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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.*



**Albemarle EMC will
be closed Tuesday,
July 4th in observance
of Independence Day.
We hope you have
a wonderful July 4th
holiday!**

Board Candidates to be Nominated



The 2023 Albemarle EMC Annual Meeting of Members will be held at the Perquimans County Recreation Department, located at 310 Granby St., Hertford.

Members residing in Chowan Perquimans and Pasquotank counties who desire to be nominated to run for a seat on the Albemarle EMC Board of Directors should notify the cooperative in advance of the upcoming nominating committee meeting.

The nominating committee is scheduled to meet Tuesday, July 11. Qualified members who wish to seek nomination should notify Public Relations Coordinator Chris Powell by e-mail (chris.powell@aemc.coop) or by

addressing a letter to Chris Powell, Albemarle EMC, P.O. Box 69, Hertford, NC 27944. The prospective nominees will be given the contact information for the nominating committee members.

The nominating committee consists of the following Albemarle EMC members: Vera Murrill, Thomas N. Hollowell Jr., Dale Davis, Ronnie Wayne Raper, Leroy Temple, Joseph McPherson, Nicole Spencer, Joshua Nixon and Don Lee Keaton. Prospective candidates must be nominated by the Albemarle EMC Nominating Committee or be nominated by petition of the members. Nominees must have graduated high school, be a cooperative member, reside principally in the county from which a director is to be chosen, pass a background check and meet other criteria.

Incumbent directors running for re-election this year are Thelma Finch-Copeland, Perquimans County; Robert Whitehead, Pasquotank County; and Josiah "Tony" Webb, Chowan County.

The co-op's Annual Meeting will be held Saturday, Sept. 16 at the Perquimans County Recreation Department, located at 310 Granby St., Hertford.

EV Chargers Ready for Use

Albemarle EMC's slow charger and fast charger are ready for public use. To pay for a charge, electric vehicle (EV) owners will need to download the ChargePoint app to their smart phone and set up an account, which includes entering credit card information. Payments then can easily be made by tapping their phone or a ChargePoint card, which has an RFID chip, against the charger's reader.

The public-charger rates are 14 cents per kWh to use the slow charger and 27 cents per kWh for the fast charger. To discourage unnecessarily long use of charging ports, EV owners will be charged \$1.75 for each 30-minute period after the vehicle is fully charged.



Charity Golf Tournament Raises Significant Funds



The Dominion Energy golf team turned in a score of 55 to take first place in the 15th Annual Light Up Christmas Golf Tournament.

A total of 67 players on 17 teams entered the tournament. The co-op was able to raise \$1,340 at registration. Combined with the team and hole sponsorships, the co-op raised more than \$21,000, before expenses. The net proceeds will be used to purchase toys for the co-op's Christmas toy

drive.

"Our deepest appreciation goes out to all those who supported this year's tournament," said AEMC General Manager Gary Ray. "We raised substantial funds to provide toys for families who could use a little help this Christmas."

The toys will be purchased by co-op employees, then delivered to school coordinators, who identify families in need. School personnel will coordinate delivering the toys to the parents.

ACT Grants Benefit Region



Belvidere-Chappell Hill Volunteer Fire Department Chief Lee Dail accepts an Albemarle Community Trust grant for \$5,000. The funds will be used to upgrade the department's communication equipment.

Educators, Apply Now for a Bright Ideas Grant

Bright Ideas education grant applications are now being accepted. We invite K-12 educators to apply for a grant from Albemarle EMC to bring creative classroom learning ideas to life.

Find the simple, online application and learn more at www.NCBrightIdeas.com. Teachers who apply by the early bird



Bright Ideas Education Grants
Now accepting applications for the 2023-24 school year. Apply online at www.ncbrightideas.com!



deadline of Aug. 15 will be entered into a drawing for a gift card for their class. The final deadline to apply for a grant will be Sept. 15.

For more information about our Bright Ideas program, please contact Chris Powell at (252) 426-

2586 or chris.powell@aemc.coop.



