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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.*



**Albemarle EMC
will be closed
Monday, Sept. 2
in observance of
Labor Day.**

Two Candidates Vie for Camden Board Seat



Lee Powell



Michael Whitehurst

Two candidates have been nominated to run for the open seat representing Camden County on the Albemarle EMC Board of Directors.

Lee Powell and Michael Whitehurst will contend for the seat at the Albemarle EMC Annual Meeting, which will be held Saturday, Sept. 21 at the Perquimans County Recreation Department, located at 310 Granby St., Hertford. At press time, Director John Spence faced no challenger for his seat representing Pasquotank County, and Director Linda Felton faced no challenger for her at-large seat.

A native of Camden County, Powell is a vice president and manager at First Citizens Bank, in Elizabeth City. He is a board member on the Elizabeth City Foundation, president elect on the Elizabeth City Morning Rotary and a member of the Camden County Planning Board and Board of Adjustment. He has a Bachelor's in Business Administration from Campbell University.

Whitehurst, also a native of Camden County, is an acute care nurse practitioner at Sentara Albemarle Medical Center. He has served as a volunteer for 27 years with the South Mills Volunteer Fire Department and is currently the assistant chief. Whitehurst has a Bachelor's in Emergency Medical Care and a Bachelor's in Nursing from Western Carolina University as well as a Master's Degree in Nursing from South Alabama University.

Members will have the option of voting for director candidates using a drive-through process or attending the traditional in-person meeting. **Your registration information will be located on the cover of this *Carolina Country* magazine. To facilitate registration, please remove that page and bring it with you to the Annual Meeting.** Those who attend the in-person Annual Meeting will hear candidates' speeches as well as reports from the cooperative's president and general manager. The reports will also be available at www.aemc.coop/annual-meeting.

Following the election of directors, drawings will be held for cash prizes. Members only need to attend the in-person meeting for the most senior-man and senior-woman-in-attendance prizes. Members do not need to attend the in-person meeting inside the building to be eligible for the door prize drawings.

Bylaws Relevant to the Election of Directors

Section 3.05 Order of Business

The order of business at meetings of the Members, insofar as practicable or desirable, shall be essentially as follows:

- (a.) Quorum report and acknowledgement of proper notice of the meeting;
- (c.) Annual Meeting minutes will be approved by the Board of Directors at the first meeting of the Board held after each annual meeting of the Members;
- (d.) Presentation and consideration of reports of officers, Directors, and committees, which may be presented in person at the annual meeting or presented to the membership in writing or electronically;
- (e.) Election of Directors or announce the results of the election of Directors;
- (f.) Adjournment.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Board of Directors or the Members themselves may from time to time establish a different order of business for the purpose of assuring the earlier consideration of and action upon any item of business, the transaction of which may be necessary or desirable in advance of any other item of business; provided, however, that no business other than adjournment of the meeting to another time and place may be transacted until and unless the existence of a quorum is first established.

Section 3.09 Proxies

Except as otherwise provided by these Bylaws, at any meeting of the Members or any adjournment thereof, any Member, including Members that are Entities, may appoint an adult Close Relative, who shall be 18 years or older and reside principally in the same household as the Member, or another Member to vote on the Member's behalf ("Member Proxy"). The Cooperative shall accept votes, as provided in these Bylaws, properly taken by a Member Proxy on a Member's behalf as the Member's vote. The proxy appointed by the Member must comport with the following:

(a.) It must be registered with the Secretary or the Secretary's duly designated registrar before or at the time of the meeting or any adjournment thereof. However, if such proxy is to be voted upon any matter the carrying of which requires the affirmative votes of at least a majority of all the Cooperative's members, the proxy must be registered with the Cooperative at its principal office during office hours on or before the third (3rd) business day preceding the date of the meeting or any adjournment thereof, as the case may be;

(b.) It must be executed by the Member in writing and designate the holder or alternate holder(s) thereof; and

(c.) It must specify the particular meeting and/or any adjournment thereof at which it is to be voted and must be dated not more than ninety (90) days prior to the date of such meeting or any adjournment thereof; provided, that, any mailed proxies not otherwise dated shall be deemed dated as postmarked if the postmark is satisfactorily evidenced; and provided further, that any proxy valid at any meeting shall be valid at any adjournment thereof unless the proxy itself designates otherwise or is subsequently revoked by another proxy or by the presence in person of the member at such adjournment.

A proxy may be unlimited as to the matters on which it may be voted or it may be restricted; a proxy containing no restriction shall be deemed unlimited.

In the event a Member executes two or more proxies for the same meeting or for any adjournment thereof, the most recently dated proxy shall revoke all others; if such proxies carry the same date and are held by different persons, none of them will be valid or recognized. The presence in person of a Member at any meeting or any adjournment thereof shall revoke any proxy theretofore executed by him for such meeting or for such adjournment thereof, as the case may be, and he shall be entitled to vote in the same manner and with the same effect as if he had not executed a proxy, unless said proxy had already been irrevocably cast. A person may vote as proxy for only one (1) Member on any matter.

