

# watts working

The Monthly Newsletter for Members of Randolph Electric Membership Corporation

## ***"People Helping People" Eases Worries When Life Takes a Difficult Turn***

In the blink of an eye, an orderly life can turn to disarray. An accident or a devastating diagnosis can derail the ability to work, to pay bills, to put food on the table. In 2000, Randolph EMC developed the *People Helping People (PHP)* program to help ease the worry that comes with an unexpected crisis.

PHP gives Randolph EMC members the opportunity to help friends and neighbors who are struggling with finances by simply rounding up their electric bill to the nearest dollar each month. For example, if your bill totaled \$74.75, it would be rounded up to \$75 and 25 cents would be donated to PHP. The average donation per year is just \$6.

The donated money goes into the PHP fund, which is governed by a seven-member Board of Directors made up

of members from across Randolph Electric's territory. All donations are tax deductible.

"PHP is a great resource that's available to members who need it most," said Lauren Ingold, Public Relations Coordinator at REMC. "So many times, we hear from recipients that our donation came 'at just the right time.' I encourage each member to participate in this rewarding program. For less than \$1 per month, you really can help make a difference in someone's life."

So far in 2013, more than \$11,000 has been distributed to help nearly 100 families lessen their financial burden. ***Please give us a call at 1-800-672-8212 to join the thousands of other members contributing to the People Helping People program.***

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

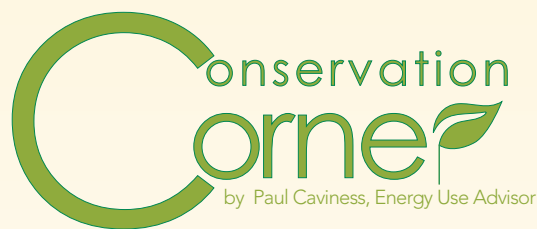


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# A 4-Step Guide to "Phantom Loads"



Studies show that in an average home, 5 percent to 8 percent of electricity consumption stems from appliances with "phantom loads," which means that they consume electricity even when switched off. To put that in perspective, the average North American household consumes roughly 10,800 kilowatt-hours (kWh) of electricity per year. If you estimate that 6.5 percent of your total electricity consumption comes from phantom loads, the amount drained by these appliances equals about 700 kWh annually—or \$70 every year.

## So how can you tell which devices are okay to leave plugged in?

- 1 Satisfactory Standby:** Microwave ovens and alarm clocks, which use relatively small amounts of standby power, are acceptable to leave plugged in. If you record programs frequently with your DVR, you should probably leave it plugged in.
- 2 Unnecessary Unplugging:** You don't have to worry about unplugging items with mechanical on/off switches, such as lamps, hair dryers, or small kitchen appliances like toasters or mixers—they don't draw any power when turned off.
- 3 Power Strip Protection:** Try plugging household electronics like personal computers, monitors, printers, speakers, stereos, DVD and video game players, and cell phone chargers into power strips. Not only do power strips protect sensitive electronic components from power surges, you can quickly turn off several items at once.
- 4 Smart Savings:** A better solution to power strips may be found in "smart strips." Most smart strips feature three outlet colors, each with a unique task. The blue outlet serves as a control plug, and is ideal for a heavily used device like a TV or computer. Anything plugged into red outlets stays on—electricity to these receptacles never cuts off—making them perfect for satellite boxes or other appliances that need constant power. The remaining outlets, generally neutral or green in color, are controlled by the blue outlet, so turning off the TV or computer cuts power to them as well.

**What's a surefire way to see if your efforts have been successful?**

**MyUSAGE.COM**  
Powers Awareness

Sign up for MyUsage.com about a week before making any changes. This will give you some time to notice patterns in your electric usage and then see the difference in the kilowatt-hours you use afterward.

Visit [www.RandolphEMC.com](http://www.RandolphEMC.com) for instructions on how to create a MyUsage account for your residential location.

## ALERT: Energy Scams

Several scams are targeting co-op members. They include fake energy audits, asking for payment via Green Dot prepaid cards and accessing your bank account information. When in doubt, ask for the caller's name and phone number, then call us at 1-800-672-8212.



# HOLLY SPANGLER ATTENDS N.C. STATE BASKETBALL CAMP ON TOUCHSTONE ENERGY SCHOLARSHIP

Uwharrie Middle School student Holly Spangler (right) attended the Wes Moore Wolfpack Women's Basketball Camp at NC State in Raleigh August 1-4 on a full scholarship from Randolph EMC and Touchstone Energy. Holly is the daughter of Jonathan and Michelle Spangler of Asheboro. Her grandparents are Darrell and Eugenia Johnson of Asheboro and Mary Spangler and the late James Spangler of Thomasville.

