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Proudly serving the members of Albemarle Electric Membership Corporation

Albemarle Sounds

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**Albemarle Electric Membership
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Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 
The power of human connections®

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

In-Person Annual Meeting Scheduled to Return



*The location of the 2022 Albemarle EMC
Annual Meeting will be the Perquimans
County Parks and Recreation facility.*

After two years of holding remote Annual Meetings, Albemarle EMC is planning to bring back the traditional in-person Annual Meeting of the membership.

The co-op's Annual Meeting is scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 10 at the Perquimans County Parks and Recreation facility, located at 310 Granby St., Hertford, in Perquimans County. The start time for the event had not been determined at press time.

“As the pandemic has subsided we feel optimistic that we will be able to safely return to an in-person Annual Meeting,” said Albemarle EMC General Manager Gary Ray. “However, if health and safety concerns arise leading up to the meeting, we will adjust accordingly.”

During the Annual Meeting, co-op board members are elected, and the general manager and board president give presentations regarding the financial health of the co-op as well as accomplishments during the past 12 months.

Members who attend this year's Annual Meeting will receive a cast iron skillet commemorating the co-op's 75th anniversary. The co-op intended to give out the skillets in 2020, but had to delay that plan due to COVID. Also being planned for the Annual Meeting are entertainment and a meal.

**Albemarle EMC will
be closed Monday,
May 30 in observance
of Memorial Day.**



Jones Appointed to ACT Board

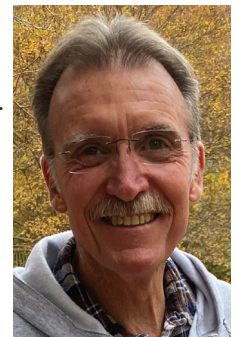
Bob Jones, of Pasquotank County, was recently appointed to a one-year term on the Albemarle Community Trust.

He joins ACT board members Jeff Proctor, Jean Bell, Linda Felton Burrus, Jeffrey McCoy, William “Billy” Copeland, Sandra Welch, Dale Davis and Robert Whitehead.

A subsidiary of Albemarle EMC, the Albemarle Community Trust is funded by members who voluntarily contribute through their power bills. Each month, participating members' bills are rounded up to the nearest dollar, with the difference going to ACT.

ACT grants are mostly used to fund organizations that benefit the community at large, such as volunteer fire departments and food pantries.

“We appreciate Bob and all of the ACT board members for performing this vital service for the co-op and our community,” said Albemarle EMC General Manager Gary Ray.



Service Recognized



Albemarle EMC directors recently received pins recognizing their years of service to the cooperative. From left are: Chad Mathews, five years; John Spence, 30 years; and Garry Meiggs, 35 years.

Meetings Held with N.C. Senators

Personnel from several eastern electric cooperatives recently met with North Carolina senators Bob Steinburg and Norman Sanderson.

The meetings involved discussions about legislative issues important to electric cooperatives.

Due to redistricting, the two sitting senators will face each other in the May 17 Republican primary. The primary will determine the representative for Senate District 1, because no Democrat filed to run in the general election.

“The electric cooperatives have been well represented by both legislators, and it is unfortunate that we will lose one of them,” said Albemarle EMC General Manager Gary Ray.



From left are: Chris Powell, Coordinator of Public Relations for Albemarle EMC; Gary Ray, General Manager for Albemarle EMC; Sen. Bob Steinburg; Laura Ertle, Coordinator of Public Relations for Cape Hatteras Electric Cooperative; and Paul Spruill, General Manager for Tideland EMC.

May is Electricity Safety Month

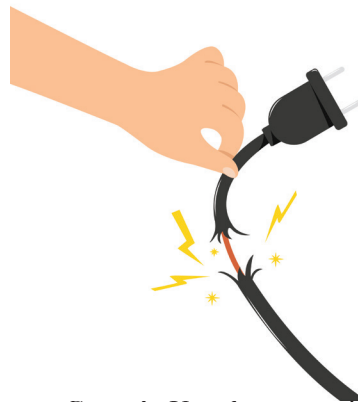
Ensuring the safety of our members and employees is a top priority year round. But during the month of May, Albemarle EMC joins other electric cooperatives across the state and nation in recognizing National Electrical Safety Month to promote awareness of the dangers of electricity and how to be safe when using electrically powered devices.

Electricity is an essential and dependable resource, but we must all be aware of the serious—and sometimes deadly—consequences of using electricity unsafely. It’s important we take steps to prevent the misuse of electricity.

Many electrical accidents and tragedies involve common items such as power outlets, appliances, power cords, power equipment and extension cords. The good news is that these accidents can be avoided through a few simple precautions.

Here are several basic tips to keep in mind when using electricity:

- **Unplug it.** Appliances, tools and other devices are still connected to electricity when they are plugged in. Turn off and unplug all portable electric devices when you’re finished using them.
- **Toss it.** Inspect electrical cords often for broken connectors or fraying, and throw away any worn cords to eliminate the possibility of shock, short circuit or fire.



