

The NEWS LINE

RUTHERFORD ELECTRIC MEMBERSHIP CORPORATION

Photo taken by: Annette Bradley

Vol. 29, No. 5

Owned By Those We Serve

May 2026

An Update from the Manager

As I mark my first year as General Manager of Rutherford EMC, I find myself reflecting on the ever-evolving energy market. In the past year, wholesale energy costs have continued to steadily increase. The expansion of data centers across our state, along with the rise in the cost of natural gas and other fuels related to electric power production, have largely contributed to an overall increase in Rutherford EMC's wholesale energy costs.

In October of last year Duke Energy released its 2025 Carolinas Resource Plan. In that report, Duke projects an eightfold increase in energy demand over the next 15 years. As a result of this increased demand, transmission infrastructure will require significant improvements, as well as the need for more generation throughout the system. At the same time, we have seen continued increases in costs of materials and equipment required to build and maintain our electric facilities. All these factors will continue to put upward pressure on our electricity rates.

These issues have led Rutherford EMC to ask how we can help to mitigate these costs to our members. Rutherford EMC's management team and I have been closely analyzing our internal processes to determine how we can maximize our efficiency to bring you the most economical service possible.

As we enhance our internal processes, we are also reassessing our communications strategies with our members. Communication media has changed significantly over the last decade. Printed media is no longer the first "go to" for information. Digital communication via e-mail and text is often the preferred method for receiving information. We believe strong, effective communication

lays the foundation for delivering exceptional service. Several projects are underway to enhance the way our members

receive important information regarding community programs, outages and member engagement. Please assist us by ensuring your e-mail address and mobile phone number are kept up to date with Rutherford EMC.

In the coming years, the energy industry will continue to evolve and fuel costs are likely to continue to rise. We are committed to remaining flexible while identifying industry changes as they occur and making transitions as needed to provide the level of service our members expect and deserve. Rutherford EMC will keep working to improve member communications and internal efficiency while maintaining the highest level of reliability and affordability. As always, Rutherford EMC appreciates our members and the opportunity to provide your electric service.

- Jeffrey C. Brittain, P.E.
REMC General Manager



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We believe **STRONG, EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION** lays the **FOUNDATION** for delivering **EXCEPTIONAL SERVICE**. Please assist us by ensuring your e-mail address and mobile phone number are kept up to date with Rutherford EMC.

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SWAP SHOP

Rutherford Electric Membership Corporation provides Swap Shop ads as a free service to its members. Guidelines are as follows: Ads are published first-come, first-served. When the space allotted for ads each month is full, remaining ads will be held over for the next issue. Ads will not be run more than once unless re-submitted. Commercial ads will not be accepted. We reserve the right to edit, condense or deny publication of any advertisement. Rutherford Electric Membership Corp. assumes no responsibility for the content of any advertisement and does not endorse or warrant any of the goods so advertised. Please include your account number with your ad.

Mail your ads to:

Newsletter Editor, Rutherford EMC, PO Box 1569,
Forest City, NC, 28043-1569 or e-mail at jeasley@remc.com.
No phone calls, please.

FOR SALE

2023 Honda XR 150 dual sport bike, black in color, one adult owner, title in hand, bought new and only has around 50 miles on it, always garaged, \$2,500. Also have accessories kit including aluminum skid plate, carb jets, and bark busters that I will sell separately. Mill Spring, NC. 828-755-6055.

White fiberglass camper top, 8' long, \$800; M20 5th wheel hitch for 2015 Dodge truck, \$900.00 Vale, NC. 828-320-0365.

Silver quarters, \$16 ea., dimes, \$6 ea., all in nice condition, around current melt values. 704-748-3258.

Fifth wheel toy hauler, all appliances operational, new tires, new residential refrigerator in May 2025, new slide out toppers in December 2025, \$45,000. 828-899-4444.

4' x 8' utility trailer, no title, \$400; John Deere mower, 17 1/2 HP, 42 in. cut, \$800; John Deere mower, 25 HP, 54 in. cut, \$2,000; burning barrels, \$10 ea.; water totes, \$100 ea.; feed barrels, lids and rings, \$20 ea.; plastic solid top, \$10 ea.; tote cages, \$40 ea.; (2) new bicycles, \$700; (2) generators, needs work, \$250 for both; new 110 welder and chop saw, \$200; tools, floor jacks, etc. Hickory, NC. 828-327-4782.

2004 Chrysler convertible, \$600; 1957 Farmall Cub tractor, \$2,700; 2006 Mercedes 500 SL hardtop convertible, \$10,000. Connelly Springs, NC. 828-368-0656.

Yamaha Digital Piano P155, includes fabric cover, stand and bench bundle, and pedal, like new, well cared for, photos available, \$499. 704-860-3599.

