



Albemarle SOUNDS

May 2026

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 Memorial Day



Albemarle EMC will be closed Monday, May 25 for Memorial Day. We honor our fallen.

Filing Period to Open for Prospective Candidates

At their May meeting, the Albemarle EMC Board of Directors will select members to serve on this year's Nominating Committee. The committee will nominate a slate of candidates to run for seats on the cooperative's board of directors.

Anyone wishing to be nominated to run for a seat has until early July to inform the co-op of their intention. Qualifying members who wish to be considered for nomination should notify Public Relations Director 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 names and addresses of the nominating committee members they will need to contact. The nominating committee will meet in mid to late July. Up for election this year are board of directors seats for the counties of Pasquotank, Perquimans and Chowan. The co-op's Annual Meeting will be held on Saturday, Sept. 19 at the Perquimans County Recreation Department, located at 310 Granby St., Hertford.

AEMC Assists Schools



Erin Stallings, Albemarle EMC's manager of finance and member services, explains grocery budget option to students participating in a Reality of Money event.

Albemarle EMC employees recently participated in an event that teaches students how to manage money after they graduate.

Held at Perquimans County High School, the students learned the importance of good credit and its effect on financial opportunities, the advantages

of higher education and the value of smart financial decisions to create a solid foundation for the future.

Sponsored by the State Employees Credit Union, the simulation event involved students moving through multiple expense stations where volunteers assisted them with making the decisions necessary to make it to their next payday. The budget decisions included expenses for childcare, transportation, housing, groceries and several other categories. Students were randomly assigned statuses such as married, single, children or no children, making their ability to stay within the limits of their income easier or harder.

"This was a valuable experience for students who will soon be experiencing life on their own, and we are thankful to be asked to participate," said Erin Stallings, Albemarle EMC's manager of finance and member services.

Bright Ideas Grant Applications Being Accepted



Bright Ideas
EDUCATION GRANTS

\$17 million awarded

16 thousand projects funded

4 million students inspired

Teachers, bring your creative learning project ideas to life!

Projects sponsored locally since 1994 by

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Apply now!

NCBrightIdeas.com

Deadline: September 15, 2026 | Early Bird: August 15, 2026

Albemarle EMC is calling on local educators to submit their 'Bright Idea' for a chance to bring their dream classroom project to life. The local electric cooperative is awarding grants of up to \$1,000 to enhance educational experiences through creative and engaging projects. Teachers can apply online at www.ncbrightideas.com.

Albemarle EMC expects to award

more than \$12,000 in Bright Ideas grants to local teachers during the 2026-2027 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 and must include a budget, project goals, implementation plan and description of how the project will engage students and enhance their success.

Educators who apply before the Aug. 15 early bird deadline will be entered into a prize drawing. The final deadline to apply is Sept. 15. Interested applicants are encouraged to visit co-op website to find details on submission requirements. For more information about the program and grant-writing tips, please visit www.ncbrightideas.com.

The Bright Ideas education grant program is a shared initiative of all 26 electric co-ops in North Carolina. Collectively, Albemarle EMC and North Carolina's electric cooperatives have awarded nearly \$17 million in grants, supporting more than 16,000 projects benefiting close to four million students statewide.

Co-ops Meet with Legislator



Representatives from eastern North Carolina electric cooperatives recently met with Congressman Don Davis. The issues discussed with Davis included economic development and the strenuous load data centers place on electric cooperatives.

New Employees Hired



Elbert Sawyer Jr. was recently hired to fill the co-op's maintenance technician position.



Jeremy Dent was hired to fill the co-op's apprentice lineman position.

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Albemarle EMC is at Your Service



May is National Electricity Safety Month

According to the National Library of Medicine, there are about 1,000 fatalities caused by electrical shocks annually. Additionally, there are 30,000 nonfatal electrical shock incidents each year. Twenty percent of those injured by electricity are children. Albemarle EMC places significant importance on the teaching of electricity to our employees as well as the general public. We offer a school program designed specifically for young children as well as a high-voltage demonstration trailer for older adolescents and adults. Though electricity safety is always important to a business that provides electricity, we think that May, National Electricity Safety Month, is a good time to stress the importance of electrical safety even more so. Below are some good reminders to help keep you and your family out of harm's way.

- Never use extension cords as a constant, long-term extension of your household's electrical system. Continuous use can cause an extension cord to deteriorate and can result in a potentially dangerous electric shock or fire hazard.
- Never plug a space heater into an extension cord or power strip.
- Never plug two extension cords together. Doing so can result in overloaded circuits, short circuits, and damaged cords, which could lead to fires or electric shocks. Instead of plugging extension cords together, consider installing additional outlets where needed.
- Do not run cords through walls, doorways, ceilings, or under rugs or carpet. If a cord is covered, heat cannot escape and can create a fire hazard.
- Make sure that your extension cord or power strip is properly rated for the device that will be plugged in and is marked for either indoor or outdoor use.
- Regularly inspect electrical cords and extension cords for damage.
- Unplug small appliances when not in use.
- Use an outlet cover or plastic outlet cap to keep children safe around outlets.
- Know what's below before you dig. Dial 8-1-1 to have your local electric or natural gas company representative mark the location of underground lines for free.
- Never touch or go near downed power lines. Instead, call 911 and report the power lines to local authorities.
- Watch for overhead power lines every time you use a ladder, work on roofs and trees, or carry long tools or loads. Keep kites, model airplanes, and metallic balloons away from power lines.



Electricity and water are a deadly combination because water is an excellent conductor. Never touch an appliance that has fallen into water. Unplug it first!



Before digging in your yard, be sure to dial 811 and have your electric gas and water lines located. It could save you money in repair costs and, more importantly, it could save your life.

- Do not overload outdoor electrical and/or extension cords or allow them to run through water or snow on the ground.
- Never use electric appliances such as hair dryers in bathrooms when there is a sink full of water or someone is taking a bath or shower.
- Toast that is stuck in a toaster oven should never be removed with a fork or knife. Instead, unplug the device and then the toast can be removed safely.