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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.*

## O'Neal, Byrum Promoted



*Roy O'Neal was recently promoted to  
manager of operations.*

Roy O'Neal has been promoted from crew leader to manager of operations for Albemarle EMC.

A 34-year veteran of Albemarle EMC, O'Neal started work with the cooperative in 1988 as a load management technician. From there he took a position as an apprentice lineman,

then worked his way up to first class lineman, then crew leader and now manager of operations. In his new role, O'Neal oversees the co-op's line crews, warehouse supervisor and maintenance technician. He is also responsible for all aspects of work safety.

"Roy brings close to four decades of experience to his new role," said Albemarle EMC General Manager Gary Ray. "The operations department will be well lead."

Matt Byrum was promoted to O'Neal's former crew leader position. Byrum has worked for Albemarle EMC since 1997. In his new role, Byrum will be responsible for overseeing his crew's work activities as well as job site safety.

"Matt has a strong work ethic and many years of experience," Ray said. "The linemen under him are in good hands."

## Congratulations to Elected Directors

At the recent 2022 Annual Meeting, the following individuals were elected to three-year terms on the Albemarle EMC Board of Directors.

Ray Albertson was elected to the District 1 (Camden County) seat. ????????? was elected to the District 2 (Chowan County) seat. Chad Mathews was elected to the District 4 (Perquimans County) seat.

## Co-op Purchases ORV

Albemarle EMC recently purchased an off-road vehicle (ORV) to replace an older ORV, which is being retired.

The new vehicle is a Ranger XP 1000. It has 13 inches of ground clearance with a 1,500-pound payload capacity. It is powered by a four-stroke, twin cylinder motor. It also comes standard with a bed for carrying tools and equipment as well as LED headlights.

"These light-weight, narrow wheel base off-road-vehicles are extremely helpful during storm restoration and when working in limited access right of ways or crossing fields with minimal disturbance," said Roy O'Neal, manager of operations

for Albemarle EMC.

The Ranger XP replaces the co-op's six-wheel Polaris, which will be sold in the near future.



# Inflation Reduction Act to Benefit Co-ops

The Inflation Reduction Act of 2022, which was recently signed into law, will benefit cooperatives in a few key areas.

For the first time, this bill creates a “direct payment” option for electric cooperatives, which have not been able to take advantage of the existing suite of tax credits available for deployment of clean energy technologies. In addition to adding the direct payment option, the act makes significant reforms and additions to those credits.

The act contains investment tax credits and production tax credits for solar, wind, carbon capture, nuclear, manufacturing of clean energy components and other clean energy technologies. These credits are built around a “base credit” system. To realize the full credit amount under this system, an eligible entity must then also meet prevailing wage, apprenticeship and domestic content requirements to receive an additional “bonus credit.” The bill provides additional bonuses for investment in low-income and other marginalized communities.

The act also creates a \$9.7 billion financial assistance program at USDA specifically for electric cooperatives to purchase or build new, clean energy systems. Funds could be disbursed as grants, loans, loan guarantees or loan modifications. Funding will be available until 2031.

Eligible uses include renewable energy, storage, carbon capture, nuclear, generation and transmission system efficiency improvements and other projects that will achieve the greatest reduction in greenhouse gases and aid disadvantaged rural communities. Under the program, co-ops would be able to receive an award for as much as 25 percent of a project cost, with a maximum for any one entity of \$970 million in financial assistance. Projects would need to comply with prevailing wage labor requirements. The act enables dozens of other programs at USDA, the Department of Energy and the Environmental Protection Agency to finance and promote deployment of clean energy. A few examples include:

- Nearly \$9 billion at DOE for home energy retrofits and home electrification projects
- Approximately \$9 billion for loan guarantees to promote clean energy infrastructure, with additional benefits for projects on tribal lands and in disadvantaged communities.
- \$2 billion to finance new transmission projects.

# Teacher Wins Drawing



Congratulations to Connie Ashley, a teacher at Perquimans Central School.

Ashley’s name was recently drawn for a \$100 gift card to be used for her classroom.

Ashley entered the drawing by applying for a Bright Ideas application prior to the early bird deadline in August.

This year, there were 303 early bird applicants representing all 26 North Carolina electric cooperatives. Five applicants were drawn to receive the gift cards.

Coordinated by the N.C. Electric Membership Corporation, the Bright Ideas programs enables educators to apply for grants to bring innovative learning projects into their classrooms.

# Boys and Girls Club Receives ACT Grant

The Boys and Girls Club of the Albemarle recently received a grant from the Albemarle Community Trust.

The \$2,000 will be used to purchase food to prepare meals for Boys and Girls Club members in Edenton and Elizabeth City. The club in Edenton serves more than 110 children and teens each day after school and in the summer. For their Elizabeth City location, the organization recently purchased a new 6,500-square-foot facility that has a kitchen, providing the capacity to serve hot meals to more than 150 members daily.

The Albemarle Community Trust is funded by members who contribute voluntarily through their power bills.



# Ways to Reduce Water Heating Costs

Water heating is the second largest energy expense in your home. It typically accounts for about 18 percent of your energy usage.

There are four primary ways to cut your water heating bills: use less hot water; turn down the water heater’s thermostat; insulate the water heater or buy a new, efficient model.



# Albemarle EMC is at Your Service

## October is National Co-op Awareness Month Celebrating Co-op Members

by Gary Ray, General Manager of Albemarle EMC

Fall is a busy time, and October is a particularly eventful month with school, community and sports activities in full swing. It's also when all cooperatives celebrate National Co-op Month.

When I say Albemarle EMC celebrates Co-op Month, it really means we are celebrating you! After all, our co-op wouldn't exist without you, our members.

Our core business purpose is to serve as your electricity provider, but the larger mission of the co-op is to help make our corner of the world a better place. "Concern for community" is one of seven guiding principles that all co-ops share.

Similar to how our wires run through our service territory, our concern for community flows through all of our decisions—because being a co-op means being a responsible partner and a good neighbor.

Albemarle EMC works to help our community thrive through initiatives led by our employees and our board of directors, which is comprised of neighbors who live right here in our community. Because we're local, we understand our community's unique needs and strive to help meet them.

We're proud to support local youth through our Youth Tour and scholarship programs. With your help, we offer Operation RoundUp to provide assistance to our community's most vulnerable. We partner with and support area foodbanks and other nonprofit organizations such as volunteer fire departments.

The word "cooperative" is close to "cooperation," meaning people working together towards a common goal—mutually benefitting one another and the larger community. That's the essence of the cooperative spirit. Our employees and member-elected board members are invested in the community in which we live and serve.

Above all, as a co-op we put our members' priorities first. As your trusted energy partner, we know that saving energy and money is important to you. That's why we offer in-home energy audits at no charge.

We want to empower you to manage energy use at home. If you haven't already, I encourage you to check out our online member portal, found at [www.aemc.coop](http://www.aemc.coop). Through the portal, you can conveniently monitor and manage your energy use as well as set up usage alerts. And we're of course here to help, so give us a call if you have questions about your energy bills.

Albemarle EMC is continuously examining ways to operate more efficiently while continuing to provide the highest level of friendly, reliable service you expect and deserve. After all, we're your local co-op. We were built by the members we serve.



## Focused on YOU.

Electric cooperatives were created to serve their members. Because we're a co-op, we're able to adapt to our community's unique needs. That's the power of co-op membership.

**OCTOBER IS NATIONAL CO-OP MONTH**