



watts working

The Monthly Newsletter for Members of Randolph Electric Membership Corporation

\$10,000 Awarded for Bright Ideas



**BRIGHT
IDEAS**

Randolph Electric Membership Corporation awarded \$10,000 in grants to eight teachers across Randolph and Montgomery counties as part of the Bright Ideas grant program. Sponsored by North Carolina's electric cooperatives, Bright Ideas honors K-12 educators who put great thought and effort into designing innovative, creative projects that enhance their students' learning experience.

"Randolph Electric is committed to bettering the communities we serve, and we believe there is no better way than through educating our youth," said Dale Lambert, Randolph EMC's CEO. "Bright Ideas is the only grant program in our state exclusively for North Carolina teachers, and we are proud to support this worthy cause."

Since the program's inception in 1994, REMC has contributed more than \$170,000, and North Carolina's Touchstone Energy cooperatives have awarded more than \$7.9 million to N.C. teachers across the state. The Bright Ideas program has reached more than 1.3 million North Carolina students in all subjects including math, reading, science and technology, music and the arts. Congratulations to all the winners!

A panel of retired educators representing Asheboro City, Randolph, Moore and Montgomery County Schools carefully reviewed and discussed each application before deciding on the final awards, showcased on the next page.

Randolph EMC offices will be closed Monday, **January 2**, for New Year's.

**Happy
New Year!**



**Randolph Electric
Membership Corporation**

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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2011 Bright Ideas Winners



Mrs. Tammy Applegate
Asheboro High School, \$1,300

“Roller Coaster Calculus” uses motion detectors, toys and models—such as roller coasters, remote control vehicles, and Hot Wheels cars—that interface with their graphing calculators, and simulation software to conduct experiments on velocity and acceleration. Students will experience a real-life context for many of the calculus concepts we studied in calculus classes.



Mr. Barry Richard Barber
South Asheboro Middle School, \$1,600

“Building Robots to Bring Out the Best in Every Student” will provide students the opportunity to design, program, and build their own robots. Through authentic, project-based activities requiring problem solving and collaboration, this robotics program will enhance education in technology, mathematics, and science school-wide.



Mrs. Lori Columbia
Eastern Randolph High School, \$435

“Hip Hop Write” motivates students to write and develop critical thinking skills by incorporating music with writing. Students will be introduced to new musical styles, critique lyrics and brainstorm their meanings, and then compose pieces of their own.



Ms. Ella Kern
Donna L. Loflin Elementary School, \$1,100

“A Year in North Carolina” uses reading, writing, researching, science, social studies, math, and technology to make a calendar about the yearlong social studies focus of North Carolina.

2011 Bright Ideas Winners

Mrs. Jennifer Matthews
Archdale Elementary School, \$1,200

"Integrating Literacy and Social Studies Through Inquiry Circles" integrates Language Arts and Social Studies by using a variety of resources to investigate answers to common questions. Students then make creative presentations and present to their peers.



Mr. Jeff Perry
Southwestern Randolph High School, \$2,000

"Forestry Resources Maximized" will allow students in the Carpentry and Natural Resources Departments to have a more complete understanding of how to use timber to their advantage by purchasing and using a portable sawmill. Students will work with different species of trees and use the lumber processed at the school to learn more about their characteristics and make better choices when building different structures, furniture and projects.



Ms. Anne Shirk
Randleman High School, \$765

"Musical Webcams" will allow the high school choral teachers of Randolph County Schools to use webcams to collaborate with each other and each school's students by sharing musicianship skills and experiences. Classes across the county will be able to rehearse music between schools and experience classes with composers and guest artists from across the nation.



Mr. Thomas Soja
Southwestern Randolph High School, \$1,600

"Recycling Made Easy: A Campus Recycling Center" will utilize students' carpentry skills to build a center for a campus-wide recycling program. This project promotes interaction between all students, with a special emphasis on providing meaningful service hours and peer mentoring for mentally and physically challenged students.



EMPLOYMENT POLICY

All applicants for employment shall be considered and hired on the basis of merit, without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age or disability. The employment practices shall insure equal treatment of all employees without discrimination in rates of pay or other opportunities for advancement because of the employee's race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age or disability.

