

APRIL 2025

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# Watts Working



## Honoring our Lineworkers

Aaron Lednum and Hunter Allred assist in a Live Line Demonstration.

A newsletter for the member-owners of



Randolph Electric  
Membership Corporation





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  
 Robbinston: ..... (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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Visit Randolph EMC Online  
**RandolphEMC.com**

Throughout this issue of *Watts Working*, Randolph Electric features our lineworkers and the important work they do.



**HONORING OUR  
 LINeworkERS**

**ALAN BEAMAN LINEMAN**

**4 YEARS WITH REMC**

“Being a lineman is a rewarding job in many ways. I enjoy maintaining and restoring power for our members and helping those in need.”



# A Word About Randolph Electric

From CEO Dennis Mabe

## Powering our Communities: A Tribute to Linemen

Dear Members,

### Imagine this...

You step out of the truck and into the darkness. The only light comes from the moon slipping between fast-moving clouds and the beam of your spotlight. The storm has passed, but its destruction remains, and now it's your job to put the lines back together.

Ahead of you is a single-phase line stretching nearly a mile into the woods—no road, no easy path, just a long walk through rough terrain, guided only by the faint outline of poles disappearing into the tree line. You climb over the first fence, then another, both times wondering what might be inside the field. Cattle? Horses? Something else?

The only sounds are your boots crunching against the damp ground and the occasional rustling in the underbrush. When you finally reach the last pole, you scan the area, checking the lines, poles and transformer. That's when you hear it.

A sound behind you.

You turn and see movement near the house up ahead. But no one lives here. No one has for years. The old man who once worked this land passed away right over there in the garden, or so the story goes.

The wind picks up. The clouds race across the moon. And then—something shifts again. A shadow. A shape. Moving. Coming toward you.

You don't stop to think. You run. Faster than you knew you could. You hurdle the fences, boots barely touching the ground and your adrenaline fueling every step.

When you finally make it back to the truck, heart pounding, you laugh it off with the crew—just a trick of the light, right? Just the wind? Maybe. Maybe not.

You get the power back on to this line, and it's your last call till morning. And after all that, you drive back to a hotel with no power, no hot water and nowhere to sleep but on the floor because there are not enough beds to house the lineman in town to help. But in the end, it's just another night on storm trouble and another job well done.

This story I share with you is a real situation that one of our linemen experienced. There are so many stories that could be told, a book needs to be written. But not every challenge comes with a ghost story. For linemen, long nights, tough conditions and demanding work aren't just part of storm trouble — they're part of everyday life.

Before the sun rises, while most of us are still asleep, linemen are already up and moving—putting on their flame-resistant clothing, lacing up heavy boots and heading out to do a job that most people don't think about until the lights go out.

April 14 is North Carolina's Lineman Appreciation Day, and while we recognize them year-round, this is a moment to pause and truly appreciate the skill, toughness and heart of service that goes into their work. Being a lineman isn't just a job—it's a calling. It takes physical strength, sure, but more than that, it takes determination, resilience and a deep commitment to serving others.

Across our five-county service area, Randolph EMC linemen are out there every day—building, maintaining, and repairing the system that keeps homes, businesses, and critical services running. And when a storm rolls through the service territory and knocks out power, they're the first ones out, climbing poles in the wind and rain, working tirelessly to get the lights back on. In those moments of crisis, they are more than just the folks who restore power—they are a steady presence, bringing reassurance and a sense of normalcy when people need it most.

But their service doesn't stop at county lines. When disaster strikes in other communities, our crews answer the call, traveling wherever help is needed. Cooperation among cooperatives is a core principle, and no one lives it out better than linemen.

So this month, when you flip a switch, take a second to think about the workers who make it happen. Their efforts may not always be visible, but they are essential to keeping our lives running smoothly. Linemen are built to serve, and for that, I personally want to say thank you to all our linemen for their commitment and dedication to the communities we serve.

