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Albemarle Sounds

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**Albemarle Electric Membership
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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.*



Retired Albemarle EMC Director L.A. Harris passed away in November of 2022.

Harris was elected to the board in 1975 and served more than 46 years, 32 years of which as board president.

“L.A. was a dear friend and colleague,” said John Spence, president of the AEMC Board of Directors. “He lived a life of service.”

AEMC Awarded Grants for Electric Vehicle Chargers

Albemarle EMC was recently awarded two separate grants to help pay for the installation and purchase of two electric vehicle chargers, which will be located at the co-op’s office.

An \$8,000 grant was awarded by the N.C. Department of Environmental Quality to help purchase a slow charger. An additional \$48,000 grant was awarded to Albemarle EMC to help pay for a fast charger. Both chargers will be located at the co-op’s north parking lot.

The chargers will be ChargePoint (slow charger shown right). The slow charger will have two charging ports. The fast charger will have one charging port. The chargers will be able to charge Nissans, Chevrolets, BMWs, Fords, Teslas and others.

“The Highway 17 corridor is going to become increasingly important to travel in our area, and Albemarle EMC is at the forefront of making charging infrastructure available,” said Albemarle EMC General Manager Gary Ray.



Schools to Receive Electric Buses

The Chowan and Camden counties school systems recently were each awarded grants from the N.C. Department of Environmental Quality to purchase a full-size electric school bus, thanks to assistance from Albemarle EMC and the N.C. Electric Membership Corporation. The Chowan School system will also receive grants for two smaller electric activity buses.

The school systems received special assistance from the co-op because they both have schools served power by Albemarle EMC. One bus will be located at White Oak Elementary School, and the other bus will be located at Camden Middle School. The grants will cover the cost of the buses as well as the costs of the chargers and installation. In order to qualify for the grants, each school had to agree to decommission an existing diesel bus. Both school systems had older buses that were already marked for replacement.

“Albemarle EMC has a long history of supporting our local school systems,” said AEMC Engineering Manager Kevin Heath. “These electric buses, of course, emit no exhaust fumes and should help lower maintenance costs.”

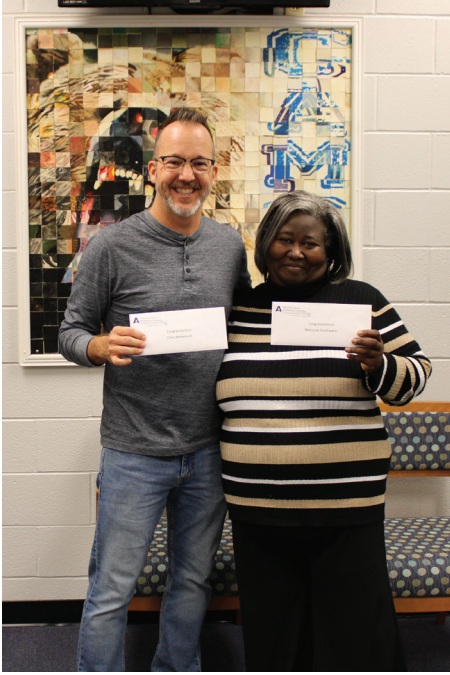
The grants were funded through a legal settlement resulting from a Volkswagen emissions violation lawsuit. North Carolina’s portion of the settlement was close to \$70 million. Part of the settlement was designated for the purchase of 161 electric school buses for schools across the state.

The buses have a range of 120 miles on a full charge and can be fully recharged in three to eight hours.



Educators Awarded Bright Ideas Grants

Albemarle EMC recently awarded 14 Bright Ideas grants, totaling more than \$16,000 to local educators. Below are the grant recipients by county.



Camden County teachers Chris Whitehurst and Melouise Freshwater were recently awarded Bright Ideas grants for their classrooms.

Camden County

Melouise Freshwater, a teacher at Camden County High School was awarded a \$1,195 grant for her project *Let's Be Real*. She will use her grant to purchase items such as replica ATM machines, credit cards, currency and other household items to help prepare exceptional children for life.

Chris Whitehurst, also a teacher at Camden County High School, received \$1,995 for his project *Bruin Productions*. His grant will be used to purchase a Mac mini computer as well as a teleprompter and video editing software. His students will learn to operate a production studio for school events.

Chowan County

Kristie Williams and Bonnie Lee, teachers at D.F. Walker Elementary School, were awarded \$1,063 for their project *Growing Healthy One Veggie at a Time*. They intend to use their grant to purchase gardening equipment and supplies to create a school garden.

Students will learn to grow their own vegetables as well as learn about soil ecology.

Emily Leary, a teacher at White Oak Elementary School, received \$813.98 for her project *Calm Corner*. She intends to purchase a variety of items designed to help children process emotions and release excess energy.

Leslie Swain, a teacher at White Oak Elementary School, was awarded \$391.06 for her project *Remarkable Readers*. Swain intends to purchase educational games that help students with learning disabilities learn to read while having fun.

Janie Joseph, a teacher at D.F. Walker Elementary School, received \$479.84 for her project *Reading Boomwhacker Style*. Her project will integrate reading, music and fun by encouraging third-grade students to learn to play musical percussion tubes called Boomwhackers. The project's goal is to use music to increase literacy skills among struggling students.

