The NEWS LINE
RUTHERFORD ELECTRIC MEMBERSHIP CORPORATION
www.remc.com
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The 2026 Director Election Opens Next Month!

Your voice and your vote matter! The 2026 Rutherford EMC Director Election opens on Monday, Sept. 21, 2026. As a member, this is your chance to elect the directors who approve the co-op's policies, rates and the yearly budget.

Election balloting will be managed by Survey and Ballot Systems, an independent election contractor. **A unique email will provide instructions on how to cast your vote online. Please make sure REMC has a valid email address on file to ensure you receive your ballot.** Give us a call now if you need to update your information. For those members without an email address, balloting instructions will be mailed to your mailing address.

We strongly encourage you to be an active cooperative member and participate in the Director Election each year. All voters will be entered into a prize drawing! If you have questions regarding this year's Director Election, contact Kari Putnam at 1-800-521-0920, ext. 423.

STAY in the KNOW

Can we get your up-to-date contact info please?



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, such as the Director Election mentioned above.

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.

We 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.

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 resubmitted. 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 *jearley@remc.com*.
No phone calls, please.

FOR SALE

Land Pride implements, lightly used, all purchased in 2023-2024: tiller, $1,500; aerator, $1,500; box scraper, $1,500; all for $3,500. No delivery. Leave name and number if needed. 304-266-6264.

(2) Large propane tanks, 67.4-pound tanks, good condition, both have some propane in them, $50 ea. Must pick up in Lincolnton, NC. 704-898-7409.

Grass fed and grain finished beef, USDA inspected: Summer package includes (2) roast, (2) beef stew, (2) cube steak, and (3) lbs. of ground beef for $100. We sell whole, halves and quarters of beef. Also selling a larger pound package of beef. Call for details. 704-472-2761.

2002 Crown Victoria P71, very good condition, many new parts, 126,000 miles, asking $4,000. Vale, NC. Please leave message. 704-462-4018.

2020 Audi A4 four-door sedan at 2.0T premium plus, w/navigation and sports packages, Navarra Blue Metallic, new battery and tires, clean, tarp kept, 14,172 miles, $28,500. Call 828-334-6793.

Sears Lifestyler SLR Stepper, purchased new, used only approximately 2 years, good condition, console features 5-mode electronic monitor that provides continuous feedback as you exercise, modes include speed, time, distance, calories and scan, also has self-leveling pedals, independent stepping action and motivational calorie monitor, comes with owner's manual, can send pictures, asking $50. Dallas, NC. Call 704-678-8538.

1953 John Deere tractor, 40T, w/ 7 ft. scape blade, runs good, everything works, $4,000. 704-865-5686.

4'x8' utility trailer, no title, $400; water totes, $100 ea.; burning barrels, $10 ea.; solid top metal and plastic barrels, $10 ea.; 5-gallon buckets, $2 ea.; tote cages, $40 ea.; battery operated drills, $150-$400; wooden kitchen table, $100; battery tools, call for info. Hickory, NC. 828-327-4782.

4-piece Drexel heritage solid mahogany bedroom suite, includes 4 post queen bed frame w/headboard and footboard, nightstand, highboy chest, lingerie chest, mirror; Drexel heritage solid oak china cabinet; Drexel heritage dining room table w/ (4) cane back chairs; Drexel credenza cabinet; (2) Drexel solid wood desks; Howard Miller grandfather clock; 1984 Drexel Et Cetera line chinoiserie, petite entertainment/storage cabinet. Call for price, serious inquiries only. 828-437-6402.

1 set of (4) 2018 Chevy TK wheels/tires, like new, $1,600; 1 set of (4) 1990 Chevy TK wheels/tires, $500. 828-437-6402.

ScanNCut DX SDX85S by Brother USA, comes with two extra blades, sky blue color, like new condition, only used twice, includes the box it came in, billing receipt and all instructional materials, $235. Call 704-318-6859 or 704-689-3795.

(2) grave plots at Hickory Memorial Cemetery, $3,500 for both. Hickory, NC. Call 828-244-8579.

(11) collector's glasses: (7) 1983 Disney Smurfs; (3) 1973 Pepsi Petunia Pigs; (1) 1977 McDonalds Mayor McCheese, will sell all or separate. Lincolnton, NC. 704-740-6126.

Hisense 8000 BTU portable stand up air conditioner, cools 300 square feet, currently running well, $30. 704-600-8744.

48-9N Ford Tractor and equipment. Lincolnton, NC. 704-732-4567.

Costume jewelry in a big vase, big selection to choose from, $20. Maiden, NC. 828-970-7555.

2014 Jeep Compass, 2.4L, 6 speed automatic, burgundy exterior, black interior, cold A/C, 4x4, not AWD, very good condition, good tires and brakes, class A trailer hitch, 138,000 miles, $5,500 firm. Call for pictures. 828-310-1912.

Craftsman tractor, 220HV, new battery, lots of parts, needs deck, $300. 704-648-1087.

Treadmill platform w/remote control, only used a couple of times, $150. 704-813-5656.

1999 21' Maxum open bow boat, in excellent condition, nice pleasure or fishing boat, kept out of the water and taken care of, total lower unit rebuilt, 370 hours, 350 Merc Cruiser, new mooring cover, Bimini included, double axle galvanized trailer, new tires, (2) new batteries, GPS fish finder, and many extras included, $7,000. Stanley, NC. Leave message. 716-680-0369.

Local wildflower honey, $15/qt. Lincolnton, NC. 704-748-3258.

MISCELLANEOUS

Free wood, no pine, would be good for firewood. Gastonia, NC. 704-865-1025.

Free Celestron telescope, lens is missing. Leave message, 704-732-4532.

Free treadmill. 704-854-3651.

