

Watts Working

Apply Now for a Touchstone Energy Sports Camp Scholarship to Attend Basketball Camp this Summer!

The shot clock is counting down for rising sixth and seventh graders to apply for a Touchstone Energy Sports Camp Scholarship. Randolph EMC will select one young woman to attend the Wolfpack Women's Basketball Camp at N.C. State University June 18-22 and one young man to attend the Carolina

Basketball School at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill June 17-21.

The online applications include two short essays and require a parent or guardian's signature. Eligible applicants must be in sixth or seventh grade during the 2023-2024 school year. The application

deadline is March 31.

Scholarship winners will receive an all-expenses-paid trip to camp, where they will experience life on a college campus, train with college coaches and athletes and develop skills to help them excel on and off the court.

"We are very pleased to offer these scholarships," said Nicole Arnold, communications and public affairs manager for REMC. "The program offers a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for student athletes to hone their skills at a critical and formative time in their development. We encourage our members with children in middle school to apply for these camps, so the children can learn from the best college coaches in the country."

Scan the QR code to the left to learn more and apply online.

TAKE YOUR SHOT!

Middle Schoolers, Apply Now for a Touchstone Energy Sports Camp Scholarship!

Attend Basketball Camp for Free this Summer!

Touchstone Energy®
Sports Camp Scholarships

randolphemc.com/touchstone-energy-sports-camps
Deadline to apply is March 31, 2023

B Apply for Community Grants Now

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Sharing Success Community Grant Applications Now Open

Randolph Electric Membership Corporation announces that applications are now open for its Sharing Success Community Grants. Nonprofits in the Randolph EMC service area of Randolph, Chatham, Moore, Montgomery and Alamance counties are eligible to apply.

The Sharing Success Community Grants Program is a special project of People Helping People (PHP), Randolph EMC's 501(c)3 organization. Community Grant funds are made possible through the generosity of CoBank, an industry lender, and are separate and distinct from monthly member contributions to PHP.

"Since 2015, the PHP Board of Directors has awarded over \$106,000 in grants to charitable nonprofits that lend a helping hand to those in need," said Nicole Arnold, communications and public affairs manager at Randolph EMC. "Randolph EMC's core values guide our philanthropic efforts, and our People Helping People (PHP) program is one example of how the cooperative is dedicated to making a positive, lasting impact on the communities we serve."

Program Details

Each year, CoBank allocates \$4 million annually to match cooperatives' charitable contributions to nonprofit organizations in their local communities. For 2023, CoBank will match Randolph EMC's donation of \$10,000 to PHP to provide a total of \$20,000 in grant funding for nonprofit agencies in Randolph, Moore, Montgomery, Alamance and Chatham counties.

Qualifying organizations may apply for up to \$2,000 in funding to implement programs or purchase necessary equipment to facilitate programs that will make a positive impact in the communities where Randolph EMC member-owners reside.

The application is available online at RandolphEMC.com. Completed applications must be received electronically by May 31, 2023.



Students benefit from outdoor reading camps at Spirit Horse Ranch, a Sharing Success Community Grant recipient.



Scan the QR code to access the 2023 application form.

For additional information or questions, please contact Nicole Arnold at 336-625-5177 or Nicole.Arnold@RandolphEMC.com.

Congratulations to Colton Freeman, 2023 Youth Tourist!

Each summer Randolph EMC joins other cooperatives around the nation to choose 1,600 of our nation's brightest students to participate in the annual Youth Tour. From June 17-23, these student representatives will converge on Washington, D.C., to learn about American history, meet their members of Congress and explore the electric cooperative business model.

This year Randolph EMC awarded the honor to Colton Freeman, a 10th-grader at North Moore High School. Colton and his family are members living in Eagle Springs, N.C. Colton's outstanding school and community involvement, stellar academic record and sports achievement made him an excellent choice for this enriching experience. We look forward to introducing you to Colton further in the months to come, and we congratulate him on being our 2023 Youth Tourist.



