

# Watts Working

## May is National Electrical Safety Month

This month, make electrical safety a priority. Help your family avoid dangerous situations by taking a few easy precautions, including:

- Make sure to turn off AND unplug. Appliances, tools and other devices are still connected to electricity when they are plugged in. Turn off, then unplug all portable electric devices when you're finished using them. When unplugging, make sure to hold the plug, not the cord. Also, never touch electrical appliances with wet hands or use them near sinks, tubs, toilets or showers.
- Be smart about outlets. Don't overload power outlets, power strips or surge protectors, and use bulbs that match the wattage indicated on light fixtures. Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter (GFCI) outlets should be used in any area where water and electricity may come into contact, including kitchens, bathrooms, garages and outdoors, and should be tested monthly to ensure they are working properly.
- Use cords properly. Extension cords should only be used temporarily. Inspect electrical cords often for broken connectors or fraying.



Throw away worn cords to eliminate the possibility of shock, short circuit or fire. Don't attempt to repair damaged cords with tape.

- Keep a safe distance. Never go near a power line. If you encounter a downed line, leave the area immediately and notify your cooperative, and avoid driving over downed lines. Never place ladders, poles or other items near power lines, and don't fly kites or drones near lines or substations. Teach children not to put their fingers in electrical outlets, use child-proof outlet covers and keep appliances and cords away from children.

Randolph Electric is dedicated to educating people of all ages about electrical safety, and to providing you with electricity that is as safe and reliable as possible. For more safety tips and information, visit [RandolphEMC.com](http://RandolphEMC.com), or follow us on Facebook and Twitter.

**B** Bringing Learning to Life

**C** Lower Your Bill with a High Usage Alert

**D** Prepare now for 2019 Hurricane Season

**F** Dale Lambert's AWARE Column

**H** Benefits of Tree Trimming





## Kathleen Gee Brings Learning to Life with Bright Ideas Grants

For the past 25 years, Randolph EMC has partnered with local teachers by providing grants that fund the resources they need to customize hands-on learning projects and bring out the best in their students. We have had the great honor of working with outstanding local educators through the Bright Ideas Education Grant Program, an initiative shared and implemented by all 26 of North Carolina's electric cooperatives.

As Randolph Electric celebrates the 25th anniversary of Bright Ideas grants in 2019, we recognize one local educator whose dedication and creativity exemplifies the impact of this program: Kathleen Gee, of Charles McCrary Elementary in Asheboro.

In the project *Rainbow Ukulele*, fifth grade students use a color-coded system of learning the history and parts of the ukulele, how to tune, use fingerstyle

and play chords. In addition, they learn how to read music in different notations and learn over 50 folk songs. As the students reach certain goals they earn rubber bands and different color yarn to promote and reward growth. We applaud Ms. Gee on her creativity with this project to gain students' interest in music.

Thank you to Ms. Gee and all of the exceptional educators who have partnered with REMC through the Bright Ideas grant program over the past 25 years. We commend your dedication, creativity and commitment to our students and communities!

Randolph EMC is currently accepting grant applications for the 2019-20 school year, and teachers with 'bright ideas' are encouraged to apply by Sept. 23. Learn more and apply at [RandolphEMC.com](https://www.RandolphEMC.com).



Randolph EMC Offices will be closed Monday, May 27, for Memorial Day.



Legislative activities in Raleigh always have the potential to impact the cooperative. REMC employees and lowercase directors recently visited legislators in Raleigh to discuss issues that affect Randolph EMC members and the electric utility industry. Shown here (L-R) with Rep. Pat Hurley are Randolph EMC staff Kathleen Duckworth, Jill Vanness, Fred Smith and Dennis Mabe, along with board director Lee Isley.



## Ditch the Paper, Save Money & Time!

### Enroll in **Paperless Billing**

- Receive a monthly email notification when your bill is ready to be viewed
- Access your account 24/7 from your computer, tablet, or mobile device
- View 22 months of past bills and payment history

### Set It & Forget It with **Autopayment**

- Pay by bank draft on your due date with your checking or savings account or choose a date for a recurring payment using a credit or debit card
- Save time and money — no more checks or stamps
- No mail delays — payment confirmation posts to your account immediately

## LOWER Your Bill



A high usage alert can notify you of higher-than-usual electricity usage, which can help you avoid a high bill.

If you receive an alert, check out your usage chart with the daily temperature overlay to see if the high usage can be attributed to weather.

