

JULY 2025

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A white utility truck with a crane arm is parked on a grassy area. The crane arm is extended upwards, holding a large American flag. The truck has a green logo on its side. The background shows a blue sky with white clouds and a line of trees.

**Proud to
Power our
Communities**

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

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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Nicole Arnold Editor

Visit Randolph EMC Online

RandolphEMC.com

In July, we give thanks for our country and our communities.

In this issue of *Watts Working*, you will learn how your electric cooperative advocates for you with our elected leaders. You will also see how REMC makes learning fun and rewarding for the children of our service territory.



A Word About Randolph Electric

From CEO Dennis Mabe

Freedom Isn't Free:

Celebrating Independence Day and Honoring Sacrifice

Dear Members,

As I reflect on the meaning of Independence Day, I'm reminded that it's easy to let the Fourth of July feel like just another day off—a chance to catch up on chores around the house or tackle a lengthy to-do list. But the truth is, some of my fondest memories come from the times when I would set those responsibilities aside and chose to celebrate with friends, neighbors and family.

I think back to early mornings spent cooking breakfast on the flattop for anyone who wanted to stop by—there was always something special about starting the day that way. Later, we'd gather to cook a whole hog for the crew, with "Papa" Kuhn right there beside us, making sure we didn't mess up the group luncheon.

There were evenings by the lake, where my son Matthew and I were honored to be invited to play music alongside some of the most talented musicians I've ever known—so good, you might say they were almost famous. And of course, nothing could top ending the night gathered with my family, watching fireworks light up the sky and dance across the water. There's no more beautiful sight than fireworks reflecting on a still lake, while you are surrounded by the people you love.

As we celebrate the Fourth of July, let's take this opportunity to gather with our friends and family, reflect on the blessings of our freedom and appreciate the strength of our nation. One of the greatest gifts we

enjoy as Americans is our representative democracy—a system built on the idea that the people choose their leaders and have a voice in how they are governed.

The same principle is at the heart of your electric cooperative. Our Board of Directors is elected by you, our members, to serve your best interests, just as your employee leadership team works every day to ensure your voice is heard. Whether it involves managing costs, planning for the future or advocating on your behalf, we are committed to the values that have sustained our country—and our cooperative—from the beginning: service, responsibility and trust.

During our celebrations, let's take a moment to honor those who have given everything for our freedom. Our ability to enjoy this day, spend time with loved ones, chase our dreams and live in a free nation—is a precious gift that was bought with courage and selflessness.

Let's always remember those who have paid the price, and may we live our lives in gratitude and respect for their sacrifice.

**Cooperatively
yours,**

**Dennis Mabe,
CEO**



The Member's Voice in the Nation's Capital

Earlier this spring, more than 2,000 electric cooperative leaders gathered at the legislative conference hosted by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) in Washington, D.C. Representatives from the Randolph Electric Board of Directors and employee team engaged key congressional leaders to advocate for smart energy policies on Capitol Hill.

Randolph Electric's member-owners need the lights to stay on at a price that families and businesses can afford. The United States Congress, by making laws that govern the energy industry, wields considerable influence over your power bill.

Cooperative member-owners need smart energy policies that will help meet growing demand. Collectively, the 900 co-ops in the United States serve members 42 million Americans and cover 56% of the American landscape. Electric cooperatives provide power to the most rural, rugged and hard-to-reach areas of our nation — places that for-profit energy companies will not serve due to higher expenses.

Your cooperative considers it an honor to speak on your behalf to our elected officials. REMC wants our representatives and senators to remember that our members are their voters. They must take our members into account and promote legislation that has our members' best interest at heart.

In April 2025, Randolph Electric staff and leaders asked our representatives and senators to:

- ▶ Support a diverse supply of energy resources to meet skyrocketing electricity demand, particularly in rural communities.
- ▶ Improve permitting processes and cutting costly, burdensome regulations to accelerate the deployment and maintenance of electric and broadband infrastructure.
- ▶ Ensure federal programs and resources that support electric cooperative projects are used efficiently and effectively as we invest to meet the needs of our communities.

We count it an honor to be your voice in our nation's capital.



U.S. Representative Richard Hudson from District 9 speaks with Secretary-Treasurer Lee Isley and VP of Member Services and Public Relations Michael Trent. Rep. Hudson covers Randolph, Moore, Chatham and Alamance counties in REMC's service territory.