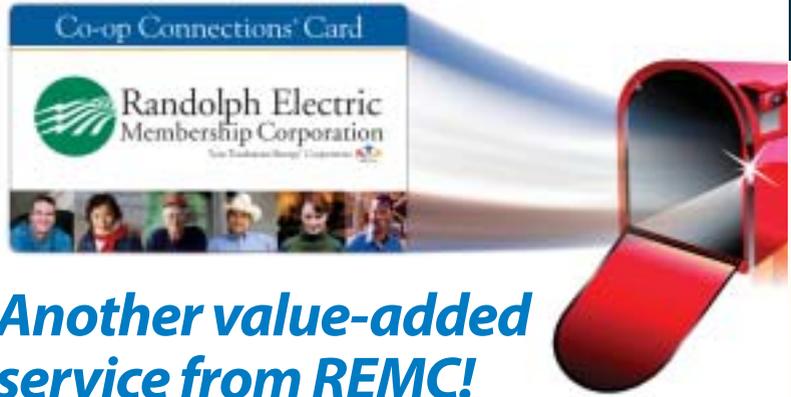
STATEMENT OF NONDISCRIMINATION

Randolph Electric Membership Corporation is the recipient of Federal financial assistance from the Rural Utilities Service, an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and is subject to the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended; the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended; and the rules and regulations of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. In accordance with Federal law and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's policy, this organization is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, age or disability. The person responsible for coordinating this compliance is Olivia Simpson. To file a complaint of discrimination, write to:

USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights
 Room 362-W, Whitten Building
 1400 Independence Avenue, SW
 Washington, D.C. 20250-9410

or call 202.720.5964 (voice or TTD). Both USDA and Randolph Electric Membership Corporation are equal opportunity providers and employers.

Coming to Your Mailbox in February!

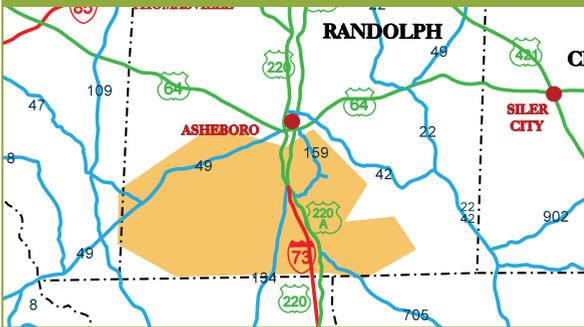


Another value-added service from REMC!

The **Co-op Connections Card** entitles you to a number of discounts at participating national and local businesses—including prescription drug savings! All members will be receiving a Co-op Connections Card in the February issue of *Carolina Country*.

For more information about this program, call Jill Vanness at 1.800.672.8212 or visit our website at www.RandolphEMC.com.

JANUARY SMART METER INSTALLATIONS



Crews will be installing smart meters in the highlighted areas during January.

2012 Holiday Schedule

New Year's Day	Monday	January 2
Good Friday	Friday	April 6
Memorial Day	Monday	May 28
July 4th	Wednesday	July 4
Labor Day	Monday	September 3
Veteran's Day	Monday	November 12
Thanksgiving	Thursday	November 22
	Friday	November 23
Christmas	Monday	December 24
	Tuesday	December 25
	Wednesday	December 26

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

Office Hours:

8:00 am – 5:00 pm | Monday–Friday

Board of Directors:

Bob WrightPresident
 Jerry BowmanVice President
 Sue SpencerSec.-Treasurer
 Tammie PhillipsAssist. Sec.-Treasurer
 James Andrews
 Delbert Cranford
 Steve Harris
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 Bob PhillipsSenior Vice President &
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 Ron GunnellVice President of Engineering
 Adam HargettVice President of Finance
 Dennis MabeVice President of Operations
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 & Public Relations
 Jill VannessPublic Relations Coordinator, Editor

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by Paul Caviness, Energy Use Advisor

Energy-Saving Devices Can Be Too Good to Be True

“If something sounds too good to be true, it probably is.” That saying rings especially true when it comes to claims about energy-saving devices, particularly those that indicate they can dramatically cut your heating and cooling costs.

Ads made to look like news stories abound for “Amish style” fireplaces, a “miracle device” that supposedly can slash your heating bills. In actuality, the appliance is simply a space heater hidden inside a false fireplace with a wooden mantle.

If you were to use a space heater eight hours a day, five days a week for a month, it would cost approximately \$25. But whether it can cut your heating bill depends on several factors.

