



August 2021

Proudly serving the members of Albemarle Electric Membership Corporation



Know what's below.
Call before you dig.

Call 811 or
1-800-632-4949
three business
days before
you plan to dig.

Albemarle Sounds

is published monthly by
Albemarle Electric Membership
Corporation

P.O. Box 69
Hertford, NC 27944
(252) 426-5735

Gary Ray, General Manager
Chris Powell, Editor

Website and member portal:
www.aemc.coop

Outages:
1-800-274-2072
24-hour payments:
(252) 426-4419

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

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 
The power of human connections®

Annual Meeting to be Held Remotely

Erring on the side of caution, Albemarle Electric Membership Corporation will hold its Annual Meeting of members via a group telephone call.

Members are officially notified that this year's Annual Meeting will be held Thursday, Sept. 30 at 7 p.m.

"We don't want to risk inviting our members to an in-person meeting, then having to cancel at the last minute," said Albemarle EMC General Manager Gary Ray. "We aren't going to take any chances with our members' health and safety."

Prior to the Annual Meeting, each member will receive a mail-in ballot to vote for this year's slate of director candidates. To join the meeting, simply dial the phone number that will be printed on the ballot.

The conference call will focus on the business portion of the meeting. In addition, newly elected 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 for each district listed, then mail in their ballot using the self-addressed, stamped envelope provided. The completed ballots must be received by the deadline date that will be listed on each ballot. 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 Credentials and Elections Committee, with the co-op's attorney present.

Every member who mails in a completed ballot will be eligible for cash drawings. More than \$2,500 in prizes will be drawn. One candidate for each district must be selected on the ballot for the member to be eligible for prizes. Members do not need to participate in the phone meeting to be eligible to win. We will notify the members whose names are drawn.

Albemarle EMC to Host Golf Tournament

Albemarle EMC will host its 13th Annual Light Up Christmas Golf Tournament on Friday, Sept. 17. If you would like to enter a team, please contact Chris Powell at (252) 426-2586.

Players will be treated to 18 holes at the Sound Golf Links at Albemarle Plantation.

Beverage carts will be available, and dinner will be served at the awards presentation. Hole sign sponsorships are also available. All proceeds from the tournament will be used to fund the co-op's Light Up Christmas toy drive. Each year, the co-op provides toys for more than 500 children.

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 Approaching

Educators have until the early bird deadline of Aug. 15 to apply for a Bright Ideas grant and potentially win a prize.

Teachers who submit their application by the early bird deadline of Aug. 15 will be entered to win one of five \$100 Visa gift cards. Educators can learn more and apply online at www.ncbrightideas.com.

Bright Ideas grants, offered annually to teachers, bring creative classroom learning projects to life, support innovative projects that energize classroom learning and enhance student success.

Albemarle EMC expects to award more than \$13,000 total in Bright Ideas grants this year to K-12 teachers across its

service area in Chowan, Perquimans, Pasquotank, Camden and Currituck counties. Grants of up to a \$1,500 maximum are available in all subject areas, and teachers can apply individually or as a team.



Applications will be accepted through Sept. 15, 2021. To apply, teachers must include a budget; explanation of implementation, goals, creative elements and evaluation of the project.

Applicants should also have approval from their school’s principal. Applications will be judged through a competitive

evaluation process, with judges looking for projects that feature inventive and creative approaches to learning.

Albemarle EMC is at Your Service

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

Director Spotlight

by Chris Powell, coordinator of public relations

Editor's note: On occasion, we plan to draw attention to the employees and directors who serve the Albemarle EMC membership. This month we turn the spotlight to longtime Albemarle EMC board member Tony Webb.

Where were you born and raised?

I was born and raised in Chowan County.

What county do you currently reside in?

I live in Chowan County.

Did you go to college, and if so what did you study?

I received a Bachelor of Science in Forest Management from N.C. State University.

Who has been your biggest role model in life?

The biggest role models in my life were my parents.

Do you still work, or are you retired?

I am still working. This year makes a total of 50 years of employment, 43 of which have been self-employed as president and owner of Webb Land & Timber Services, Inc.

How long have you been a director and what offices have you held?

I came on the Albemarle EMC Board of Directors in December of 1992. I also served as a board president of a short-lived subsidiary focused on LP sales.

How do you keep learning and growing as an industry leader?

I have attended a number of electric cooperative state and national meetings. I have also achieved my Certified Director

designation as well as my Board Leadership Certification from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

What is the biggest change you have seen take place at Albemarle EMC during your tenure?

I would have to say the biggest change I have seen has been the increased focus on ever-changing technologies.

What excites you most about the electric co-op industry and your role in it?

I am excited about having a role in representing a generally under-represented segment of society; that being our rural areas.

What do you see are some of the biggest challenges for Albemarle EMC?

The biggest challenges I see are how the co-op best navigates the uncertain waters of renewable energy.

What do you see is the biggest opportunity for Albemarle EMC in the coming years?

I like to think that we could have some role in providing rural broadband, although I understand the many obstacles that prevent Albemarle EMC from pursuing that.

What accomplishments are you most proud of as an Albemarle EMC board member?

I am proud that the co-op has worked and invested diligently to improve the system and, in turn, provide more dependable service to the membership. It's gratifying to have heard a developer or home builder comment that they are glad to be served by Albemarle EMC, or wish they were.