Notwithstanding the foregoing provisions of this Section, whenever a member is absent from a meeting of the Members but whose spouse attends such meeting, such spouse shall be deemed to hold, and may exercise and vote, the proxy of such Member to the same extent that such Member could vote if present in person, unless some other qualified person holds such proxy in writing.

ACT Grants Awarded



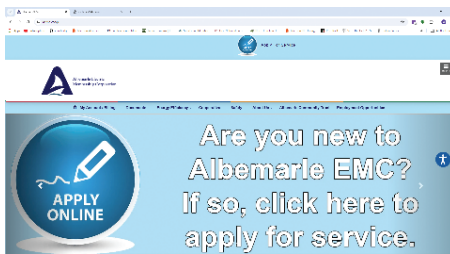
David Whitmer, director of the Northeastern Workforce Development Board, and Rachel Clipston, youth program manager, were recently presented with a \$2,000 Albemarle Community Trust (ACT) grant. The grant was used to provide funding for a Real World Simulation event hosted by the NCWorks NEXTGEN program. The simulation helped youth understand the real cost of living and how their education, career choices and lifestyle decisions affect their financial stability. ACT is funded by Albemarle EMC members who voluntarily contribute through their power bills.



From left: Grants Administrator Jon Hawley, Senior Center Coordinator Stacy Williams and Parks and Recreation Director Sean Clark were recently presented with a \$5,000 Albemarle Community Trust grant. The grant was used to pay for automated door controls for the Elizabeth City Senior Center's first-floor restrooms.

ACT grants are funded by AEMC members who voluntarily contribute through their power bills.

New-Service Applications Go Electronic



Individuals requesting a new residential service have the option of applying online instead of having to come to the co-op's office.

Applicants can simply visit our website at www.aemc.coop and click on any of the new-service-application links. Visitors are taken to an online form where all of the pertinent information can easily be submitted. Copies of drivers' licenses can be submitted through an email link.

Those who have had an active account within the past 12 months are not required to submit a new application.

"This is one more way we have leveraged technology to make interacting with the co-op as seamless as possible," said Erin Stallings, manager of member services.

Deadline for Teacher's Grants Approaching



Apply now!
NCBrightIdeas.com

Projects sponsored locally since 1994 by



Local educators at approved schools have until Sept. 15 to apply for a Bright Ideas educational grant. 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 2024-2025 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.

Cost-of-Service Study Results Expected

An independent consulting firm, hired by Albemarle EMC, has been conducting a cost of service study to determine if the co-op's rates need to be adjusted.

Results of the cost-of-service study are expected by the co-op's Annual Meeting, in September.

Albemarle EMC has not had a rate adjustment in over a decade, and the cost of wholesale power, materials and other expenses has continued to rise. As a result, Albemarle EMC has hired an independent consulting firm to conduct a study of the cooperative's rates.

Booth and Associates, based in Raleigh, conducted the study to determine if an adjustment is necessary to maintain the cooperative's financial health.

The cooperative conducted a rate study in 2020 that recommended the increase of the cooperative's rates. Albemarle EMC decided not to increase rates in 2020 to delay the next increase as long as possible.

Members may have noticed increases to their power bills through the Wholesale Power Cost Adjustment charge. This charge is used when the cost of power to the cooperative is higher than what is built into the rate base, which is what is being experienced now. A portion of the increase has been passed on to members so the co-op can remain financially stable.

Wholesale power costs comprise the lion's share of the cooperative's operating expenses, more than 60 percent. Since 2012, the year of the co-op's last rate increase, the cost of purchased power has risen 32.3 percent. In addition, other costs such as line trucks, transformers, power lines and insurance have all increased. Since 2012, the cost of installing single-phase service to members has risen more than 100 percent, and the cost of three-phase has risen from 75 to 84 percent, depending on the type.

Co-op personnel have been working to mitigate costs. Members are asked to help by reducing usage when beat-the-peak notices are received during periods of extreme hot and cool weather. Visit our website at www.aemc.coop or call our office at 252-426-5735 to learn more about ways to reduce your energy use at home.

Students Attend Basketball Camps

Albemarle EMC recently was able to make dreams come true for two middle school students who participated in the Touchstone Energy Basketball camps.

Elizabeth City Middle School student La'Kendrick Lee attended the Carolina Basketball School at the University of North Carolina. Currituck Middle School student Rhianna White attended the Wolpack Women's Basketball Camp at N.C. State University. The scholarships covered all of the expenses for the overnight camps, which provided a glimpse into life on a college campus. The campers stayed overnight in dorms, learned fundamental skills and received individual and group instruction from Division 1 coaches to enhance their basketball and team-building abilities.

More than 50 students were awarded



La'Kendrick Lee is accompanied by Hubert Davis, head coach of the UNC men's basketball team.



Rhianna White is accompanied by Wes Moore, head coach of the N.C. State women's basketball team.

the Touchstone Energy Sports Camp scholarships from North

Carolina electric cooperatives. Now in its 21st year, the scholarship program demonstrates the electric cooperatives' commitment to building a brighter future through continued support for education and community programs.