If not, you might have a problem with an appliance. Set up your alert today on the Online Member Service Portal at [RandolphEMC.com](http://RandolphEMC.com).



# Prepare Now for 2019 Hurricane Season

May 5-11 is Hurricane Preparedness Week, and with 2018 Hurricanes Florence and Michael still fresh on our minds, Randolph EMC encourages all its members to be proactive and prepare now for storms and severe weather.

Before the Atlantic hurricane season begins on June 1, take time to recognize the importance of hurricane planning and take steps to get ready. Here are some simple things you can do now to prepare:

- Outline a communications and evacuation plan for your family. If you have pets or any livestock, include them in your plan.
- Create an emergency kit that includes:
  - Important documents sealed in a watertight plastic bag
  - Cash
  - Enough non-perishable food, water and medication for at least three days
  - First-aid kit
  - Battery-powered radio
  - Flashlight
  - Extra batteries
  - Personal hygiene items
  - Extra clothes and blankets
  - Food and other supplies for pets
- Connect with us online at [RandolphEMC.com](http://RandolphEMC.com) and on Facebook and Twitter to stay informed about weather, outages and other information. Keep our outage reporting number handy: 1-877-736-2633.
- Sign up for local weather alerts and warnings. You can also visit [ReadyNC.org](http://ReadyNC.org) or download the free ReadyNC app for tips for preparing for natural disasters, as well as real-time weather and traffic information.

For additional safety information and tips, visit [RandolphEMC.com](http://RandolphEMC.com).

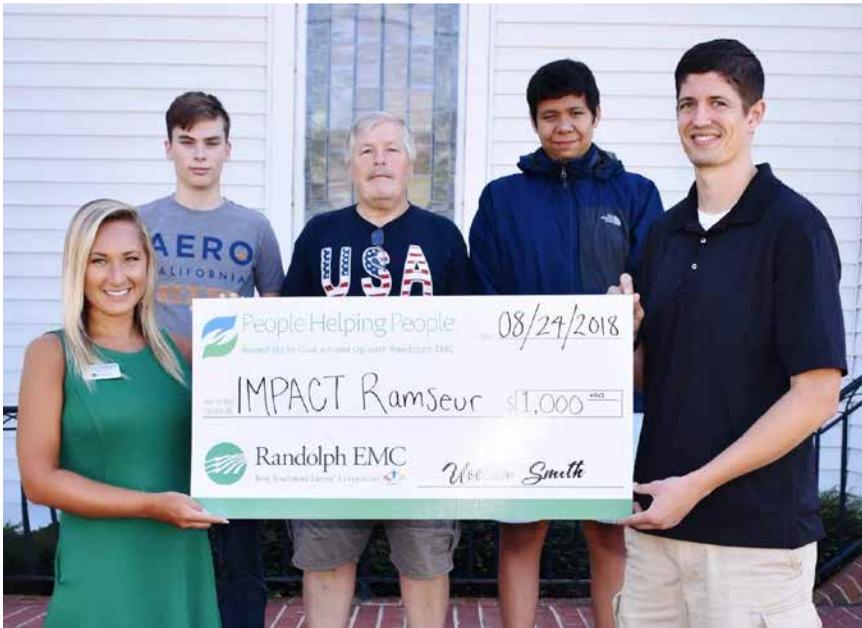
## YOUR POWER OUTAGE PANTRY

Be ready this hurricane season by stocking your pantry with a variety of non-perishable items.

*Don't forget to stock up on disposable goods, like paper plates, napkins, plastic cutlery and cups.*

- BEANS
- CANNED FRUIT
- CANNED TUNA
- CANNED VEGETABLES
- CEREAL
- DRIED FRUITS
- DRIED MEATS/JERKY
- GRAHAM CRACKERS
- PASTA
- RICE
- SPAM
- OATMEAL





## Don't Miss Your Chance!

### Sharing Success Community Grant Deadline is May 31

The Community Grants Program is a special project of PHP, made possible because its partnership with cooperative lender CoBank. CoBank recently awarded \$5,000 to PHP as part of its Sharing Success Matching Grant Program. Sharing Success was started in 2012 as a way to give back to co-ops and the nonprofits they support. Under the program, CoBank allocates \$3 million annually to match charitable contributions by cooperatives to nonprofit organizations in their local communities, up to \$5,000 per co-op.

