

Watts Working



To stay connected in this fast-paced world, Randolph Electric has launched Facebook and Twitter pages, allowing us to reach a broader audience in less time. Best of all, social media is completely free for everyone—allowing us to communicate and interact with you more while keeping your electricity costs low.

“By following Randolph Electric on Facebook and Twitter, members will have access to valuable information on everything from energy-efficiency and safety tips to upcoming cooperative programs and events and Co-op Connections updates,” notes Jill Vanness, Director of Communications at Randolph Electric.

“Having Facebook and Twitter also adds convenience—members can access both Facebook and Twitter at any time of the day, making it easy to stay in touch with us during a storm or widespread power outage,” Vanness says.

So how can you stay connected with Randolph Electric? It's easy! All you need to do is become a fan of our Facebook page or follow us on Twitter. To access our social media pages, first visit www.RandolphEMC.com and click on the Facebook and Twitter logos. By 'liking' or 'following' REMC, you're subscribing to our updates and they will show up on your news feed.

Even if you do not have a Facebook or Twitter account, you can still view updates on either page at any time.

Get Connected!

Stay current on the latest news, events, and updates from REMC! Like our Facebook page and connect to our Twitter page to keep up-to-date on:

- Energy efficiency & conservation tips
- Industry news
- Outage info
- Community news & events
- Electrical safety tips
- And much more

VOLUME 76

01

JANUARY 2014

THIS MONTH'S ISSUE:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| B Bright Ideas Grant Winners | E Apply for a Sports Camp Scholarship |
| D Dale Lambert's AWARE Column | F 2014 Youth Tour
Contact the EPA |



Randolph EMC Awards \$10,000 to Local Schools



In November, Randolph Electric awarded \$10,000 in Bright Ideas grants to educators in Moore, Montgomery and Randolph counties. The nine projects funded will touch the lives of more than 1,500 local students.

“These teachers’ creative projects will no doubt help students reach their full potential and spark higher interest in learning for years to come,” said Lauren Ingold, REMC’s Public Relations Coordinator.

“With the extensive budget cuts in our school systems, being able to contribute to innovative, hands-on, classroom projects that would not otherwise be funded is especially rewarding,” notes Ingold.

Since 1994, the Bright Ideas program has awarded more than \$8.5 million to teachers across the state for 8,300 projects benefiting more than 1.5 million North Carolina students.

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

1 Mrs. Cynthia Albert, North Moore High School, \$2,000

“Moore Potters” offers students the opportunity to discover the history found within their neighborhood, participate in the process of creating with clay, and connect it to the global scene via potters from around the world who have settled in the area.

2 Mr. Lance Barber, West End Elementary, \$350

“Mathematical Badminton” illustrates how math and science are an integral part of the game Badminton. Students will learn how the motion of the shuttle (birdie) obeys Newton’s laws of motion.

3 Mrs. Charlotte Burgess, Randleman Middle School, \$479

“Strategies—Marking the Path to Success” provides each student with a monthly magazine of their own, which will have specific lessons structured around the stories in the magazines.

4 Mrs. Brooke Davis, Asheboro High School/Zoo School, \$2,000

“Community Garden at the Zoo” allows students to design, build and tend

to a community garden on site at the NC Zoo/AHS Zoo School. In addition, school gardens teach students where their food comes from and encourages good eating practices by fostering an appreciation for natural foods.

5 Mrs. Rausie Hobson, Eastern Randolph High School, \$769

“Seeing More Clearly” integrates visual art and technology to allow students to see, in three dimension, objects that are delicate, rare, small, or difficult to see. Utilizing a digital camera, Smart Board and creative thinking, students will understand important visual concepts and then make presentations to their peers.

6 Mrs. Jennifer Hare, East Middle School, \$1,219

“What’s Up Montgomery” allows eighth grade Honors English students the opportunity to utilize reading, writing, research, speaking, listening, and language skills integrated with social studies skills to create and present a multi-media project on the history of Montgomery County.

7 Mrs. Sharon Frost, Guy B. Teachey Elementary School, \$1,030

“Once Upon a Time” allows students to deepen their comprehension strategies and creative development through the study of fairy tales with the use of Reader’s Theater. Students will write their own scripts for new stories and perform them for other students, parents and community members.

8 Ms. Jessica Thompson Orr, West Pine Elementary School, \$1,606.35

“Stomp Out Bullying” will allow students in grades three through five to battle bullying behaviors by learning specific friendship, social, and bystander skills. Adults at the school will be trained to respond to bullying reports quickly and effectively.

