



Albemarle SOUNDS

September 2023

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.



Albemarle EMC will be closed Monday, Sept. 4 in observance of Labor Day.

Incumbents Nominated for Re-Election to Board Seats

All three incumbents up for election this year were nominated to run for three-year terms on the Albemarle EMC Board of Directors.

Josiah “Tony” Webb was nominated to run for the Chowan County district 2 seat. Robert Whitehead was nominated to run for the Pasquotank County district 3 seat, and Thelma Finch-Copeland was nominated to run for the Perquimans County district 4 seat.

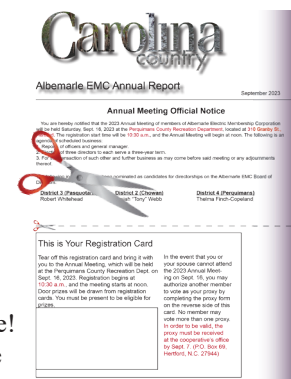
Because there are no challengers, the incumbent directors will be elected by acclamation.

Registration for Albemarle EMC’s Annual Meeting will be at 10:30 a.m., Saturday, Sept. 16 at the **Perquimans County Recreation Department, located at 310 Granby St., Hertford.** The meeting will begin at noon.

Your registration information is located on the dust cover of this month’s Carolina Country magazine. To facilitate registration, it is important

that you remove your registration card and bring it with you to the Annual Meeting.

Those who attend the meeting will receive a \$2 bill, participation gifts and more! Following the election of directors, drawings will be held for cash prizes. All members who participate in the Annual Meeting, either using the drive-through or in-person meeting options, will be eligible for the cash-prize drawings. If you are not present and your name is drawn, we will notify you the following Monday. Only the most senior man and woman in attendance must be present at the in-person meeting to win those prizes.



Co-ops Oppose New EPA Regulations

Electric cooperatives recently launched a grassroots campaign to oppose Environmental Protection Agency regulations that will jeopardize power reliability and increase cost. The campaign was coordinated through Voices for Cooperative Power, which is an online website that enables participants to automatically send letters to members of congress or federal agencies.

To get involved in future grassroots efforts, we encourage members to join Voices for Cooperative Power. Simply visit voicesforcooperativepower.com and sign up. You will then be notified of issues that affect your electric cooperative as well as how you can easily help.

Bylaws Relevant to the Election of Directors

Section 3.05 Order of Business

The order of business at meetings of the Members, insofar as practicable or desirable, shall be essentially as follows:

- (a.) Quorum report and acknowledgement of proper notice of the meeting;
- (c.) Annual Meeting minutes will be approved by the Board of Directors at the first meeting of the Board held after each annual meeting of the Members;
- (d.) Presentation and consideration of reports of officers, Directors, and committees, which may be presented in person at the annual meeting or presented to the membership in writing or electronically;
- (e.) Election of Directors or announce the results of the election of Directors;
- (f.) Adjournment.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Board of Directors or the Members themselves may from time to time establish a different order of business for the purpose of assuring the earlier consideration of and action upon any item of business, the transaction of which may be necessary or desirable in advance of any other item of business; provided, however, that no business other than adjournment of the meeting to another time and place may be transacted until and unless the existence of a quorum is first established.

Section 3.09 Proxies

Except as otherwise provided by these Bylaws, at any meeting of the Members or any adjournment thereof, any Member, including Members that are Entities, may appoint an adult Close Relative, who shall be 18 years or older and reside principally in the same household as the Member, or another Member to vote on the Member's behalf ("Member Proxy"). The Cooperative shall accept votes, as provided in these Bylaws, properly taken by a Member Proxy on a Member's behalf as the Member's vote. The proxy appointed by the Member must comport with the following:

(a.) It must be registered with the Secretary or the Secretary's duly designated registrar before or at the time of the meeting or any adjournment thereof. However, if such proxy is to be voted upon any matter the carrying of which requires the affirmative votes of at least a majority of all the Cooperative's members, the proxy must be registered with the Cooperative at its principal office during office hours on or before the third (3rd) business day preceding the date of the meeting or any adjournment thereof, as the case may be;

(b.) It must be executed by the Member in writing and designate the holder or alternate holder(s) thereof; and

(c.) It must specify the particular meeting and/or any adjournment thereof at which it is to be voted and must be dated not more than ninety (90) days prior to the date of such meeting or any adjournment thereof; provided, that, any mailed proxies not otherwise dated shall be deemed dated as postmarked if the postmark is satisfactorily evidenced; and provided further, that any proxy valid at any meeting shall be valid at any adjournment thereof unless the proxy itself designates otherwise or is subsequently revoked by another proxy or by the presence in person of the member at such adjournment.

