



November 2020

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Albemarle Sounds

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*Albemarle EMC is an equal opportunity
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Incumbents Re-elected at Annual Meeting



L.A. Harris, Jr.



Thelma Finch-Copeland



Tony Webb

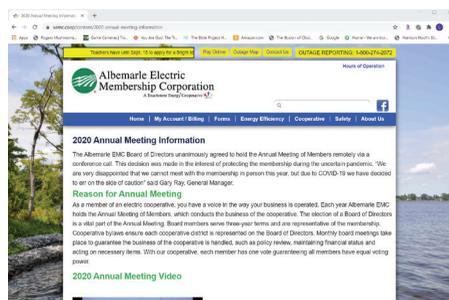
A total of 2,374 members mailed in ballots to be officially considered participants in the 2020 Annual Meeting.

The Annual Meeting was held remotely by phone due to COVID-19 concerns. A total of 61 members listened in to the phone meeting. Because there were no challengers for board seats, the following incumbents were re-elected by acclamation to three-year terms on the Albemarle EMC Board of Directors: Tony Webb, representing Chowan County; L.A. Harris Jr., Pasquotank County; and Thelma Finch-Copeland, Perquimans County.

“On behalf of the board of directors, I would like to thank all of the members

who took the time to send in their ballots to be counted towards the quorum,” said Albemarle EMC Board of Directors President John Spence. “I would also like to thank the members who called in to listen to the Annual Meeting.”

To assist members, a special web page was created (aemc.coop/content/2020-annual-meeting-information). The web page includes speeches from General Manager Gary Ray and President Spence. A recording of the meeting is also available on the web page. In addition, the web page features a video commemorating the co-op’s 75th Anniversary.



An Annual Meeting web page was created to centralize information for the 2020 Annual Meeting.

Closed for Thanksgiving



Albemarle EMC will be closed
Thursday, Nov. 26-27 for
Thanksgiving.

Prizes Awarded During Annual Meeting



Albemarle EMC member Walter Schmitt was the lucky winner of a \$200 prize drawing during this year's remote Annual Meeting. He generously donated half of his winnings to the co-op's Light Up Christmas Toy Drive.

Albemarle EMC members who mailed in ballots to vote for this year's candidates for seats on the Albemarle EMC Board of Directors were automatically entered into a prize drawing. Below are the lucky winners:

\$50

Salvatore Sala Jr.
Ted Hurdle
Donald and Laurie Winz
Geraldine Stokely
Risha Foreman Griffin
Lela C. Twine
Randal Brent Meads Jr.
James R. and Monica Carawan
Belinda F. Boyce
Lottie Griffin

\$100

Lizzie Mae Brumsey
Richard James Wisswell III
Barbara J. Wood
Cora R. Griffin
Lokita Elliott

\$200

Angela E. Williams
Walter Schmitt
Christopher James Colvin

\$300

Delores Jordan
Joy Chukwe

\$500

Dewey Cotterell

Election Day is Tuesday, Nov. 3



This year's Election Day will be held Tuesday, Nov. 3, and North Carolina voters will have the opportunity to vote for president, governor, members of Congress and state legislators, as

well as other races.

In recognition of the importance of making your voice heard at the polls, North Carolina's electric cooperatives have launched NC Co-ops Vote, a non-partisan effort to provide relevant information to co-op members and encourage them to vote. Like NC Co-ops Vote on Facebook and follow us on Twitter using @NCCoopsVote and #NCCoopsVote #CoopsVote to learn more.

Voters are also encouraged to visit the North Carolina State Board of Elections at <https://vt.ncsbe.gov/RegLkup/> prior to Election Day to check voter registration details, find their Election Day polling place, and view election districts and a sample ballot (when available), among other information.

AEMC Assists Alabama Co-op

Five Albemarle EMC linemen assisted Baldwin EMC, which suffered severe outages from Hurricane Sally, in mid September.

Albemarle EMC was able to send two bucket trucks and one pickup truck to Summerdale, Alabama. The linemen assisting were first class linemen Roy O'Neal and Aaron Pippen as well as linemen apprentices Jeffery Johnson, Austin Cooke and Cody Stokely. The linemen joined 110 workers from 10 other North Carolina cooperatives, who were also helping to restore power.

Hurricane Sally tore through Alabama in September leaving behind a wake of destruction that left 78,000 of Baldwin EMC's members without power. All members' power was restored by Sept. 25.

"We are always willing to send another co-op help when we can," said Gary Ray, general manager of Albemarle EMC. "We may be the ones requesting assistance next time."



From left are Roy O'Neal, Jeffery Johnson, Austin Cooke, Cody Stokely and Aaron Pippen.