Space heaters only warm a small area. You may save some money if you turn down the thermostat (sometimes to as low as 50 degrees Fahrenheit), site the space heater in a room with people in it, and then close off that room from the rest of the house. But space heaters cannot come close to replacing energy-efficient central heating or weatherization improvements. So while it’s technically possible to cut your heating bill by 50 percent using space heaters, for most people, it’s impractical.

“When it comes to saving energy, there are no magic solutions,” asserts Brian Sloboda, senior program manager for energy efficiency at the Cooperative Research Network, the research arm of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. “Anyone promising to slash your utility bill by double digits is stretching the truth to the breaking point. Buying ENERGY STAR-rated appliances, unplugging battery chargers and other ‘vampire’ electronics, and sealing air leaks around windows and doors are some of the best ways to save money and energy.”

The bottom line: there’s no substitute for good old-fashioned energy efficiency measures like weather stripping around doors, caulking around windows, adding insulation to your attic, plugging leaks in ductwork, and regularly cleaning or replacing furnace filters.

Sources: *ConsumerAffairs.com, Cooperative Research Network*

SWAPSHOP

For Sale

Delta Table Saw \$150. Frigidaire Refrigerator \$40. Sawzall, new, \$120. Electric leaf blower \$50. 336-381-0311.

New L.L. Bean snowshoes, 2 pair, \$50 each. 336-824-8445.

Pedal Steel, amplifier, volume control, teaching CD, books, stand, & case, \$1,175.00. 336-857-2828.

Craftsman GT 14 Garden Tractor, 14 H.P. Tecumseh cast iron extra long life engine, 3 speed gear box with vari-speed control, 32" lawn sweeper, utility dump trailer, 46" five position front blade, 30" aerator & 40" disc, equipped with 55 lb. rear wheel weights. \$975. 910-690-1424 between 8 a.m. & 5 p.m.

1955 Model 60 John Deere with Model E080A JD Scrape Blade, fully restored & parade ready. 7' X 18' 10,000 LB GVW tandem axle trailer LN condition with 2' side boards. 2500 series 2001 Laramie SLT Dodge pickup with heavy duty towing package, EC. Sold as package, \$18,500. 336-879-3765.

Fruit trees, apples, pears, peaches, persimmons, pomegranates, paw paw & more www.waddscreek.com or 910-947-3384.

Handmade quilts, different sizes. 1983 Cadillac Fleetwood Brougham 137,000 miles, built-in CB, runs great \$2,500. 336-625-4548.

50 lb bag feed wheat \$8.50 per bag. 336-622-2480.

Little Wonder Blower, 3-wheel, 9 HP Honda. Like new. \$795. 336-362-3342.

3,000 Red Sex Link pullets, brown egg layers, vaccinated & debeaked. \$6+. 336-708-2998.

PBC-FCMA-QL Projector Mount with False Ceiling Adapter \$125.00 336-625-0981 x2232

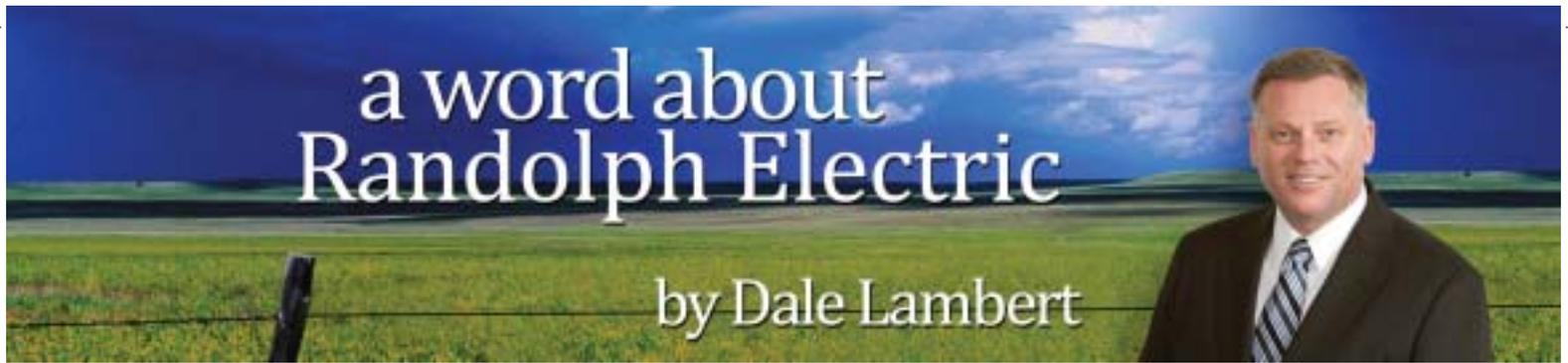
Motorized walking treadmill with upper body arms. Variable speed & incline. Digital time, distance, & speed display. Good condition. \$200. 336-625-6182

For Rent

Ranch-style, 3 BR/2 BA, 2-Car Garage, water-view house in Woodrun Association. Brenda at 910-571-6887.

