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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.*

Closed for Labor Day



Albemarle EMC will be
closed Monday, Sept. 5 in
observance of Labor Day.

Two Candidates Vie for Chowan Board Seat

Though there are three seats up for election on the Albemarle EMC Board of Directors, only one will feature a race between two candidates.

Joseph W. Goodwin and Allen J “A.J.” Layton were nominated to run for the Chowan County seat formerly held by the late Aubrey Tynch.

Ray Albertson was nominated to run for the Camden County seat formerly held by Garry Meiggs, who retires this month from the board. He will not face a challenger.

Incumbent Director Chad Mathews was nominated to run for the Perquimans County seat. He also will not face a challenger.

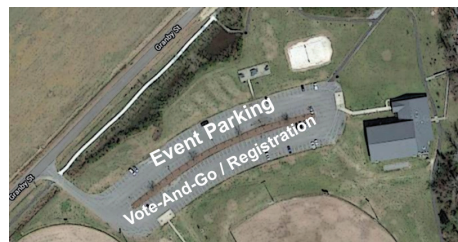
For more information about the candidates, please refer to this month’s Carolina Country dust cover.

“It is great to see the interest in serving on the board of directors,” said Albemarle EMC Board President John Spence. “We encourage members to participate in the Annual Meeting and vote for the candidates they believe will

best serve the co-op.”

The elections will take place at the co-op’s Annual Meeting, which will be held Saturday, Sept. 10 at the **Perquimans County Recreation Department, located at 310 Granby St., Hertford.** Please note that the registration start time has been changed to **10:30 a.m.**, and the meeting will begin at noon. Those attending the meeting will have the option of voting for candidates using a drive-through process or attending the traditional in-person meeting and voting inside the recreation department. Members who attend the meeting inside will be able to vote before or after hearing the candidates’ speeches.

Your registration information is located on the dust cover of this month’s Carolina Country. To facilitate registration, it is important that you remove your registration card and bring it with you to the Annual Meeting. Those who attend the meeting will receive a \$2 bill, participation gifts and more! Following the election of directors, drawings will be held for cash prizes. Members must be present at the in-person meeting inside the recreation department building to be eligible for prize drawings.



Members attending the Annual Meeting will have the option of either parking in the north parking lot and attending the event inside or drive-through voting in the south parking lot.



Bylaws Relevant to the Election of Directors

Section 3.08 Election of Directors

At each annual meeting of the Members, the Members shall elect each Director by secret ballot when there is more than one (1) candidate for a given Directorate District, and the Director for that Directorate District shall be elected by a plurality vote of the Members present, in person and by proxy. Notwithstanding the above, during registration, and prior to a meeting at which Directors are to be elected, a locked ballot box may be placed inside or outside of the room, auditorium, hall, or other space in which the balloting will take place. In such event, Members and their proxies may cast Director votes prior to the time the annual meeting officially starts by placing their ballot in the box. Votes cast in such a manner shall be treated in the same manner as if the Member or proxy were present during the voting process during the annual meeting, and, as such, are irrevocable. In the event there is only one (1) candidate for a particular Directorate District, balloting for that District may be dispensed with, and voting may be conducted by those attending the Member meeting in person. Drawing by lot shall resolve, where necessary, any tie votes. There shall be no cumulative voting.

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.

Longtime Director Retires



Albemarle EMC Director Garry Meiggs retired from the board of directors, effective in September.

Meiggs served on the Albemarle EMC Board of Directors for 36 years, filling one of the Camden County seats. A considerable portion of that time, he served as board vice president. During his tenure, he helped guide the co-op through a period of steady upgrades to its infrastructure. He said he is most proud of the improvements in system reliability. The co-op was able to build multiple substations fed by co-op power lines, instead of having to rely solely on transmission from another utility.

"When I first went on the board, there were quite a few issues with the power reliability," Meiggs said. "The co-op stepped up and put in our own transmission to feed the substations which helped reliability considerably."

While on the board, Meiggs remained committed to increasing his knowledge of the industry. By attending National Rural Electric Cooperative Association courses, he achieved the following certifications: Credentialed Cooperative Director, Board Leadership, and Director Leadership Gold, which he was the first on the board to earn.

"Garry is the reason that I am on the board today," said Albemarle EMC Board President John Spence. "He encouraged me to consider a board appointment to fill the unexpired term of Walter R. Lowry in 1991 and, for the following 32 years, it has been a pleasure and unique experience serving alongside him. His extensive experience and desire to do the right thing for the co-op will be missed."



Albemarle EMC is at Your Service



Welcome Back

It has been two years since we have been able to have an in-person Annual Meeting, and we look forward to seeing you!

Though the traditional meeting of members has returned, we have made some adjustments that will give it a somewhat different look and feel. Most notably is the location. Instead of holding the meeting at the Perquimans County High School, we have decided to use the Perquimans County Recreation Department. We believe the new location is safer because there are no stairs for our senior attendees to have to negotiate. It is also a shorter walk from the entrance of the building to the gymnasium, where the meeting will be conducted.

We have also added a drive-through voting feature. Anyone who does not wish to attend the inside meeting will have the option of voting from the comfort of their vehicle. Members who choose to vote-and-go will drive up to a station, register and vote. Those members will receive participation gifts, a \$2 bill and more. However, in order to be eligible for the prize drawings, members must attend the in-person meeting inside the recreation department.

We have also changed the schedule. The registration time has been moved to 10:30 a.m., and the meeting start time will be noon. We hope this new schedule will entice additional members to participate by freeing up more of the remainder of their Saturday.

Those attending the in-person meeting will experience a meeting format close to what many of you are familiar with. Prior to the start of the meeting, entertainment will be



All members who attend this year's Annual Meeting will receive a cast iron pan commemorating the co-op's 75-plus years of serving our members and communities.

provided. During the business portion of the meeting, members will hear about the state of their co-op. Also, time will be allotted to the two candidates seeking the Chowan seat to give speeches to the membership. Members attending the inside meeting will be able to vote before or after hearing the speeches.

The success of this cooperative is directly linked to the involvement of its members. For anyone who is a new electric cooperative member, a co-op is a not-for-profit business that offers significant advantages to its members. You are a member and an owner of this cooperative. As such, members have control over the co-op's activities. That control is exercised directly through voting at Annual Meetings and indirectly through the board members that you elect to the board of directors. Members have one vote, regardless of the amount of electricity used.

In many ways, cooperatives resemble other businesses. They have similar physical facilities, perform

similar functions and must follow sound business practices. But in other ways, cooperatives are distinctly different. These differences are found in the cooperative's purpose, its ownership, control and how benefits are distributed. They are reflected in cooperative principles that explain the unique aspects of doing business on a cooperative basis.

Another significant benefit is the manner in which margins or profits are distributed. Most cooperatives do generate earnings (referred to as margins). However, co-ops differ from for-profit businesses in how they allocate and distribute those margins. A for-profit business retains its earnings for its own account or, perhaps, pays them out to shareholders as dividends, based on the amount of stock each investor owns. In a cooperative business model, margins are typically allocated among the members based on the amount of business each member did with the cooperative. When margins are sufficient, the Albemarle EMC Board of Directors returns those margins to members in the form of capital credits.

Albemarle EMC appreciates and values its members. Cooperative employees work side by side with the members they serve. They are volunteer firemen, little league and soccer coaches, supporters of Relay for Life and possibly attend your church and sing in the choir. They are people who care about their members and communities. We hope you can join us Saturday, Sept. 10 to pick up your appreciation gift, dinner plate and let your voice be heard by voting in the director elections. We welcome you back!