



Albemarle SOUNDS

December 2021

Proudly serving the members of Albemarle Electric Membership Corporation

Albemarle Sounds

is published monthly by
Albemarle Electric Membership Corporation

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 
The power of human connections®

P.O. Box 69
Hertford, NC 27944
(252) 426-5735

Gary Ray, General Manager
Chris Powell, Editor

Website and member portal:
www.aemc.coop

Outages:

1-800-274-2072

24-hour payments:
(252) 426-4419

Albemarle EMC is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Tournament Raises Big Bucks for Charity

Albemarle EMC raised more than \$21,000 thanks to the generosity of several corporate partners who participated in this year's annual Light Up Christmas Golf Tournament.

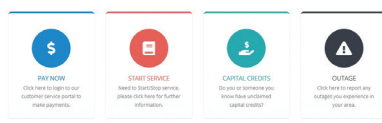
Eighteen teams, comprised of 69 golfers, played at the Sound Golf Links at Albemarle Plantation. Lee Electrical Construction Inc. took first place, turning in a score of 52. First National Bank took second place with a score of 55. CoBank came in third with a score of 56.

"We are delighted at the continued success of this tournament," said Gary Ray, general manager of Albemarle EMC. "We owe a debt of gratitude to the corporate partners that participated."

Each year Albemarle EMC employees volunteer their time to purchase the toys, which are then transported to the local school systems. The toys are then distributed to families who have been identified by school system personnel.



Member Portal Revamped



The Albemarle EMC Member Portal, where co-op members can go to pay bills and access account information, was recently overhauled.

The new portal is more streamlined and has new features, including quick pay. Members also can make payments without having to log into the portal.

"This is especially helpful for anyone desiring to make a payment for another person," said Clarissa Perry, manager of Corporate Services.

We would like to thank the following Light Up Christmas Golf Tournament Sponsors:

Dinner Sponsor
Lee Electrical

Beverage Sponsor
Booth & Associates

AFLAC
Altec Industries, Inc.
American Safety Utility Corporation
B&M Contractors, Inc.
Bellwether / Allegiant
Biggs GMC
Cape Hatteras EC
C&W Grading
CoBank
Dominion Energy
Edgecombe-Martin County EMC
First National Bank
Halifax EMC
Haywood EMC
Jimbo's Jumbos
Jones-Onslow EMC
Kleen Line LTD
Lekson Associates, Inc.
Lumbee River EMC
McNair, McLemore, Middlebrooks & Co.
National Transformer Sales

NCEMC
Pee Dee EMC
Perquimans County Schools Foundation
River City Construction
Roanoke Electric Cooperative
Rutherford EMC
Scotch Hall Preserve
Safe-T-Works, Inc.
SEDC
Sound Golf Links at Albemarle Plantation
Surry-Yadkin EMC
TEMA
The Links at Mulberry Hill
The Okonite Company
Transformer Maintenance & Service Inc.
Tri-County EMC
Vidant Health
Walmart of Elizabeth City
Whitehurst Sand Company
Xylem Tree Experts



Albemarle EMC will be closed Dec. 24-27 for Christmas and Friday Dec. 31 for New Year's Day. Merry Christmas and happy holidays.

Local Teachers Receive Bright Ideas Grants

More than \$15,000 in Bright Ideas educational grants was recently awarded to 19 applicants. Congratulations to the following educators!

Kathi Addaman, a teacher at Grandy Primary School, received a \$990 grant for her project “Beyond the Classroom; Outside Learning Centers for the Classroom.” She intends to use her funds to purchase a Lakeshore Jumbo Log Builders / Fort as well as a Lakeshore Dino Dig Excavator and other teaching aids. The teaching tools will create learning centers to assist special needs students.

Camden County High School teacher Roberta Heath received \$694.15 for her project “Get Ready to Rumble! Non-Fiction Graphic Novels Versus Informational Text.” Her grant will be used to purchase 30 nonfiction graphic novels. The goal is to provide high school students with greater access to graphic novels that address nonfiction topics relevant to the students’ course curriculum.

