

# Watts Working

## Bobby Wright Retires from REMC Board

### *New District 2 Director Selected*

After faithfully serving Randolph Electric Membership Corporation for 31 years, Bobby Wright chose to step down from his role as District 2 Director on the Board of Directors on December 31, 2018.

While on the Randolph EMC Board of Directors, Mr. Wright served his members in various capacities, including secretary-treasurer, vice president and president. Mr. Wright also held a board director position with North Carolina Electric Membership Corporation for more than five years.

In addition to representing district 2 on the board, he also served as the chairman of the Economic Development and Bylaws, Policies, Service Rules and Ethics Committees for Randolph EMC.

Mr. Wright is a native of Randolph County, where he graduated from Coleridge High School. He then earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He is retired from Randolph Hospital where he served as Director of Corporate Compliance/Internal Audit.

Although he is stepping down from the board, rest assured Mr. Wright will remain an involved member of the co-op. He thanks his fellow board members, REMC staff and member-owners saying, "I will forever be indebted to the hardworking individuals who play such a large role in the success of the cooperative and I could not have wished for a better opportunity to serve those within this industry and my community."



In January 2019, Scott Cole was selected to fill the district 2 vacancy by the remaining board of directors. Mr. Cole joins the cooperative family as a native of Seagrove, NC.

After attending both Appalachian State and NC A&T Universities, Mr. Cole eagerly joined the Montgomery County Department of Health as their environmental health program director.

[Continued on pg B](#)

### INSIDE...

**B** Macy Henson is REMC's 2019 Youth Tourist

**C** Celebrating Ag & Our Rural Roots

**D** DIY Projects for Save Energy

**F** Dale Lambert's AWARE Column

**H** Electric Vehicle Incentives



Mr. Cole has been happily married to his wife, Michelle, for 17 years. He is also a proud father of two boys, Carter (12) and Aiden (9). In addition to having a love for dogs, Mr. Cole and his family have a small herd of cattle on their property and he enjoys serving with the Randolph County Livestock and Poultry Improvement Association Board.

We're excited to see all that Mr. Cole has to offer as he works hard to serve the membership. If you happen to meet him, give him a warm welcome to the REMC family!



Scott Cole, a native of Seagrove, NC, will fill the district 2 vacancy.



## Macy Henson Selected to Represent Randolph EMC on 2019 Youth Tour



Macy Henson stands with her parents (Tami and Johnny Henson) as well as her grandparents (Carol and Wade Robbins) as she is congratulated for being selected REMC's 2019 Youth Tour delegate.

Randolph EMC is proud to sponsor Chatham Central Sophomore Macy Henson on the 2019 North Carolina Youth Tour to Washington, D.C., this June. Approximately 45 young leaders from North Carolina will join 1,800 students from across the country for a week of learning about our nation's history and the importance of civic engagement.

Out of several applications, Macy earned the opportunity to attend after completing an essay and interview process.

Aside from an excellent academic resume, Macy is very involved in extracurricular activities such as

church youth group, competitive clogging and being a member of the bluegrass band New Southern Ground. She is excited to broaden her knowledge in how politics relate to the energy industry and learn more about what it takes to be an educated voter as a young adult.

"We're extremely thrilled to be able to offer such a wonderful opportunity to the youth within the communities REMC serves," said Randolph EMC's Communication and Outreach Specialist Kathleen Duckworth. "By providing experiences such as Youth Tour, our hope is that today's youth will be inspired to become leaders and share their new ideas and knowledge for the betterment of all within our community."

Participants will explore some of the capital's most notable areas, including sightseeing at historic memorials and museums, and cruising on the Potomac River. Macy and the other North Carolina delegates will also engage in discussions with members of North Carolina's congressional delegation on Capitol Hill.

Randolph EMC is proud to be involved with educational opportunities like Youth Tour. More than 50,000 students have participated in the program nationally since it began in 1964.

# Celebrating Agriculture and Our Rural Roots

Close to a century ago, farmers and rural community members came together to form Randolph EMC and other electric cooperatives across the state and the nation. They set the poles, strung the lines and went door-to-door asking the people in their communities to join them in establishing a local, consumer-owned business that could transform communities and change lives.



We've come a long way since then, but we've remained true to our roots and steadfast in our commitment to investing in and strengthening our local communities. Electricity continues to hold great promise for agriculture — North Carolina's top industry — and open the

door to new opportunity across numerous sectors, as we work to embrace 21st-century innovation and implement new technologies.

March 14 marks the 46th anniversary of National Ag Day, which recognizes the essential role agriculture plays in our

everyday lives. We are proud to support farmers' operational needs through safe, reliable and affordable power and look forward to growing the relationship between agriculture and energy to create efficiencies that will benefit all North Carolina communities.

## Deadline Approaching!

Apply today for a Touchstone Energy Sports Camp Scholarship

The buzzer will sound soon for local rising sixth, seventh and eighth graders to apply for an all-expenses-paid basketball camp scholarship.

