



# Albemarle SOUNDS

April 2026

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.

## Capital Credit Refund Approved

The Albemarle Electric Membership Corporation Board of Directors recently approved the 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 members when the co-op is in a sound financial position. The cooperative has 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 2000.

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

If you were a member of Albemarle EMC during these years, and are an active member, you will receive a capital credit refund in April, which will be 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, and the credit will only be posted on one account. Anyone who received power during those years but is no longer an active member will be mailed a check. This is why it is so important for you to give us a good forwarding address when you move off our lines.

Year	Percent	Amount
2000	100%	\$287,891.59
2001	100%	\$221,632.60
2002	15%	\$60,902.16
2024	5%	\$81,414.69
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$651,841.04</b>

## Closed for Easter



**Albemarle EMC will be closed Friday, April 3 for Easter. Happy Easter!**

## Ruritans Receives ACT Grant



*Patricia Cartwright, president of the Forestburg Ruritan Club, was recently presented with a \$5,000 Albemarle Community Trust grant. The grant will be used to make repairs to the club's building. The Albemarle Community Trust is voluntarily funded by Albemarle EMC members who contribute through their power bills.*

# Bright Ideas Grant Applications Being Accepted

Everyone knows April showers bring May flowers, but did you also know April brings new opportunities for local educators to fund classroom projects? Here at Albemarle Electric Membership Corporation, April marks the official kickoff of the Bright Ideas education grant program. The Bright Ideas grant program is offered by all 26 of North Carolina's electric cooperatives and supports educators in need of funding to implement creative, hands-on learning projects.

Teachers at qualifying schools can apply individually or as a team, and grants are available for all subjects. To apply, or for more information about the Bright Ideas grant program, visit [www.NCBrightIdeas.com](http://www.NCBrightIdeas.com).

Since 1994 North Carolina's electric co-ops have awarded more than \$10.9 million in Bright Ideas grants to teachers statewide. More than 10,400 classroom projects benefiting well over 2.1 million North Carolina students have been made possible because of these grants.

Educators in K-12 classrooms with creative ideas for hands-on learning projects are encouraged to apply for a grant. Last year Albemarle EMC awarded more than \$12,000 to projects that supported local teachers and students.

Applications will be accepted April 1 through Sept. 19. However, it could pay to apply early. All applications submitted by the early bird deadline of Aug. 15 will be entered into a drawing for one of five \$100 Visa gift cards.

## Direct Sprinklers Away from Transformers

If you have a transformer in your yard, please make sure that sprinklers are set up so as not to spray the transformer. Constant spraying of a transformer can cause it to rust. The cost for the co-op to replace a ground transformer is more than \$2,000. In addition, a rusting transformer can also be a safety hazard.



## Youth Tour Delegates Selected

Two local students were recently selected to represent Albemarle EMC at this year's Washington Youth Tour.

Perquimans County High School student Landon Damron and Northeast

Academy for Aerospace and Advanced Technologies student Benjamin Gardner were chosen based on their academic accomplishments, essays and letters of recommendation from their school guidance counselors.

In June, Landon and Benjamin will meet other students from across the state in Raleigh, then board a bus for Washington, D.C. While at the nation's capital, youth tourists from across the country will meet with legislators, take a harbor party cruise, visit museums and memorials and make many friends.

"We are delighted to be able to provide these two students with this unique opportunity," said Albemarle EMC General Manager Kevin Heath. "Few individuals get to experience the behind-the-scenes look at Washington, D.C. that the Youth Tour provides."



*NEATT student Benjamin Gardner is congratulated by Assistant Principal Shala Spence.*



*Perquimans County High School student Landon Damron is congratulated by Principal Mickey Drev.*

## We Appreciate our Linemen!

April 13 is recognized by Albemarle EMC and other electric cooperatives across the country as Lineman Appreciation Day.

