



February 2020

Proudly serving the members of Albemarle Electric Membership Corporation

## Happy Anniversary!

On Feb. 24, Albemarle EMC will celebrate 75 years of service to the Albemarle region!

To recognize this historic day, refreshments will be served in the co-op's lobby on Monday, Feb. 24. We will also raffle off a \$75 credit to a power bill. To enter, simply fill out the raffle ticket below and either bring it to our office (125 Cooperative Way, Winfall), or mail it to the address on the ticket before

Feb. 24. Special activities are also being planned for the co-op's annual meeting, in September.

"All of us should be proud to be a part of this legacy that stretches back three-quarters of a century," said Gary Ray, general manager of Albemarle EMC. "This is a historic milestone that is a testament to your cooperative's business model."



**Know what's below.  
Call before you dig.**

**We are members of NC  
811. Call 811 or 1-800-  
632-4949 three business  
days before you plan to  
dig.**

Please mail raffle ticket to  
Albemarle EMC  
P.O. Box 69  
Hertford, NC 27944

**You could win a \$75 credit to  
your power bill on Feb. 24th!**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Account Number \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

## Albemarle Sounds

is published monthly by  
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*Albemarle EMC is an equal opportunity  
provider and employer.*

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative   
The power of human connections®

## Transformers Arrive at W. Albemarle Substation

Transformers recently were installed at Albemarle EMC's newest substation.

The two transformers each have a capacity of about 40 megavolt-amps.

The West Albemarle Substation is located in Chowan County, near the co-op's existing Edenton Substation. Construction of the new substation should be completed in early 2020. The substation will be a transmission facility that will feed the existing Edenton Substation as well as the future Bethel Substation, which should be completed in the next couple of years. The West Albemarle Substation will also eventually

feed a future substation in Chowan County that will replace the existing Edenton Substation.

"Not only will this improve the reliability for Perquimans and Chowan members, it will also increase capacity, meaning power will be available for future development," said Gary Ray, general manager of Albemarle EMC.



# Statement of Nondiscrimination

Albemarle Electric Membership Corporation (AEMC) is a recipient of federal financial assistance from the Rural Utilities Service (RUS), an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and is subject to the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended; the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended; and the rules and regulations of the U.S. Department of Agriculture which provide that no person in the United States on the basis of race, color, national origin, age or disability shall be excluded from participation in, admission or access to, denied the benefits of, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination under any of this organization's programs or activities.

The person responsible for coordinating this organization's nondiscrimination compliance effort is Gary Ray, general manager of Albemarle Electric Membership Corporation. Any individual, or specific class of individuals, who feels that this organization has subjected them to discrimination may file a written complaint with this organization; or the Secretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250; or the Administrator, Rural Utilities Service, Washington, D.C. Complaints must be filed within 180 days after the alleged discrimination action, or by such later date to which the Secretary of Agriculture or the Administrator of the Rural Utilities Service extends the time for filing. Identity of complainants will be kept confidential except to the extent necessary to carry out the purpose of the rules and regulations of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

## Basketball Camp Applications Being Accepted

Albemarle EMC is giving two local middle school students the opportunity to hit the hardwood alongside their favorite college basketball athletes and coaches this summer, thanks to Touchstone Energy Sports Camp Scholarships.

Albemarle EMC will select one young man for a scholarship to attend the Roy Williams Carolina Basketball Camp June 20-24 at the University of North Carolina

at Chapel Hill, and one local young woman to attend the Wolfpack Women's Basketball Camp June 21-24 at North Carolina State University, in Raleigh. The scholarships cover all expenses at the overnight camps, which provide a glimpse into life on a college campus.

"Albemarle EMC is committed to the success of youth on and off the court," said Gary Ray, general manager of Albemarle EMC. "We are proud to offer this exciting opportunity."

Applications are being accepted through March 31 and can be found online at [www.ncelectriccooperatives.com/in-the-community/sports-camps/](http://www.ncelectriccooperatives.com/in-the-community/sports-camps/).

Contestants will be judged on academic records, extra-curricular activities and a required essay. To be eligible to win, students must be in the sixth, seventh or eighth grade during the 2019-2020 school year and have permission from a parent or guardian to attend. Scholarship winners are expected to be announced in May.

### Campers

stay overnight in dorms on campus, learn fundamental skills that will help them excel

on and off the court and receive individual and group instruction from Division 1 coaches to enhance their basketball and team working abilities. Wes Moore, coach of the Wolfpack women's basketball team, and Roy Williams, coach of the 2009 and 2017 national champion Carolina Tar Heel men's basketball team, will direct the camps with the help of staff, as well as current and former players.

Eligible students who are interested in the scholarship can visit [www.ncelectriccooperatives.com/sports-camps](http://www.ncelectriccooperatives.com/sports-camps) for more information.