2023 Youth Tourist Colton Freeman is congratulated by REMC CEO Dale Lambert.



Power at your fingertips!

- ✓ Monitor Usage
- ✓ Report an Outage
- ✓ Pay Your Bill



MOBILE APP





REMC Celebrates Delivery of First Electric Bus in N.C.

On Jan. 24, Randolph County School System hosted a ribbon-cutting celebration at the Randolph County Board of Education. The event showcased the partnerships that brought the first-ever electric school bus in North Carolina to Randolph County.

Randolph EMC and N.C.'s Electric Cooperatives partnered with the N.C. Department of Public Instruction to obtain \$277,000 in Volkswagen settlement funding for the all-electric school bus, manufactured by Thomas Built Buses. The new bus will serve a route in southwestern Randolph County.

Randolph EMC has provided a DC Fast charger and related electrical infrastructure for the bus on the campus of Southwestern Randolph Middle School. REMC will analyze how charging the electric bus affects the electric grid and Randolph County School System's electric bill. The pilot project will serve as a case study for future

applications of electric vehicle technology across the state.

Dr. Stephen Gainey, superintendent of Randolph County School System, welcomed board of education members, representatives of Carolina Thomas and Thomas Built Buses, the secretaries of the N.C. Departments of Public Instruction and Environmental Quality, Randolph EMC's board of directors, and members of the press to the event.

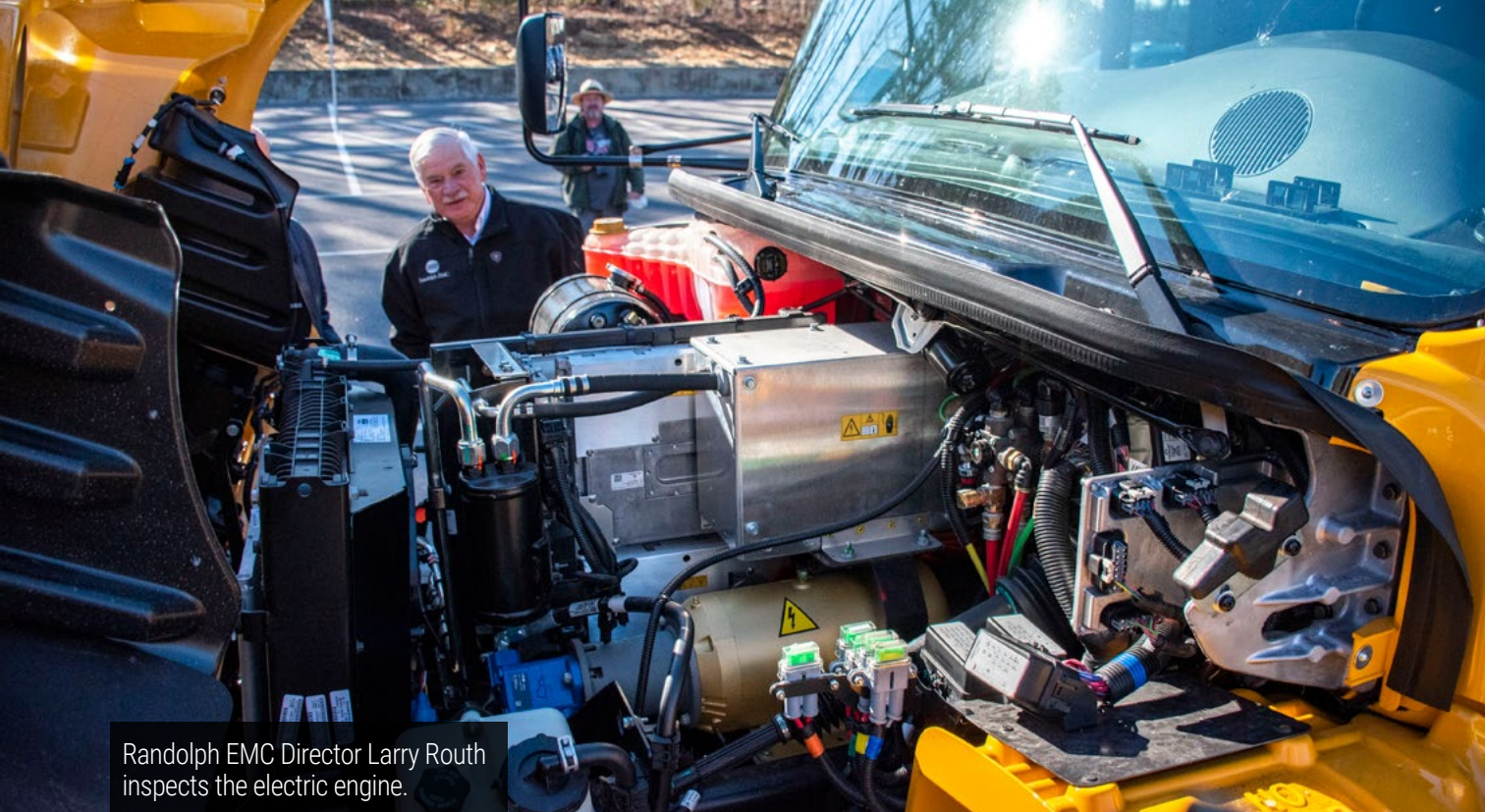
REMC's Director of Innovative Energy Solutions Michael Trent described the journey to this celebration by recalling his original discussions in 2019 with Wendy Anderson, the director of transportation for Randolph County Schools, and Michael

