



Albemarle SOUNDS

January 2022

Proudly serving the members of Albemarle Electric Membership Corporation

Albemarle Sounds

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Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 
The power of human connections®

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Albemarle EMC is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



Albemarle EMC will be closed Friday,

Jan. 31 for New Year's Day.

Happy New Year!

Board Officers Elected



John Spence



Glenn Carey



Virgie Whitehurst



Thelma Finch-Copeland

Following the co-op's Annual Meeting, the Albemarle EMC directors elected board officers.

Each year, the board votes to determine leadership roles. John Spence was re-elected president. Glenn Carey was re-elected vice president. Thelma Finch-Copeland was re-elected secretary, and Virgie Whitehurst was re-elected Treasurer. The officers will serve in their capacities for one-year terms.

"Congratulations to the newly elected board officers," said Albemarle EMC General Manager Gary Ray. "We appreciate their willingness to serve."

Heating Bill Assistance Available

Albemarle EMC wants members to be aware of a government program that offers financial assistance with heating bills.

The North Carolina Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP) helps eligible households pay their heating bill. The federally funded program is made available through your local Department of Social Services. Members can also contact the NC Division of Social Services at 1-800-662-7030.

"This is a great way for our members enduring financial hardship to get the help they need," said Clarissa Perry, manager of corporate services for AEMC.

LIEAP provides a one-time vendor payment to cover a heating bill, Dec. 1 through March 31 each year. Priority

is given for households with family members up to five years of age or an elderly person 60 and over, or a person receiving disability benefits. They are eligible to apply between Dec. 1 and Dec. 31, 2021 each year. All households can apply from Jan. 2 through March 31, 2022.

To be eligible for the assistance, a household must have at least one U.S. citizen or non-citizen who meets the eligibility criteria. The person must have cash reserves at or below \$2,250 and must be responsible for paying their heating costs. If a household is found eligible for assistance through LIEAP, vendor payments will be paid directly to the heating source provider.

New Trucks Put Into Service



Engineering Technician III Travis Riddick



Manager of Operations Jody Parker

The company recently purchased two new trucks that were customized to put into service.

One truck is a 2021 Silverado crew cab, service body equipped with the Duramax turbo-diesel. The truck will have a power inverter installed, so Engineering Technician Travis Riddick can have easy access to AC power when working at substations.

The other truck is a 2021 F-150 that will be used by the Operations Department for routine work in the field. Both trucks will receive a standard Backrack with a strobe, spotlight and Internet receiver. The strobe improves roadside safety; the spotlight is primarily used for locating line faults at night. The Internet capability enables automatic vehicle location as well as online connection to the co-op's office.

"These trucks are invaluable to the work we do in the field," said Jody Parker, manager of operations for Albemarle EMC. "We squeeze every ounce of utility we can from them."

ACT Board Approves Four Grants

The Albemarle Community Trust recently approved four grants that will greatly benefit the local community.

Camp Cale was approved for a \$5,000 grant to be put toward building bulkheads for a one-acre fishing pond. The camp, located in Perquimans County, provides summer camps and a conference area, as part of a broader mission of faith-development.

Camp Cale Director Matt Thomas said dirt removed from the fishing pond will be used to construct protective berms for the camp's ranges.

"The fishing pond allows us to serve underprivileged kids through our partnership with the "Dream Hunting and Fishing Program," Thomas said. "The berms for our ranges will provide added safety and will be a benefit for two of our local Hunter Safety teams."

The Hertford Grammar School PTA received \$2,800. The funds will be used to purchase 400 or more shirts to be used on spirit days, field trips and other school activities. Each grade will receive a different color shirt, which helps with safety and identification on field trips.



Camp Cale was recently awarded an ACT grant to help with construction of a fishing pond.

Port Discover, in Elizabeth City, received \$5,000 to purchase several kits from VEX Robotics. The kits will be used to introduce robotics to pre-kindergarten, elementary and middle school aged children, said Theresa Armendarez, executive director of Port Discover.

The South Camden Fire Department received a \$4,650 grant to switch from gas-powered chain saws, blowers and fans to models powered by electric battery packs.

"The new battery-pack-operated equipment will allow us to expand all of our power tools to operate emissions free, nonflammable and will eliminate gas cans on trucks," said Larry Glasscock, a firefighter with the South Camden Fire Department.

Toys Delivered



Maintenance Technician Ruben Chavez helps sort toys.