Trailer hitch system w/equalizer, 10K lb., all in one hitch system, sway bars and weight distribution in one setup, new style 2023, used once, no longer using chains, paid over \$750 at Camping World, \$350, OBO. 828-442-7649.

Whole house water filters, 20 filters, brand new, used in whole house water filter, bought a case of these but changed to larger filter, less than half price, \$40. 828-442-7649.

Men's wedding band and women's wedding set, platinum with certificates of authenticity; dresser; coffee table; matching nightstand and dresser; Lovesac MovieSac; and much more. 440-478-4835.

1968 Chevy one ton truck, V8 engine with about 118,000 miles, 4 speed transmission with granny gear, transmission and rear end does not whine at all, has power steering, 6 like new tires, gas tank, fuel pump, cracked windshield, driver's side is a little rough, rest of seat in good condition, passenger door and rocker panel have a rust issue, floor pans and cab corners in good shape, \$5,800, no trades. 704-732-4627.

New 100 ft. expandable water hose, \$40. 704-732-4627.

1994 Bayliner 19 ft. cuddy cabin with trailer, has new out drive, interior has been redone, 4-cylinder Chevrolet engine, in good condition, \$2,000, OBO. 980-253-2860.

New Dyna Glo kerosene heater, portable convection kerosene, 23,800 BTU, automatic or manual ignition, run time fuel gauge, used one time this winter, \$75. Morganton, NC. 904-651-6263.

Aluminum mobility carrier, 500 lb. capacity platform, 28 in. x 59 in., used once, \$250; New black barn door hardware, for 30 in. doors. Lincolnton, NC. 704-500-9845.

Indianapolis Colts Superbowl champions jacket, only worn a few times, size XL/XG, very nice and clean, pictures available upon request. 828-460-8725.

Framed 100-year-old original USS Arizona picture, 27 in. x 19 in., \$500 firm. 980-241-8181.

CVS firm support Deluxe Stabilizing Support back belt, SM/MED, cushioned pads to help target sore back muscles, adjustable for fit and comfort, breathable material, new, still in box, lost receipt and could not return, pictures available upon request, \$30. Bessemer City, NC. Call or text 704-689-8258.

2007 BMW X5, tires 80%, new brakes, 1-year-old Die Hard battery, navigation, 4.8L engine, 7 speed transmission, well maintained, 92k miles, extra clean, fully loaded, priced to sell, \$10,998. Call or text 828-606-9828.

MISCELLANEOUS

Free firewood - already cut, 2-3ft. length, small amount. 704-867-5407.

House and trailer for rent in Vale, NC. Call 704-276-2085.

One week at Garden City Beach, South Carolina, red week 35, can be transferred out to different locations, on water way and about a block off beach, deeded property, if interested I will meet with you and sign over the deed, \$1,400. Call or text 704-689-8258.

WANTED

Someone who does service and cleaning on Grandfather clocks in the Bessemer City or Gastonia area. Call or text 704-689-8258.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

As temperatures start to rise, many homeowners focus on staying cool. Don't forget about the small gaps around windows and doors. While air sealing is often associated with keeping cold air out during winter, it's just as important during summer. Tiny cracks and worn weather-stripping allow cool, conditioned air to escape and hot, humid air to seep indoors. This forces your air conditioner to work harder than necessary and increases energy costs. Take a few minutes to check for drafts, replace weatherstripping and seal leaks. A tighter home keeps you more comfortable and helps manage energy use.

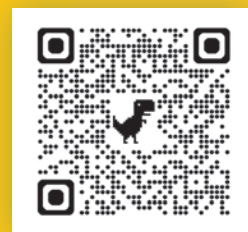
Source: energy.gov



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2026 Youth Tour Winners Selected



Lillian Nicole Parton
Rutherford Early College High School



Mallory Wray
East Rutherford High School

Rutherford EMC has selected two high school juniors to be among the 40-plus young leaders from North Carolina to attend the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour to Washington, D.C., scheduled for June 14 -20, 2026. The winners of this year's weeklong, expense-paid trip are:

Lillian Nicole Parton of Rutherford County, a student at Rutherford Early College High School and Mallory Wray of Cleveland County, a student at East Rutherford High School.

Lillian and Mallory will join many other ambitious young leaders from North Carolina and across the nation on the week-long trip to Washington, D.C. For six days, the students will get to visit and explore some of the capital's most historic and notable areas. These include many Smithsonian Museums, The Arlington National Cemetery, The National Cathedral, and The Capital Building along with many other fantastic memorials and educational places! The students will also have an opportunity to engage with many of North Carolina's congressional leaders and learn more about how our government operates.

These students will network with more than 1,000 high school students from across the nation. There will be friendships made that will last a lifetime and educational experiences that are truly a once in a lifetime opportunity!

