



Albemarle Sounds

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Albemarle Electric Membership Corporation

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Albemarle EMC is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 
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ACT Grant Awarded



Perquimans County Sheriff Shelby White with his office's new drone.

The Perquimans County Sheriff's Office was recently awarded a grant, thanks to the Albemarle Community Trust.

The \$1,185 grant will be used to further develop their Drone Operations program. A Perquimans County citizen donated the Mavic 2 drone to the sheriff's office. The grant will be used to purchase additional equipment for the drone, including a smart controller, extra batteries and propeller blades as well as propeller guards.

"The drone and additional equipment will be used to aid and assist with any search and rescue needs for Perquimans County," said Perquimans County Sheriff Shelby White. "The drone will also be used for surveillance of complaint areas that may be hard to access and also to oversee dangerous situations to prevent a deputy or others from going into a harmful situation."

White said the drone will be available to surrounding counties upon request.

Linemen Recognized

Albemarle EMC Linemen

Crew Leaders
Roy O'Neal
Bobby Upton

Linemen 1st Class
Kevin Bailey
Matt Byrum
Aaron Pippen
Chris White

Lineman
Austin Cooke

Apprentice Linemen
Alex Aydlett
Jeffery Johnson
Chase Perry
Cody Stokely
Drake Trueblood

Albemarle EMC linemen were recently treated to lunch as well as a breakfast, in recognition of Lineworkers Appreciation Day.

The co-op arranged for a local food truck to provide lunches for the Albemarle EMC employees on April 12. In addition, Mt. Sinai Baptist Church brought breakfast biscuits for all of the co-op's employees.

"It takes a special type of person to be a lineworker," said Albemarle EMC General Manager Gary Ray. "They often work in challenging conditions and are certainly deserving of a special day of recognition."



Deadline for Prospective Nominees Approaching

At their May meeting, the Albemarle EMC Board of Directors appointed a nominating committee for the purpose of nominating a slate of candidates for this year's board of directors elections.

Anyone wishing to be nominated to run for a seat on the Albemarle EMC Board of Directors has until July 1 to inform the co-op of their intention. Qualifying members who wish to be considered for nomination should notify Public Relations Coordinator Chris Powell by email (chris.powell@aemc.coop)

or by addressing a letter to Chris Powell, Albemarle EMC, P.O. Box 69, Hertford, NC 27944. The prospective nominees will be given the name and address of the nominating committee members they will need to contact. The nominating committee will meet in mid to late July. Incumbent directors running for re-election are: John Spence, Pasquotank County; Glenn Carey, Camden County; and Virgie Whitehurst, all counties.

The co-op's Annual Meeting is scheduled to be held remotely on Thursday, Sept. 30.

Bylaws Relevant to Nomination of Directors

Section 4.03 Directorate Districts

Directors shall be nominated and elected in a manner such that the Board shall be comprised of two Directors from each of the four Directorate Districts, designated one (1) through four (4) inclusive and one Director from Directorate District Number five (5) as follows:

Section 4.04 Qualifications

To become or remain a Director, a Person must comply with or meet the following:

- (a.) Have the capacity to enter legally binding contracts;
- (b.) Be a Member of the Cooperative;
- (c.) Reside principally in the Directorate District from which a Director is to be chosen, and continuously and materially use, receive, or purchase electric energy from the Cooperative at the Member's primary residence;
- (d.) Possess a valid high school diploma or equivalent certification; and
- (e.) Must not have been convicted of a felony, a crime involving moral turpitude, or commission of embezzlement, theft, forgery, bribery, falsification or destruction of records, making false statements, or receiving stolen property.

A Member shall be disqualified from being or remaining a Director, as a result of a conflict of interest, if:

- (a.) The Member is a current, former, or retired employee currently receiving any benefit from an electric supplier or is the spouse of a current, former, or retired employee currently receiving any benefit from an electric supplier; provided, however, a former employee who is not a retiree currently receiving any benefit from the Cooperative and has not worked for the Cooperative

within seven (7) years of the date of the relevant Director election or selection is not disqualified;

(b.) The Member is a Close Relative of a current Director or of an employee of an electric supplier;

(c.) The Member is employed by, materially affiliated with, or shares a material financial interest with any other Director;

(d.) The Member is or has been employed by, materially affiliated with, or has a material financial interest in any individual or entity which regularly, directly or substantially competes with the Cooperative or its subsidiary or affiliates, including investor-owned utilities or municipalities providing similar services provided by the Cooperative, unless the person has not been so employed or affiliated with the individual or entity for a period of at least seven (7) years from the date of the Director election or selection;

(e.) The Member is employed by, materially affiliated with, or has a material financial interest in any individual or entity which regularly sells goods or services to the Cooperative or any Cooperative subsidiary or affiliate; and

(f.) The Member seeks or applies for employment with the Cooperative. Any Director seeking to be employed by the Cooperative must submit his or her Board resignation prior to such time as he or she submits an application for employment or otherwise solicits the Cooperative for such employment.

