



# Albemarle SOUNDS

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Proudly serving the members of Albemarle Electric Membership Corporation

## Albemarle Sounds

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**Albemarle Electric Membership Corporation**

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative   
*The power of human connections®*

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*Albemarle EMC is an equal opportunity provider and employer.*

## AEMC Holiday Closings



## General Manager Hired



Kevin Heath has been promoted to General Manager and Executive Vice President of Albemarle EMC.

He replaces Gary Ray, who has assumed the position of chief executive officer for Jones Onslow EMC, in Jacksonville.

Heath, a native of Camden County, will be responsible for the day to day operations of the cooperative and will report to the cooperative's board of directors.

He is the former manager of engineering for the cooperative and has worked for Albemarle EMC since 2008. For the past 15 years, he supervised then later managed the engineering and

information technology departments. He was also responsible for the system planning and design as well as state and federal regulatory compliance and contract labor.

Heath has served as project manager for the design, build and conversion of multiple large-scale projects that include the construction of the South Mills Substation, New Hope Substation and transmission line, West Albemarle Transmission Substation and the Bethel Substation.

He holds two bachelors degrees from N.C. State University, one in Electrical Engineering and the other in Computer Engineering.

"We received numerous applications for this position, and it came down to three finalists," said John Spence, president of the Albemarle EMC Board of Directors. "Kevin's extensive knowledge of our electrical system as well as his experience with project management and storm recovery made him an easy choice. We are confident that he will provide the leadership necessary to keep this cooperative moving forward."

## Board Officers Elected



*John Spence*



*Robbie Whitehead*



*Thelma Finch-Copeland*



*Chad Mathews*

The Albemarle EMC Board of Directors recently elected board officers. John Spence was elected president; Robbie Whitehead, vice president; Thelma Finch-Copeland, secretary; and Chad Mathews, treasurer.

# AEMC Celebrates 10 Years Without Loss-Time Accident

The last time Albemarle EMC had a loss-time accident was in 2013, 10 years ago!

To help put that into perspective, our youngest lineman was in seventh grade ten years ago. Albemarle EMC celebrated this accomplishment by hosting an appreciation luncheon for all of the co-op's employees.



*Safety signs serve as reminders for safe work practices.*

Manager Roy O'Neal. "The fact that we have not even had that, is quite a testament to our employees' safe work practices."

Albemarle EMC has worked hard to create a culture of safety. Employees receive steady training from industry safety experts. Training covers everything from first aid to how to use a fire extinguisher. Every three years, a surprise inspection is conducted to evaluate all aspects of the co-op's safety level. Posters featuring employees with their families are hung in the co-op's hallways as reminders that others count on them to remain healthy. Also, a poster of eight safety promises is displayed where vehicle passengers see it before exiting the co-op's pole yard. Each month a short section from the co-op's safety manual is featured in the employee newsletter.



*Employees were rewarded with a luncheon and a t-shirt commemorating the achievement.*

A loss-time accident is defined as a work-related injury severe enough to cause an employee to miss at least one day of work to recover. Considering the inherently dangerous nature of line work, this is quite an accomplishment.

"A minor injury can cause an employee to miss work," said Operations

## Apply Now for Youth Tour

Albemarle EMC is offering two rising high school juniors or seniors the chance for a trip of a lifetime.

Applications are now being accepted for Albemarle Electric Membership Corporation's Washington Youth Tour. High school juniors and seniors can apply



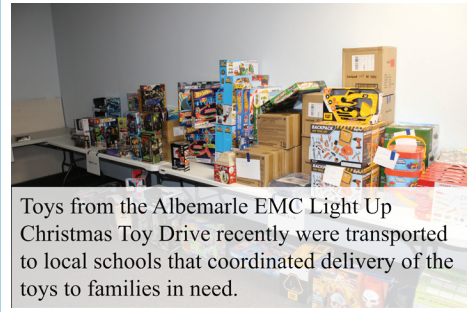
*Students participating in the 2023 Washington Youth Tour trip prepare for a day on Capital Hill.*

online by visiting [aemc.coop/schools](http://aemc.coop/schools) and filling out an online application. The deadline to apply is Friday, Jan. 12. Two students will be selected based on the quality of a written essay and extracurricular activities.

"We are delighted to once again be able to offer this amazing experience to students," said Albemarle EMC General Manager Kevin Heath.

The trip will be June 15-21, 2024. Youth tourists from across the state will meet in Raleigh, then board a bus for Washington, D.C. While at the nation's capital, youth tourists from across the country will meet with legislators, take a harbor-party cruise, visit museums, memorials, monuments and make many friends. For more information, call Chris Powell at 252-426-2586.