Jennifer Durham, an educator at Camden Middle School, received \$764.83 for her project “Mini Microscopes.” Durham intends to purchase materials that will enable her students to make their own microscopes.

Malorie Stockwell, a teacher at Chowan Middle School, received \$780 for her project “Gifted Educational Novels-English I in Middle School.” Her grant will be used to purchase 30 copies each of the following books: “Romeo and Juliet - No Fear Shakespeare,” “The Lizzie Borden Murders” and “Lord of the Flies.” The goal of her project is to push students to read at higher levels.

D.F. Walker Elementary School teacher Heather Terrell received \$749.54 for her project “Calm Minds.” She will use her grant to purchase a variety of yoga mats, blankets, cards and other items. Her goal is to create a calm corner, where students can teach themselves how to self-soothe, then get back to learning.

Deborah Bunch, a Chowan Middle School teacher, received \$353.40 for her project “Please Mark the Location Phase II The Great Sharing.” She will purchase six Jumbo Magnetic SY Boards and six Easy Cling Graphs. The manipulatives will facilitate a hands-on approach to learning math.

Shawboro Elementary School teacher Asheton Smith received \$546.57 for her project “STEM Bins - A Hands-On Approach to Learning.” Smith will use her grant to purchase the STEM (Science Technology, Engineering and Math) Bins Mega Teacher Bundle and the STEM Bins Comprehensive Kits. She will also purchase several books related to STEM subjects. These hands-on tools will allow for an environment that fosters critical thinking and creativity as students complete tasks and challenges.

Margie White, a teacher at Shawboro Elementary School, received \$674.60 for her project “Bring Back the Basics.” White’s grant will be used to purchase 40 Really Good Stuff Desk Pocket Charts. The charts will be used to enhance phonics instruction and help students understand word patterns to increase reading and writing skills.

Moyock Middle School Teacher Jennifer Robinson received an \$806.46 grant for her project “Time to Cook.” She will use her grant to purchase cooking supplies. Students will develop culinary knowledge and skill such as

sanitation, knife skills, use of equipment and food preparation.

Elizabeth Bill, a teacher at Central Elementary School, received a \$700 grant for her project “Beat for Peace.” She intends to use her grant to purchase the book “The World Music Drumming 20th Anniversary Teacher Edition” as well as a Remo Kids’ Percussion Drum. Her students will learn to sing songs with percussion and other instruments from multicultural traditions.

Sheila Winslow, a River Road Middle School educator, received \$986.77 for her project “Finding Myself Through Books.” Her grant funds will be used to purchase several Perma Bound books. The books will increase the availability of resources that reflect diverse cultures for library patrons.

Shanita Headley, a teacher at H.L. Trigg Community School, received \$1,000 for her project “Trigg

Innovators.” She will use her grant to purchase items for making a potato battery as well as create fermentation projects.

Elizabeth City Middle School teacher Amy Kosky received \$992.08 for her project “MakerSpace.” Her funds will be used to purchase an assortment of items such as DC motor kits and LED light kits. Her project will provide hands-on learning opportunities for students with disabilities.

Sharon Wilkerson, a teacher at Northeastern High School, received \$1,000 for her project “Fighting Covid in an Outdoor Classroom.” Her grant will be used to purchase paint, brushes, rollers as well as various hand tools. Special education students have the opportunity to make the school’s interior courtyards more artistic.

Kristine Garvey, a Hertford Grammar School educator, received a \$600.33 grant for her project “Math Madness.” Her grant will be used to purchase several math learning games from NewPath. Using the games, Garvey’s goal is to make math fun.

Becky Benton, a teacher at Hertford Grammar School, received \$966.20 for her project “Blending in’ as a Successful Reader.” Benton will use her funds to purchase Foundations Student Durables. The magnetic blending boards will be used to improve multi-sensory learning for special needs students.

Perquimans Central School teacher Stacey Pierce received \$983.44 for her project “Bringing Farm Art to Life.” Her grant will be used to purchase books, art supplies and picture mats to display student artwork. Students will create displays to teach other students about agriculture.