Pamela Bellanca, a teacher at White Oak Elementary School, received \$1,174 for her project *Tickling the Ivories for White Oak*. The funds will be used to purchase a full-size Casio digital piano. The piano will replace an older one that no longer works sufficiently. The new piano will be used to teach pitch, rhythm, harmony and melody.

Currituck County

Lorin Fentress, a teacher at Knotts Island Elementary School, received \$662 for her project *STEM Bins for Standards Exploration*. She intends to create learning bins filled with magnets, snap circuits, rocks and minerals and numerous other items. The materials will be used by students in the morning as a warm up for learning.

Perquimans County

Connie Ashley, a teacher at Perquimans Central School, was awarded \$1,995 for her project *Back on Stage*. She intends to use her funds for a live performance that will showcase student talents and encourage learning through the arts.

Stacey Pierce, a teacher at Perquimans Central School, receive \$507.72 for her project *One Potato, Two Potato, Let's Learn*. Pierce intends to purchase

several educational items to create hands-on learning about how potatoes grow. Students will have access to agricultural books, videos and a public speaker to learn about agriculture.

Michele Swinney, a teacher at Perquimans Middle School, received \$608 for her project *Water Water Everywhere – but is it really safe?* Her project will supplement her class's unit on the hydrosphere and water quality. Students are required to learn about salinity, turbidity, pH, temperature, dissolved oxygen and other variables.

Pasquotank County

Meg Boland, a teacher at Elizabeth City Middle School, received \$1,401 for her project *Reading for All Through Multi-Sensory Intervention*. Her funds will be used to purchase multi-sensory reading boards to assist students with reading disabilities.

Melanii Norman, a teacher at Pasquotank County High School, was awarded \$1,974 for her project *EC Music Program*. Her funds will be used to purchase several musical instruments such as clarinets and trumpets to assist exceptional children with learning about music.

Pam Winslow, a teacher at Sheep-Harney Elementary School, received \$1,938 for her project *STEM Exploration*. Her project will introduce preschool children to STEM concepts. Winslow intends to purchase a Geosafari Microscope and several other teaching aids to support the curriculum Foundations of Early Learning.



Pasquotank Count High School Teacher Melanii Norman (left) is congratulated by Principal Juvanda Crutch.



Albemarle EMC is at Your Service

New Year to Welcome Back Old Programs!

by Chris Powell, coordinator of public relations

The employees and directors of Albemarle EMC would like to wish you a very Happy New Year! We have ample reason for optimism as we look forward to 2023.

We are delighted to announce the return of the Washington Youth Tour as well as the Wolfpack Women's Basketball Camp at N.C. State and the Carolina Basketball School, at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Suspended during 2020 and 2021, both of these programs will return, offering once-in-a-lifetime opportunities for deserving students!

Washington Youth Tour

Albemarle Electric Membership Corporation is currently holding a competition to send two deserving students on a trip to Washington, D.C.

This year's trip will be June 17-23. The deadline to apply is Tuesday, Jan. 10. High school juniors and seniors are eligible to apply by visiting aemc.coop/washington-youth-tour-online-application.

The Youth Tour trip is truly one of a lifetime, providing access to Washington, D.C. sites and legislators that few ever receive. The seven-day, all-expenses paid trip is conducted in June. Students compete for the trip by writing a short essay on a topic related to electricity or cooperatives. In addition, the student chosen will have the opportunity to compete for the \$2,500 Gwyn B. Price Youth Tour scholarship and the \$2,000 Katie Bunch Memorial Scholarship. The third scholarship, worth \$2,000, will be awarded to the student selected for the Youth Leadership Council, which is a national advisory committee to the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. The contest

winner must arrange for transportation to Raleigh, from where they will be bussed with other Youth Tour winners to Washington, D.C. Eleventh-grade and 12th-grade students attending any of the public or private schools in Chowan, Currituck, Camden, Pasquotank and



Perquimans Counties can apply online. For more information, call (252) 426-2586 or email Chris Powell.

Basketball Camps



Touchstone Energy® Sports Camp Scholarships

Do you have a rising sixth or seventh grader who dreams of playing basketball on a college campus? Albemarle EMC is once again partnering with the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and N.C. State University to make that dream a reality. Two students will be selected to attend the camps from the following counties, in the Albemarle EMC service area: Chowan, Perquimans, Pasquotank, Camden and Currituck.

To apply, students must submit the online application by March 31 by visiting ncelectriccooperatives.com/community/sports-camps. Eligible applicants must be in sixth or seventh grade during the 2023-2024 school year.

Through the Touchstone Energy Sports Camp Scholarship program, Albemarle EMC will provide one young woman with a scholarship to attend the Wolfpack Women's Basketball Camp at N.C. State in June (dates to be announced). Young men can apply for a scholarship to attend the Carolina Basketball School which will be held June 17-21 at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

The scholarships cover all expenses at the overnight camps, which provide a glimpse into life on a college campus. Campers stay overnight in dorms, 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-building abilities.

More than 50 students will be awarded scholarships from electric cooperatives in North Carolina. Now in its 20th year, the scholarship program demonstrates the electric cooperatives' commitment to building a brighter future through continued support for education and community programs.