crowd.** Do not overload outlets with too many decorations or devices.

Day 4 **Is it working?** Test your ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) and arc fault circuit interrupters (AFCIs) to make sure they're protecting you.

Day 5 **Ouch!** Prevent trips and falls by keeping cords safely along walls and out of doorways and high traffic areas.

Day 6 **Kids eat the darndest things!** Avoid putting lights, metal hooks, breakable ornaments, and other small decorations within reach of young children.

Day 7 **Thirsty?** Keep your Christmas tree stand full of water. A fresh, green tree poses less of a fire hazard than a dry tree.

Day 8 **Make a wish!** Blow out the candles before leaving a room or going to bed.

Day 9 **Nice and warm.** Keep space heaters at least 3 feet away from anything that can burn— decorations, trees, gifts, and curtains.

Day 10 **Can't touch this!** Consider installing tamper-resistant outlets/receptacles to prevent kids from inserting objects into the slots.

Day 11 **Escape Route:** Share your family fire escape plan with overnight guests.

Day 12 **Hot stuff!** Keep children away from cooking areas; use back burners and turn pot handles in away from little hands.

a word about Randolph Electric

by Dale Lambert



Evaluating Costs

Dear Members,

Over the last couple of years, I have written about many changes within the electric utility industry — some of them very good. Technology advances, for example, have provided opportunities for Randolph EMC to implement proven solutions that benefit our members.

By year's end, Randolph Electric's advanced metering installations will be complete. This project consists of replacing mechanical electric meters with digital meters that provide two-way communication to and from our offices. This communication increases efficiency in our operations, improves outage management capability during storms, and provides additional monitoring and control of our electrical distribution system. Members will also enjoy new programs and services in the coming year with this new technology.

Sadly, though, not all the changes within our industry are good. As I have noted many times over the years, this is *your* electric utility. It is my job to shoot straight with you and tell you the bad news along with the good.

One major concern your Board of Directors and management team has is the increasing cost to generate and deliver electricity in the wholesale marketplace. In the last couple of years, news outlets have been constantly reporting about rate increase announcements from neighboring investor-owned utilities.

Randolph EMC is not immune to the increases in wholesale power cost. In fact, the wholesale market has been undergoing a major shift that we have not seen since the 1970s and 1980s.

The industry has entered a building cycle for new base-load electric generating plants, which are very expensive to construct. These new plants are needed, though, to meet the thirst for electric energy that has steadily increased as the population has grown and new electric devices and conveniences have been added in our homes.

In addition to meeting new load growth, some of these new generating plants are replacing older plants that were constructed in the 1940s and 1950s. Due to more stringent environmental regulations, in many cases it is more economical to shut down these plants and build new ones, than to install costly emissions controls. I have written about the cost impact of these regulations on our monthly electric bills many times over the last few years.

As I have noted before, our nation needs a long-term, comprehensive energy policy that embraces the resources we have available in this country. The two main sources for base load generation are nuclear and coal. Increased regulations from the EPA have effectively removed coal as a viable option for new generating plants in the United States, so our coal will continue to be mined and shipped overseas to fuel the economies of other nations.

Randolph EMC's wholesale power costs have increased 19% from 2007 to our budgeted numbers for 2013. We have worked with our cooperative-owned wholesale power provider, North Carolina Electric Membership Corporation (NCEMC), to lessen this increase as much as possible. In fact, a projection from a couple of years ago had an

even larger increase in 2013 at more than 23%. With wholesale power responsible for almost 60% of our total costs, these increases have prompted us to review our retail electric rates.

Randolph EMC is currently working through a Cost of Service Study — a task that hasn't been needed since 2006. The rate study includes a review of revenues, expenses, plant cost, kilowatt-hour purchases and sales and the different types of rate classes we serve such as residential, commercial and industrial. This study will also identify the costs associated with providing electric service to each of these individual rate classes.

Your Board of Directors and management team want to keep you informed as your cooperative navigates these turbulent waters. As we move through this process over the next few months, please refer to future *Watts Working* newsletters for additional information on the rate study and its findings.

As we enter this Christmas season, let me extend the warmest greetings from your co-op employees and Board of Directors to each of you. Our hope is this holiday season will be filled with joyous and memorable times spent with family and friends. We all seem to be pressed for time more than usual during the holidays. Take time to remember the true reason for the season — the celebration of the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. *Merry Christmas to all!*

Cooperatively yours,

Dale F. Lambert
Chief Executive Officer