From left: Pasquotank-Camden Emergency Management Coordinator Brian Parnell and Assistant Coordinator Josh Wyse accept an Albemarle Community Trust Grant for \$5,000. The funds will be used to upgrade their Emergency Operations Center and purchase new work stations.

Help Us Beat the Peak

Now that we are entering the hotter months of summer, Albemarle EMC will be asking members to conserve energy during certain periods of days when extreme temperatures occur.

If you receive a Beat the Peak text or see a message on social media, please reduce your energy usage. You can conserve power by turning up your thermostat a few degrees, reducing the use of hot water or delaying cooking or doing laundry during the short period of peak usage.

"By voluntarily participating in this program, you can help Albemarle EMC beat the peak by reducing wholesale power costs, which helps the cooperative and its members," said Albemarle EMC General Manager Gary Ray.



Director Earns Certification



Albemarle EMC Director Chad Mathews (left) receives a plaque from President John Spence for earning his Director Gold Program certification. The credential recognizes directors committed to continuing their education beyond the Certified Cooperative Director and the Board Leadership Certification.



Albemarle EMC is at Your Service



Electric Cooperatives Embody Freedom

by Chris Powell, coordinator of public relations

“We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their creator with certain inalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.”

So is written the preamble to the Declaration of Independence, which launched one of the greatest experiments ever attempted in human history – the right for people to self-govern.

As a member-owned, member controlled organization, Albemarle EMC also embodies the democratic template upon which our country was founded. Instead of being beholden to a Utilities Commission or stock holders, Albemarle EMC answers to its members. Any member, provided they meet reasonable qualifications, can run for and potentially be elected to a seat on the Albemarle EMC Board of Directors. Members serve the cooperative, and the cooperative serves its members in a mutually beneficial relationship to provide affordable, reliable electricity. Much like our state and federal legislatures, your cooperative receives periodic infusions of new board members who bring with them fresh perspectives and enthusiasm. Within the last 12 months, four new directors have occupied seats on the co-op’s board.

Cooperatives operate under Seven Cooperative Principles, which guide us. One of those principles is open and voluntary membership. Your cooperative will never discriminate by race, religion, socioeconomic status or any other criteria. If a person desires to move on the co-op’s lines, they are welcome. In this policy of inclusion, one can almost hear echoed words of the poem “The New Colossus,”

inscribed on the Statue of Liberty: *“Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free.”*

The liberating effects of electricity was recognized early on during the initial stages of the electrification of America. People who had been tethered to lives of



manually powered appliances, suddenly had leisure time. Life was no longer a race against the clock to complete as many chores as possible before dark. Light bulbs were a technological wonder that could almost provide daylight inside a home. Wood no longer had to be chopped to heat a stove, water no longer had to be hand-pumped, ice no longer had to be hauled to keep foods cool. Widely accessible electricity led to telephones that enabled information

to be freely communicated quickly over long distances. Radio and television were developed which brought information and entertainment straight to the home. Performances and events once available to a privileged few could be enjoyed by all.

The freeing and transformative nature of widely available electricity has not stopped and appears to be picking up speed. I am old enough to remember a time when car travel often required one hand on the wheel and another hand to hold a paper map. Now, GPS navigation systems direct us effortlessly and much more safely to our destinations. Albemarle EMC’s automated meter technology enables your cooperative to monitor power usage on an hourly, daily and monthly basis. We can provide almost real-time power usage to members and quickly warn them when their home or business is using excessive power. Also, members can visit our online portal and set up alerts that automatically notify them when power usage exceeds a predetermined limit.

Electricity has inherent freeing qualities that underpin much of modern society. This becomes crystal clear during power outages, which is why we work so hard to restore power as quickly and safely as possible.

July 4th is a time of celebration and reflection for all that the day signifies. Albemarle EMC honors that heritage by incorporating the principles of liberty upon which this nation was founded. We are a cooperative for the members by the members, just like we are a country for the people by the people.