Mobile Home Lot, 129 Nathan Rd., Carthage. 910-464-3459.

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



What's In Store for 2012?

Dear Members,

In the December AWARE column, I reviewed some of the significant activities and projects that were undertaken or completed in 2011. I am pleased with the progress that has been made, but not satisfied to remain where we are currently. There is always much work to do to maintain and improve the high level of service that our members expect from us. We never become complacent or content in that area.

The month of January is considered a time of new beginnings. It is a time for reflecting on the past year and using experiences from that year as a guide for future planning. It is a time for resolutions, setting goals and implementing the strategies that will help accomplish those goals.

What does the year 2012 have in store for us? It is impossible to know all the things we will face in the coming year. We would probably be miserable if we knew some of the problems in our future that are beyond our control. I have been given advice through the years that amounts to this: "Don't worry about the things you have no control over, but plan for and focus on the ones you do."

As we begin 2012, it appears that Randolph Electric will face many challenges. Our economy continues to struggle to recover from the recession. As I have noted in previous AWARE columns, your cooperative is not immune from these economic impacts. Randolph EMC has taken numerous steps to improve efficiency. We, like many other businesses, have continued to streamline our workforce.

During 2011, a major reorganization of certain REMC departments was completed. The co-op currently has the same number of employees we had in 1995 even though the number of accounts we serve has grown by 24 percent since that time. Our employees are working harder and smarter

in order for us to reach this level of efficiency. I appreciate their commitment and dedication.

PREPARING FOR TRANSITION

One challenge the electric utility industry is facing is the rising cost of electricity generation. There are several factors responsible for this. One factor is that our industry is undergoing a major transition. We are entering into a generation construction phase similar to the 1970s and 1980s. As the demand for electricity continues to grow with the increase of technology and appliances in our homes and businesses, there is a need to build new generation to meet this demand.

New environmental regulations from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) are also beginning to have an impact on our industry. Many older coal plants that produced low-cost energy are being shut down due to the tremendous cost that would be incurred to meet the new regulations. They are being replaced with new, higher-cost generation plants. Many other plants will have to install upgrades and make improvements to meet these new standards, and this will add to the cost of electricity generation.

For Randolph EMC, the cost of wholesale generation has increased by 15 percent from 2007 to 2012. Randolph EMC collects this increase through a Wholesale Power Cost Adjustment (WPCA). The WPCA is a direct reflection of the cost of our wholesale power, so when the cost of generating electricity fluctuates, the WPCA increases or decreases.

For 2012, a member that uses 1,000 kilowatt-hours will see an increase of 3.9 percent over their 2011 usage. Beginning this month, the WPCA will be included in the base calculation of your bill and will no longer be listed as a line item.





Looking into the future, the projection is for the cost of electricity to continue to rise. In conjunction with our cooperative-owned wholesale power supplier, North Carolina Electric Membership Corporation (NCEMC), your Board and management team are working to keep these increases as low as possible. We are also working to develop additional energy efficiency and conservation options so you can take more control of your energy use.

Even with projected cost increases, electricity continues to be an exceptional value for all that it does for us each day. In a period of 24 hours, the average Randolph EMC member uses the equivalent of the cost of one value meal at your favorite fast food restaurant. A cheeseburger and fries certainly wouldn't keep me fueled for an entire 24 hours, so I would say that's an outstanding value!

On another note, I do have some very good news to share with you concerning Capital Credits retirements. Your Board of Directors recently approved a change to our Capital Credits policy that will return more patronage capital to more members in 2012 and the years to come. Be sure to read our future AWARE columns for additional details on this very positive change for our members.

From your Board of Directors, employees and management, we want to wish you a happy, safe and prosperous New Year.