Albemarle EMC employees recently sorted and bagged toys for more than 500 children.

Each year, Albemarle EMC raises money through a charity golf tournament to fund the Light Up Christmas Toy Drive. Toys are purchased then sorted, bagged and delivered to each school. From there, school personnel coordinate delivering the toys to the parents.

"We are so thankful to have been able to raise more than \$21,000 to help families through the holidays," said Albemarle EMC General Manager Gary Ray.

Former Director Remembered



Albemarle EMC mourned the passing of former board member Tom Bateman.

Bateman served on the Albemarle EMC Board of Directors from 1989 to 2019, filling one of the Chowan County seats.

During his tenure, he helped lead the cooperative through three decades of modernization.

"Tom was a tremendous asset to the cooperative," said Albemarle EMC President John Spence. "His background in the telecommunications industry gave invaluable insight and advice. Always with the membership in mind, he led the board in making decisions that were in the best interest of the cooperative."



Albemarle EMC is at Your Service

Happy New Year!

All of us at Albemarle EMC would like to wish our members a Happy New Year! Let us take heart that we can look forward to a new chapter in this amazing gift we call life. To be sure, the upcoming year holds the potential for ample amounts of challenges, triumphs, setbacks and victories. None of us can predict what story lines will unfold in our lives. However, what will always remain true is that Albemarle EMC will be there for you. Providing affordable, reliable power is a mission that Albemarle EMC has been on since 1945. The next 12 months will be no different.

Engineering

The focus for our Engineering Department will be laying the groundwork for the future Bethel Substation. The Bethel Substation will be located across the street from Bethel Baptist Church, on Burnt Mill Road, in Perquimans County. The substation will be equipped with a 25-megawatt transformer that steps the voltage down from 34.5 kilovolts to 13.2 kilovolts.

Much of the work in 2022 will involve building lines from the West Albemarle Substation, located near Edenton, to the site of the future Bethel Substation. Also, concrete pads for the transformers will be poured. The Bethel Substation should be completed in 2022. The Bethel Substation will remove load from the Edenton Substation as well as replace the entire Burgess Substation, which has reached capacity.

The hub of the Western part of the co-op's service territory is the new West Albemarle Substation, which was completed in 2021. Equipped with two, 40 megavolt-amp transformers, the substation is a transmission facility that feeds the existing Edenton Substation and will also feed the Bethel Substation.

Operations

The Operations Department will resume its inspection program. Meters, poles and underground power lines will be inspected in the areas served by the co-op's Winfall Substation, in Perquimans County.

In addition, the co-op will use contract spraying crews to manage right-of-ways for certain power lines in Perquimans, Pasquotank and Camden counties.

Contract crews will also be used to trim trees in right-of-ways in Perquimans and Camden counties.

The operations department will purchase a new bucket truck with the



capability to work at a height of 60 feet. The department will also purchase a new service truck.

Corporate Services

In addition to normal member-service activities, the corporate services department will continue to encourage members to participate in our Beat The Peak program. During times of extreme temperatures, cold or hot, Beat The Peak holds considerable promise for your cooperative. Members who participate are alerted by text message when a peak time period of high energy use is expected. Peak-use times are typically a few hours and occur only a few times a month during extreme outside temperatures. These times usually occur in the mornings or evenings. Albemarle EMC will ask members to join our efforts to lower costs

by reducing their energy use during those peak times. Energy reduction methods include reducing the use of hot water or delaying the use of a stove or adjusting your thermostat.

Government Affairs

Federal and state mid-term elections will take place in 2022. North Carolina now has new political districts for the upcoming elections, which means there will likely be more turnover than usual. As always, Albemarle EMC will be working alongside other North Carolina electric cooperatives to bring new legislators up to speed. We also will be using our two Political Action Committees to support legislators in Raleigh and Washington, D.C., who are friendly to co-op issues.

Community

Commitment to community is one of our cooperative principles and will remain so in 2022. The Albemarle Community Trust, which so many of you voluntarily contribute to, will continue to financially support organizations that benefit our service area as a whole. The Bright Ideas program will continue to help educators bring fun, innovative classroom projects that, otherwise, would lack the requisite funding. Our Light up Christmas Toy Drive will continue to provide toys for less-fortunate families.

Our Members

We hope all of us can put COVID in our rearview mirror in 2022. But regardless of how the year unfolds, we will remain focused on providing you with the highest level of service possible. In that effort, lies our hope and optimism for the months ahead. Happy New Year!