



May 2025

Proudly serving the members of Albemarle Electric Membership Corporation

Albemarle Sounds

is published monthly by

**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 electricity 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 1999.

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 these 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.

Retired Capital Credits

1999 remaining margins	100%	\$607,699.79
2023 remaining margins	2%	<u>\$43,479.31</u>
		\$651,179.10

Closed for Memorial Day

**Albemarle EMC will
be closed Monday,
May 26 in observance
of Memorial Day. We
honor our fallen.**

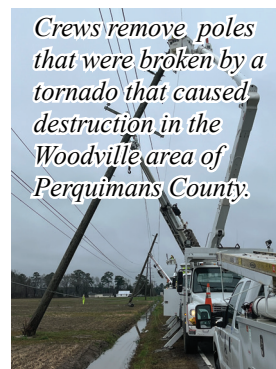
Tornado Hits AEMC Lines

A tornado that touched down March 17 in the Woodville area of Perquimans County caused severe damage to several mobile homes and knocked out power to the co-op's New Hope Substation.

The tornado broke three poles and wrapped tin around power lines causing an outage that affected about 1,500 members. With help from a contract line crew, the co-op was able to restore power by 7:30 p.m. the same day.

Donations for those impacted by the tornadoes are being accepted at United Way Perquimans Tornado 2025 Fund, which can be found at www.unitedway.org/#donate. Once at the website, select the **Area of Greatest Need** drop-down menu and select **Perquimans Tornado 2025 Fund**.

*Crews remove poles
that were broken by a
tornado that caused
destruction in the
Woodville area of
Perquimans County.*



Legislative Meetings Held



Personnel from Albemarle EMC and Roanoke Cooperative recently met with Rep. Bill Ward (first from left) to discuss utility worker safety and power reliability.

Representatives from Albemarle EMC and other co-ops recently met with state legislators to discuss issues of significance to electric cooperatives.

At the top of the list was the Utility Worker Protection Act. Utility workers perform many tasks including maintenance, repair and service reconnects and disconnects on private property that put them in contact with private citizens. During these interactions, citizens can sometimes become confrontational. If ratified, the Utility Worker Protection Act would raise the criminal penalty from a Class 2 to an A1 misdemeanor for assault of a utility worker who is clearly identifiable.

Reliability

As one of the fastest growing states in terms of population, manufacturing and energy-intensive data centers, North Carolina needs reliable, dispatchable electric generation to power its economy and the expanding needs of citizens. North Carolina's energy landscape necessitates a modified approach for how to manage unprecedented load growth. Replacing reliable, dispatchable generation resources with intermittent ones that do not perform during peak demand creates a risk to reliability.

Natural gas will continue to be a critical generation resource for the energy landscape in North Carolina because it is affordable, highly reliable and can be dispatched in real time to meet demand. Natural gas provides the resource certainty needed to balance the intermittent performance of renewable energy resources amidst population, manufacturing and data center growth.

Filing Period to Open for Prospective Nominees

At their May meeting, the Albemarle EMC Board of Directors will select members to serve on this year's Nominating Committee. The committee will nominate a slate of candidates to run for seats on the cooperative's board of directors.

Anyone wishing to be nominated to run for a seat has until early July to inform the co-op of their intention. Qualifying members who wish to be considered for nomination should notify Public Relations Coordinator Chris Powell by email (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 names and addresses of the nominating committee members they will need to contact. The nominating committee will meet in mid to late July. Up for election this year are board of directors seats for the counties of 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.

2024 Margins Allocated

Albemarle EMC recently allocated capital credits in the amounts of \$1,638,346.44 in operating margins and \$536,219 in generation and transmission margins. Margins are allocated annually after the books are closed and audited. Allocations are calculated by taking the co-op's total margin figure for the year and dividing it by the co-op's total patronage for electric service. This determines the percentage factor. This ratio is then multiplied by the total patronage that each individual member paid that year.

Bright Ideas Applications Now Being Accepted

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 about the program and grant-writing tips, please visit www.ncbrightideas.com.

