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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
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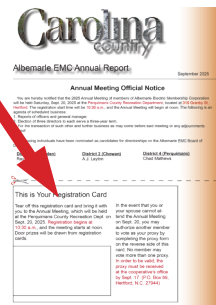
Annual Meeting Info on Cover

Please pay close attention to this month's *Carolina Country* cover wrap. It contains your personal annual report, proxy card and registration card for Albemarle EMC's Annual Meeting. The meeting will be held Saturday, Sept. 20 at the Perquimans County Recreation Department, located at 310 Granby St., Hertford.

Included in the annual report is a special message from Executive Vice President and General Manager Kevin Heath. The cooperative's audited financial figures and statistics are located on the outside back cover. The profiles of nominated directors are located on the inside of the back cover.

Registration begins at 10:30 a.m. Members will have the option of registering and voting for director candidates using our drive-through process or attending the traditional in-person meeting, which will begin at noon. Please detach the registration card on the front cover and present it at the registration table. Directors will be elected by acclamation for seats that are unopposed. At press time, no incumbent directors faced challengers for their board seats. Members may vote prior to or during the business meeting portion of the Annual Meeting. Members may also vote by proxy. If you are unable to attend, your completed proxy card must be received at Albemarle EMC's office by Sept. 17. The mailing address is P.O. Box 69, Hertford, NC 27944.

Your board of directors, staff and employees are looking forward to speaking with you. Attendees will hear presentations regarding the state of their co-op. In addition box lunches will be available, and prize drawings will be conducted. Registrants do not need to be present to win the prize drawings, except for the prizes drawn for the most senior man and woman in attendance.



Utility Worker Protection Bill Becomes Law

Assaulting a utility worker doing their job is now a more serious offense.

Senate bill 311 was recently signed into law by Gov. Josh Stein, making an assault on a utility worker a class 1 misdemeanor. Class 1 misdemeanors can carry sentences from 45 days to 120 days depending on prior convictions.

The law defines utility worker as "an employee of, agent of, or under contract with an organization, entity or company, whether state-created or privately, municipally, county, or cooperatively owned, that provides electricity, natural gas, liquid petroleum, water, wastewater services, telecommunications services, or Internet access services.

The term "readily identifiable as a worker" shall be construed to include the worker wearing, at the time of the assault, a uniform, hat, or other outerwear bearing the logo of the utility or communications company for which the worker is an employee of, agent of, or under contract with."



**Albemarle EMC will be
closed Monday,
Sept. 1 for Labor Day.**

Bylaws Relevant to the Election of Directors

Section 3.05 Order of Business

The order of business at meetings of the Members, insofar as practicable or desirable, shall be essentially as follows:

- (a.) Quorum report and acknowledgement of proper notice of the meeting;
- (c.) Annual Meeting minutes will be approved by the Board of Directors at the first meeting of the Board held after each annual meeting of the Members;
- (d.) Presentation and consideration of reports of officers, Directors, and committees, which may be presented in person at the annual meeting or presented to the membership in writing or electronically;
- (e.) Election of Directors or announce the results of the election of Directors;
- (f.) Adjournment.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Board of Directors or the Members themselves may from time to time establish a different order of business for the purpose of assuring the earlier consideration of and action upon any item of business, the transaction of which may be necessary or desirable in advance of any other item of business; provided, however, that no business other than adjournment of the meeting to another time and place may be transacted until and unless the existence of a quorum is first established.

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.

Bright Ideas Grant Application Deadline is Sept. 15

Educators have until Sept. 15 to apply for a Bright Ideas grant from Albemarle EMC.

Teachers can apply by visiting www.ncbrightideas.com. Albemarle EMC expects to award more than \$16,000 in Bright Ideas grants to local teachers during the 2025-2026 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.

"This is an excellent way to bring additional resources into the classroom that promote learning in fun and creative ways," Albemarle EMC General Manager Kevin Heath said. "We are delighted to play a small part in the education of students in our service area."



Bright Ideas
EDUCATION GRANTS



Now Accepting Applications

NCBrightIdeas.com



Albemarle EMC is at Your Service



AEMC Supports Students During Summer

by Chris Powell, director of public relations

While school is now back in session, there was no summer break for Albemarle EMC's support of local students.

In June, we were delighted to be able to send John A. Holmes High School student Treneria Smith to the Washington Youth Tour. Treneria was selected out of a pool of applicants because of her educational performance and quality of her essay. The Washington Youth Tour is a unique trip that provides access to Washington, D.C. and Capitol Hill that few will ever experience. While on the trip, Treneria accompanied students from across the state as they toured the

nation's capitol. They also were able to interact with legislators and aides, visit museum and other important landmarks, form and operate a cooperative, and become eligible for two scholarships that will be awarded.

Also in June, we sent one middle school boy and girl to basketball camps. Perquimans County Middle School student Shirley Augustine attended the Wolfpack Women's Basketball Camp, and Northeast Academy of Aerospace and Advanced Technologies student John Peel attended the Carolina Basketball School. Both students were selected because of their academic achievements and written essays.

The scholarships covered all expenses at the overnight camps, giving the participants a glimpse into life on a college campus. They stayed in dorms and learned skills that will help them excel both on and off the court. In addition, they received instruction from Division 1 coaches to enhance their basketball and team-building abilities.

In total, more than 50 students were awarded sports camp scholarships from North Carolina electric cooperatives. Now in its 22nd year, the scholarship program demonstrates the electric cooperative's commitment to building a brighter future through support for education and community programs.



John A. Holmes student Treneria Smith toured Capitol Hill while on the Washington Youth Tour.



Perquimans County Middle School student Shirley Augustine is accompanied by N.C. State Women's Basketball Coach Wes Moore.



Northeast Academy of Aerospace and Advanced Technologies student John Peel is accompanied by UNC Men's Basketball Coach Hubert Davis.