Touchstone Energy®

## Sports Camp Scholarships

## Service Recognized



*Customer Service Representative Tielue Knight receives a pin for 15 years of service from John Spence, president of the Albemarle EMC Board of Directors.*

The following employees were recently recognized for their years of service to Albemarle EMC.

John Coston received a pin for 35 years of service. Chris White received a 20-year pin. Chris Powell, Tielue Knight, Tina Eley and Zach Bray each received pins for 15 years of service. James Whitfield, Broc

Sutton and Timothy Meads received five year pins.

The following Albemarle Community Trust Board of Directors members also received service pins: Vanora Brothers, 10 years; Jeff Proctor and Linda Burrus, five years.

## We ♥ Members

Valentine's Day is around the corner, and here at Albemarle EMC we want our members to know how much you mean to us.

As a local, not-for-profit electric cooperative, we are focused on making a difference for our members and our communities.

Here are just a few ways we're showing our members the love this season and all year-round:

**Capital Credits** – Because your co-op belongs to the community it serves, we share any margins with our members.

**Energy Management** – We offer energy audits, high-use alerts, prepaid billing, levelized billing and much more.

**Concern for Community** – From supporting teachers with education grants to giving back to local organizations, Albemarle EMC is committed to strengthening the communities we call home and building a brighter future for everyone.



# Albemarle EMC is at Your Service

How Albemarle EMC works to provide its members with the highest-quality service possible.

## 75 Years, Quite an Accomplishment

by Chris Powell, coordinator of public relations

Albemarle Electric Membership Corporation turns 75 this month. Reaching this milestone is reason for all of us to pause and take note.

It seems that very little can stand the test of time these days. Our high tech society has sped up the rate of change so fast that we no longer give reality-altering developments a second thought. I'm old enough to remember life before cell phones, life before the Internet, life before GPS navigation. All progress brings with it both the positives and the negatives. The smart phone I can no longer live without is also an attention-demanding nuisance that stifles human interaction. While we have learned to adapt to these steady shifts, I think we all long for something in our lives that remains steadfast, remains dependable, remains constant and – well – just remains.

For the past 75 years, your cooperative has been that bedrock, supplying power to the rural parts of the Albemarle region. Albemarle EMC was incorporated Feb. 24, 1945 to provide electrical service to a farming community quickly being left behind. In 1945 World War II ended, and Harry S. Truman was sworn in as president after Franklin D. Roosevelt passed away.

Up until 1945, rural America was lagging the metropolitan areas that had electricity. For-profit power companies simply could not make a profit in the sparsely populated farming communities. To solve that problem, the federal government created the Rural Electrification Administration. Low-interest loans were made available to newly incorporated co-ops, such as Albemarle EMC that were tasked with coming up with their own methods of providing power. What resulted was one of the most successful public-private programs this country has ever produced. The simple genius of the rural electrification effort was that it put the responsibility squarely on the shoulders of the people who would be served the electricity. Instead of dictating how the program would be run, the federal government made low-interest loans available to rural communities that were left with the responsibility of making the programs work.

Imagine the resolve that must have been present in those

rural areas. Before them was the chance to bring electricity to their communities and radically alter their immediate lives as well as those of generations to follow. I bet there was not one person in those small farming communities that was opposed to having power. All of them must have been willing to do whatever it took to make their electric cooperative a success, to extend the power lines one more mile, then another and so on. The rural electrification program tapped into a vast

reservoir of human potential. Rural work ethic, ingenuity and tenacity were harnessed and transformed into a mighty engine that erupted with progress. Across the country, power lines spread, and home after home glowed with electric lights. No longer would their children have to do school work by the dim light of kerosene. No longer would they have to chop wood to cook a meal in the stove. No longer would they have to pump water from a well by hand.

That is the humble yet proud roots from which Albemarle EMC grew, none of which would be possible without a long history of dedicated employees and loyal members.

Albemarle EMC has always been more in the people business than the power business. Members work for the co-op, serve on its board of directors, serve on its charitable board, attend the annual meetings and pay the power bills that keep the co-op running. Albemarle EMC's longevity is also a testament to its business model, which we believe is the most equitable one in the industry. Electric cooperatives are nonprofits, so any margins left over at the end of the year are returned to members through capital credits. Also the board of directors is comprised of elected members, so consumers have indirect, local control of their co-op. Of course, any qualifying member can run for a seat on the board of directors for direct oversight of the co-op.

The employees and directors of Albemarle EMC are proud to be the current caretakers of a legacy that has spanned 75 years, and we hope you are too. Working together let us all do our part to ensure that the inheritance that has been handed down to us lasts for another 75 years and longer.



*Pictured is Joe Hill, who worked as an Albemarle EMC lineman from 1948 to 1952.*