



# Albemarle SOUNDS

April 2022

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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**www.aemc.coop**

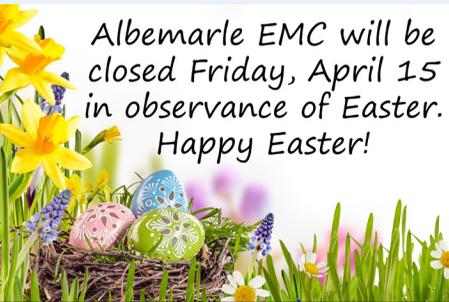
Outages:

**1-800-274-2072**

24-hour payments:  
**(252) 426-4419**

*Albemarle EMC is an equal opportunity provider and employer.*

*Albemarle EMC will be closed Friday, April 15 in observance of Easter. Happy Easter!*



**Have you changed your contact information recently?**

If so, please call our office at (252) 426-5735 so that we can update your records.

## Consecutive Record Capital Credit Refunds Continue

For the fourth year in a row, your board of directors is pleased to approve a record-breaking general retirement of capital credits.

Capital credits are the year-end margins earned by your cooperative. They are allocated to each member based on their electric usage for that year. These monies are a source of equity and may be returned to you when the co-op is in a sound financial position. We've 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 1996.

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

### Retired Capital Credits

1996 remaining margins	100%	\$443,674.86
1997 remaining margins	15%	\$93,841.74
2020 remaining margins	4%	<u>\$79,821.21</u>
<b>Total Approximate Refund</b>		<b>\$617,337.81</b>

shown above.

If you were a member of Albemarle EMC during these years, and are an active member, you will receive a capital credits refund in April in the form of 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. The credit will only be posted on one account. Anyone that received power during these years but is no longer an active member, will receive a check. This is why it is so important for you to give us a good forwarding address when you move off our lines.

## Bright Ideas Application Period Opens April 1



**Teachers, apply now!**  
Applications are now being accepted online at [www.ncbrightideas.com](http://www.ncbrightideas.com)

Bright Ideas education grants are now available to educators for their classrooms! We invite K-12 educators to apply for a grant from Albemarle EMC to bring creative classroom learning ideas to life. Find the simple, online application

and learn more at [www.NCBrightIdeas.com](http://www.NCBrightIdeas.com). Teachers who apply by the early bird deadline of Aug. 15 will be entered into a drawing for a gift card for their class. The final deadline to apply for a grant will be Sept. 15.

For more information about our Bright Ideas program, please contact Chris Powell at (252) 426-2586 or [chris.powell@aemc.coop](mailto:chris.powell@aemc.coop).

# April 11 is Lineman Appreciation Day

Not every young person goes into line work as a calling. But all who don the hard hat and climbing belt soon come to the understanding that they have joined a special group. To perform in this field, they must possess both brains and brawn, coupled with dogged determination. They have be able to push through adversity and work as a team to restore power as safely and quickly as possible.

Though always appreciated, these hard-working individuals certainly deserve a day in their honor. In our opinion, linemen are first responders. Twenty-four hours a day, they stand ready to restore power despite often treacherous conditions. Freezing cold snow storms, blistering heat and hurricane damage are

among the many challenges linemen often face. In addition to serving their own communities, linemen are also called on to provide aid across the state and nation, following major storms and other times of need.

“We ensure our linemen receive the best training and equipment possible to safely perform their duty,” said Albemarle EMC General Manager Gary Ray. “We all owe them a debt of gratitude.”

April 11 is recognized by Albemarle EMC and other electric cooperatives as Lineman Appreciation Day. Please join us by using the hash tag [#ThankALineworker](#) on April 11 and throughout the year to pay tribute to our linemen.

# Billboard Changed



*Workers with R.O. Givens Signs install a new Albemarle EMC billboard banner at the corner of Creek Drive and Highway 17, in Perquimans County.*

## App Available

Albemarle EMC members who like to use their mobile device to pay bills or access their account for other reasons can do so, using a handy app.

