



Albemarle SOUNDS

July 2022

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.



Albemarle EMC will be closed Monday, July 4th, in observance of Independence Day. Have a wonderful July 4th!

Nominating Committee Appointed



The 2022 Albemarle EMC Annual Meeting of Members will be held at the Perquimans County Recreation Department, located at 310 Granby St., Hertford.

At the recent meeting of the Albemarle EMC Board of Directors, the board appointed the nominating committee to nominate this year's slate of candidates to run for board seats.

The nominating committee consists of the following Albemarle EMC members: Vera Murrill, Thomas N. Hollowell Jr., Dale Davis, Ronnie Wayne Raper, Newton Wes Farley Jr., Leroy Temple and Mae McGee.

Prospective candidates must be nominated by the Albemarle EMC Nominating Committee or be nominated by petition of the members. The committee will meet at 7 p.m., Tuesday,

July 12. Members desiring nomination must have graduated high school, be in good standing with the cooperative, pass a background check and meet certain other criteria.

Incumbent directors running for re-election this year are Garry Meiggs (Camden County) and Chad Mathews (Perquimans County). An election will also take place for the one open Chowan County seat.

Anyone desiring to be nominated to run for a seat on the Albemarle EMC Board of Directors has until the first week in July to inform the co-op of their intent to seek nomination. Qualifying members who wish to seek nomination should notify Public Relations Coordinator Chris Powell by e-mail (chris.powell@aemc.coop) or by addressing a letter to Chris Powell, Albemarle EMC, P.O. Box 69, Hertford, NC 27944. The prospective nominees will be given the name and address of the nominating committee members they will need to contact.

The co-op's Annual Meeting will be held on Saturday, Sept. 10 at the Perquimans County Recreation Department, located at 310 Granby St., Hertford.

Members Own Meter Base

Members may be surprised to find out that they own the meter base on their house.

The reason locks are put on the meter base is for public safety as well as to prevent meter tampering. Albemarle EMC owns the transformer and power

line going into the meter base as well as the meter itself. All co-op owned infrastructure is maintained by Albemarle EMC.

Members are responsible for ensuring the meter base is installed and maintained to electrical code standards.

Educators, Apply Now for a Bright Ideas Grant

Bright Ideas education grants are now available to educators for their classrooms! We invite K-12 educators to apply for a grant from Albemarle EMC to bring creative classroom learning ideas to life.



Find the simple, online application and learn more at www.NCBrightIdeas.com. Teachers who apply by the early

bird deadline of Aug. 15 will be entered into a drawing for a gift card for their class. The final deadline to apply for a grant will be Sept. 15.

For more information about our Bright Ideas program, please contact Chris Powell at (252) 426-2586 or chris.powell@aemc.coop.

Grants Awarded



Matthew Ministries used their ACT grant funds to purchase items such as the ones shown above.

Matthew 25:35-36 Ministries received a \$2,500 Albemarle Community Trust grant to purchase items for the organization's school clothing closet and food pantry. The items will include clothing, shoes, mattresses and more.

Bethel Volunteer Fire Department was awarded a \$5,000 ACT grant to equip a newly purchased command vehicle. The vehicle will receive emergency lights, radios, lettering and striping, a bed liner, camper shell, accountability board and accessories.

The Camden County 4-H Youth Foundation received a \$2,550 grant to purchase four Ipad Air Tablets to be used in STEM-based programs such as robotics, coding and livestock science.

The Chowan/Perquimans Smart Start Partnership received a \$2,500 grant to purchase 900 children's books to support the Reach Out and Read Program for children ages birth to five years of age. These books will be used to increase early literacy development.

The College of the Albemarle Foundation received a \$5,000 grant to help replace 3,440 feet of boardwalk on the Fenwick-Hollowell Wetland Trail. The trail is located on the Pasquotank River behind the College of the Albemarle and Sentra Medical Center campuses, in Elizabeth City.

Historic Hertford received a \$2,944 grant to replace lighting at the Carolina Moon Theater stage area. The new LED lighting will enable the theater to perform productions that require spotlighting on different areas of the stage. The new lighting will also increase the theater's energy efficiency.

Golfers Sought for Tournament

Do you enjoy playing golf? Do you enjoy helping those less fortunate?

Albemarle EMC is seeking golfers to participate in the upcoming Light Up Christmas Golf Tournament, which will be held Friday, Sept. 23 at the Sound Golf Links at Albemarle Plantation. To register for the tournament, contact Chris Powell, AEMC coordinator of public relations, at (252) 426-5735 or email chris.powell@aemc.coop. Golfers can register individually or as a foursome. Participants will be treated to 18 holes of golf, carts, snacks and beverages, a meal, an awards presentation and prize drawings.