A proxy may be unlimited as to the matters on which it may be voted or it may be restricted; a proxy containing no restriction shall be deemed unlimited.

In the event a Member executes two or more proxies for the same meeting or for any adjournment thereof, the most recently dated proxy shall revoke all others; if such proxies carry the same date and are held by different persons, none of them will be valid or recognized. The presence in person of a Member at any meeting or any adjournment thereof shall revoke any proxy theretofore executed by him for such meeting or for such adjournment thereof, as the case may be, and he shall be entitled to vote in the same manner and with the same effect as if he had not executed a proxy, unless said proxy had already been irrevocably cast. A person may vote as proxy for only one (1) Member on any matter.

Notwithstanding the foregoing provisions of this Section, whenever a member is absent from a meeting of the Members but whose spouse attends such meeting, such spouse shall be deemed to hold, and may exercise and vote, the proxy of such Member to the same extent that such Member could vote if present in person, unless some other qualified person holds such proxy in writing.

Bright Ideas Grant Deadline Nears

Educators have until Sept. 15 to apply for a Bright Ideas grant.



Albemarle EMC expects to award more than \$16,000 in grants to local teachers in the 2023-2024 school year. To apply for a grant, please visit www.ncbrightideas.com.

ACT Grants Awarded

Several Albemarle Community Trust grants were recently awarded that will greatly benefit the community.

The Albemarle Pregnancy Resource



Center received a \$2,500 grant to purchase supplies for their Earn While You Learn parenting

program. Program participants receive kits with baby care items.

Elizabeth City Habitat for Humanity received a \$2,500 grant to help pay the plumbing cost for a new home being constructed in Elizabeth City.



Perquimans County Schools

received a \$2,500 grant to purchase safety/



anti-intrusion film that is designed to protect windows. The safety film will be installed in the Media Center at Perquimans Central School

as well as the entrance area at Perquimans County High School.

ACT grants are funded by co-op members who voluntarily contribute through their power bills.



Albemarle EMC is at Your Service

AEMC Remains Committed to Teaching Electricity Safety

Now that school is back in session, Albemarle EMC would like educators to know about two programs the co-op offers to teach electricity safety. One is tailored for younger children and another for older students and first responders.

The Hazard Hamlet demonstration device brings awareness to typical situations a child could encounter involving electricity. This free electricity safety program is most suitable for Kindergarten through 5th grade and can be taught to as many as 30 children at a time. The hazard hamlet uses arcing electricity, figurines that light up and simulated fire to emphasize the dangers of using electrical appliances around water, damaged power cords, downed power lines and much more.

The co-op also offers a high-voltage demonstration trailer that can be brought on site to demonstrate the dangers of working around power lines and other high-voltage equipment. This free demonstration is most suitable for grades six through 12 as well as adult organizations such as



Chris Powell, coordinator of public relations, gives a safety presentation to elementary school students using the Hazard Hamlet demonstration device.



Lineman First Class Aaron Pippen uses the High-Voltage Demonstration Trailer to teach safety around power lines.

first responders or civic groups. Powered by a generator, the trailer uses high-voltage, arcing electricity to demonstrate the dangers of using metal ladders around power lines, digging into underground power lines, faults on power lines and more.

To schedule an electricity safety demonstration, contact Chris Powell at 252-426-2586, or chris.powell@aemc.coop.

Arc Flash Safety Training Held



Booth and Associates Senior Engineer Court Weathers gives an arc flash safety presentation to the co-op's engineering and operations departments.

Albemarle EMC engineering and operations personnel recently received extensive training to prevent arc flash injuries.

According to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, 80 percent of electrically related accidents and fatalities involving workers are caused by arc flash. An arc flash is an electrical explosion of light and heat resulting from a high-voltage fault. The flash produces a cloud of plasma and ionized particles that can cause extreme harm or death up to 20 feet from the source of discharge.

During the training, employees learned about the ways that arc flash can be prevented. They include de-energizing equipment prior to working on it, proper labeling with hazard warnings, establishing workplace policies and procedures, guarding energized conductors and circuit parts, and wearing personal protection equipment when appropriate.

“Fortunately, we have never had an arc flash injury,” said Albemarle EMC General Manager Gary Ray. “We want our employees to have the proper knowledge, procedures and safety equipment they need to eliminate the potential for arc flash injuries as well as all other work-related injuries.”



Protective clothing and a face shield are some of the many ways an arc flash injury can be prevented.