



## **Randolph Telephone Celebrates 60 Years of Service**

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*May 6, 2014 – Asheboro, N.C.* – Randolph Telephone Membership Corporation will celebrate its 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on Tuesday, May 13, 2014. Their rich history all began in 1954 when large telephone companies refused to bring telephone service to rural communities. It was then that a hand full of concerned residents of Randolph, Chatham and Moore Counties banded together for a common dream—a hope that one day their area would have the same reliable communications as larger cities. The idea of a member-owned telephone cooperative was born when the Secretary of State of North Carolina granted A Certificate of Incorporation through the North Carolina Rural Electrification Authority.

Randolph Telephone, or RTMC, began operations in 1957, with 97 phones in Farmer, N.C. In 1958 the company extended its service to High Falls and Bennett. In 1970 the company converted to a 1-party line service, and fifteen years later upgraded to digital switching. In 1990, fiber-optics was cutover from RTMC exchanges to Coleridge, creating the first link in a fiber network. High-speed broadband Internet service was launched in 2001 and was made available to all of their customers, even the most remote. Since then, Randolph Telephone has been committed to bringing the most sophisticated telecommunications networks in the country, a network that gives owners of small rural businesses the same technological tools as their metropolitan competitors.

To provide better service, Randolph Telephone added a retail location in Asheboro to be more accessible to its customers. Today, Randolph Telephone employs 52 and provides service to parts of Alamance, Chatham, Davidson, Guilford, Moore, Montgomery, and Randolph Counties. Randolph Telephone continues to grow as they offer Camera Surveillance, Wireless, Web Design & Hosting, Business Networking, Phone Systems, and Computer Services. Another huge accomplishment was when the company launched its own IPTV service, called MyTV on August 1, 2008. To date, Randolph Telephone brings a high-quality TV service to over 1,970 subscribers. And in 2013 the company launched its very own Local Channel, R1TV. Only Randolph Telephone TV subscribers have access to this local channel.

As dreamed in 1954, Randolph Telephone is rapidly growing as they deploy fiber throughout its network to bring faster broadband services, better quality phone service and digital television to every member. While Randolph Telephone is rapidly growing, one thing will also stay the same; customer service. “We are proud to have served our customers over the past 60 years and look forward to bringing new innovative telecommunications products and services to make our

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customers lives better in the years to come,” said Frankie Cagle, CEO & General Manager. “Our customers are not just a number to us. They are real people that live in our community. Our number one priority is to provide them with friendly, reliable service. We plan to do just that for the next 60 years.”

Not only does Randolph Telephone take care of its customers but it is a civic-focused company that gives back to the community participating in more than local parades, festivals, and community events each year. In addition, RTMC invests in the future through its General Scholarship program that has awarded over \$300,000 in college scholarships to area high school seniors. And now in its fifteenth year, Randolph Telephone takes a lead role by continuing its Signature Sponsorship of the North Carolina Zoological Society’s Zoo To Do event.

On Tuesday, May 13, 2014 from 10:00-2:00, Randolph Telephone will be hosting a celebration for their customers in honor of their 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary at each of their three locations. RTMC customers will receive a company gift, as well as light refreshments. RTMC customers are also able to enter a drawing for a 60” HD TV. The drawing will take place Wednesday, May 14, 2014.

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