**Cooperatively  
yours,  
Dennis  
Mabe, CEO**





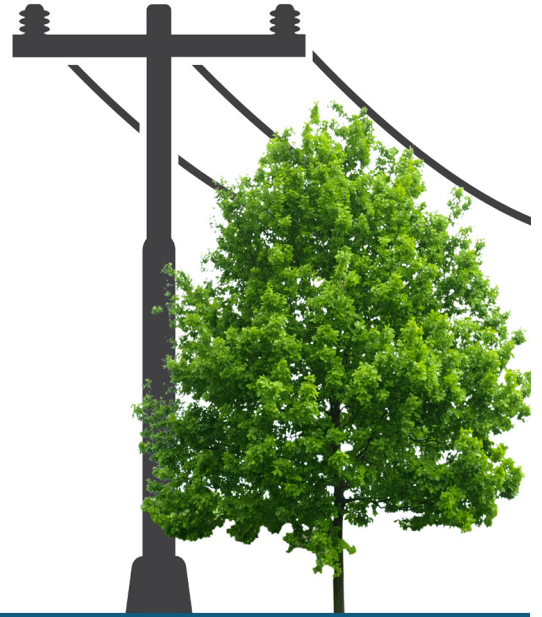
## Why Do We Trim Trees?

Trees add beauty to our landscape, provide oxygen and can help conserve energy. When they grow too close to power lines, however, they can cause service disruptions or even outages.

That is why branches and limbs that grow into or near lines need to be trimmed and sometimes even removed.

If you notice your trees start to crowd power lines, do not trim them yourself. Contact your electric utility to determine the next recommended step.

Only professionals certified for line clearance should prune and trim trees near power lines.



## HONORING OUR LINEWORKERS



### CHRIS INGOLD LINEMAN

3 YEARS WITH REMC

“My most prominent memory so far was helping the people in Western North Carolina with Hurricane Helene. I’ve been on many storms from New Hampshire to Texas, but being in my home state, it definitely hit different. I felt proud being up there with my fellow linemen helping with the devastation and restoring power.”



# JEREME GARNER

## JOURNEYMAN LINEMAN

32 YEARS WITH REMC

“What I have enjoyed the most during my career as a lineman has been helping others. Earlier in my career, I enjoyed training new linemen in safe work practices. It has always been rewarding to assist other co-ops in storm restoration. Presently, I am enjoying designing power lines for new members and their families. It is a pleasure to be a part of the REMC team.”

# HONORING OUR LINEWORKERS



**Randolph EMC  
lobbies will be closed  
Wednesday, April 16,  
from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
for employee  
meetings.**

**Please excuse  
this temporary  
inconvenience.**

**Randolph  
EMC offices  
will be closed  
April 18 for  
Good Friday.  
Happy Easter!**





## HONORING OUR LINEWORKERS

### JONATHAN COLE LINEMAN

5 YEARS WITH REMC

“Working as a lineman at REMC gives me the opportunity to make a positive impact in the community by serving our members.”

## Plant Safely This Spring

Keep away from power distribution lines.  
Use this guide to help you.

- 1 For trees that will grow greater than 40 feet tall, plant 50 feet away from the power line.
- 2 For trees that will grow less than 40 feet tall, plant 20 feet away.
- 3 For trees that will grow less than 25 feet tall, you can plant within 20 feet of the line but do not plant under the lines.

Plant trees a safe distance from power distribution lines.







# Save the date!

## 87<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting

Friday, June 20, 2025  
Southwestern Randolph High School

Registration opens 5 p.m.  
Business Meeting 6:30 p.m.

Enjoy the live band.  
Win prizes or bill credits.  
Learn the results of our Director elections.



## You can't AVOID what you CAN'T SEE

Starting a job — big or small —  
without first getting utilities marked  
could result in serious injury,  
service disruptions for you and your  
neighbors, and a hefty fine.

## Call 8-1-1 before you dig.



# Bright Ideas Innovation in Education Grants

## *Applications Now Open for Teachers*



Randolph EMC is partnering with outstanding educators to bring their creative lesson plans to life! Starting April 1, teachers can apply for a Bright Ideas education grant of up to \$2,000 to fund projects that enhance student success in the classroom. Applications and more information about the program can be found at [www.ncbrightideas.com](http://www.ncbrightideas.com).

The 2025–26 school year will mark the 31st year that North Carolina’s electric cooperatives have funded educators’ innovative projects. During that time, Randolph EMC has issued more than \$300,000 for critical projects that have benefited students in our five-county area. Grants are available in all curriculum areas including art, science, history, music and mathematics.

Bright Ideas grant applications will be accepted through Sept. 15, but teachers are encouraged to apply early.

Supported by all 26 electric cooperatives in North Carolina, Bright Ideas grants have contributed more than \$16 million to N.C. classrooms, funding more than 15,400 projects benefiting close to four million students statewide since 1994.

Support for youth and education is part of our continued commitment to building a brighter future for the communities we serve. To learn more, visit [RandolphEMC.com](http://RandolphEMC.com).



# Randolph Electric Membership Corporation