# Toy Drive is Successful



Toys from the Albemarle EMC Light Up Christmas Toy Drive recently were transported to local schools that coordinated delivery of the toys to families in need.

## Coursework Completed



*Congratulations to Lineman Drake Trueblood! He has completed all four modules of the Northwest Lineman College's Lineworker Certification program.*

## Safety Demo Given



*Albemarle EMC employees conducted a high-voltage safety demonstration recently for close to 400 students at Perquimans Central School, in Winfall.*



# Albemarle EMC is at Your Service

## Bright Ideas Grants Help Local Educators

Albemarle EMC recently awarded more than \$16,000 in Bright Ideas education grants to 13 local teachers. Below are the grants awarded by county.

Christopher Dockey, a teacher at Chowan Middle School, received a \$1,000 grant for his project “Beat Mode.” Dockey intends to purchase 20 Akai Beat Pads, which will be paired with their chrome books. Students will use a digital audio workstation and headphones to create and play their own rhythms for their classmates.



*Accompanied by her students, D.F. Walker Elementary School teacher Carisa Copeland receives a Bright Ideas grant.*

D.F. Walker teacher Carisa Copeland received \$1,995 for her project “Schoolwide STEM Bins.” Her grant will be used to purchase storage bins as well as STEM-based learning manipulatives for students in grades three through five.

Leslie Swain, a second-grade teacher at White Oak Elementary School, received \$372.43 for her project “Engaging Ways to Start the Day.” Swain intends to use her grant to purchase educational toys to provide a soft-start to school days before structured learning begins. The educational toys will enhance socializing skills.

Stacey Pierce, a teacher at Perquimans Central School, received \$666.21 for

her project “Fun, Farm, Friday’s For First-Graders.” Pierce will use her grant to purchase several games and manipulatives related to farm animals.

Holly Daniels, a teacher at Hertford Grammar School, received a \$700 grant for her project “Wobbling Into Success.” She will use her funds to purchase yoga ball chairs, fidget bands, wobble cushions and an adjustable kids action stool. The devices will be used to help students with attention deficit and hyperactive tendencies.

Asheton Smith, a teacher at Hertford Grammar School, received a \$1,404 grant for her project “Growing Minds One Seed at a Time.” Smith’s grant will be used to create a classroom garden in which students will be able to grow produce from seed to harvest. Students will track plant growth and learn about parts of the plant. Her funds will be used to purchase gardening supplies that will include planter boxes, small containers, potting soil and cultivating tools.

Marie Moss, a teacher at Elizabeth City Middle School, received a \$1,779.90 grant for her project “Coding for a Competitive Future.” She will use her funds to purchase four Lego Mindstorms EV3 Intelligent Bricks. The materials will be used to prepare students to participate in the First Lego League Robotics Competition.

Devin Wilder, a teacher at H.L. Trigg Community School, received a \$2,000 grant for his project “Design Crew Maker’s Space.” Wilder will use his grant to purchase a 3D printer, 50-gallon terrarium, microscopes and human-anatomy teaching aids for a STEM learning lab.

Ashley Richardson, a teacher at Northside Elementary School, received a \$1,335.60 grant for her project “Little Gardeners, Growing Minds.” She will

use her grant to create a garden for third- through fifth-grade students in the Gifted and Talented as well as the Talent Development programs. The garden will be used to teach language arts, math and art. To create the garden, Richardson intends to purchase gardening supplies that include watering cans, raised garden boxes a wheel barrow and cultivating tools.

Chad Diamond, a teacher at Pasquotank County High School, was awarded a \$672.84 grant for his project “Project Propel.” His grant will be used to purchase an ArenaGear Timing System and a Plyomat for the school’s weight room. The technology will enable weightlifting students to measure their lower extremity power, vertical jump height and agility times.

Christina Bleich was awarded a \$1,454.80 grant for her project “Life Cycles of Living Organisms in Pollinator Gardens.” Bleich’s grant will be used to purchase items for a pollinator garden that include ladybug and butterfly kits, bird houses and hummingbird feeders. Her project will teach all grade levels about the life cycles of plants and animals.

Kathi Addaman, a teacher at Grandy Primary School, received a \$1,930 grant for her project “Experience the World Through My Senses.” Her grant will be used to purchase bean bags and items intended to create a calm atmosphere to create a sensory room. The room will provide a therapeutic space for children with autism and other special needs.

Michele Peede, a teacher at Grandy Primary School, received an \$848 grant for his project “Text: Read and Write It! Her grant will be used to purchase several science and social studies books as well as a color printer. Her intent is to provide additional reading materials to her first-grade class.