U.S. Representative Mark Harris from District 8 addresses Directors and staffers from several cooperatives. Rep. Harris covers Montgomery County in REMC's service area.



Capital Credits Returned to Members in June

Putting money back into members' pockets with capital credits is just one of the characteristics that sets Randolph Electric apart from investor-owned utilities. Recently, the Randolph EMC Board of Directors authorized a general retirement of \$560,000, with estate retirements estimated at \$650,000.

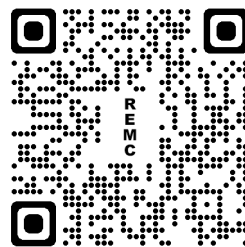
That's a total of more than \$1.2 million that's flowing back to our members and into the local economy in the five counties we serve. In June, nearly 97% of Randolph EMC members received a check or bill credit for their share of the annual general capital credit retirement. The amount of each capital credit check or bill credit is based on the amount of electricity a member purchased during the years being retired—1997 and 2024. As a cooperative business, Randolph EMC does not earn profits. Instead, any revenues remaining after all expenses have been paid each year are considered "margins."

They are returned to the members after being used for a period of years as capital to help finance long-term reliability projects, substation improvements, power lines and poles. Each year, the board of directors decides on capital credit retirements based on the financial health of the cooperative. The amount of capital credits allocated

to a member's account is based upon the amount of capital they contribute to the cooperative through payment of their monthly bills. The more electricity a member buys, the greater his capital credit allocation. Capital credits are allocated on a continuous cycle: the cooperative collects for current needs to deliver reliable electricity while returning funds collected in previous years.

This helps offset the need to borrow funds, and that helps keep your electricity rates more affordable. Randolph Electric mailed capital credit checks to members in early June. However, if your refund was less than \$20, it was issued as a bill credit. You can help us find former members who may have an outstanding capital credits check by scanning the QR code found here.

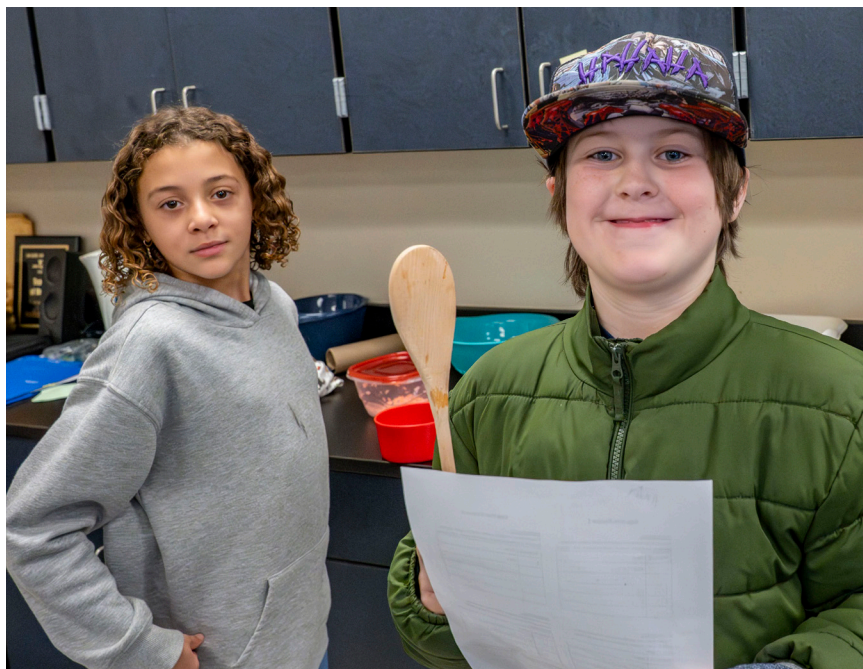
If you recognize a name on the list, please ask that person to call the local Randolph EMC office to update his contact information.



At Randolph EMC, we count it a privilege to touch the home of every member in a positive way. We appreciate the opportunity to serve you.



Before baking, Hayden shows off the ingredients in his egg bite.



Engineering Bright Ideas

REMC visits Bright Ideas grant winner Jessica Hoffmire at Uwharrie Charter elementary school and her classes as they innovate with STEAM.

A unique blend of curiosity, energy and creativity filled the air in Ms. Hoffmire's third and fourth grade STEAM classroom during a February visit from our REMC communications team. The day offered a firsthand glimpse into the power of hands-on learning, as students eagerly engaged in a "culinary engineering challenge" that tested their problem-solving skills and sparked their imaginations.

