



April 2021

Proudly serving the members of Albemarle Electric Membership Corporation



**Know what's below.
Call before you dig.**

**We are members of NC
811. Call 811 or 1-800-
632-4949 three business
days before you plan to
dig.**

Albemarle Sounds

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*Albemarle EMC is an equal opportunity
provider and employer.*

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 
The power of human connections®

AEMC Board Approves Record-Breaking Retirement of Capital Credits

Your board of directors is pleased to approve another record-breaking general retirement of capital credits. Capital credits

are the year-end margins earned by your cooperative. They are allocated to each member based on their electric usage for that year. These monies are a source of equity and may be returned to you when the co-op is in a sound financial position. We've been fortunate enough to make annual refunds to our members for as far back as co-op records go. The oldest non-retired margins on our books are for the year 1995.

Retired Capital Credits

1995 remaining margins	100%	\$252,888.31
1996 remaining margins	35%	\$242,788.79
2019 remaining margins	3.5%	<u>\$115,130.95</u>
Total Approximate Refund		\$610,808.05

In an effort to reach the members that have been with us the longest as well as touch those that are among the newest, the refund years will consist of those shown above.

If you were a member of Albemarle EMC during these years, and are an active member, you will receive a capital credits refund in April in the form of a credit on your electric bill. The credit will be a line item on your bill stating "Capital Credit Refund." If a member has several accounts, the capital credit system adds them together. The credit will only be posted on one account. Anyone that received power during these years but is no longer an active member, will receive a check. This is why it is so important for you to give us a good forwarding address when you move off our lines.

Service Truck Purchased



Operations Manager Jody Parker and Maintenance Technician Ruben Chavez install a tube that holds a hot stick on the co-op's new service truck.

Albemarle EMC will
be closed April 2 for
Good Friday.
Happy Easter!



AEMC Assists Co-ops

Albemarle EMC recently sent a crew of five line workers to assist Mecklenburg Electric Cooperative. The Virginia co-op suffered numerous outages due to a winter storm.

The crew was then called on to assist two other cooperatives in North Carolina.



From left: Lineworkers Chase Perry, Bobby Upton, Alex Aydlett, Matt Byrum and Drake Trueblood spent five days assisting co-ops recovering from a winter storm.

ACT Grant Approved

The Perquimans Schools Foundation was recently awarded a grant from the Albemarle Community Trust.

The \$3,000 grant will be used to assemble backpacks with a variety of food for students during periods of quarantine.

“As we quarantine students, school officials are finding they do not have adequate food,” said Brenda Lassiter, executive director of the Perquimans School Foundation. “Students are unable to eat at school and unable to pick up food being offered to remote learners.”



Brenda Lassiter, executive director of the Perquimans Schools Foundation, displays some of the food items that will be sent home with certain students.

April 12 is Lineman Appreciation Day

Each year, Albemarle EMC joins other electric cooperatives across our state and nation to celebrate Lineworker Appreciation Day. Held annually on the second Monday in April, this day recognizes lineworkers’ critical role in providing our members with the power they depend on every day.

The important responsibilities of lineworkers have become all the more challenging over the past year as they have implemented additional safety procedures due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

“Our lineworkers undergo extensive training and follow numerous protocols to ensure safety as they work to maintain our lines and restore power, often in very treacherous conditions,” Albemarle EMC General Manager Gary Ray said.

In addition to serving their own communities, lineworkers are also called on to provide aid across the state



Linemen don't always work out of a bucket in the air. Considerable work is also done installing and maintaining underground power lines.

and nation following major storms and other times of need. This commitment to “cooperation among cooperatives” is one of the core principles that demonstrates the true strength and character of the cooperative network.

Please use the hashtag #ThankALineworker on April 12 and throughout the year to pay tribute to our lineworkers’ many outstanding efforts!

Educators, Get Your Bright Ideas Ready!

It’s that time again! Albemarle EMC is kicking off its Bright Ideas Education Grant program and will begin accepting applications from innovative educators for the 2021-22 school year on April 1. Teachers with ideas for creative classroom projects that bring learning to life can learn more and apply online at ncbrightideas.com.

Grants are available for projects across all grade levels and subject areas, and educators can apply for grant funding individually or as a team. Over the past year, the program has supported

educators as they seek new ways to engage their students in modified classroom environments during the COVID-19 pandemic, and Albemarle EMC will continue to

their applications by Aug. 15 will be entered into a drawing to receive a Visa gift card.

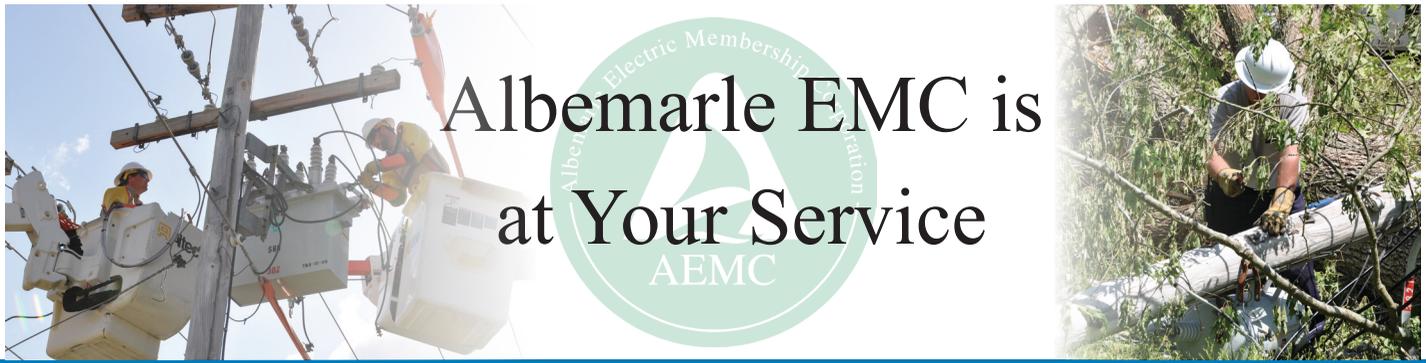
Since 1994, electric cooperatives in North Carolina, including Albemarle EMC, have partnered with K-12 teachers statewide to provide Bright Ideas grants for unique