"Holly is an outstanding student, athlete and community member, and Randolph EMC is pleased to provide her this unique opportunity to experience life on a college campus and to receive instruction from ACC coaches and student-athletes," said Lauren Ingold, Public Relations Coordinator at Randolph Electric. "These camps develop fundamental skills that will help young athletes excel both on and off the court. We were delighted to have her represent our co-op at camp."

Holly and 25 other NC State camp scholarship winners were selected based on an application that included academics, extracurricular activities and an essay. At camp, students stayed on campus

in a dorm and worked directly with Wolfpack women's players and coaches.

This is the 10th year that the state's Touchstone Energy cooperatives,

including Randolph EMC, have sent young women to camp at NC State. The cooperatives have also provided scholarships for young men to attend the Roy Williams Carolina Basketball Camp in Chapel Hill for the past eight years.

The scholarships are sponsored by North Carolina's Touchstone Energy cooperatives and are available to middle-school students every year. Randolph EMC will begin accepting applications for the 2014 camps in January.



## GET YOUR TICKET FOR RANDOLPH EMC'S

### *Holiday Raffle*

Win one of these beautiful handcrafted items



Tickets are available for purchase until December 19 at both the Asheboro and Robbins offices.

**\$1 per ticket or  
get 6 tickets for \$5!**



Handmade Quilt • Handmade Wooden Bench  
Christmas Wreath • And More Prizes!

All proceeds used to purchase bicycles for Toys for Tots

## DONATE & Commemorate

And Celebrate the Christmas  
Season While Supporting  
People Helping People

For a Limited Time, These  
Commemorative Randolph EMC  
75th Anniversary Items are  
Available in Exchange for a  
Contribution to PHP



### Contribution Amounts:

- 1 item = \$15
- 2 items = \$25
- 3 items = \$35

### Special Offer!

NEW participants who sign up for  
PHP for a minimum of 3 years receive  
their choice of one of these items free

**Hurry! With a limited number of  
these items remaining, this offer  
applies only while supplies last!**

## Trade In Problem Trees for Safety, Reliability

Randolph EMC has a rigorous right-of-way  
maintenance program to keep tree limbs  
from growing too close to primary  
lines. If you find that the  
cooperative is frequently  
having to trim trees on  
your property, Randolph  
EMC's Trade-A-Tree program  
might be right for you.

The Trade-A-Tree program allows  
members who have trees growing into primary  
power lines to "trade" the problem tree for a tree that is  
suitable to plant near power lines. If you think you might qualify for  
this program, simply contact REMC by phone to schedule a visit to  
your property.

We will work with you to select a different type of tree at a  
reasonable cost and a suitable location for it. Once you've purchased  
and planted the tree, a REMC representative will inspect the  
placement on your property. If everything is in order, simply  
provide us a receipt and we will reimburse you for the cost of the  
tree or shrub and a reasonable rate of labor for planting it.

Cooperative and contract crews will conduct routine right-of-way  
clearing and approved herbicide applications along designated  
electric circuits in 2014. Visit [RandolphEMC.com](http://RandolphEMC.com) for a listing of  
areas where this vegetation management work is scheduled.



**Pay How You Want  
When You Want  
As Much as You  
Want**

**No Deposit  
No Late Fees  
No Schedule**

Call your local office to learn more about **FLEXPAY**,  
Randolph Electric's new prepaid billing solution.

## 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

### Board of Directors:

Bob Wright .....President

Jerry Bowman .....Vice President

Sue Spencer .....Sec.-Treasurer

Tammie Phillips .....Assist. Sec.-Treasurer

James Andrews Billy Maness

Delbert Cranford Larry Routh

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 Member

.....& Public Relations

### Office Hours:

8:00 am – 5:00 pm | Monday–Friday

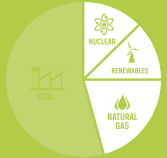
An Equal Opportunity Employer | M/F/V/H

Jill Vanness .....Director of Communications, Editor

## TOP4FACTS


ABOUT THE EPA'S NEW CLIMATE REGULATIONS

# 1.




**ABANDONS ALL-OF-THE ABOVE**  
The Administration is reversing course: ditching our All-of-the-Above energy strategy for an All-But-One approach that bans new coal plants.

## 2.




**TECHNOLOGY GAMBLE**  
New regulations essentially require technology that's not commercially viable and prohibitively expensive—leading to higher bills down the line.

## 3.




**LIMITS ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE, DOMESTIC ENERGY**  
By banning new coal plants, Americans forfeit a 236-year domestic source of energy with a historically stable price.

