



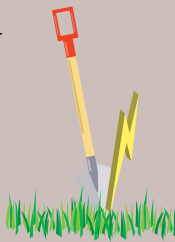
Albemarle SOUNDS

September 2011

Serving 12,000 members of Albemarle Electric Membership Corporation

Dial Before Digging

You never really know what's below the surface when you dig. You may chop right into underground power lines. In addition to causing outages, this is very dangerous. Before digging in your yard, have the underground electric lines located. Please give us three days notice before you dig. Call us at (252) 426-5735.



Registration/Proxy Card Located on Cover

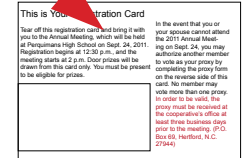
Please pay close attention to this month's *Carolina Country* magazine cover wrap. It contains your personal annual report, proxy card and registration card for Albemarle EMC's Annual Meeting, which will be held at Perquimans High School in Hertford on Saturday, Sept. 24.

Included in the annual report is a special message from Executive Vice President and General Manager Gary Ray. Financial figures and graphs are located on the outside back cover.

Director nominees are profiled on the inside of the back cover. For members attending the meeting, there are door prizes. Please detach the registration card on the front cover and present it during registration so that you will be eligible for prizes. Your board of directors, staff and employees are looking forward to speaking with you at the meeting. Registration begins at 12:30 p.m., and the business meeting will begin at 2 p.m.

If you are unable to attend, your completed proxy card must be received at Albemarle EMC's office at least three business days prior to the Annual Meeting in order for you to vote by proxy. The mailing address is P.O. Box 69, Hertford, NC 27944.

An informational video and music will be shown in the auditorium prior to the start of the meeting. Each member who attends will receive a \$2 bill and a gift bag. In addition, a drawing for \$1,300 in prize money will be held at the end of the meeting.



Members should bring in their registration card, shown above, so they can be entered into prize drawings.

Albemarle Sounds

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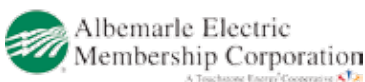
P.O. Box 69
Hertford, NC 27944
(252) 426-5735

Gary Ray
Executive Vice President and General Manager

Chris Powell
Editor

Visit our Web site at:
www.albemarle-emc.com

For outages, call
1-800-274-2072



Albemarle EMC to Hold Open House

Albemarle Electric Membership Corporation members who would like a tour of the new office building are invited to an open house, which will be held 4 p.m., Sept. 24, immediately following the co-op's Annual Meeting.

The recently completed office building is located at 125 Cooperative Way, in Winfall, which is at the corner of Highway 17 and Creek Drive. Members who attend the open house will receive a guided tour.

"This building represents a significant investment in the community, and we hope members will take this opportunity to see what an asset this facility is," said Gary Ray, general manager of Albemarle EMC.

What to Do if Election is Contested

No member submitted their name to the Albemarle EMC nominating committee to run against an incumbent director at the Annual Meeting. However, at press time, there still existed the possibility that someone would choose to be nominated by petition. A member has until 30 days prior to the Annual Meeting to submit a petition with 50 member signatures, requesting to be nominated to run for a directorship.

If a directorship is contested, the following is a summary of the election rules: Each membership entitles a member to one vote, even if a member has more than one meter. However, if a member has more than one account (e.g. additional business accounts), then that member will receive ballots for each additional account.

A proxy enables a member who will not attend the meeting to assign their vote

to another member who will attend. (A member can only vote one proxy for one other member.) Nonmember spouses can vote on behalf of their member/spouses, and they do not need a proxy to do so.

A person 18 years or older, who is not a member but lives in the same residence as a member, can vote by proxy for that member, but they need a signed proxy to do so. If the signature on the proxy is altered in any way, then that proxy will not be valid.

A person wishing to vote by proxy must designate who will be attending the meeting to vote for them. The signed proxy (located on the dust cover of this magazine) must be received by the cooperative at least three days prior to the meeting. A member who has assigned their proxy to another member has conveyed their vote and cannot dictate how the proxy holder can cast the vote.

Ballots will be given to the members during registration. The ballots for proxies will be a different color than the regular ballots to make sure only one member votes one proxy. Also, the candidates names will be listed alphabetically on all ballots. Members will be allowed to cast votes in a ballot box located beyond the registration point. Or, members will be allowed to cast votes during the business meeting portion of the Annual Meeting. The ballots will then be collected and counted by the credentials committee, which consists of individuals appointed by the board. The process will be overseen by Albemarle EMC's attorney. After the ballots have been counted and the election has been certified, the results will be announced to the members at the meeting. In the event of a tie, the winner will be decided by a coin toss.

Co-op Connections Cards to Arrive in October

In October, Albemarle EMC members will receive a letter containing a Co-op Connections Card and key chain fobs.

The connections card provides discounts honored by more than 95 national retailers such as Barnes & Noble.com, Best Western hotels and ProFlowers.com. Members will be able to research these discounts by visiting www.connections.coop. One of the most valuable features of the Co-op Connections Card is the pharmacy discount, which provides savings from 10 to 60 percent on prescription drugs. The connections card is recognized at 60,000 national, regional and local pharmacies. Once the cards are received, members can visit www.locateproviders.com to search for local pharmacies that honor the card.

