



August 2020

Proudly serving the members of Albemarle Electric Membership Corporation



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Albemarle Sounds

is published monthly by
**Albemarle Electric Membership
Corporation**

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www.aemc.coop

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1-800-274-2072
24-hour payments:
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Annual Meeting to be Held by Phone

Albemarle Electric Membership Corporation will break from tradition this year and hold its Annual Meeting for members via a group telephone call.

The Albemarle EMC Board of Directors unanimously agreed to the new meeting format to protect the safety of members.

“We are very disappointed that we can’t meet with the membership in person this year,” said Gary Ray, general manager of Albemarle EMC. “Due to COVID-19, we have decided to err on the side of caution.”

Members are officially notified that this year’s Annual Meeting will be held Thursday, Sept. 24 at 5:30 p.m. To join the meeting, simply dial the phone number on the ballot. To streamline the meeting, only the business portion of the meeting will be conducted. Newly elected board directors will be announced, and prizes will be drawn.

A list of board of directors candidates with their biographical information will be available in the September Albemarle Sounds. This year’s board elections will be conducted by mail-in ballot. Ballots and bios will be mailed to each member in early to mid August, so please be on the lookout. Members should select one candidate per district, then mail in the

ballot using the self-addressed, stamped envelope provided. The ballots must be received by mail no later than Sept. 14. Each ballot will have a barcode of the member’s name and address. The barcode

will enable the ballots to be authenticated. The ballots will be picked up from the post office, placed into a locked box, then kept in a secure location until it’s time for them to be counted. The ballots will be counted by the full Credentials and Elections Committee, with the cop’s attorney present.

Every member who mails in a ballot will be eligible for cash drawings. More than \$2,300 in prizes will be drawn. Winners will be announced during the Annual Meeting. However, members do not need to participate in the phone meeting to be eligible to win. We will notify the members whose names were drawn.

Food Bank Receives ACT Grant

Sharon United Methodist Church recently received a \$1,200 Albemarle Community Trust grant to help stock it’s food bank. The food bank primarily serves families in need in the South Mills community, in Camden County.

Albemarle Electric Membership Corporation PO Box 69 Hertford, NC 27944 Attention: Credentials and Elections Committee	All ballots received by mail will be counted! CASH PRIZE DRAWINGS: \$2000 Grand Prize Drawing Two - \$3000 Cash Prize Drawings Three - \$2000 Cash Prize Drawings Four - \$1000 Cash Prize Drawings Ten - \$250 Cash Prize Drawings Ballots must be received by mail no later than September 14, 2020. Winners will be notified by phone & announcement during the Annual Meeting Thursday, September 24, 2020 at 5:30 p.m. Please join the meeting by calling 252-426-XXXX
Name: _____ Address: _____ _____	PLEASE DO NOT INCLUDE BILL PAYMENTS IN THIS ENVELOPE. BALLOT INSTRUCTIONS 1. Please vote for one candidate from each district. There are three district positions open for election. Candidate biographies are enclosed. 2. After selecting your chosen candidate, remove the official ballot from the bottom of this document and place it in the postage paid pre-addressed envelope enclosed. 3. Ballots must be received by mail no later than September 14, 2020. The Nominating Committee has reviewed, screened and nominated the following candidates: Please complete the ballot below. Detach and return in the pre-addressed envelope provided.
OFFICIAL BALLOT DISTRICT 2 CHOWAN <input type="checkbox"/> Nominee <input type="checkbox"/> Nominee DISTRICT 3 PASQUOTANK <input type="checkbox"/> Nominee <input type="checkbox"/> Nominee DISTRICT 4 PERQUIMANS <input type="checkbox"/> Nominee <input type="checkbox"/> Nominee <small>Number of Ballots: (Candidates)</small>	

Above is a mock-up of the ballot that members will receive in the mail. The actual ballot will differ in appearance, depending on the number of candidates.

Bylaws Modified to Allow for Remote Annual Meetings

Bylaws that govern how Albemarle EMC conducts annual meetings were recently added to allow for meetings to be held remotely.

The changes to the bylaws were recently approved unanimously by the Albemarle EMC Board of Directors.

The 2020 Annual Meeting will be

held remotely as a precaution due to COVID-19. The bylaw additions also allow for members to vote by mail or electronically. The submission of ballots will count towards the required meeting quorum, which is 1.25 percent of the cooperative's total membership.

Other changes enable the Credentials

and Elections Committee to meet remotely by telephone or other electronic means. No proxies will be needed, because every member will have an opportunity to vote.

Please see excerpt below for the exact wording of the Electronic Annual Meeting bylaw.

Section 3.10 Remote Electronic Annual Member Meetings

Notwithstanding the above in-person Annual or Special Member Meeting (“Member Meeting”) procedures, the Board of Directors may, in its sole discretion, take formal action to conduct a Member Meeting by remote communications utilizing electronic technology instead of conducting an in-person Meeting of the Members. When the Board of Directors takes formal action to conduct the Member Meeting by remote communications using electronic technology, the existing Bylaws relating to the Member Meeting shall apply except that:

(a) The Cooperative shall deliver Notice of the Remote Member Meeting by either written or electronic notice at least 10 days but no more than 60 days before the date of the Member Meeting. The Notice may be delivered personally, by mail, or by electronic means reasonably calculated to provide such notice. If mailed, the Notice shall be deemed delivered when deposited in the mail as set forth in Section 3.03. Electronic notice sent to a destination specified by the Member affected shall be deemed received when transmitted;

(b) The Member Meeting will be conducted via remote electronic communications;

(c) Each Member will be provided a Ballot, and each Member will be given the opportunity to submit a Ballot to vote by mail or by electronic means, if provisions for the electronic voting have been made;

