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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.*

Candidates for Directorships to be Nominated

Members 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 8. 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 following nominating committee members: Brian Stallings, Justin St. Pierre, Joseph McPherson, Melissa Oliver, Don Lee Keaton, Rosa Jordan, Vera Murrill and David Denton.

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.

Up for election this year are board of directors seats for Chowan, Perquimans and Camden counties. The co-op's Annual Meeting will be held on Saturday, Sept. 20 at the Perquimans County Recreation Department, located at 310 Granby St., Hertford.

Board President Recognized



At the NC Electric Membership Corporation's annual meeting, Albemarle Electric Membership Corporation Board President John Spence (right) was presented a gift for his service as president of the Tarheel Electric Membership Association.

High-Voltage Safety Demos Given



Albemarle EMC recently participated in Hertford Grammar School's Safety Day. In the picture, Lineman First Class Drake Trueblood uses the high-voltage demonstration trailer to show the students what happens when an aluminum ladder gets too close to or touches a power line.

**Albemarle EMC will be
closed Friday, July 4th
for Independence Day.
We hope you have a
wonderful July 4th!**

Charity Golf Tournament Raises Significant Funds



The Rick Durren Golf Team turned in a score of 53 to take first place in the 17th Annual Albemarle EMC Light Up Christmas Golf Tournament.

Dominion Energy came in second place with a score of 55, and Jones Onslow EMC came in third, posting a score of 56. A total of 61 players on 16 teams entered the tournament. The proceeds from the tournament will be used to provide assistance to families for Christmas.

“We truly can’t thank the supporters of this year’s tournament enough,” said AEMC General Manager Kevin Heath. “We raised substantial funds that will help ensure children will have gifts for Christmas, who may have otherwise gone without.”

Each year, co-op employees use the donated funds to purchase toys and deliver them to school coordinators, who have identified the families. The school personnel then coordinate delivering the toys to the parents.

From left: David Epley, Rick Durren and Harry Umphlett shot a score of 53 to take first place in the 17th Annual Albemarle EMC Light Up Christmas Golf Tournament.

Co-op Participates in Career Day



Albemarle EMC recently participated in Chowan Middle School’s Career Day. In the picture, a student threads a nut onto a bolt while wearing lineman’s gloves, which is harder than it looks. The student was able to accomplish the task well within the 30-second time limit.

Croquet Club Seeks New Members

The newly established Albemarle Croquet Club recently hosted a tournament that drew players from all over the country.

The club, which is a member of Albemarle EMC, held its three-day tournament in April. Thirty-two players participated, some from as far away as Florida, Wisconsin and Colorado.

The Albemarle Croquet Club is managed by Adam, Rodney and Randy Lassiter. The club has four regulation-size courts that have been lazer-leveled and planted with Bermuda grass that is maintained at a height suitable for croquet. Matches are held every Sunday, and newcomers are welcome. For more information, visit albemarlecroquetclub.com.



Co-op Adds Storage



A new outbuilding was recently constructed in Albemarle EMC’s pole yard to keep materials, such as spools of wire, out of the weather.

Bright Ideas Applications Now Being Accepted



Teachers, Get Ready!

Applications launch April 1!

NCBrightIdeas.com

Albemarle EMC is calling on local educators to submit their ‘Bright Idea’ for a chance to bring their dream classroom projects to life. Albemarle EMC will be awarding grants of up to \$1,000 to enhance educational experiences through creative and engaging projects. Teachers can apply online at www.ncbrightideas.com.

Albemarle EMC expects to award more than \$16,000 in Bright Ideas grants to local teachers during the 2025-2026 school year. Funding is available for K-12 classroom projects in all curriculum areas including art, history, math, reading, science, technology and more. Educators can apply as individuals or as a team and must include a budget, project goals, implementation plan and description of how the project will engage students and enhance their success.

Educators who apply before the early bird deadline of Aug. 15 will be entered to win one of five Visa gift cards. The final deadline to apply is Sept. 15. For more information and grant-writing tips, please visit www.ncbrightideas.com.



Albemarle EMC is at Your Service



Co-ops Advocate for Affordable, Reliable Power



Sen. Thom Tillis (left) greets Sen. Ted Budd during a meeting with representatives from North Carolina electric cooperatives.

Representatives from Albemarle EMC and several other North Carolina electric cooperatives recently visited the nation's capital to speak with legislators about certain issues of importance.

FEMA

Legislators were made aware of how important the Federal Emergency Management Agency is to the viability of electric cooperatives. As not-for-profit corporations, electric cooperatives do not hold large cash reserves needed to rebuild following catastrophic events such as hurricanes. Electric sector mutual assistance programs and FEMA disaster relief funding are essential to restore electric service after major storms or disasters. Electric cooperatives, as not-for-profit entities, rely on this assistance to effectively respond to these events, especially in small communities that cannot fund major restoration efforts. Without FEMA assistance, recovery times and expenses would increase dramatically, leaving residents and businesses without electricity for longer time periods and increase costs during their most vulnerable times.

Cooperative leaders stressed the need to develop a process to allow mitigation and system improvement during the

emergency period of system recovery. Legislators were also advised of the need to provide co-ops with the ability to recover interest on loans secured as a stop gap during immediate emergency relief. In addition, there is a need to continue the integration of technology that improves the data-drive process of documentation, validation and data management.

Elective Pay — Tax Incentives

Legislators were also asked to protect elective pay energy tax credits to promote development of cooperative-owned, affordable and reliable power in rural America. Until recent tax law changes, electric cooperatives were not able to access elective pay tax incentives available to most other businesses. Now electric cooperatives have access to elective pay tax incentives, also called directpay, that promote the deployment of energy technologies including nuclear, battery storage, transmission, renewables and carbon capture facilities. Retaining access to elective pay tax incentives helps lower the cost of investing in new electricity generation in rural America, enhances grid resiliency and ensures a level playing field for all utilities.

The Nuclear Production Tax Credit, established by the Inflation Reduction Act, is available to help existing nuclear plants remain competitive while also supporting the construction of new, advanced nuclear facilities. NCEMC is poised to receive \$18 million for Catawba-related NPTC in 2025, drastically reducing our annual operating costs – savings passed on to cooperative consumers.

Rural Utilities Service Electric Loan Program

Consumer-owned electric cooperatives serve 42 million people and maintain nearly half the nation's electric

distribution lines. Cooperatives meet that challenge in part with financing from the Department of Agriculture's Rural Utilities Service Electric Loan Program. Co-ops reliably repay these loans with interest to the U.S. Treasury, which contributes to reducing the U.S. deficit while supporting rural America. Electric loans from fiscal year 2023 netted over \$200 million to the U.S. Treasury. North Carolina cooperatives support continuing the appropriated RUS electric loan level at \$6.5 billion for fiscal year 2026.

Permitting Reform

Electric cooperatives are often subject to National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and other environmental permitting processes for projects that require federal permits or receive federal loans or grants. This can impact building and modernizing electric and broadband infrastructure, particularly as electric co-ops add capacity to meet growing electricity demand. NEPA approvals are also often required when conducting routine operations and maintenance work, vegetation management and wildfire mitigation activities across public land and national forests.

Electric co-ops support appropriate consideration of potential environmental impacts of projects, but the NEPA process has become unworkable and outdated. Congress passed important NEPA reforms in the Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2023 to improve agency coordination and limit time lines, but more needs to be done. The current NEPA process of virtually unconstrained reviews followed by extended litigation risk undermines electric co-op's ability to provide affordable, reliable and safe electricity.