• **Cover it.** Use plug covers in outlets if you have young children. Teach them never to put their fingers in electrical outlets or appliances, and keep cords and electrical devices away from them.

• **Avoid it.** Never go near a power line. If you encounter a downed line, leave the area immediately and notify your cooperative or call 911. Never place ladders, poles or other items near power lines, and don’t drive over downed lines.

Albemarle EMC is dedicated to educating people of all ages about electrical safety, and we encourage you to make sure that you and your family know about the dangers of electricity and how to use it safely. We offer safety information and tips on our website at aemc.coop and on our Facebook page.

Teachers, Apply for a Bright Ideas Grant

Albemarle EMC is partnering with outstanding educators to bring creative learning to life! Starting this month, teachers can apply for a Bright Ideas education grant of up to \$1,500 to fund innovative K-12 projects that otherwise would not be possible. Applications and more information about the program can be found at ncbrightideas.com.

Bright Ideas grant applications will be accepted through Sept. 15, but teachers are encouraged to apply early. Those who submit their application by Aug. 15 will be entered to win one of five \$100 Visa gift cards.



Bright Ideas Education Grants

Now accepting applications for the 2022-23 school year.
Apply online at www.ncbrightideas.com.

Supported by all 26 electric cooperatives in North Carolina, Bright Ideas grants have contributed \$14.3 million to N.C. classrooms, funding a total of 13,536 projects that have benefited well over 2.8 million students statewide since 1994.

Support for youth and education is part of our continued commitment to building a brighter future for the communities we serve.



Albemarle EMC is at Your Service



Get the Most From Your Energy Dollars

by Chris Powell, coordinator of public relations

After two years of conducting energy audits remotely due to COVID, I recently began performing in-house energy audits again. I had forgotten how rewarding it is to find the reason behind a homeowner's high electricity use. Being able to explain to a member why their usage is above normal arms them with the knowledge to have the situation corrected. Most recently, I discovered that a member's heat pump was not coming on when the heat was running. When this happens, the unit will automatically revert to auxiliary heat, which is the system's backup heat. Auxiliary heat (same thing as emergency heat) is the more expensive side of heating with a heat pump. The members went from a state of frustration to empowered appreciation. It felt good to help them, especially as we head into what appears to be economically challenging times.

As prices of everyday items such as food and fuel continue to rise, it is even more important to be energy savvy. Here are some of the easiest ways to squeeze the most out of the dollars you pay for electricity.

Thermostat

By far the easiest and, arguably, least-used way to save money is to simply adjust your thermostat. We recommend setting thermostats to 65 in the winter and 75 in the summer. Your heating and cooling system is probably the largest user of electricity in your home. I'll be frank; people are reluctant to adjust their thermostat outside of their comfort zone. If you can acclimate yourself to 65 degrees and a sweater during the winter or 75 degrees and a T-shirt during the summer, you can save considerably on your power bill. The Department of



Energy estimates a savings of about 1 percent for each degree of thermostat adjustment per eight hours. Turning a thermostat back seven to ten degrees from normal settings for eight to ten hours per day can achieve up to ten percent savings annually.

Ductwork

If you have ductwork in a crawlspace or attic, there is a good chance that you are losing conditioned air through leaks. On average, a home will lose 20 percent of the air moving through its ductwork. The majority of ductwork is sealed using tape, and tape will eventually fail. Also, rodents will chew holes through ducts, and some ductwork will fall, if weighed down with accumulated condensation. It is often a smart financial move to crawl under your house or climb into the attic and look and listen for air leaks. If you are not physically able, we recommend hiring a heat and air company to inspect your ductwork and seal it properly, using duct mastic and mesh tape. Mastic is a type of glue made specifically for ductwork. When combined with a reinforcing mesh tape, a seal is created that will get you as close as possible to completely sealed ductwork.

Sealing Penetrations

Your home could have several areas where wiring and plumbing penetrations are allowing outside air to infiltrate your home's efficiency envelope. These may look like small holes. However, several of those small holes can add up to one giant hole. Your heating and air system will then have to work that much harder to get that air to your desired temperature. These holes can be found in your crawlspace or attic. Simply look for places where plumbing lines or electrical wires are entering the home, and then check to make sure they are sealed. If not, use a spray foam to seal those holes tight. An easy place to spot a serious air leak is where a plumbing drain line in a crawlspace connects to a downstairs bathtub. Plumbers often have to cut an oversized hole to allow room for the drain line's trap.

Sealing Gaps Around Windows and Doors

Gaps around windows and doors are also notorious for allowing air to enter a home. This could be due to a home settling or poor installation. If you can feel air coming through a door, you can easily fix that with a piece of adhesive foam that allows for a tighter seal. If drafts can be felt around windows, they can be caulked from the outside of the home, providing a water barrier as well.

Get Started

Tackling all of these energy efficiency areas at one time may seem daunting. Instead, focus on the easiest improvements and go from there. If you would like to schedule an energy audit, visit aemc.coop or call (252) 426- 5735.