(d) For purposes of counting the “Quorum”, the submission of Ballots (by mail or by electronic means) of at least one and one-quarter per centum (1¼ %) of the total Members of the Cooperative shall be required for the transaction of business;

(e) Because every Member will be provided the opportunity to vote by mail or permitted electronic means, no proxies will be necessary or allowed;

(f) The Board of Directors will appoint the Credentials and Elections Committee to provide a tabulation of the results of any vote and certify the results of any election;

(g) The Board of Directors will approve the guidelines and procedures for conducting the Member Meeting by remote electronic communications;

(h) The participation of a Member by submitting a mail-in or permitted electronic ballot shall constitute a waiver of Notice of the Meeting and a waiver of any objection to the conducting of a remote Annual Member Meeting;

(i) At the Meeting of Members, Directors shall be elected by the Members and from among natural persons who are Members. Directors may, unless the Members determine otherwise in advance of the initial balloting, be elected by a plurality vote of those Members voting. Drawing by lot shall resolve, when necessary, any tie votes;

(j) The results of any vote shall be announced at the Member Meeting; and

(k) The Credentials & Elections Committee may conduct its meetings (in the discretion of Management) in person, by telephone conference, or by other means of remote electronic communication by which the members of the Committee can fully participate in a meeting.

Bright Ideas Early Bird Deadline Approaches

Albemarle Electric Membership Corporation is now accepting applications for the 2020 Bright Ideas Education Grant program. Educators can apply for grants of up to \$1,000 to fund creative, hands-on projects in K-12 classrooms. Teachers can apply individually or as a team, and grants are available for projects in all subjects.

Educators who apply for a Bright Ideas grant before the early bird deadline of Aug. 15, 2020 are entered into a special drawing. To apply for a Bright Ideas grant, visit ncbrightideas.com. The deadline to apply is Sept. 15, 2020.

As an Albemarle EMC member, you have access to Co-op Connections, a program that enables you to save significantly on a variety of goods and services. For more information, please visit connections.coop.



Albemarle EMC is at Your Service

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

Electricity is Still a Good Value

by Chris Powell, coordinator of public relations

Even though I work for an electric cooperative, like most people, I still don't think much about the electricity I use. I expect the lights to turn on when I flip the switch and the coffee maker to work each morning. Because electricity is so abundant, it's understandable for us to not think much about it. Since many of us have been spending more time at home over the past few months, we have likely been using more energy. And yet, we still expect an endless supply of power with uninterrupted service 24/7. The only time we really think about electricity is when the power goes out or perhaps when the monthly bill arrives.

Given how electricity powers our modern lifestyle every day, it's a great value, especially when compared to other common services and expenses. For example, think back to the cost of a gallon of gasoline 20 years ago. Consider the cost of groceries or a cup of your favorite specialty coffee from a few years back. In comparison, the cost of electricity has remained largely flat, unlike most other consumer goods.

Like many of you, I have a cell phone to stay connected, and I subscribe to various online services. Many of us consider these necessities for modern day life. We can see what we're getting for our money, and we willingly pay for those services. In contrast, when we use electricity, we don't necessarily "see" all that we're getting for our money.

But considering what electricity does for us, it's a tremendous value for our quality of life as well as our budgets. For comparison, consider that the average rent increase was nearly 4 percent (from 2014-2019) according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics Consumer Price Index (CPI). The cost of medical care increased 3 percent during this time, and education was not too far behind at 2.6 percent. So, where did electricity

rank? According to the CPI, electricity increased by less than half a percentage point, just 0.4 percent.

The bottom line: electricity brings everyday value. Out of about 15,000 members, Albemarle Electric Membership Corporation members experienced just 245 outages last year, with an average duration of 112 minutes. (The stated average outage duration does not include power supply related outages, which we have no control of). Considering that electricity is something that we all use around the clock, we're very proud

of our track record. At the same time, we are striving to increase our service reliability, reduce those brief interruptions and reduce costs. We are continually working to improve our operations to ensure a smarter grid and exploring more renewable energy options where possible.

Albemarle EMC provides the reliable service you expect and deserve as valued members of the co-op. And as your trusted energy advisor, we want to help you save energy and money. By operating efficiently and with some good fortune, we have not had to implement a rate increase since 2012. We have knowledgeable employees who can answer your energy efficiency questions and help trouble shoot high-use problems in

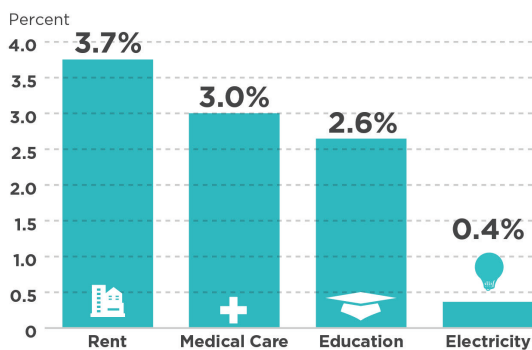
your home or business. You can also visit touchstoneenergy.com/energy-solutions for more information. We want you to know that we are here for you.

We recognize that the past few months have been challenging for many of our members, and we're here to help. If you have questions about your account or are looking for ways to save energy, please give us a call at (252) 426-5735. Our sole purpose is to serve you and the needs of our community. Providing everyday value is what this co-op has done for 75 years, and we're proud of it.

ELECTRICITY REMAINS A GOOD VALUE

The cost of powering your home rises slowly when compared to other common expenses. Looking at price increases over the last five years, it's easy to see electricity remains a good value!

Average Annual Price Increase 2014-2019



Sources: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics Consumer Price Index