WANTED

WW2 artifacts; old comic books and toys from the 60s or 70s. 704-616-6567.

Medium size wood burning stove. Call and leave message. 828-442-1487.

John Deere 410 Round Baler for parts. 980-421-4432.

Someone to take down a dead tree near Hickory, NC. 828-327-4782.

Wheat pennies and Indian Head pennies; coin books, empty or full. Hickory, NC. 828-327-4782.

Vise for shop, 6" or bigger, good quality; used washing machine in good condition; used washer and dryer in good condition, will unhook and load, will pay cash. 828-584-0348.

Join Rutherford EMC in Recognizing 8/11 as a Reminder to Call 811 Before You Dig



On Aug. 11 (8/11), Rutherford EMC is reminding members to dial 8-1-1 at least three working days before beginning a digging project. This free and simple step can save lives and reduce risk of injury, repair costs, fines and inconvenient outages.

The national 811 "Call Before You Dig" phone number links residents to a local call center, which then dispatches local utility companies to mark line locations with paint or flags. These marked lines show you where it is – and isn't – safe to break ground. Once your lines have been marked, make sure to dig carefully around the marks, not on top of them. Because utility line locations can shift, it's important to call each time you are planning to dig.

For more information about safe digging and the "Call Before You Dig" process, visit nc811.org.

NC Electric Cooperatives Youth Tour

Rutherford EMC Sends Two Students on the 2026 NC Youth Tour

Approximately 1,700 rising high school seniors from 44 states gathered in Washington, D.C., for seven days as delegates to the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour. Dozens of North Carolina students, including two local delegates sponsored by Rutherford EMC, took part in the week-long opportunity.

To be selected these students had to be rising high school seniors, complete an application process, perform an energy audit of their home and participate in a personal interview process, Lillian Parton, a student at Rutherford Early College High School (REACH) and Mallory Wray, a student at East Rutherford High School, were awarded this amazing once in a lifetime opportunity.

On the Youth Tour, students participated in leadership training, engaged in one-on-one conversations with elected officials, jump started their national peer network, learned about electric cooperatives, how they operate and toured many historic monuments and museums throughout D.C.

"This vibrant group of Youth Tourists explored D.C. with both curiosity and fascination on their faces, and that was great to see," said Jeff Brittain, General Manager. "The Youth Tour emphasizes the importance of civic engagement and the fact that politics touch every aspect of life. We hope the experiences and skills that delegates gained during the trip will benefit them on their journey to becoming our next great leaders."

On the seven-day tour, students learned about United States history at the Washington Monument, Lincoln Memorial, Martin Luther King Memorial and many of the Smithsonian museums. The delegates paid their respects to soldiers who lost their lives in service to the nation at Arlington National Cemetery and visited the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall as well as the Korean War Veterans Memorial. Several members of North Carolina's congressional delegation answered policy questions and offered advice to the students in a personal meeting on Capitol Hill.

For years, America's electric cooperatives have brought students together from communities across America to build connections and practice leadership on the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour. This year North Carolina delegates joined with peers representing electric co-ops in 44 states.

Lillian and Mallory, the Youth Tour delegates representing Rutherford EMC for 2026, offered their gratitude of thanks and described the week as an incredible opportunity and an experience they will never forget!

Thanks again to all who applied and remember the application process for the 2027 Electric Cooperative's Youth Tour opens back up on Nov. 1, 2026. Be on the lookout for more information in the coming months!

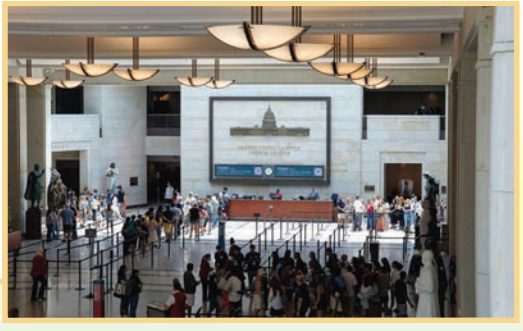












Touch-A-Truck Event was Enjoyed by All!

Rutherford EMC linemen Matt Harshman and Bingham Higgins were recently amongst the crowd gathered at Tryon International Equestrian Center participating in one of their Saturday Night Lights events. You may ask yourself, what were two linemen doing at the Grand Prix world class show-jumping competition? We're glad you asked! Electric co-ops are made up of local people who live, work, and play in the many communities that we serve with electricity.

Tryon International Equestrian Center, which is proudly served by Rutherford EMC, holds various events throughout the year and invited us to be part of their Touch-A-Truck event. This was more than just a big truck show for the children; they had many family friendly activities such as hobby horse competitions, pony rides, carousel rides, face painting and entertainers such as bubble artists, jugglers, hoop performers and more.

This was a great event, and it gave our linemen an opportunity to meet with lots of our Rutherford EMC members and their children. Everyone enjoyed the up-close experience with a bucket truck and excavator as well as speaking with these linemen about their specialty tools and the daily job duties they perform. Caring for our communities is one way that Rutherford EMC is helping to build a brighter future for everyone.







Bright Ideas
EDUCATION GRANTS



Now Accepting Applications

NCBrightIdeas.com

Attention K-12 Educators!

Apply early for a Bright Ideas Grant and be entered to win $100

Each year, Rutherford EMC awards over $15,000 in Bright Ideas grants to fund innovative projects submitted by educators in our community.

Early bird applicants who submit their Bright Ideas Education Grant application by August 15th will be entered for a chance to win one of five $100 gift cards in a statewide drawing.

The final deadline to apply for a Bright Ideas grant of up to $1,000 from Rutherford EMC is September 15th, 2026.

To apply and learn more about this exciting grant opportunity, visit ncbrightideas.com