Your tax-deductible contribution to the tournament will go towards the purchase of toys for the co-op's annual Christmas toy drive. Since its inception, the toy drive has collected more than



\$243,000, most of which has come from the generosity of corporate sponsors.

As in previous years, the money will be used to purchase toys for more than 500 children that have been identified by the school system. Albemarle EMC employees purchase the toys. The toys are then sorted, bagged and delivered to local schools in the counties of Chowan, Perquimans, Pasquotank and Camden. From there, school personnel coordinate the delivery of the toys to the parents.

Help Us Beat the Peak

Now that we are entering the hotter months of summer, Albemarle EMC will be asking members to conserve energy during certain time periods.

If you receive a Beat the Peak text message from us, please reduce your energy usage by turning up your thermostat a few degrees, reducing the use of hot water or delaying cooking or doing laundry during the short period of peak usage.

"By voluntarily participating in this program, you can play a direct role in keeping rates affordable and helping your co-op Beat the Peak," said Albemarle EMC General Manager Gary Ray.

Co-op Participates in Vehicle Day



Lineworkers Aaron Phippen and Drake Trueblood recently participated in Vehicle Day at White Oak Elementary School.



Albemarle EMC is at Your Service

Spotlight on a Director, John Spence

Editor's note: This month, we turn the spotlight to Albemarle EMC Board of Directors President John Spence. Known for his easy going demeanor and sense of humor, Spence has helped lead the cooperative with a thoughtfulness that continues to pay dividends to the cooperative and its members.

Where were you born and raised?

I was born in the old Albemarle Hospital on Riverside Drive, in Elizabeth City, in 1953. From birth until three years of age, I lived in South Mills, then spent the rest of my youth in Newland.

What county do you reside?

I currently reside one-half mile from my childhood home on Firetower Rd., in Pasquotank County.

Are you married and do you have children? I married Deborah (Debbie) Burnett of Hertford, NC in 1980 after meeting her while she was home visiting with her parents after graduating from Marshall University in Huntington, W.Va. We have two daughters, the oldest Leah Creed (Jacob) of Greensboro, NC with their two sons Atlas and Ozzie, and my youngest daughter, Meredith Beaulieu (Matt) of Raleigh, NC.

Did you go to college and, if so, what did you study? After graduating from Northeastern High School in 1971, I continued my education by attending the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. I graduated in 1975 with a B.A. in Political Science.

Do you still work or are you retired? I returned to Pasquotank County after graduation to work on the family farm. I worked with my father until his death in 1980. I then began operating the farm on a full time basis, and I still remain active farming today.

How long have you been a director

and what offices have you held? I have served on the board since 1991, when I was appointed to fill the unexpired term of the late Walter R. Lowry. I am currently in my seventh year as the board president.

Why did you want to serve as board president? When former board president L.A. Harris stepped down due to health concerns, I felt that I could fulfill the duties of board president. I was excited about the direction of the cooperative and wanted to assist in taking a bigger role in the future of AEMC.



How do you keep learning and growing as an industry leader? The general manager and I represent AEMC at our statewide organizations (NCEMC, NCAEC and TEMA) at which we are presented in depth analysis of future trends, competitive issues and the political climate that we must operate within. Our national organization (NRECA) offers continuing education courses which cover energy supply, board governance and oversight responsibilities, as well as emerging issues affecting the electric industry.

What is the biggest change you have seen take place at the co-op? The move to smart technologies enables our employees to monitor, trouble shoot, and predict potential equipment failure and overloads from our computer and communications network at the

cooperative headquarters.

What are some of the biggest challenges Albemarle EMC faces? I would say recruitment and retention of linemen. These people are the backbone of the electrical business. We compete with other cooperatives, investor-owned utilities, municipal systems and electrical contractors for these highly trained and valuable employees. We've had good success in the past with local recruitment. AEMC makes a huge investment in the proper training and on the job experience with our linemen. We strive to be competitive in pay and benefits to retain our employees. I feel we are a great employer for the Albemarle area. A local young person can have a rewarding career with AEMC. Our focus as a board has been to hire local talent and provide them with training and education to do their job well. With a competitive salary and benefit package, we strive to keep them as a career long employee.

What is the biggest opportunity for Albemarle EMC in the coming years? One of the bigger opportunities for the cooperative in the coming years could depend on the adoption of electric vehicles and trucks in our membership. What if each household had a electric car or pickup that would be charged overnight during the hours of off peak usage?

What accomplishments are you most proud of as an Albemarle EMC board member? I am most proud of the 3,000-plus days of no lost-time accidents that our cooperative is experiencing. Working with electricity is inherently dangerous. During my tenure on the board, we have never experienced the tragic loss of life or severe injury of a cooperative employee. I hope this record is one that remains intact.