These two winners will have an opportunity to apply for the \$2,500 Gwyn B. Price Scholarship and

the \$2,000 Katie Bunch Memorial Scholarship. In addition, they will be eligible to compete to serve on the Youth Leadership Council, an advisory committee to the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), the national association of electric cooperatives, whose headquarters are in Washington, D.C. The North Carolina Youth Leadership Council representative will receive a \$2,000 college scholarship on completion of their responsibilities.

Any high school junior living in a year-round home served by Rutherford EMC or whose parents/guardians own a business served by Rutherford EMC were eligible to enter the contest. Children of Rutherford EMC's directors or employees were not eligible to apply. Rutherford EMC has selected local youth to participate in the annual Electric Cooperative Youth Tour to Washington, D.C., for more than 26 years. "This annual program continues to provide outstanding opportunities for our youth and has proven to be an educational experience that has encouraged personal growth amongst some of the future's next generation of great leaders", said Jeff Brittain, General Manager of Rutherford EMC.

The 2026 Youth Tour is being sponsored by your cooperative, along with 19 other electric cooperatives across the state, and is coordinated by the North Carolina Association of Electric Cooperatives (NCAEC) in Raleigh, and NRECA in Washington, D.C.

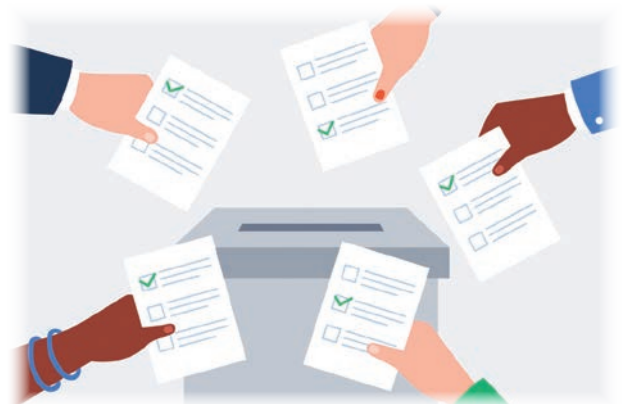
Credentials & Election Committee Appointed by the Board of Directors

In preparation for Rutherford Electric Membership Corporation's 2026 Annual Meeting the board of directors has appointed the following members to serve on the Credentials & Election Committee:

Renee Bingham, Kings Mountain
Chris Guffey, Casar
Norris Hill, Union Mills
Ethan Lineberger, Iron Station
Todd Machler, Morganton
Richard Oates, Gastonia
Boyd Phillips, Marion
Fred Robinson, Bessemer City
Casey Stockton, Marion

The Credentials and Election Committee will meet at Rutherford Electric Membership Corporation's general office in Forest City, North Carolina, this month to review and approve the balloting method for the 2026 Director Election.

NOTICE: Pursuant to Article III, Section 5, subparagraph 2, of the Rutherford Electric Membership Corporation Bylaws, notice is hereby provided that the deadline for Member Petition Nominations is July 10, 2026. Any Member seeking nomination by petition shall have until that date to collect the required member petition signatures and meet other Bylaw requirements.





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**Rutherford Electric
Membership Corporation**



Apply now!

Early bird deadline: Aug. 15, 2026

Deadline: Sept. 15, 2026



At Rutherford EMC we are constantly striving to improve our operational efficiency so we can provide the most reliable electric service possible for our members (that's you!).

We rely on data for nearly every aspect of our operations, which is why we need your help. By making sure we have your up-to-date contact information, we can continue to provide the high level of service that you deserve. Accurate information enables us to improve communications for reporting and repairing outages. It also allows co-op members to receive information about other important programs, events and activities.

Up-to-date contact information can potentially speed up the power restoration process during an outage. For example, the phone number you provide is linked to your service address in our outage management system. This means when you call to report an outage, our system recognizes your phone number and matches it with your account location. Accurate information helps our outage management system predict the location of an outage, making it easier for our crews to correctly identify and plan for the potential problem before they even arrive on scene.

While we always do our best to maintain service, we occasionally plan outages to update, repair or replace equipment. In these instances, we



can provide advance notification to affected members through automated phone messages, text messages or email, if we have your updated contact information.

Keeping the co-op up-to-date with your information helps us when there's a question about energy use or billing. Emails and text messages can also be used to alert registered members of any unexpected changes in their daily usage. In addition, discrepancies on your account can be taken care of promptly if Rutherford EMC has accurate account information.

Many of you have been members of the co-op for years, and it's likely that your account information hasn't been updated for some time. We recognize that many members now use a cell phone as their primary phone service, and we might not have that number in our system.

I want to emphasize that in providing your contact information to the co-op, we will never share this information with any third parties. It is only used by Rutherford EMC to communicate with you. Please take a moment to confirm and update the contact information shown on your monthly electric bill. By doing so, you will be helping us improve service and efficiency so we can better serve you and all members of the co-op.