Randolph EMC will send one young man to the Roy Williams Carolina Basketball Camp June 22-26 at the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill, and one young woman to the Wolfpack Women's Basketball Camp June 9-12 at NC State University in Raleigh. Campers will work directly with players and coaches to develop basketball skills and practice leadership and teamwork at the overnight camps.

To be eligible for a Touchstone Energy Sports Camp scholarship, students must be in sixth, seventh or eighth grade during the 2019-2020 school year.



Students currently in eighth grade are not eligible for the scholarship program, per NCAA rules and regulations. Applicants must have permission from a parent or guardian to attend and must provide their own transportation to and from the camp if selected.

Applicants will be judged on academics, extracurricular activities and an essay. To access the application, visit [RandolphEMC.com/sportscamp](http://RandolphEMC.com/sportscamp), or contact Kathleen Duckworth at 800-672-8212 for more information about the program. Applications must be postmarked by March 31, with winners expected to be announced by the beginning of May.

1



2



3



## Three Easy DIY Projects to Save Energy

Winter weather can have a big impact on your energy bills, hitting your pockets a little harder than you would have liked. Now that spring is just around the corner, it's the perfect time to tackle a few DIY efficiency projects for your home. The good news: You don't have to be an energy expert to do this!

There are several easy ways to save energy, but if you're willing to take a hands-on approach, here are three projects you can do now to start saving.

### #1 Make the Most of Your Water Heater

Let's start with one of the easiest projects: insulating your water heater. Insulating a water heater that's warm to the touch can save 7 to 16 percent annually on your water heating bills. It should also be noted that if your water heater is new, it is likely already insulated. But if your water heater is warm to the touch, it needs additional insulation.

You can purchase a pre-cut jacket or blanket for about \$20. You'll also need two people for this project. Before you start, turn off the water heater. Wrap the blanket around the water heater and tape it to temporarily keep it in place. If necessary, use a marker to note the areas where the controls are so you can cut them out. Once the blanket is positioned correctly tape it permanently in place, then turn the water heater back on. If you have an electric water heater, do not set the thermostat above 130 degrees, which can cause overheating.

### #2 Seal Air Leaks with Caulk

The average American family spends \$2,000 annually on energy bills, but unfortunately, much of that money is wasted through air leaks in the home. Applying caulk around windows, doors, electrical wiring and plumbing can save energy and money. There are many different types of caulking compounds available, but the most popular choice is silicone. Silicone caulk is waterproof, flexible and won't shrink or crack.

Before applying new caulk, clean and remove any old caulk or paint with a putty knife, screwdriver, brush or solvent. The area should be dry before you apply the new caulk.

Apply the caulk in one continuous stream, and make sure it sticks to both sides of the crack or seam. Afterwards, use a putty knife to smooth out the caulk, then wipe the surface with a dry cloth.

### #3 Weather Strip Exterior Doors

One of the best ways to seal air leaks is to weather strip exterior doors, which can keep out drafts and help you control energy costs. Weather stripping materials vary, but you can ask your local hardware or home store for assistance if you're unsure about the supplies you need.

When choosing weather stripping materials, make sure it can withstand temperature changes, friction and the general “wear and tear” for the location of the door. Keep in mind, you will need separate materials for the door sweep (at the bottom of the door) and the top and sides.

Before applying the new weather stripping, clean the moulding with water and soap, then let the area dry completely. Measure each side of the door, then cut the weather stripping to fit each section. Make sure the weather stripping fits snugly against both surfaces so it compresses when the door is closed.

By completing these simple efficiency projects, you can save energy (and money!) while increasing the comfort level of your home. And you can impress your family and friends with your savvy energy-saving skills.

---

By completing these simple efficiency projects, you can save energy (and money!) while increasing the comfort level of your home.

---

## Need Help Making Home Efficiency Improvements?

- The Energy Efficient Loan Program is available to Randolph EMC members through ElecTel Federal Cooperative Credit Union. Qualified borrowers enjoy:
- Interest rates as low as 4.90%
- Up to 100% financing of the purchase price, including taxes and installation costs
- Repayment terms up to 120 months
- \$35,000 maximum loan limit; \$5,000 maximum for a mobile home

Contact ElecTel at 800-849-5600 or visit [electelccu.org](http://electelccu.org) for more information or to apply today!



## SPRING FORWARD!

Don't forget ... daylight saving time will begin at 2:00 a.m. on Sunday, March 10



## Mark your calendar!

### Date Set for 2019 Annual Meeting

Members will get down to business earlier at this year's annual meeting, scheduled for **June 21, 2019**. The board of directors recently approved beginning the festivities 30 minutes earlier than in the past, meaning registration will open at 5 p.m. and the business meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m. We look forward to seeing you there!

# A Word About Randolph Electric

From CEO Dale Lambert

## OVERHEAD VS. UNDERGROUND LINES

Dear Members,

Not until this year have I ever checked the calendar in advance to see when the winter season ends. Officially, it's Wednesday, March 20, so you can mark your calendars too.

