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Proudly serving the members of Albemarle Electric Membership Corporation

Albemarle Sounds

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**Albemarle Electric
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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.*

**Albemarle EMC will be
closed Nov. 27–Nov. 28 for
Thanksgiving.**



Incumbents Re-elected to AEMC Board of Directors



*From left: Chad Thomas, Ray Albertson
and A.J. Layton were re-elected to seats on
the Albemarle EMC Board of Directors.*

At the recent Albemarle EMC Annual Meeting, 229 members participated to re-elect three incumbent directors to the co-op's Board of Directors.

Ray Albertson was elected to represent Camden County; A.J. Layton, Chowan County; and Chad Mathews, Perquimans County. The directors, who will serve three-year terms, were elected by acclamation because they did not face challengers for their board seats.

Members had the option of using drive-through registration or attending the meeting inside the Perquimans County Recreation Department. All members who participated received a cutting board, two-dollar bill and two box lunches. Those members who attended the in-person meeting were shown a video celebrating the co-op's 80th anniversary as well as

a video of Hurricane Helene recovery efforts in western North Carolina. Albemarle EMC assisted the western North Carolina cooperatives by sending two line crews.

Members also heard speeches from Albemarle EMC Board President John Spence and General Manager Kevin Heath.

Spence's speech focussed on the significance of the cooperative remaining in business for 80 years.

"From those humble beginnings, Albemarle EMC has grown into more than a \$99 million business that has become an integral part of northeastern North Carolina's success," Spence said. "Your co-op now has almost 15,000 members, 1,484 miles of line, a state of the art office building and a highly trained, professional group of employees."

Heath's speech included the importance of the 80th anniversary, the co-op's role in the Hurricane Helene recovery efforts as well as updates on the state of the cooperative and the power industry.

"To help hedge against rising wholesale costs, your cooperative has started to increase our owned-resources through our power supplier NCEMC, in Raleigh," Heath said. "Also, I would like to thank our state legislators Sen. Bobby Hanig, Sen. Norman Sanderson, Rep. Ed Goodwin and Rep. Bill Ward for their support of the Power Bill Reduction Act, which is estimated to save North Carolinians up to \$13 billion."

Members Win Big at Annual Meeting

A total of \$2,000 in prize drawings was awarded during the recent Albemarle EMC Annual Meeting. Fifty-dollar prizes were awarded to the most senior man and woman in attendance. The most senior woman was Myrtle Copeland, and the most senior man was Willie White.

Lisa Dockery was the winner of the \$500 grand prize drawing. The remaining winners were as follows:

\$200 winners — Lisa Harrell, Marta Colson

\$100 winners — Martha Harper, Donny Proctor, Alice Barr, Daniel Eure

\$50 winners — Theresa Stallings, Carlyle Sawyer, Johnny Corprew, Barbara Copeland, Thomas Blanchard, Robert King, Gladys Griffin, David Tedesco

\$20 winners — Brandon Winslow, Levi Yoder, Lois Hughes, Mable Stallings, Thelma Drees, Doris Lane, Duane Searle, Maureen Eckard, Mae Leary, Melissa Oliver



Members were offered rides from the parking lot to the entrance of the Perquimans County Recreation Department building, where the co-op's Annual Meeting was held.



Lineman First Class Drake Trueblood gives a prize to a lucky member. Whether members stayed for the meeting or participated by registering at the drive-through, all members were eligible for the prize drawings.



Staking Technician Ken Winslow hands boxed lunches to a member at the Annual Meeting's drive-through. Members also received a cutting board and a \$2 bill.



The John A. Holmes High School Army Junior ROTC provided a color guard for the Pledge of Allegiance and the singing of our National Anthem.

AEMC to Stop Paying Transaction Fees

Beginning Jan. 1, 2026, Albemarle EMC will no longer pay the transaction fees incurred when members pay their power bills with a credit card or electronic check.

Banks and credit card companies charge transaction fees when credit cards such as Mastercard or Visa or electronic checks are used to settle a transaction. Over time, as more and more payments are submitted electronically, those costs have continued to rise. As such, starting Jan. 1, members who use a credit card to pay their power bill will be responsible for paying their 2.45 percent transaction fee. Members who use an electronic check will pay their \$1 flat service fee.