Randolph EMC and NC's Electric Cooperatives facilitated the delivery of the first electric bus in North Carolina to the Randolph County School System.

Youth, associate general counsel of N.C.'s Electric Cooperatives.

"This year, 2023, marks our 85th anniversary," said Trent. "REMC was founded by several concerned individuals who sought to improve the quality of life of rural North Carolinians through electrification. Today, REMC continues to partner with key organizations to bring value to the community."

Secretary of the Department of Environmental Quality Elizabeth Biser explained that the eBus is the first of 49 currently in the production for North Carolina public schools. She applauded Randolph County School System for taking delivery of the first-ever electric bus in North Carolina.



Randolph EMC Director Larry Routh inspects the electric engine.

“The partnerships represented here today demonstrate the dedication of those organizations that care about the future of their communities.”

Kevin Harrison, section chief at the Department of Public Instruction, noted the benefits of the eBus, including cleaner air and reduced noise for students, bus drivers and communities.

Roy Parks, regional sales manager at Carolina Thomas, LLC, commemorated this “historic and exciting day” by presenting Dr. Gainey with a plaque of the eBus, complete with a photo and VIN number of the vehicle.

“The partnerships represented here today demonstrate the dedication of those organizations that care about the future of their communities,” said Dr. Gainey. “Together, we’ll make this pilot program a success for the state of North Carolina.”



Representatives from Carolina Thomas, the REMC Board of Directors, Randolph County School System and the State of North Carolina celebrate the first electric bus delivery in the state.

A Word About Randolph Electric

From CEO Dale Lambert



THE IMPORTANCE OF A STABLE GRID

Dear Members,

In last month's AWARE column, I noted three events that led to power outages for some members in the month of December. They were the following:

Event 1

The month started out with criminals sabotaging two of Duke Energy's substations in Moore County on Dec. 3rd. This affected one of the transmission lines that serves Randolph EMC's Eastwood and Seven Lakes substations. Last month's AWARE column detailed the steps we took to restore power to affected members prior to Duke Energy completing the repairs to their damaged equipment.

Event 2

On Dec. 23rd, as a cold front moved through our area, temperatures plummeted throughout the day. This, coupled with wind gusts of up to 50 miles per hour, resulted in wind chills well below zero. It also resulted in power outages for 10% of the membership, 3,340 accounts, due to trees falling on the lines. Our team worked hard, and all outages were restored by 7:30 p.m.