## 4.



**HISTORY REPEATS: ALL-BUT-ONE DOESN'T WORK**  
A 1978 mandate prevented use of natural gas & forced utilities into coal or nuclear—before common sense prevailed and it was repealed 9 years later.



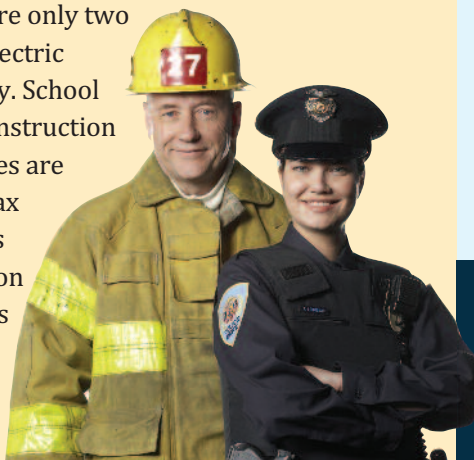
**ACTION.COOP**

## REMC's Tax Payments Help Fund Local Services

Randolph EMC isn't just an electric company, we're a local business looking out for you. Like all individuals and businesses, electric co-ops pay taxes annually. Randolph EMC paid a total of \$677,877 in property taxes to Randolph, Moore, Montgomery, Chatham and Alamance counties for 2013. The co-op serves more than 31,000 consumers in these five counties.

As a not-for-profit business, Randolph EMC does not pay corporate income taxes. However, since it is member-owned, the cooperative returns any margins above operating expenses to its members in the form of capital credits. The cooperative returned a total of \$2.75 million in capital credits to members in 2013.

Tax payments and capital credits are only two of the many ways that Randolph Electric provides support to our community. School systems, law enforcement, road construction and maintenance, and other services are underwritten locally by property tax dollars. Since our own members, as well as the public at large, depend on these services, Randolph EMC plays a significant role in funding them.



## SWAPSHOP

### For Sale

1990 Ford F-700 Dump Truck, 14ft dump bed, 429 gas engine. 910-464-3459.

Leonard camper top, fits long bed truck, white, good shape. \$400. 336-498-3423.

1978 Chevy Dump truck, good hydraulics, no special driver's license needed. \$2,400. 910-603-3410.

Hardwood \$50 per load. Will split wood at your location too, Asheboro area. 336-302-1041.

1999 Ford Mustang GT V8, 195,000 miles, red with white stripes, chrome wheels, leather interior. Engine needs work. \$3,000. 336-625-1695.

Honey. 336-879-2686.

White oak and red oak dried logs, need to be cut for firewood, neg. 336-629-2560.

Wood \$75 to \$100 a load. (will need a wood splitter). 336-824-8445.

1920's horse drawn wheat drill that is in very good condition. Kept in a barn. \$1,000 or best offer. 336-381-3513.

Two Anderson Exterior white duo pane glass doors, \$75 each or \$125 for both. Two Sections of unused 30 inch aluminum corrugated pipe, 15 feet and 20 feet, \$750 for both. 336-381-2452 or 336-273-5551.

Pictures, black & white, and color, 8" x 10" \$10 or 10"x13" \$25. All bridges and mills of the Uwharrie River including the Pisgah Covered Bridge. 336-629-2533.

New handmade quilts, full, queen, and king, \$100 - \$150 neg. 336-625-4548.

3,000 Red Sex Link pullets (16 - 18 week old chickens) laying age, brown eggs, vaccinated and debeaked, \$6.75 and up. Liberty area. 336-708-2998.

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

### For Rent

Lot on Nathan Rd in Carthage, \$175 per month, private. 910-464-3459.

3 bedroom, 1 bath house, no inside pets, Coleridge area, \$500 per month. 336-629-2752.

Mobile home space, Putnam-Glendon area, \$150 per month. 910-464-3459.

Singlewide mobile home with 3 bedrooms, private lot. \$450 per month. 910-464-3459.

**Members, email Swap Shop items to [General@RandolphEMC.com](mailto:General@RandolphEMC.com)**



# AWARE

*a word about*  
*Randolph Electric*

*by Dale F. Lambert, CEO*

## Dear Members,

Anniversaries mark milestones in our lives. They give us an opportunity to reflect on where we have been and how far we have come, to give thanks for those that brought us to where we are and to anticipate what awaits us in the future. Throughout 2013, Randolph EMC has been celebrating 75 years of service with the theme “Pride in our Past, Progress in our Future.”

I have really enjoyed researching our archives to better understand the tremendous challenges faced by our early founders. We are so fortunate to have interviews with many of those early pioneers on tape providing a firsthand account of forming Randolph EMC.