Though always appreciated, these hard-working individuals certainly deserve a day in their honor. In our opinion, linemen are first responders. Twenty-four hours a day, they stand ready to restore power despite often treacherous conditions. Freezing cold snow storms, blistering heat and hurricane damage are among the many challenges linemen often face. In addition to serving their own communities, linemen are also called on to provide aid across the state and nation, following major storms and other times of need.

Linemen are a special group. To perform in this field, they must possess both brains and brawn, coupled with dogged determination. They have to be able to push through adversity and work as a team to restore power as safely and quickly as possible.

Please join us by using the hash tag #ThankALineworker on April 13 and throughout the year to pay tribute to our linemen.

## Anniversary Celebrated



*Mary Matthews receives a cookie on Feb. 24, the day the co-op turned 81.*

Albemarle EMC celebrated its 81st year of service to our region on Feb. 24 by giving out cookies to members who stopped by the office.

For more than eight decades, Albemarle EMC has served the mostly rural parts of northeast North Carolina. The co-op was incorporated in 1945 during a time when the only way to bring electricity to rural America was through nonprofit cooperatives. We appreciate our past, present and future members.



# Albemarle EMC is at Your Service



## Member-Owned Generation Requires Co-op Approval

By Chris Powell, director of public relations

Albemarle EMC members must get approval from both the cooperative and their local building inspections department, prior to installing generation such as wind or solar.

According to the co-op's Service Rules and Regulations, which members must adhere to, an interconnection agreement is required before installing member-owned generation such as wind or solar. A copy of the agreement can be found at [www.aemc.coop](http://www.aemc.coop), or members can call our office at 252-426-5735.

The interconnection agreement ensures that member-owned generation is installed in accordance with the co-op's policies. Among other things, the agreement protects the safety of co-op employees. The interconnection agreement requires that member-owned generation be wired so that it cannot back-feed a power line. A back-fed power line is dangerous because linemen have no way of knowing that a line they thought is de-energized is actually being fed power from member-owned generation.

The interconnection agreement also protects the members. Members who install solar panels without approval from the co-op or the building inspections department run the risk of incurring unexpected expenses if changes to the installation method are deemed necessary.

The interconnection agreement also prevents anyone who self-generates power from avoiding their

share of the costs associated with staying connected to the co-op's grid. The co-op can disconnect any member who installs generation such as wind or solar without obtaining an interconnection agreement. (This does not apply to standby generators that supply power during outages).

Per the interconnection agreement, all power generated by a member must be either under the Qualifying Facilities Purchased Power rate or the Residential Net Metering rate. Members who interconnect without first agreeing to one of these rates avoid paying the full cost of staying connected to the co-op's infrastructure. When a home or business is first connected, the co-op has the expectation that the cost of maintaining that service will be recovered through the rates. If a member avoids that cost by self-generating outside of Albemarle EMC standards, then the co-op's ability to maintain service to all members is weakened.



*Prior to installing wind or solar, members first must receive approval from the cooperative to ensure proper protocols are followed.*

## Automated Notifications Assist Members



*Automated bill alerts can help members better manage monthly power bills.*

Are you the kind of person who ties a string around a finger to remember to do something important?

If so, Albemarle EMC offers a service that might be perfect. The co-op can set up automatic alerts and reminders to notify you of an approaching due date, past due-date, account profile change, returned-check alert and payment confirmation. You may receive your alert via e-mail or text message. You can also set up these alerts yourself using our member portal, located at [www.aemc.coop](http://www.aemc.coop).

Also, instead of receiving a bill in the mail, members can elect to have an e-bill sent to them through e-mail. The e-bill has several advantages: It arrives quicker than a traditional bill, giving the recipient more time to pay. It also saves the co-op from having to purchase envelopes and postage. An e-bill also reduces the amount of trash going into the waste stream.

Members who would like to take advantage of these services can call the office at 252-426-5735, and a member service representative can set up your account. Members will need to provide us with a good cell phone number, cell service provider and e-mail address.