Event 3

My focus for this month's column is Event 3. After the storm front moved through our area in the early morning hours of Christmas Eve, Dec. 24th, temperatures fell into the single digits. This is somewhat unusual but not unheard of in our part of the country. The electrical grid is sometimes

referred to as the largest machine in the world. The grid must meet the need for electricity the instant you flip on a light switch, turn on your water faucet, adjust thermostats or use your stove and microwave to heat up dinner.

The electricity originates at power plants, also known as generation stations, and flows onto the electrical grid. This interconnected grid comprises hundreds of thousands of miles of transmission, distribution, and service lines as well as several transformers, ultimately delivering power to the breaker panel in our homes. This amazing "machine," the grid, must stay in almost perfect sync between the thousands of plants generating electricity and the individual loads inside of your homes at all times.

Weather events featuring extreme hot and cold temperatures that drive high demand place the greatest burden on the electrical grid. Your board of directors and employee team focus on delivering safe, reliable and affordable power to you every day. This includes reliable power on the hottest and coldest days of the year; that's the standard we seek to meet.

I have written in the past about Randolph EMC's significant yearly investments to upgrade sections of our 4,400 miles of power lines. Due to load growth on the system, conductors, transformers and substations have to be upgraded to meet this increasing demand.

I am pleased to report the Randolph EMC electrical system performed exceptionally well during this extreme

demand period. Our system includes 24,386 transformers and 5,091 fault control devices, including fuses, reclosers and breakers. The high load levels on Christmas Eve morning could have impacted any of these 29,477 devices. However, even with temperatures in the single digits, we had only two small outages related to load issues.

Early that morning, a transformer serving one member failed from being overloaded; we upgraded this transformer to a larger one. The second outage involved a fuse controlling a section of line supplying power to 44 members. We changed this fuse to a larger one. We repaired both of these outages quickly.

This shows the focus our engineering and operations teams put into staying ahead of problems and making wise investments in your electrical system to address issues before they turn into outages for the members.

But what unfolded on Christmas Eve was unprecedented. Duke Energy is responsible for operating the broader bulk power system, generation and transmission lines in most of our state. This bulk power system is interconnected to what's called the Eastern Grid, which covers the United States from the Atlantic Ocean to almost the Rocky Mountains. Randolph EMC takes delivery from this bulk power system onto our transmission lines and substations to serve our members.

To preserve the stability of the overall electrical grid from widespread failure,

for the first time ever, Duke Energy initiated rolling blackouts for portions of the state. Not doing so would have resulted in extensive and lengthy power outages.

As I write this column, we do not have all the details for this event since there are currently multiple investigations underway. But I would like to provide an overview of what we do know.

For the Dec. 24th blackout events, three of Randolph EMC's substations were affected. Members in the general areas of Snow Camp, Staley and New Hope, in Alamance and Randolph counties, had interruptions of power. These blackouts impacted 21% of Randolph EMC's members (6,858), for durations of 15 to 20 minutes at a time.

Based on what I know now, there were two main issues that led to the blackouts. First, the actual peak load for the morning of Christmas Eve was higher than predicted.

Electric utilities use forecasting tools to model future load levels for every hour of every day. Prior to Dec. 24th, Duke Energy's models predicted an adequate level of generation available, with reserves, to meet the peak demand for that morning. However, through the early morning hours of Christmas Eve, load levels climbed higher than the models predicted.

The second factor contributing to the blackouts were operational issues at multiple power generating plants. Some plants either went offline or did not generate power to the levels they were capable of during the peak period. When the investigations are completed, we will have a much clearer picture into why these plants did not perform as expected.

When these two factors are coupled together, they create an imbalance within the power grid. When there are high load levels and not enough generation online, one of two dramatic things will happen:

Scenario 1

Grid control centers must physically drop load to meet the levels of available generation. In this instance, Duke Energy could not generate

enough power to meet demand, so they dropped load, resulting in limited, rolling blackouts.