9 Ms. Cassandra Salabak, Charles McCrary Elementary, \$546.65

“Marvelous Mustangs—Boys Only Book Club” is a continuation of a successful pilot project which encourages young boys to read. Continuing the program, third, fourth, and fifth grade boys will be partnered with adult males to help with self-esteem and to improve reading skills.

REMC will begin accepting applications for the 2014 Bright Ideas grants in April.

AWARE

a word about
Randolph Electric

by Dale Lambert, CEO

Dear Members,

The cost of wholesale generation is a very important component of Randolph EMC's overall cost structure. Wholesale generation of electricity is the largest and most volatile line item in our budget, comprising almost 60 percent of the total budget. In recent years, this number has been increasing.

Due to aging infrastructure and new, more stringent regulations from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on emissions from coal-fired generating plants, many older units that were constructed from the 1940s to the 1960s are being shut down. It is more economical to close these plants than to install very expensive emission controls.

In order to serve the load and meet future demand, new natural gas-fired generating plants have been and continue to be constructed. The cost to construct these new plants goes into the rate base and as a result, electric bills increase for all consumers.

In April, 2013, Randolph EMC had a rate adjustment mainly attributed to the increased costs of wholesale power over the previous five years. We have worked diligently on keeping our power costs as stable as possible, and even with the adjusted rate, our members have paid less for their energy because of this. The

2014 budget projects that rates will remain stable throughout the coming year as well.

When the general rate increase was instituted in April, REMC began applying a \$6.00 credit per 1,000 kilowatt-hours on the members' bills through the Wholesale Power Cost Adjustment (WPCA). As we moved through 2013, power costs for the year were less than our original projection. Because the WPCA is a mechanism that makes up the difference between the actual and projected cost of wholesale power, your Board of Directors authorized staff to increase the credit applied for November and December 2013 to \$12.00 per 1,000 kilowatt-hours.

Let me give you a perspective on how this directly benefits you by paying less for your electricity. Due to the credit that was given back on the power bills in 2013, the average member paid 2.49% less for electricity than they did in 2012. This resulted in an average savings of \$3.28 per month. If you used more energy, your savings were greater.

As long as power costs remain stable, members will continue to save on their electric bills. Your Board of Directors has authorized a monthly bill credit of \$7.50 per 1,000 kilowatt-hours



for 2014. At this amount, the average member is paying \$3.93 per month less than he or she did just two years ago. That's almost a full day's worth of power for the average REMC member!

Our job is to keep rates as low as possible while serving the rural areas of central North Carolina. This is a challenge because our density is one fourth that of the investor-owned utilities. This means that REMC has fewer meters per mile of line to share the cost of providing electricity, but our goal is to provide you with safe, exceptional electric service at the lowest rates possible, nonetheless. We pledge never to lose sight of who we work for — you, our members.

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

Cooperatively Yours,

Dale F. Lambert
Chief Executive Officer

No more security deposit? No more late fees? No more disconnect or reconnect fees?



With Randolph Electric's new FlexPay prepaid billing solution, you can say 'goodbye' to all of that and 'HELLO' to flexibility and control.

"That's right," says Tammy Brady, Manager of Member Services at Randolph EMC. "Our new program gives members the opportunity to pay for electricity when they want and in the amounts they want. Participants won't have to worry about late fees, disconnect or reconnect fees."

Participants in the program do not get a monthly bill, but that is because they are paying for electric service in advance instead of after it has

already been used. "The program also eliminates the need for a security deposit," says Brady.

"The program isn't for everyone, but if it would be easier for you to make weekly or biweekly payments rather than one large payment each month, then you'll want to consider FlexPay," says Fred Smith, Vice President of Member and Public Relations for the cooperative.

Conservation is another benefit to consider when thinking about the program. "Members who choose prepaid electricity programs say it helps them lower electric consumption

due to a greater awareness of use patterns," says Smith. Use is calculated daily and account history is available online at MyUsage.com and by phone, any time of day or night.

While the program is limited to members with residential, single-phase service, FlexPay is not exclusive to new members. Existing members can switch to a FlexPay account, too.

If you think FlexPay might be a good fit for you, give us a call 1-800-672-8212 and ask to speak to a representative about FlexPay.

Calling All Middle School Basketball Stars!

North Carolina's Touchstone Energy cooperatives are once again offering middle-school students the chance to win a full scholarship to summer basketball camp. Young men can apply to attend the June 21-25 Roy Williams Carolina Basketball Camp at the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill. Young ladies can apply to attend the June 23-26 Wolfpack Women's Basketball Camp at N.C. State University in Raleigh.

Randolph Electric will award scholarships to one boy and one girl this year. At the overnight camps, coaches and college athletes will work directly with campers to develop fundamental skills that will help the young athletes excel both on and off the court.