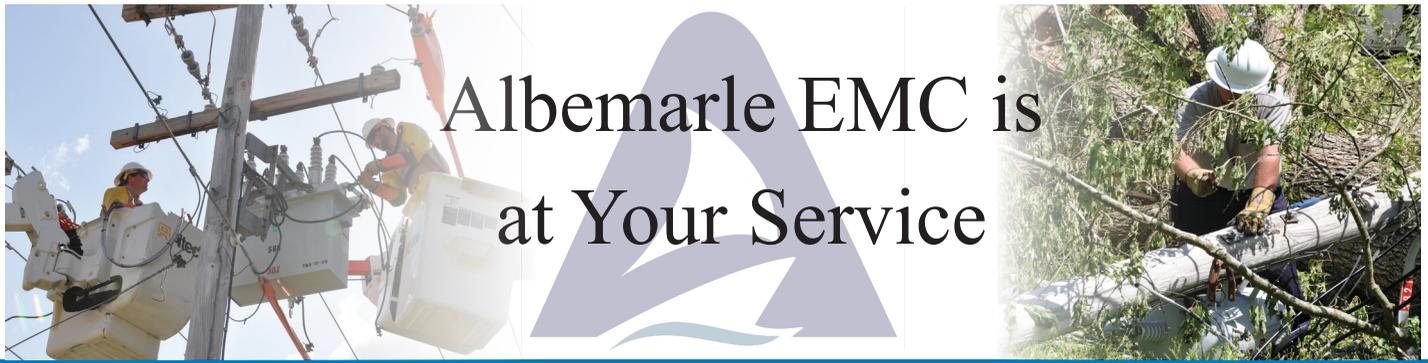
If it is determined that any person being considered for or currently holding a position on the Cooperative's Board of Directors lacks eligibility under this Section, it shall be the duty of the Board of Directors to withhold such position from such person, or to cause him/her to be removed therefrom, whichever be the case. Nothing in this Section contained

shall, or shall be construed to, affect in any manner whatsoever the validity of any action taken at any meeting of the Board of Directors, unless such action is taken with respect to a matter which is affected by the provisions of this Section and in which one or more of the disqualified Directors has an interest adverse to that of the Cooperative.

Section 4.05 Nominating Committee

The Board of Directors shall appoint, not less than sixty (60) nor more than one hundred and thirty (130) days before the date of the meeting of the Members at which Directors are to be elected, a Nominating Committee consisting of an uneven number of Members of the Cooperative, not less than five (5) nor more than eleven (11), who are not current Directors and who are not Close Relatives or Members of the same household of current Directors or known candidates. In selecting the Committee, the Board shall have regard for equitable representation of the five (5) Directorate Districts of the Cooperative.

At least thirty (30) days before the annual Member meeting, the Committee shall meet and prepare and post at the principal office of the Cooperative, a list of nominees for Directorate Districts to be elected, listing separately the nominee or nominees with respect to each Directorate District for which a Director must, pursuant to this Article, be elected at the meeting. The Committee shall include at least one (1) nominee for each Directorate District for which a Director is to be elected, including their name, address, and Directorate District of residency. The Committee's posted list shall also clearly show which nominees are opposed with respect to the same Directorate District.



Albemarle EMC is at Your Service

How Albemarle EMC works to provide its members with the highest-quality service possible.

Co-ops Discuss Issues with D.C. Legislators

by Chris Powell, coordinator of public relations

The crucial need for increased broadband deployment was one of several issues Albemarle EMC and other North Carolina electric cooperatives recently covered in a remote meeting with federal legislators.

Millions of rural Americans are locked out of the modern economy simply because of their zip code. Without access to broadband, these rural families and businesses are fighting an uphill battle in the digital economy. Recent research shows that a lack of rural broadband to unserved co-op households leads to \$68 billion in lost economic value over 20 years. Conversely, the economic benefits of broadband to rural America are staggering. Research shows that one dollar invested in rural broadband returns nearly four dollars to a state's economy.

The COVID-19 pandemic has put the spotlight on the outright necessity for accessible, high-performing broadband. The pandemic has prompted new modes for delivery of healthcare, education and professional services, among many other things. Simply stated, rural families and businesses will struggle to emerge into a changed world that depends more each day on telehealth, distance learning and virtual workplaces.

Albemarle EMC wholeheartedly supports federal initiatives that assist cable companies in their efforts to provide broadband to underserved rural areas. Recent policy actions have improved otherwise failed federal approaches to making broadband a reality across rural America. To build upon that progress, electric co-ops urge policy makers to take the following steps:

- Sustain investment in broadband programs, targeting federal resources at unserved and underserved communities.
- Improve broadband data collection and mapping to clarify existing gaps in coverage.
- Increase the minimum definition of broadband speed to 100/100 megabites per second.
- Demand FCC accountability to ensure that companies that win

Rural Digital Opportunity Fund auctions meet their obligations.

Flexible Financing for Rural America Act

Members of the Senate and House of Representatives have introduced the Flexible Financing for Rural America Act of 2021 to reprice electric cooperative loans from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Utilities Service. More than 500 electric co-ops in 41 states hold outstanding RUS debt. Electric co-ops could realize \$10.1 billion in savings from repricing RUS loans at current market rates. North Carolina would save about \$750 million. This common sense solution will allow electric cooperatives to reprice their debt, without penalty.

The COVID-19 pandemic has presented significant economic challenges for rural communities and electric cooperatives. Through 2022, the National Rural Electric Cooperatives Association projects that electric cooperatives throughout the country could sustain up to \$10 billion in losses due to increases in

unpaid bills and reduced electricity demand from industrial and commercial facilities. It's important for Congress to take steps to relieve some of this burden.

Many of American's electric cooperatives use financing from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Utilities Service (RUS) Electric Loan program to deliver affordable, reliable electric service. Unlike a typical home mortgage or business loan, most of these RUS loans cannot be refinanced to take advantage of the current historically low interest rates without paying a penalty. Nearly every American business has been able to take advantage of low interest rates without paying a penalty. This common-sense solution will allow the typical electric cooperative with RUS debt to save roughly \$1.5 million per year in interest.

We believe Congress should enact the Flexible Financing for Rural America ACT. This bipartisan legislation would provide needed flexibility to rural communities and their electric co-ops.