So far, eight local businesses have agreed to participate in the program. The businesses are: Baby Signs, Swimme & Son Sunrooms and True Exposure Photography and Selig's, all of Elizabeth City; businesses Broad St. Guns, Colonial Credit and Personal Security Academy, of Edenton; and The Carriage House restaurant, in Hertford.

"The Co-op Connections Card is just one more way that your electric cooperative is looking out for you," said Gary Ray, general manager of Albemarle EMC. "During these tough economic times, Albemarle EMC is committed to providing the best possible value to its members."

Provided to members at no charge, the card enables discounts by leveraging the purchasing power of the vast number of electric co-op members across the nation who use the card. The one-time cost to provide this benefit to Albemarle EMC members was less than \$1 per member.

If you are a business owner and would like to participate in the Connection Card program, please contact Chris Powell at 426-2586.



Look for this letter with attached card that will arrive in your October mail.

Grant Deadline Approaching

The deadline is approaching for those teachers who would like to apply for a Bright Ideas grant.

Area teachers have until Sept. 23 to apply. Applications can be filled out online by visiting www.ncbrightideas.com. Applications also can be accepted by fax, mail or personal delivery to the EMC office, in Hertford.

The N.C. Association of Electric Cooperatives and Albemarle EMC are partnered in sponsoring the Bright Ideas program for local teachers. Participating public and private school teachers in Camden, Chowan, Pasquotank, Perquimans and Currituck counties will compete for \$10,000 in local grants by submitting a grant applications.

Bright Ideas is a unique program that allows innovative projects that otherwise would lack the requisite funds to be implemented locally in schools. Grants up to \$1,000 are awarded.



**BRIGHT
IDEAS**



At Your Service

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

September is the Month for Hurricanes

Never before has Albemarle EMC been so prepared to respond to widespread outages. The heightened state of readiness is directly attributable to the recently completed office/warehouse building. The new office is designed specifically for such an occurrence. The new building features a large generator capable of keeping the building fully operational for several days. The building also features enough space to accommodate additional line crews as well as a pole yard where considerable equipment can be staged. The building has a kitchen to feed workers as well as showers and the ability for laundry facilities. In short, we are ready.

The employees of Albemarle EMC always take this time of year seriously, keeping an extremely close watch on the weather. If a hurricane appears likely to threaten our area, numerous actions take place to ensure we are prepared to have the lights back on as soon as possible. Rooms are reserved at local hotels, and arrangements are made at local dining facilities for the possibility of inbound line crews from other co-ops. A few days of food and water are stockpiled. We fuel up chain saws, trucks and our backup generator. Extra line and transformers may be ordered.

A category 1 hurricane would do the kind of extensive damage that can be considered more of a prolonged nuisance. A category 5 hurricane on the other hand would be akin to a nuclear bomb detonation. You may recall that when Hurricane Andrew, a category 5 storm, hit Homestead Florida in 1992 it killed 15 people, leveled miles and miles of neighborhoods and left about a quarter of a million people homeless.

Much of Albemarle EMC's service territory is in flat open terrain, but some lines go through wooded areas. Because of that, high winds from a hurricane have the potential to do serious damage, blowing over utility poles and pushing trees into lines. If a hurricane of the less dangerous sort hits us, employees will typically remain at work, monitoring outages and preparing to begin the recovery process as soon as the storm passes over. In the event an extremely dangerous storm heads our way, Albemarle EMC employees will ride the storm out with their families or move to a safer area, but will return to work as soon as possible after the storm has passed. If the Albemarle EMC office is ever destroyed by a hurricane, we have a plan to coordinate restoration work either from a neighboring cooperative or our state office in Raleigh until temporary offices can be established back in our service area.

Once high winds have subsided to a point that it is safe to dispatch workers, co-op personnel will work diligently to restore power as quickly as possible. The linemen will be dispatched in a systematic way, restoring the main transmission lines first, then working on the distribution lines that will restore power to the most people. People who live in a high-density area near a substation or transmission line will typically have their power restored sooner than a person who lives at the end of the line in an isolated location.

In case of prolonged outages, Albemarle EMC members should be prepared. If you have a generator, we urge caution. Generators should never be operated inside a house or garage because of the danger of carbon monoxide poisoning.

Also, connecting a generator to the main electrical supply for your house requires the services of a licensed electrician. A properly installed transfer switch that does not allow the generator to feed back onto the utility's distribution system is critical if you plan on connecting the generator to your home.

What You Should Do Prior to a Hurricane

- Evacuate if told to do so.
- Get cash; after a hurricane, banks and ATMs may be temporarily closed.
- Before a storm threatens, make plans to take care of your pets.
- Notify family and friends of your plans.
- Map out your route, using roads specified by local authorities.
- Make a disaster kit with three days of food water, medical supplies, flashlights, matches, etc.
- Fill your car with gasoline.
- Move valuables to upper floors.
- Secure your home before leaving. Board up windows and glass doors, anchor loose yard objects or bring them inside and lock your doors.
- Make sure all of your insurance information is in order.