Students who will be in sixth, seventh or eighth grade during the 2014-2015 school year can apply starting Thursday, Jan. 2.

To download the Touchstone Energy Sports Camp scholarship application or find more information, visit www.RandolphEMC.com

The 2014 Electric Cooperative Youth Tour



Win a week-long trip to
Washington, DC
June 14–20, 2014



Visit Historic Monuments,
Museums & so Much More



See Our Nation's
Government in Action



Join More Than
a Thousand Students
from Across the Country



Stand with Us as We Fight to Keep Electric Bills Affordable

by Bob Wright, REMC Board President

We've written before about how the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has proposed to limit carbon dioxide at new power plants. This is concerning because these regulations, along with the ones EPA has in store for existing plants, have the potential to drive up your electric bills.

Now is the time for electric cooperative members to join their voices together to send a clear message: please remember consumers as you are writing these regulations.

You can help first by visiting www.Action.coop today and sending a comment to the EPA. You can also help by sharing the link to your friends and family.

While these regulations are technical, the potential increase in electric rates is something we take personally because we know it's difficult to make ends meet month-to-month. We know the tough choices you face — we all face — in trying to live on a budget. That's what sets cooperatives apart from other utilities and that's why we must stick together.

COOPERATIVE ACTION NETWORK

Thousands have answered the call already and sent comments through www.Action.coop. But we need more. Here at Randolph Electric, we look out for you. And we don't take this request lightly. It only takes 30 seconds to help raise our voices together.

We've already encouraged all of our board members and employees to sign up ... and ask their friends and families. And now we're asking the same from you.

We need you to take a stand and urge our families and friends to join us.

Visit **<http://www.Action.coop>**. And talk to your neighbors about what we're doing and why.

We're powering the future, driving economic growth and fostering innovation for you. And we don't want these new regulations to get in our way of progress. Please join the call and help us keep moving forward.

Randolph EMC invites all rising junior and senior high school students to apply for a spot on the 2014 Electric Cooperative Youth Tour — an all-expenses paid, five-day trip to Washington D.C.

Civics will come alive as you enhance your skills in leadership and hands-on learning. Plus, create and use a cooperative business model along the way.

In just five days, you'll get to see the Smithsonian Mall, the White House, Arlington National Cemetery, The Newseum (the world's most interactive museum), Mount Vernon, the Lincoln Memorial, the Vietnam Memorial, and more!

Not only will it be a boost on your college applications, but as a Youth Tourist you also have the opportunity to be eligible for one of three annual scholarships.

Visit www.RandolphEMC.com to learn more about the trip and download an application. Then check out YouthTour.coop to get highlights from the 2013 tour and learn more about what's in store for 2014. You can also follow our Facebook page by searching for North Carolina Youth Tour on facebook.com.

Hurry! Applications are Due March 15th!

Same Great Site, Great New Look

Have you checked out the My Usage site lately? It has an all new look and feel just in time for the New Year! If you haven't been using My Usage to monitor your power usage, you're missing out! All you need to do is visit www.myusage.com today and get up to date information about your electricity consumption anytime. With MyUsage.com, you can:

- See the amount of energy used on a daily basis
- View daily use for the last 30 days, along with the average temperature
- Set up e-mail alerts for daily use and use that exceeds a certain threshold that members determine for themselves



For more information about MyUsage.com & how to set-up an account, please visit RandolphEMC.com & click on the MyUsage.com link under the Member Services dropdown menu.

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

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TOGETHER WE SAVE

Is It Worth It...

...To have my thermostat maintain a comfortable temperature while I'm away or to have it heat up or cool down my house when I get home?

If you're going to be gone for more than a few hours, then it is more cost-effective to turn heat or air conditioning on once you return than it is to maintain a comfortable temperature while you're out.

ENERGY STAR recommends adjusting your thermostat up in the summer and down in the winter by 8 degrees Fahrenheit while you're asleep or away from your house.

...To install a programmable thermostat to save money?

On their own, programmable thermostats do not make your heating or cooling system more efficient. Their money-saving value lies in their ability to, once properly programmed, automatically regulate the temperature inside your house to coincide with when you're there and when you're not. If you need help programming your thermostat, directions are usually available from the manufacturer's website.

...To seal small air leaks around my windows and doors, or to make sure my home is adequately insulated?

According to ENERGY STAR, air leaks around cracks and gaps throughout your home become the equivalent of leaving a window open all year long. Typical homeowners can save up to 10 percent on their total annual energy bill by sealing and insulating their home.

Source: ESource



— HAPPY NEW YEAR —

Randolph EMC Offices will be closed
Wednesday, January 1 for New Year's Day.

Wishing you a safe and happy New Year!