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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 Christmas

Albemarle EMC
will be closed
Wednesday,
Dec. 24 through
Friday, Dec. 26 for
Christmas and
Thursday, Jan. 1 for
New Year's Day.
Happy Holidays!



Apply Now for Washington Youth Tour

Albemarle EMC is offering two rising high school juniors or seniors the chance for a trip of a lifetime.

Applications are now being accepted for Albemarle Electric Membership Corporation's Washington Youth Tour. High school juniors and seniors can apply online by visiting aemc.coop/schools and filling out an online application. The deadline to apply is Monday, Jan. 26. Two students will be selected based on the quality of a written essay and extracurricular activities.

"We are delighted to once again be able to offer this amazing experience to students," said Albemarle EMC General Manager Kevin Heath.

The trip will be June 14-20, 2026.



YOUTH TOUR '26
JUNE 14-20
MAKING YOUR MARK
High school students, apply for a free trip to Washington, D.C., and experience a week you'll never forget!
✓ Scholarships ✓ Monuments ✓ Museums ✓ Legislators ✓ Friends ✓ Fun
A

Youth tourists from across the state will meet in Raleigh, then board a bus for Washington, D.C. While at the nation's capital, youth tourists from across the country will meet with legislators, take a harbor-party cruise, visit museums, memorials, monuments and make many friends. For more information, call Chris Powell at 252-426-2586.

Officers Elected



John Spence

Robbie Whitehead



Thelma Finch-Copeland Chad Mathews

The Albemarle EMC Board of Directors elected board officers. John Spence was elected president; Robbie Whitehead, vice president; Thelma Finch-Copeland, secretary; and Chad Mathews, treasurer.

AEMC Supports School



Albemarle EMC linemen Bobby Upton (left) and Drake Trueblood participated in Community Helper Day at Camden Intermediate School and Grandy Primary. Students learned about equipment linemen use to do their jobs safely.

Three Employees Promoted

Three Albemarle EMC employees recently were promoted to fill positions that became available due to retirements. The promotions will be effective Dec. 1.

Bobby Upton has accepted the Manager of Operations position. He has been part of the operations department since 1992 and a crew leader since 2009. He replaces Roy O'Neal, who will retire in early January.

Rodney Meads has accepted the position of warehouseman. He has been a member of the co-op's team since 2023. Meads replaces John Coston, who also will retire in early January.

Austin Cooke has accepted the position of crew leader. A lineman first class, Cooke has been employed at Albemarle EMC since 2015. He fills the position that became open due to Upton's promotion.



From left: Bobby Upton, Rodney Meads and Austin Cooke recently were promoted.

AEMC to Cease Paying Transaction Fees



Albemarle EMC will cease paying members' transaction fees, beginning Jan. 1, 2026.

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.

ACT Grants Awarded

Three grants were recently awarded to organizations that benefit the Albemarle EMC service area.



The Boys and Girls Club of the Albemarle received \$3,000 to expand youth programs into Perquimans County. The funding will purchase books, STEM kits, art supplies, athletic equipment and technology to for academic achievement.

The Albemarle Pregnancy Resource Center received \$2,000. The grant



will be used to purchase supplies for their Earn While You Learn parenting program participants. Supplies will include diapers, wipes, baby wash, lotion shampoo and diaper cream. The center provides weekly parenting education classes, mentoring sessions and monthly group activities for women who are pregnant or parenting children through four years of age.

The Dream Hunt and Fishing Program received \$5,000 to help support educational events, dream hunting and fishing trips, Outdoor Adventure



Camps, Exploring Surf, Sound and Sand Program and Exploring River, Sound and Woodland youth camps. The programs are geared toward youths ages 2 to 18 years of age and specifically youth with medical conditions, disabilities or those who have been identified by school systems as at-risk.

The trip funds will be used for lodging as well as food and travel costs for the families.



Albemarle EMC is at Your Service



Christmas Presents that Save Energy

by Chris Powell, director of public relations

Having lived now more than half a century, I have reached a stage in life I call “peak stuff.” I have accumulated pretty much everything I need, so if anything extra is going to be added to my life, it has to be practical.

Assuming you have folks on your Christmas list like myself, I have compiled a list of energy efficient Christmas gifts that could be perfect for that special someone.

Water heater blankets can be used to wrap electric water heaters that are located in unconditioned spaces such as garages. These



blankets are sold oversized so they can be trimmed to fit most water heaters. Simply wrap the water heater like a Christmas present, taping

the seams. These blankets will typically save between 4 and 9 percent in water heating costs. It is important to note that these blankets should not be used on gas water heaters due to fire hazard.

Low-flow shower heads are another great idea to save energy. By reducing the flow of hot water, your water heater has to reheat less cold water, resulting in a



savings of anywhere from 25 to 60 percent, according to the U.S. Department of Energy.

A smart thermostat is a Wi-Fi enabled device that automatically adjusts to energy-saving temperatures when you are asleep



or away. Geofencing enables your smart thermostat to know when you're on the way home and automatically adjust your home's temperature to your liking. You can also control your home's heating and cooling remotely through your smartphone.

Smart LED bulbs can be adjusted from a smartphone or manually and can adapt to your routines. They last up to 25 times as long as incandescent bulbs.



LED string lights are a great option for your holiday decorating. They use 90 percent less energy than incandescent string lights and are cooler to the touch, which reduces the risk of fire.

An electric slow cooker is a great way to avoid having to use a



large conventional oven to cook a large meal. A slow cooker will use half the energy of a conventional oven. For smaller meals, a microwave oven is another great option. Microwaves can use 80 percent less electricity than a conventional oven. They are also much faster, saving time in the kitchen.