Cooperatively Yours,

Dale F. Lambert
Chief Executive Officer

We Need Your Stories!

Randolph Electric Membership Corp. will celebrate its 75th anniversary in 2013! We're inviting our members to gear up for the celebration by sharing your stories. Much has changed over this period of time and we'd like to commemorate the integral part Randolph EMC, its leaders, employees and members have played in the development of central North Carolina over the past decades.

We're interested in all your Randolph Electric memories and experiences! Tell us about when the lights came on, a special Randolph EMC lineman or other employee, or about when a storm affected your electricity. Maybe you have a funny experience to share. Let us know how Randolph EMC has helped you or improved the quality of life for this area.

Please share your memory with:

Jill Vanness
Public Relations Coordinator
PO Box 40, Asheboro, NC 27204

Or email:

Jill.Vanness@RandolphEMC.com





Keep Track of the Energy You Use

Monitor your monthly usage & cost of electric service. Be sure to read your meter on the same day each month.

Month	Date Read	Reading	kWh Used	Amount Bill	Date Paid
January					
February					
March					
April					
May					
June					
July					
August					
September					
October					
November					
December					
Totals					

2012 Billing Schedule

READING COMPLETE BY	1	Dec 28	Jan 27	Feb 28	Mar 30	Apr 27	May 29	Jun 29	Jul 27	Aug 28	Sep 28	Oct 26	Nov 27
	2	Jan 6	Feb 3	Mar 9	Apr 5	May 4	Jun 8	Jul 6	Aug 3	Sep 7	Oct 5	Nov 2	Dec 7
	3	Jan 13	Feb 10	Mar 16	Apr 13	May 11	Jun 15	Jul 13	Aug 10	Sep 14	Oct 12	Nov 9	Dec 14
	4	Jan 20	Feb 17	Mar 23	Apr 20	May 18	Jun 22	Jul 20	Aug 17	Sep 21	Oct 19	Nov 16	Dec 21
BILL IN MAIL BY	1	Jan 6	Feb 3	Mar 9	Apr 5	May 4	Jun 8	Jul 6	Aug 3	Sep 7	Oct 5	Nov 2	Dec 7
	2	Jan 13	Feb 10	Mar 16	Apr 13	May 11	Jun 15	Jul 13	Aug 10	Sep 14	Oct 12	Nov 9	Dec 14
	3	Jan 20	Feb 17	Mar 23	Apr 20	May 18	Jun 22	Jul 20	Aug 17	Sep 21	Oct 19	Nov 16	Dec 21
	4	Jan 27	Feb 24	Mar 30	Apr 27	May 25	Jun 29	Jul 27	Aug 24	Sep 28	Oct 26	Nov 21	Dec 28
PAST DUE DATE	1	Jan 28	Feb 28	Mar 28	Apr 28	May 28	Jun 28	Jul 28	Aug 28	Sep 28	Oct 28	Nov 28	Dec 28
	2	Feb 5	Mar 5	Apr 5	May 5	Jun 5	Jul 5	Aug 5	Sep 5	Oct 5	Nov 5	Dec 5	Jan 5
	3	Feb 12	Mar 12	Apr 12	May 12	Jun 12	Jul 12	Aug 12	Sep 12	Oct 12	Nov 12	Dec 12	Jan 12
	4	Feb 19	Mar 19	Apr 19	May 19	Jun 19	Jul 19	Aug 19	Sep 19	Oct 19	Nov 19	Dec 19	Jan 19
SUBJECT TO DISCONNECT	1	Feb 6	Mar 12	Apr 9	May 7	Jun 11	Jul 9	Aug 6	Sep 10	Oct 8	Nov 5	Dec 10	Jan 7
	2	Feb 13	Mar 19	Apr 16	May 14	Jun 18	Jul 16	Aug 13	Sep 17	Oct 15	Nov 13	Dec 17	Jan 14
	3	Feb 20	Mar 26	Apr 23	May 21	Jun 25	Jul 23	Aug 20	Sep 24	Oct 22	Nov 19	Dec 27	Jan 21
	4	Feb 27	Apr 2	Apr 30	May 29	Jul 2	Jul 30	Aug 27	Oct 1	Oct 29	Nov 26	Dec 31	Jan 28

AUTOMATIC DRAFT DATES

CYCLE 1
18th of month

CYCLE 2
25th of month

CYCLE 3
2nd of month

CYCLE 4
9th of month