Because of these changes, members who do not pay their bills with a credit card or electronic check will no longer be subsidizing those members who do. Members who do not use credit cards or E-checks will see no changes. Members can easily avoid having to pay transaction fees using the following methods: paying cash or check in person at our office, mailing in a check payment, or setting up a checking account automatic bank draft.

As a not-for-profit company, Albemarle EMC has a fiduciary responsibility to maintain the financial health of the cooperative. Albemarle EMC's goal is always to provide service for as close to at-cost as possible. This sometimes means making changes to ensure that the cost of service is allocated fairly.

Apply Now for 2026 Youth Tour

Rising high school juniors and seniors can now apply for the 2026 Washington Youth Tour.

The trip will be June 14-20. Students in Chowan, Perquimans, Pasquotank, Camden and Currituck counties can apply by visiting aemc.coop/washington-youth-tour-online-application.

During the trip, youth delegates will meet with legislators, visit the capital and other prominent landmarks as well as be eligible to compete for college scholarships. They will also meet other delegates from co-ops across the country.



Albemarle EMC is at Your Service

Thankful for Another Year of Service by Chris Powell, director of public relations



November — the month of turkey, family and thankfulness. This year, the employees and directors of Albemarle EMC have much to be thankful for. In particular, the cooperative reached its 80th anniversary of service to our region. In a world of hear-today, gone-tomorrow businesses, it says a lot when your cooperative can stand the test of time. For eight decades, the cooperative business model coupled with a supportive membership have made Albemarle EMC an invaluable asset to the area.

Safety

We are thankful for a year without a work-related injury significant enough to cause an employee to be out of work to recover. Safety is paramount at Albemarle EMC. We regularly have employee safety meetings as well as a tri-annual, surprise safety inspection. Equipment, work practices, safety knowledge and so much more are all scrutinized. Not all work-related injuries are preventable, but we have done as much as possible to minimize those injuries that are preventable.

Load Growth

Future load growth is another positive we can all be grateful for. Your co-

op will be adding new schools in Perquimans and Camden counties in about a year that will increase our commercial load. In addition, the Camden Plantation subdivision promises to add significant expansion to our residential load. And of course we expect the gradual, sporadic growth throughout our service area to continue.

Though we are a not-for-profit business, growth is still a good thing, especially when it is concentrated in certain areas. It is more cost-effective to serve a large subdivision with houses located near each other than a few houses located miles apart. Additional load works to slow the increase of rates, as certain costs are spread across a larger membership base.

Operation Roundup

We are also profoundly appreciative to those members who voluntarily continue to contribute to our Operation Roundup. This program funds the Albemarle Community Trust, which exists to provide grants to organizations that benefit our community. Grants have helped fund food pantries, volunteer fire departments, a women's shelter, law enforcement programs and so much more.

Educational Support

This year, we were able to award more than \$14,000 in grants for educational projects through our Bright Ideas program. Local educators can apply for grants to fund innovative classroom projects that, otherwise, would lack funding. These grants have been used to teach gardening, weather, robotics, English, math and much more.

Toy Drive

Due to the generosity of corporate and individual sponsors, we were able to raise more than \$20,000 through our Light Up Christmas golf tournament to purchase toys and to assist families in other ways for Christmas. Now in its 17th year, this charity tournament has become one of our main efforts to help our community. We work with local school coordinators who identify families who could use help. Co-op employees purchase the toys, then bag and deliver them to the schools. School personnel then arrange the delivery of the toys to the parents.

Members

We are thankful that members still see the benefit of a member-owned not-for-profit electric cooperative. Your cooperative has grown into a \$99 million business, which may sound large but really isn't when compared to companies such as Duke Power and Dominion Energy, which are multi-billion businesses. Albemarle EMC has more in common with a local mom-and-pop business. We often know many of our members personally, and they know us.

This personal relationship with our members is valued highly. What sets us apart from similar businesses is our customer service. When you call our office during normal business hours, you will be speaking with an actual person and not a robotized help center. Inquiries get our full attention and are addressed as promptly as possible. Members are the lifeblood of the cooperative, who make all we do possible. At every level of this organization, members are represented — employees, directors and committees. We are truly neighbors serving neighbors, and that is something we can all be thankful for.