



November 2021

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  
Nov. 25-26 for  
Thanksgiving.**

R. Griffin, Doris T. Topin, Gary E. and Carol A. Mercier, Jeffrey M. Carter, Christopher E. and Jeannie Garrett, Joseph H. Forbes, Jr. and Benjamin E. Renfrow.

**\$100 prize winners:** Steve and Sandra Bravar, Richard L. and Mabel Dickens, Nicholas A and Linda Calabro, John R. Harris and Kenneth J. McNulty.

**\$200 prize winners:** John Huie, Donald C. Scott, Clarence A. Owens, Thomas and Paula J. Irwin, William A. Walton and Mark Daniel.

**\$500 grand prize winner:** Patterson D. Williams.

## Incumbents Re-Elected at Annual Meeting



Glenn Carey



John Spence



Virgie Whitehurst

A total of 2,244 members mailed in ballots to be officially considered participants in the 2021 Annual Meeting.

The Annual Meeting was held remotely by phone due to COVID-19 concerns. Fifty-one members joined the Annual Meeting by phone. There were no challengers for the open board seats. The following incumbents were re-elected to three-year terms on the Albemarle EMC Board of Directors: Glenn Carey, representing Camden County; John Spence, Pasquotank County; and Virgie Whitehurst, All Counties.

“On behalf of the board of directors, I would like to thank all of the members who took the time to send in their ballots to be counted towards the quorum,” said Albemarle EMC Board of Directors President John Spence. “I would also like to thank the members who called in to listen to the Annual Meeting.”

To assist members, a special web page was created ([aemc.coop/content/2021-annual-meeting-information](http://aemc.coop/content/2021-annual-meeting-information)). The web page includes addresses to the membership from General Manager Gary Ray and President John Spence. A recording of the meeting is also available on the web page.

All members who submitted a ballot were entered into a prize drawing. A total of \$3,000 was awarded. Congratulations to the following Annual Meeting prize winners.

**\$50 prize winners:** George D. Fetter, Richard M. Winslow, Sheena and Dennis Hunter, Margaret E. Werszila, Ron J. and Teresa Ben-Dov, Stanley



*Clarence Owens (left) was drawn for a \$200 cash prize at the 2021 Annual meeting. Presenting the check is Chris Powell, coordinator of public relations.*

# Ballots Certified, Counted

Prior to the Annual Meeting, the Albemarle EMC Credentials and Elections Committee met to oversee registration and counting of the ballots.

The Credentials and Elections Committee is appointed by the Albemarle EMC Board of Directors and serves voluntarily. The committee consisted of the following members: Linda Felton-Burrus, Alan Corprew, Dale Davis, Robert G. Jones, Ronnie Raper, Alice Stallings, Leroy Temple and Bob Wallace.

"I want to thank the committee for ensuring we had a fair and transparent election process," said Albemarle EMC



*Credentials and Elections Committee Members Linda Felton Burrus and Bob Jones count election ballots.*

General Manager Gary Ray.

Due to COVID-19 precautions, the election of directors was conducted by mail-in ballots rather than in-person voting. A total of 2,244 ballots were received. Albemarle EMC employees opened the ballots and registered each member, with members of the Credentials and Elections Committee observing. After each member was registered, the committee members worked in teams of two, using a scanner to record each vote. Board members Glenn Carey, John Spence and Virgie Whitehurst were re-elected to three-year terms.

## AEMC President Addresses Membership

*Editor's note: The following speech was given during the recent Albemarle EMC Annual Meeting.*



*John Spence, President of the Albemarle EMC Board of Directors*

On behalf of the Albemarle EMC Board of Directors, I would like to thank you for taking the time to participate in your cooperative's Annual Meeting. Out of an overabundance of caution, we have decided to again hold a remote Annual Meeting. Though we can't meet in person, please know that we look forward to the day when we can reunite as friends, neighbors, and members of your cooperative.

Despite these unprecedented times, I am here to tell you that your cooperative has remained productive, and I am optimistic for our future. The cooperative has grown to more than 14,000 members with total assets of over \$87 million. Our annual electricity sales exceed \$29 million, and our miles of energized line has continued to increase, now at 1,444 miles.