It all began with a “need.” That “need” was for the rural areas of this region to have access to electricity, like those who were living in towns and cities. The electric utilities in existence at the time told the rural communities it was just too costly to run power lines out into the country. If you were only looking at the bottom line of an income statement, they were right. Even 75 years later, serving rural areas is still much more expensive than serving more urban areas.

Times were hard in those days. Water had to be drawn or pumped by hand. The only light was from a kerosene lamp. Cooking was done on a wood stove—even in the summer. There were no electric motors to help with the chores around the farm.



But there were leaders that took a risk, had a dream and a desire to revolutionize the lives of their neighbors. The first planning meetings for creating Randolph EMC began at Zell Brown’s store in Asheboro. In a taped interview, Mr. Brown stated the very first membership fee of \$5 was collected at his store. From there, meetings were held throughout our communities, mainly at area churches.

Electricity was new and some people were very skeptical of it. There were some humorous stories recorded by those early founders. Mr. Alton Wall, the Manager of REMC for almost 29 years, shared a story about a visit to a farmhouse one day while he was out checking on power lines. When he got out of his car, the farmer met him and told him he had not spotted any “leaks.”

Mr. Wall was puzzled and asked him what he was talking about. The farmer told Mr. Wall one of the linemen on the traveling line crew that installed the power line to his house told him to regularly inspect the power lines on his farm for leaks, especially after it rained.

The lineman told the farmer that electricity would leak out onto the ground from the power line, similar to water, and kill his crops. Mr. Wall had to inform the farmer that they were just having some fun with him.

Another rumor from that time was to always keep a light bulb screwed into the socket or the electricity would leak out onto the floor of the house. Electricity was a new technology and it took awhile for some people to adapt to it.

There are also stories about some farmers being reluctant to sign up while their neighbors would connect to the electric service. I don't think it took but a few hits on the head from a cast-iron skillet in the hand of a farmer's wife before he saw the light and decided they had better sign up for power, too.

Throughout this year, I have encouraged you to share your stories about "when the lights came on." I want to share one of those stories with you from Mr. Ray Parks, who is the father of my Administrative Assistant, Ravonda Hanes.

Around 1946, Gid Helm and several other linemen were setting poles and pulling the wire to get electric service to Pleasant Hill United Methodist Church, located just off Fork Creek Mill Road in Seagrove.

Mr. Parks, who was around 7 years old at the time, was at the church helping his grandpa clean up the graveyard. Mr. Parks got tired because he had been working several hours using his little red wagon to haul sand to put on the graves, so when his grandpa told him to go inside the church and lay down on the back bench, he fell right to sleep.

As the linemen were working outside the church running the lines, Mr. Helm came into the church and yelled back to the men outside, "Is the power on yet?"

Mr. Helms scared the young Mr. Parks and woke him up. Mr. Parks said that "he thought Gabriel was sounding his trumpet, the man's voice was so loud."

When Mr. Helms saw the young boy, he asked, "What you are doing in here, boy?" Mr. Parks explained his grandpa was out working on the graveyard and he came inside for a nap.

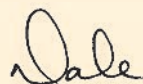
Mr. Helms said, "Come over here and flip this switch at the switchbox and turn the lights on." Mr. Parks did, and from that day forward, Pleasant Hill United Methodist Church has enjoyed the benefits of electricity.

The generation that "remembers when the lights came on" is slowly fading away. For the sake of future generations of Randolph EMC members, I would like to collect stories of those early days for our archives and possibly share some of these stories over the coming months so our younger members can understand the sacrifices that were made in forming their electric cooperative. The story could be about you or any of your family members.

These events from our past would serve as a tribute to the spirit of neighbor helping neighbor and hopefully inspire the present and future generations to carry on the cooperative spirit.

You can mail your stories to Randolph EMC, P.O. Box 40, Asheboro, NC 27204, Attn: Dale Lambert or email them to [MyStory@RandolphEMC.com](mailto:MyStory@RandolphEMC.com). Thank you in advance for your assistance—I know I can count on you!

Cooperatively Yours,



Dale F. Lambert  
Chief Executive Officer



# A CHRISTMAS CARD THAT SAVES YOU MONEY

The Co-op Connections card offers discounts from local and national retailers, which helps you save on everything from the tree, to the trimmings, to the gifts underneath this Christmas!

Randolph EMC provides the Co-op Connections card free to all of our members, so keep your card handy year-round for up to 85 percent savings on prescription drugs, discounts on vision, dental and hearing aid services, and much more!

**Shop Local This Year!**

Check out all of the great deals our local businesses have to offer in the Co-op Connections section of [RandolphEMC.com](http://RandolphEMC.com).