Called AEMC Member Access, the free app is available for download through either Apple’s App Store or Google Play. The app store you visit will depend on the type of phone you have - Apple for iPhones, and Google Play for other phones such as Androids. Once at the appropriate app store, you can find the app by typing “AEMC Member Access” into the store’s search field. Then simply follow the download instructions. Touching the icon will launch the login screen to the Albemarle EMC member portal, where members can pay bills, view usage data and update account information.

“We encourage members to download this app, so they will always have access to their account information,” said AEMC General Manager Gary Ray.



*Albemarle EMC’s AEMC Member Access app is a handy way for members to pay bills and access account information, using a mobile device.*

## Certifications Earned



*Linemen apprentices Chase Perry (left) and Cody Stokely completed 32 hours of instruction at Nash Community College to earn their Introduction to Electric Lineman certifications.*

## In-House Energy Audits Resume

Albemarle EMC has resumed in-house energy audits after taking a two-year hiatus due to COVID-19 safety



precautions.

Members who would like to have an energy audit performed at their house can schedule one by calling (252) 426-5735 and speaking to one of our customer service representatives.

Energy audits consist of evaluating the performance of electric heating and air systems, insulation levels, air penetration and more.

During the two-year suspension of in-house audits, members received energy efficiency assistance over the phone.



# Albemarle EMC is at Your Service

## Spotlight on a Director, Virgie Whitehurst

Editor's note: *This month's Spotlight features Albemarle EMC Board Director, Virgie Whitehurst. A retired school teacher, she is affectionately known as Ms. Whitehurst at the cooperative. For 34 years, she has helped lead the cooperative with the same attention to detail she expected in her classroom. The following is an interview that was recently conducted with her.*

### Where were you born and raised?

I was born one-half mile to the right of where I live now in Belvidere, North Carolina. I was raised one-half mile to the left of where I live now.

### What county do you currently reside in?

The county in which I currently reside is Perquimans County.

### Are you married and do you have children?

I am widowed. I have four living children. My oldest is deceased.

### Did you go to college and, if so, what did you study?

I went to college and graduated from Elizabeth City State University with a BS degree and from North Carolina State University with a MS degree.

### Who has been your biggest role model in life?

Looking back over the years, I realize my daddy was my biggest role model in my life. Though he was not formally educated and had to drop out of school early, he was a very principled person

with great integrity.

### Do you still work, or are you retired?

I am retired and not presently employed.

### Why did you want to serve on the Albemarle EMC Board of Directors?

I wanted to serve on the Albemarle EMC Board of Directors because I feel a sense of obligation to my community. They believed in my principles, truthfulness and integrity. When I graduated from college, I felt that I owed my community for my success.

and growing in order to better serve the member/owners who elected me to represent them. I take advantage of opportunities to take courses and workshops and to interact with other co-op directors.

### What is the biggest change you have seen take place at Albemarle EMC during your tenure?

The biggest change that I have seen take place during my tenure are electronic and technological advancements that enhance the proficiency of employees and staff who are able to perform in the field as well as on site.

### What excites you most about the electric co-op industry and your role in it?

I am excited about how our co-op has developed ways and means to continue to serve our members/owners during this great epidemic. It is rewarding to have some employees and directors who not only care about the health and welfare of themselves, but who are selfless and care about the health and welfare of those with whom they have to work and with

whom they have to be in contact.

### What do you see are some of the biggest opportunities for Albemarle EMC?

I see our biggest opportunities for Albemarle EMC in the coming years are to focus on hiring and maintaining the most efficient employees and utilizing innovative ideas that will be most beneficial to our member/owners and to our co-op.



### How long have you been a director?

I have served on the Albemarle EMC Board of Directors since 1988, representing District 5 (all counties).

### How do you keep learning and growing as an industry leader?

Though it began with schools, it was up to me to continue learning and keeping abreast in whatever setting I was in. With the cooperative, I saw the need to keep learning and growing as an industry leader. With opportunities available to me, I feel it my duty to continue learning