I'm also pleased to report that Albemarle EMC recently installed its second electric vehicle charging station. This charging station is now included in a network of North Carolina electric cooperatives' charging stations that is spreading across the state. We are delighted to be playing a part in creating the infrastructure that will enable the further electrification of travel. This project will also benefit our community by providing residents and visitors with one more place to charge their vehicle. As electric vehicles become more popular, the sales of electricity to power them will become an important part of the revenue stream for your cooperative.

For 76 years, Albemarle EMC has been a vital asset to our region. We are a cooperative with a heart. That care for community is most evident in the members who voluntarily contributed almost \$60,000 to the Albemarle Community Trust. Thanks to you, we were able to provide grants to local organizations such as food pantries, volunteer fire departments, education foundations, and many more worthwhile causes. During the past year, your cooperative awarded Bright Ideas educational grants totaling more than \$15,000 to local teachers to implement creative learning projects in their classrooms.

Our members are the foundation upon which the cooperative stands. None of what we do is possible without your support. Thank you for all you do to ensure that Albemarle EMC continues to play a key role in the prosperity and progress of northeast North Carolina.

## AEMC Inspects Meters

Albemarle EMC personnel have been inspecting meters in the Morgans Corner and South Mills areas.

Meter inspections are performed periodically to ensure equipment is in proper working order and that there are no potential problems with meter boxes.

Albemarle EMC meters are read automatically, and usage information is sent through the power lines to the cooperative. Because the co-op's meters are no longer read manually, Albemarle EMC conducts periodic inspections.

"In 2022, the co-op will continue inspecting meters in Pasquotank County as well as in Perquimans County," said Operations Manager Jody Parker.



*Kolby Jones, a lineman apprentice with Albemarle EMC, inspects a meter in the South Mills area.*



# Albemarle EMC is at Your Service

## Annual Meeting Speech Focuses on Progress



Gary Ray, General Manager  
of Albemarle EMC

The past year has been both challenging and rewarding for Albemarle EMC. We have done our best to strike a balance between safety and service, as we have navigated our way through COVID-19. Our office lobby remains closed. However, we have been able to use our drive through window

to continue to serve our members while creating a buffer.

For 2021, we again decided to hold a remote Annual Meeting. This was not an easy decision. We know how much we all enjoy each other's company during these yearly events. Because the majority of those who attend are considered the most vulnerable, we decided to forego an in-person meeting. However, each of you were afforded the opportunity to participate in the Annual Meeting process. Ballots were mailed to you in mid August that members could fill out and mail back to us. Also members could participate in a conference call during which the business meeting portion of the Annual Meeting was conducted.

Despite our cautious posture during the past year, we have remained proactive. We decided to cancel our 2020 Light Up Christmas Golf Tournament. However, we were still able to purchase toys for more than 500 less-fortunate children, thanks to the generosity of several businesses and sister cooperatives that contributed to the toy drive. We can't thank them enough.

We have hired several linemen apprentices during the past year. To assist them, we constructed a training power line behind our office that provides realistic work scenarios, but in a non-energized, safe environment.

I was very proud of our employees' response to

Hurricane Isaias, which knocked out power to about 4,000 members. Power was restored to all members the same day. We were also able to send five linemen to Alabama to help Baldwin EMC recover from damages caused by Hurricane Sally.

We celebrated another lost-time accident record, and we are now closing in on 3,000 days without an injury severe enough to cause an employee to miss work. This is an achievement that takes tremendous teamwork and focus. I could not be prouder.

To delay the need for the next rate increase as long as possible, we launched our Beat the Peak program. Members are alerted by text message when a peak time period of high energy use across our co-op is expected. Members are asked to lower their energy use during those peak times. Lowering the co-op's peak energy use puts downward pressure on your co-op's wholesale power costs, which translates to lower rates.

We were able to bring the West Albemarle Substation online, which will significantly increase capacity for much of Chowan County. The substation is a transmission facility that feeds the existing Edenton Substation and will eventually feed the future Bethel Substation.

The co-op's website was redesigned to provide members visiting the site with a better experience. The home page now displays more timely information. The entire site is fully functional and responsive on all devices. In addition, the site is TTY compliant. People who are visually impaired are now able to interact with the website, using screen readers.

This year we, again, were able to retire a record-breaking amount of capital credits, \$610,80.05! Capital credits are year-end margins earned by your cooperative. The margins are allocated back to the members, based on their power usage.

I would like to thank you for your continued patience and understanding, as we adapt our business practices to serve you in these unprecedented times.