Courtney Bailey, a teacher at Perquimans Middle School, received \$993.61 for her project “C.S. & S.T.E.M. For All!” Bailey plans to purchase robotics kits, a virtual reality headset, marker pens and other items. Students will create stations that incorporates STEM learning.

Finally, Robin Cunningham, a teacher at Perquimans Middle School, received an \$807.02 grant for her project “Turn Up in Reading!” Her grant will be used to purchase several high-interest reading novels to motivate students struggling with reading.





Albemarle EMC is at Your Service

Director Spotlight — Thelma Finch-Copeland



Editor's note:

This month we continue our spotlight series with co-op board member Thelma Finch-Copeland. This question-and-answer format reflects our desire to connect members with the leaders who work behind the scenes to ensure that affordable, reliable electricity is a service you can count on.

Where were you born and raised?

I was born in Summit, NJ. However, at the age of two I was brought to Hertford to visit with my grandmother and great-grandmother and Hertford became my home.

What county do you currently reside in?

I currently reside in Perquimans County.

Are you married and do you have children?

I am married to my wonderful and very supportive husband, Simon Copeland. We have been married for six years; Simon was actually my high school sweetheart. I have two adult sons, my oldest son works locally as an attorney. My youngest son is a recent graduate of East Carolina University with a degree in Business Administration with a concentration in Marketing.

Did you go to college?

I obtained my undergraduate degree from North Carolina Central University in Early Childhood Education. I later received a master's degree in Elementary Education from Elizabeth City State University.

Who has been your biggest role model in life?

I have had so many influential people to encourage and empower me. Teachers, my mom, my grandparent, the late Mr. William Byrum, and my best friend Cheryl Newby, who was my mentor and is such an amazing supportive friend. However, the late Mrs. Estelle Felton encouraged and pushed me in a way that encompasses all that I am today.

Do you still work, or are you retired?

I am employed with the Economic Improvement Council as the Head Start director. I retired after about 30 years of working as a classroom teacher, then served on the Perquimans County Board of Education.

Why did you want to serve on the Albemarle EMC Board of Directors?

I wanted to represent the population of people that trust and believe I will speak truth and not represent with my own biases but represent with an open-mind and integrity.

How long have you been a director and what offices have you held?

I have been on the board since 2012 and have held the office of secretary for the past four years. In 2020, I was nominated to serve on the National Resolutions Committee.

How do you keep learning and growing as an industry leader?

I have attended numerous trainings and conferences. I have obtained my Credentialed Cooperative Director Certificate and the Board Leadership Certificate (BLC). I find it necessary to keep abreast of information that is published concerning the cooperative so that I will speak with knowledge and not just from my heart.

What are the biggest changes you have seen take place at Albemarle EMC during your tenure?

One of the biggest changes I have seen is the change made to the bill paying system. Utilizing the FlexPay system enables members to manage

when they pay for power. I believe this step provides all members and potential members with an option that is reasonable and accommodating to the needs of the population. COVID-19 has also brought a significant change to the way members are served at the facility. I think the co-op has done a good job of working safely while protecting the members.

What excites you most about the electric co-op industry and your role in it?

I am excited about the advances that the co-op has made using technology to help lower power cost using the AEMC Beat the Peak Alert system to reduce energy during peak times of the day. The use of energy and cost does not only affect Albemarle Electric members, but it is a nation-wide issue that affects the country. The more we can do in our community to utilize energy wisely one member at a time will make a difference.

What do you see is the biggest opportunity for Albemarle EMC in the coming years?

We must remain focused on new innovative ideas and make wise investments that will benefit the members and community.

What accomplishments are you most proud of as an Albemarle EMC board member?

Albemarle Electric provides reliable services to the members. The co-op engages in spreading empowering knowledge to the members. EMC is concerned about the community's schools and children. This is evident through the Light Up Christmas Toy Drive that provides gifts to many children in an effort to support families that may be struggling for finances. The Bright Ideas grant sponsored by the co-op is another outreach to the community's classroom teachers in support of innovative ideas that they may not be able to acquire support from local school funding.