Apprentice Linemen Utilize Training Power Line

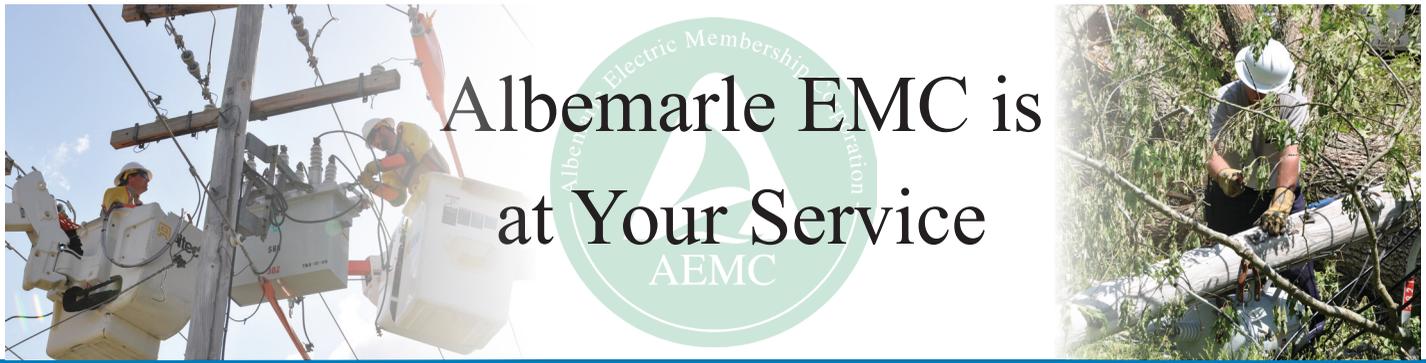


The power industry's workforce is aging, and Albemarle EMC is no exception.

Due to recent retirements and normal turnover, Albemarle EMC has recently hired several linemen apprentices. To assist new apprentice linemen with training, the co-op has constructed a training power line behind its pole yard. The power line, which is not energized, is three phase and has every type of pole-mounted transformer that linemen will encounter.

"This training area enables apprentices to learn numerous aspects of the job in a controlled environment, while being closely supervised," said Jody Parker, manager of operations for Albemarle EMC. "This will help them learn faster and work safer."





Albemarle EMC is at Your Service

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

November is a Season of Gratitude

by Chris Powell, coordinator of public relations

As a sportsman, November always has been and always will be my favorite month of the year. The woods are more alive now, with bucks chasing does, and squirrels and other critters making their last preparations for winter. Saltwater fishing is also at its finest. Tuna are schooling offshore, and speckled trout have moved into brackish creeks along our sounds. Leaves are falling like brown, red and gold confetti. It is simply magical, evoking thoughts of appreciation for the time at hand as well as the year that has unfolded.

No doubt, 2020 has been challenging. But even in the midst of tribulation, we all can and should find those things we are thankful for. Working at Albemarle EMC, one does not have to look far. This year, we celebrated 75 years of service to our region. I think I can speak for our employees, directors and members, when I say what an honor it has been to be torch bearers for a company that has been in service for three-quarters of a century. Many of us will not be here for the 100th anniversary, but we all can take great pride and satisfaction in knowing that we played a small part in guiding the co-op toward that point in history.

Safety

Safety will always be high on our list of things we are grateful for. As I write this, we have now surpassed 2,500 days without a lost-time accident. That means not one of our employees has suffered an injury so severe that they could not return to work the next day, since 2013! A record like that does not come easy. It takes considerable teamwork, individual diligence, employee buy-in and, if we're honest, some good fortune. This year, Albemarle EMC received its three-year safety accreditation from the Rural Electric Safety Achievement Program, recording its highest scores ever.

Toy Drive

Because of COVID-19, we had to cancel this year's Light Up Christmas Golf Tournament. However, due to the generosity of companies and individuals who have been a part of this toy drive for many years, we were able to raise more than \$16,000. Those funds should be enough to provide toys for those families in our service area who could use a little help during the holiday

season. To all those who stepped up to support our toy drive this year, please know that we are profoundly grateful.

Storm Response

Within 24 hours, we were able to restore all of the outages caused by Hurricane Isaias, in early August. The ability to respond with that kind of speed and efficiency stems from a highly trained workforce that can work as a team. We are thankful to all of the members for the support and positive feedback we received during and after our storm response. But we are most grateful for your patience and understanding whenever we are working to restore power.

Albemarle Community Trust

Through the generosity of Albemarle EMC members, the Albemarle Community Trust has been able to award close to \$60,000 in grants to local organizations who support the broader community. During the initial business shutdowns caused by COVID-19, we were able to direct funding to local food pantries. Since then, we have also been able to fund volunteer fire departments, 4-H and so many other worthwhile projects.

Our Members

We would like to extend our deepest appreciation to our members for being flexible as we responded to COVID-19. Because we had to close our lobby, we are thankful for the membership's willingness to conduct the majority of their business electronically. To further limit contact, we opted to hold our Annual Meeting remotely by phone. Voting for Albemarle EMC directors was conducted via mail-in ballots. We had 2,374 members fill out and turn in their ballots, which counted towards the quorum for our Annual Meeting. We also had 61 members who took time out of their day to join the Annual Meeting conference call.

Yes, it has been an extraordinarily tough year. During a time when so much has changed, we all can be thankful that your co-op remains robust and unbowed. Backed by its members, Albemarle EMC continues to be the provider of affordable, reliable power it has been for the past 75 years.