We're blessed to live in this part of America where we have distinct seasons. By the time one season comes to an end, most of us are ready to turn the page to the next chapter. I don't know about you, but Spring can't get here soon enough. Give me the mowing, weed-eating and yes, allergies, over cold, damp, snowy, icy weather any day.

I have a project that's waiting for drier, warmer weather. For the first time in years, I didn't get to perform the annual fall ritual of reseeding my yard. With the active storm season last fall resulting in power restoration work and cleaning up the downed trees along my drive and around my yard, I just couldn't get to it. So, if any of you have pent up energy from the winter and would like to assist with plugging, tilling and reseeding a yard, I have a job for you.

Because of all the storms the last few months, I did get a question posed from a member that I would like to address this month. The question was, "Why don't you put all the overhead power lines underground so trees will not fall on them and knock the power out?"

I've written about this issue before but feel I need to address it again. On the surface, this seems like a very logical idea. From an engineering, operational and construction standpoint, it physically can be done. There are certainly situations where installing power lines underground makes sense. But there's more to consider when you take a deeper dive into the details and get a clearer understanding. There are some drawbacks to putting all higher-voltage overhead power lines underground.

Randolph EMC does have underground lines. Our 4,332 miles of line is broken up into three categories. As of December 31, 2018, we had a total of 55 miles of overhead transmission lines, 3,561 miles of overhead distribution and service lines and 716 miles of underground distribution and service lines.

There are pros and cons to both overhead and underground lines. Underground power lines would certainly result in fewer outages during wind, snow or ice storms and there is less right-of-way maintenance required. However, the two main reasons we do not put all of our overhead higher-voltage power lines underground is because of the cost and outage and operations issues.

Several years ago, a major ice storm hit central North Carolina resulting in widespread outages for all the electric utilities. At the height of the storm, 80 percent of Randolph EMC's members were out of power. After that storm, the N.C. Utilities Commission Public Staff investigated the feasibility of converting all overhead distribution lines to underground.

At that time, the Public Staff determined the balance sheets of the utilities would increase nearly six times the current net book value of their assets and that the conversion would take 25 years to complete. With the increased cost of line materials we have experienced the last few years, the cost would be ever higher today.



Randolph Electric Membership Corporation provides safe and reliable power with exceptional value to more than 32,000 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

Board of Directors

Jerry Bowman ..... President
Tammie Phillips ..... Vice President
Billy Maness ..... Secretary-Treasurer
Lee Isley ..... Assistant Secretary-Treasurer

Delbert Cranford Larry Routh
Scott Cole Sue Spencer
Steve Harris

Senior Staff

Dale F. Lambert .... Chief Executive Officer
Jay Albright ..... District Vice President
Adam Hargett .... Vice President of Finance
Dennis Mabe ..... Vice President of Engineering & Operations
Fred Smith ..... Vice President of Economic Development & Compliance

Jill Vanness ..... Editor
Kathleen Duckworth ..... Associate Editor

Visit Randolph EMC Online
RandolphEMC.com



At that time, if you took into consideration the capital cost component for the conversion from overhead to underground lines, it was projected to result in a rate increase of more than 125 percent for the average residential consumer. Comparing new installations of single-phase primary lines, it cost approximately 80 percent more for underground lines to be installed versus overhead lines. As you can see, cost is an extremely important issue in this case.

We serve a number of developments and facilities that have underground installations and outages do occur on their underground lines. When an outage occurs, it is much more difficult to determine the cause and specific location of a fault on an underground line. On average, this results in a much longer outage time when compared to the restoration time for an outage on overhead lines.

There are times our line personnel can backfeed the power or make

some temporary arrangements to restore power, but there are also times the power cannot be restored until the line is dug up and repaired. This results in very long outages.

Underground wire and hardware have extremely close tolerances between high voltage and ground. When these two get together, it's not a good thing. Many times, this clearance is one-third of an inch or less. We have had numerous issues throughout the Randolph EMC service area where the underground cable and/or hardware deteriorates over time and results in continuous outages.

I hope this sheds some light on the very valid question of replacing overhead lines with underground lines. I also hope 2019 is much less eventful than 2018 was.

Cooperatively Yours (and looking forward to Spring),

Dale F. Lambert
Chief Executive Officer

Ditch the Paper, Save Money & Time!
Enroll in Paperless Billing
Set It & Forget It with Autopayment
List of benefits for both options



# SPECIAL ELECTRIC VEHICLE SAVINGS

*Exclusively for Randolph EMC Members*



**Low-Interest  
Financing** for  
electric vehicles  
available to REMC  
members from  
ElecTel Federal  
Cooperative  
Credit Union



**\$3,500 Special  
Rebate** on a Nissan  
LEAF® available  
to Randolph EMC  
members through  
4/1/19, in addition  
to \$7,500 in Federal  
EV Tax Credits for  
qualified owners



**\$500 Rebate**  
for a Level 2 PEV  
home charger,  
plus the option to  
switch to REMC's  
**PlugN2Savings**  
time-of-use rate

**Visit [RandolphEMC.com](http://RandolphEMC.com) for more information!**