The Bright Ideas education grant program is a shared initiative of all 26 electric co-ops in North Carolina. Collectively, Albemarle EMC and North Carolina's electric cooperatives have awarded nearly \$16.5 million in grants, supporting more than 15,400 projects benefiting close to four million students statewide.





Albemarle EMC is at Your Service



May is Electricity Safety Month

by Chris Powell, director of public relations

Electricity safety is a matter that Albemarle EMC focuses on year round. Even so, it's all the more fitting to pay special attention to safety during the month of May, National Electricity Safety Month.

One of the most important things to know about electricity is that it is always attempting to reach the ground. The reason electricity likes to flow to the ground is the earth has plenty of space and conductive materials to accommodate a lot of electrons. Because electricity wants to flow to the ground, it will use any available means to get there, including a human body. For example, a downed power line has the capability of instantly killing anyone who makes contact with it. Downed power lines should always be considered live. If a downed power line is ever encountered, Albemarle EMC or your power provider should be contacted immediately so that linemen can properly repair it.

Also, one of the most dangerous tools in your garage is the aluminum ladder. If a person is not aware, the ladder can make contact with an overhead service. The electricity will then use the metal ladder to reach the ground, harming anyone who happens to be in contact with the ladder. Of course, the same goes for any long, metal objects such as antennae, pool nets, etc.

An equally dangerous tool is a shovel. Digging into an underground power line can have a disastrous consequence. Before digging, dial 811 to have underground utilities located and marked.

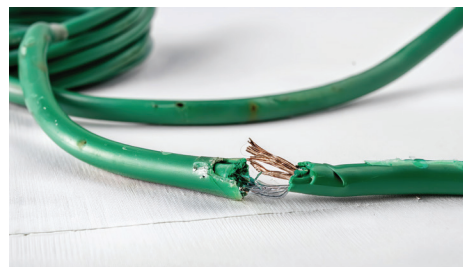
Anytime water and electricity is encountered together, you should be hearing warning alarms in your head. Simply coming into contact with an energized puddle of water is enough to cause great harm. Appliances that plug into walls should be kept a minimum of 10 feet from water sources. Also be on the lookout for electronic devices that could potentially fall into a bathtub or shower. If you live in an older home, you may have wall outlets that are not Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter (GFCI) protected. GFCI's sense when electricity is flowing to a fault and not the intended appliance. It then shuts itself off before serious harm can occur. These types of outlets are very common in areas where water is encountered such as bathrooms and kitchens. GFCI outlets can be identified by a small reset button located between the receptacles. The reset button enables the outlet to be returned to normal working conditions, if the outlet is ever tripped off. It is not uncommon for GFCI outlets to trip themselves off, because they have an extremely sensitive setting, and it only takes a slight variation in the electricity to trip the outlet.

Overloaded outlets can cause a fire hazard. Never plug more than one device into a receptacle. Also, if you have young children in the house, it's a good idea to purchase outlet covers.

When handling electrical appliances it is always a good idea to inspect the cord powering the device. If you notice any exposed wires, the cord should be replaced entirely. Touching a cord with exposed wires can have serious consequences because a person being electrocuted may not be able to let go of the cord. When electricity enters the body in large amounts, it causes all of the muscles in the body to contract at the same time. Your hand is operated by two separate muscles on either side of the forearm. One muscle contracts to close the hand, the other muscle contracts to open the hand. So when an electrocution causes both muscles to operate simultaneously, the muscle that closes the hand prevails because it is the stronger of the two muscles. The way to save a person in this situation is to turn off the power source.

When operating a generator, it is always a good practice to ground the unit. This can be accomplished with some heavy gauge wire and a metal rod that can be driven into the ground. If a short ever develops in the generator, the electricity will use the metal rod to travel to ground, instead of using a person's body.

These are just a few of the countless ways that electricity can be handled improperly. The best advice is simply to never take your safety for granted. Also please share this electricity safety information with the younger people in your life. Lacking the life experiences that adults have, youngsters often never realize when they are in a dangerous situation.



Damaged power cords should never be repaired by wrapping them with electrical tape. Instead, the entire cord should be replaced.