classroom projects that would not otherwise be funded. Over the program’s history, more than 2.7 million students across North Carolina have benefited from nearly 13,000 Bright Ideas-funded projects totaling more than \$13.6 million.



provide resources to facilitate innovative learning no matter what the upcoming school year holds.

Applications will be accepted until Friday, Sept. 17. As an added incentive to apply early, educators who submit



Albemarle EMC is at Your Service

How Albemarle EMC works to provide its members with the highest-quality service possible.

The Future of Transportation is Increasingly Electric

by Chris Powell, coordinator of public relations

I have always loved owning and tinkering with internal combustion engines. My first “real” car was a black and yellow 1979 Camaro Rally Sport. It had a 350-horse power engine with a manual transmission and seemed to naturally pull towards any gas station along its route. Among other vehicles, I have owned a 1975 Bronco that could run hot on a cold, winter day. I currently own a 1996 F350 diesel that, when idling, I can feel the engine’s harmonics in my solar plexus. Call me old fashioned, but I own a 1996 2-stroke, 30 horse-power outboard and will grieve the day I have to switch over to a modern, quieter version. A significant part of my life has been spent under hoods and jacked up vehicles, with grease under my fingernails and oil running down my arms.

The next ten to 20 years will be ones of significant change for folks like me. The internal combustion engine is about 150 years old, and modern technology is ushering in a wave of progress that will dramatically increase the electrification of our lives, especially when it comes to travel. The cost of driving a gasoline-powered vehicle is about 9.3 cents per mile, compared to 3.6 cents per mile for an electric vehicle.

General Motors currently has several models of electric vehicles and recently announced that it will add 30 new models by 2025. The company has developed an Ultium battery platform, which will be capable of fast charging and provide a range of up to 450 miles on a full charge. They also plan to add more than 2,700 new fast-chargers to the public fast-charging network by 2025.

Tesla Inc. has been a leading electric vehicle maker for a number of years now. The company’s entry-level sedan has a range of 326 miles and can receive a 162-mile recharge in 15 minutes. Tesla currently has 20,000 superchargers placed along well-traveled routes throughout the world.

Daimler Trucks North America has a pilot program to test an all-electric delivery truck. Using a Proterra battery system, the truck has 226 kilowatt hours of energy capacity, with no reduction in cargo capacity and a range of 125 miles. Daimler is also working on the creation of what it calls “electric islands” for truck charging, which should be completed this year. The charging sites will support up to nine charging stations for light-, medium-, and heavy-duty vehicles. The initial chargers will be less than 200 kilowatts, totaling an initial five megawatts of

charging infrastructure. Prototype heavy-duty trucks currently need a few hours to fully recharge. However, those same trucks will soon need just 20 to 40 minutes to charge to 80 percent, as charging stations greater than one megawatt come on line. While the up-front price of these vehicles is high compared to their diesel counterparts, that will likely come down as more are produced. Ownership costs will also be lower due to reduced maintenance. Electric vehicles do not require upkeep on items such as oil and filter changes or diesel emission fluid refills. Replacement of spark plugs, fuel injectors, carburetors, water pumps, belts and transmissions will also no longer be needed.

Electric cooperatives have noticed the electric vehicle trend and are taking action to meet the growing need for infrastructure. Albemarle EMC installed an electric vehicle charging station at the Hampton Inn, in Edenton. Visitors to the hotel are able to charge their vehicles and pay Albemarle EMC with a credit card at the charging station. The station is a single pedestal with the ability to charge two vehicles simultaneously. Albemarle EMC is also working towards installing a similar charging station at a store in the Tanglewood Shopping Center, in Elizabeth City.

Electric cooperatives throughout the state are installing charging stations in their service territories. Charging stations are particularly attractive because of the under-utilized electrical capacity that all power companies have at night. The North Carolina Electric Membership Corporation has dedicated a website (ncdriveelectric.com) to inform the public about the electric vehicle charging grid that electric cooperatives are helping to expand throughout the state. The website contains a map that shows the location of each electric cooperative charging station. It also contains information for anyone considering their first purchase of an electric vehicle.

Owners of electric vehicles like the ability to “fill up” at home, as opposed to waiting in line at a gas station. Also, vehicles that are all-electric have zero emissions, so as electric cooperatives’ power grid becomes cleaner, so do the vehicles.

The relatively smaller size of electric cooperatives makes us more nimble and adaptive to our rapidly changing lives. We are committed to supporting the increased electrification of travel. Electric cooperatives and the members we serve are all at the beginning of what promises to be one heck of a ride.