With Randolph EMC's \$5,000 contribution combined with CoBank's \$5,000 match, People

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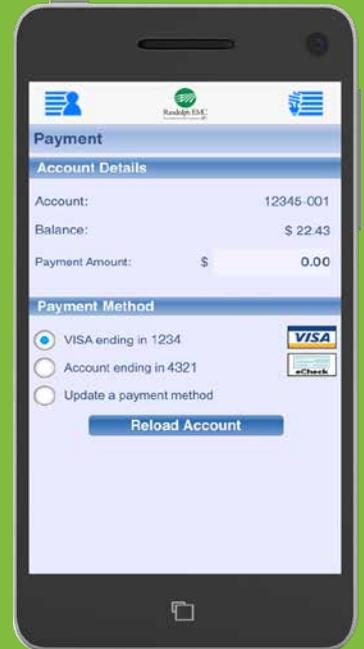
People Helping People is able to extend its charitable reach into the community with \$10,000 for nonprofit agencies for the fifth year in a row.

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Helping People is able to extend its charitable reach into the community with \$10,000 for nonprofit agencies for the fifth year in a row.

REMC believes it is important to serve a diverse population of the membership and the ultimate goal of the grant program is for PHP to extend its charitable reach into the community to support agencies who are providing vital services to our member-owners.

Registered 501(c)(3) organizations in Randolph, Moore, Montgomery, Chatham and Alamance counties are eligible to apply for funding up to \$2,000. For questions, or to learn more about this opportunity, please visit [RandolphEMC.com](http://RandolphEMC.com) or contact Kathleen Duckworth, Communication and Outreach Specialist at (336) 625-5177. Grant applications will be accepted March 1 - May 31, 2019, and will be carefully reviewed by the People Helping People Board of Directors, with outcome announcements made in July.



## STAY CONNECTED

### • with our Mobile App

- ▶ Make a payment straight from your Apple or Android mobile device
- ▶ Access your usage, billing and payment history
- ▶ View our outage map, contact information and social media sites

Search for "Randolph EMC" in the App Store or Google Play. Sign in with the credentials you created on the Online Member Service Portal.

# A Word About Randolph Electric

From CEO Dale Lambert

## DON'T MISS OUR ANNUAL MEETING OF MEMBERS

Dear Members,

I know it's hard for you to believe, but preparations are well underway for Randolph EMC's annual meeting of the membership. It only seems like a couple of months ago when we were together at our previous annual meeting.

So please mark your calendars now for the 81st Annual Meeting, which will be held on Friday, June 21, 2019, at Southwestern Randolph High School in their air-conditioned gymnasium. A change for this year is the business portion of the meeting, which will start 30 minutes earlier, at 6:30 p.m.

This year's theme is: Power to a Brighter Energy Future. I encourage you to be an active member-owner and attend the 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 its inception, dedicated members from across Randolph EMC's 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 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: District 1, currently held by Lee





Isley; District 3, currently held by Larry Routh; and District 6, currently held by Sue Spencer.

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.

There will be music, homemade ice cream and lots of information about electric vehicles, energy efficiency and 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 more than 100 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 that 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

Cooperatively Yours,

Dale F. Lambert  
Chief Executive Officer



Randolph Electric Membership Corporation provides safe and reliable power with exceptional value to more than 32,000 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              Sue Spencer

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

Jill Vanness ..... Editor

Kathleen Duckworth ..... Associate Editor

Visit Randolph EMC Online

[RandolphEMC.com](http://RandolphEMC.com)



## Make plans to attend the 81st Annual Meeting on June 21!

### Southwestern Randolph High School

Registration begins at 5:00 p.m.

Business Meeting begins at 6:30 p.m.

Join us for free homemade ice cream, safety demonstrations, a kids' program, prizes and more!



A utility worker in a white bucket truck is trimming a large, leafy tree. The truck's boom is extended high into the tree. The worker is wearing a white shirt and a hard hat. The background shows a clear blue sky and more trees. The truck is white with orange and red traffic cones on the front.

# BENEFITS OF TREE TRIMMING

Clearing trees and overgrown vegetation is vital to provide safe, reliable power to our consumer-members.

We clear certain areas in our service territory, known as rights of way, to:

- Keep power lines clear of tree limbs
- Restore power outages more quickly
- Keep crews and members of our community safe
- Reduce unexpected costs for repairs

**Vegetation management improves service reliability for you – our members!**

*A tree that is in an REMC member's yard and directly under a primary voltage line is eligible for replacement through our Trade-a-Tree Program. Learn more at [RandolphEMC.com](http://RandolphEMC.com).*