One fourth grader proudly explained how they adjusted their mini quiche recipe to achieve the ideal texture, while a third grader described how they balanced spice levels in their salsa to suit a variety of tastes. In each case, students were applying critical thinking, collaboration,



Above, top: Students worked in teams to brainstorm ingredients that would yield the tastiest concoctions.

Above, bottom: A team anticipates their engineering success with joyful celebration and a lot of cilantro.

and creative problem-solving—core tenets of STEAM education.

The initiative was made possible through the support of Randolph Electric Membership Corporation. The organization awarded a Bright Ideas Innovation in Education grant to fund the ovens used in the

cooking projects, allowing students to bring their ideas from concept to creation.

In classrooms like Ms. Hoffmire's, the future looks bright—fueled by innovation, supported by community, and driven by the boundless curiosity of young minds.

During the visit, Ms. Hoffmire's students explored the engineering design process at the stage of rapid prototyping.

If the product was not delicious, students returned to earlier stages of the design process: asking questions and thinking how to plan a better end result.



REMC Wins Gold in Spotlight on Excellence Awards

For the second year in a row, REMC wins prestigious prize

In May, REMC was honored to win the Gold Award for best social media post in the Spotlight on Excellence Awards, presented by the Council of Rural Electric Communicators and the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA).

The Spotlight on Excellence Awards program recognizes exceptional work produced by electric cooperative communication and marketing professionals across the country. The recognition falls under Classification 2: Distribution Co-op (23,000–64,999 meters)—a competitive category that includes co-ops of similar size and scope. Earning gold in this class marks REMC's communication work as a standout among our peers nationwide.

Our winning post paid tribute to former CEO Dale Lambert on his final day with REMC—a moment filled with gratitude, admiration, and a touch of nostalgia. The heartfelt message, which celebrated Dale's leadership, vision and decades of service, resonated deeply with our community and the broader cooperative network.

This recognition is more than just a social media win—it's a reflection of the values we hold dear at REMC: connection, community and celebrating the people who make a difference.

But this award isn't just for us—it's for you, our member-owners. Your engagement, support and shared sense of pride helped this post reach far beyond our cooperative. Whether you liked, shared or simply paused to reflect on Dale's impact, you played a vital role in setting our cooperative apart from the rest.

To everyone who liked, shared and commented on the post, thank you for helping us honor Dale in such a meaningful way.



Communications team members Emely Noesi, Terry Locke, Michael Trent and Nicole Arnold

Congratulations, Samuel Harris

Student LIFT Scholar Exemplifies Outstanding Service and Cooperative Spirit

Randolph Electric is proud to recognize Samuel Harris as the recipient of the Empowered Award for Student LIFT, an honor given to a student whose leadership, initiative and compassion make a lasting impact. This distinguished award is part of Student Leadership Information For Tomorrow (LIFT) — a program of the Asheboro/Randolph Chamber of Commerce designed to help students explore local career opportunities and build leadership skills. REMC is the primary sponsor of this educational outreach initiative, which selects 28 high school sophomores and juniors annually.

Samuel's story stood out among many for one powerful reason: his willingness to pivot his original service project to meet the urgent needs of others in the wake of a crisis. Originally set to focus on a different initiative, Samuel shifted gears entirely following the devastation caused by Hurricane Helene in Western North Carolina. Rather than staying the course with his original plan, Samuel chose to address the immediate challenges facing a neighboring community, exemplifying the electric cooperative principle of Cooperation Among Cooperatives. This principle underscores the commitment to mutual aid and solidarity—when one cooperative is in need, others rise to the occasion without hesitation, knowing that the support is both given and received in times of crisis.

Samuel's response to the storm was swift and selfless. He organized a large-scale relief effort, collecting 181 boxes of essential supplies and personally dedicating 12 hours of volunteer service in Swannanoa. His adaptability and willingness to lead during such a critical moment demonstrated exceptional character and a deep sense of empathy.



Samuel Harris poses with REMC Chief Executive Officer Dennis Mabe upon winning the 2025 Student LIFT scholarship.

But perhaps most inspiring was how Samuel's leadership sparked action in others. His compassion and commitment motivated fellow students and community members to get involved, multiplying the impact of his efforts.

At REMC, we believe that being part of a cooperative means more than providing electricity—it means standing together as a family. Samuel Harris embodied this value through his actions, and we are honored to celebrate him with the Empowered Award for Student LIFT.



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Membership Corporation