Scenario 2

The bulk power system will begin an uncontrolled, cascading blackout that could possibly grow to affect multiple states and hundreds of thousands of people. This is what Duke avoided by instituting controlled, rolling blackouts.

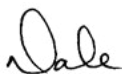
The personnel in Duke's Energy Control Center did the right thing to address this imbalance before things got out of hand and significant portions of the grid failed uncontrollably. The goal was to avoid anything similar to the massive blackout in August 2003 that affected the northeastern United States and Canada.

In that event, multiple factors created an imbalance within the regional power grid. Because of this, 21 power plants went offline and left 50 million people in the dark, including those in New York City. Most had their power restored within hours, but in some locations, it took two days to bring the grid back to full operation.

I go back to a statement I made earlier. Reliability is critical for our members and the citizens of this state. What happened on Christmas Eve is not acceptable and should not be considered the norm. I've traveled to some third-world countries on mission trips and have seen their power grids firsthand. North Carolina and the United States must take the necessary steps now to ensure our bulk power system remains the most reliable in the world.

As the investigations unfold, I look forward to hearing more details of the contributing factors that resulted in the blackouts. Randolph EMC will be a strong advocate for proper steps to be taken so this doesn't happen again. Stay tuned....

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

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RandolphEMC.com



Future Leaders Tour REMC, Learn about Careers in Energy

On Jan. 25, Randolph EMC hosted the Student LIFT class of 2023 for a live-line demonstration, a facility tour and a discussion on careers in electrical cooperatives. Student Leadership Information For Tomorrow (LIFT) is a program of the Asheboro/Randolph Chamber of Commerce. REMC is a primary sponsor of this educational outreach program offering 25 high school sophomores, juniors and seniors the opportunity to learn more about careers in the area and gain valuable leadership skills.

Line Superintendent Daniel Maness, Journeyman Lineman and Foreman Rodney Haithcock, Linemen Chris Smith and Ryan Kivett, and Apprentice Linemen Hunter Allred and Dakota Smith presented the live-line demonstration in the Operations Support Facility. In addition to describing the hazards of electrical contact, the REMC crew outlined the functions of the mobile substation and instructed students about safety gear that lineworkers must wear. Students also met with GIS Technician Timothy Foster and Staff Engineer Holly Lucas in the Dispatch Center. There they learned about the cutting-edge technology REMC uses to track and repair outages.

This impressive group of students learned about advances in technology, the importance of safety, and the careers available to them at their local cooperative. REMC appreciates the Chamber, and mentors, Baxter Hammer and Kirsten Stovall, for helping to make this a memorable day for these future leaders.



Student LIFT Class of 2022–2023

- Liberty Adams, Asheboro High School
- Logann Beaver, Eastern Randolph High School
- Hannah Charles, Asheboro Hybrid Academy
- Maci Columbia, Asheboro High School
- Lacey Cozart, Randleman High School
- Hailey Cranford, Uwharrie Ridge
- Jaydon DeNamur, Uwharrie Charter Academy
- Emma Dobbins, Asheboro High School
- Sydney Duggins, Uwharrie Charter Academy
- Jacob Gainey, Southwestern Randolph High School
- Lucy Griffin, Southwestern Randolph High School
- Sydney Hall, Wheatmore High School
- Casey Joura, Uwharrie Charter Academy
- Isabella McNamee, Southwestern Randolph High School
- Benjamin Owen IV, Uwharrie Charter Academy
- Owen Peele, Southwestern Randolph High School
- Josie Perdue, Southwestern Randolph High School
- Emilee Shackelford, Asheboro High School
- Aaron Smith, Uwharrie Charter Academy
- Tanush Sriram, Asheboro High School
- Leah Waisner, Southwestern Randolph High School
- Olivia Walker, Randolph Early College High School
- Kenly Whitaker, Eastern Randolph High School
- Kaleigh Wilson, Eastern Randolph High School
- Leah Zielenski, Asheboro High School