

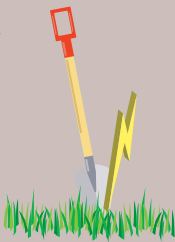


July 2009

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.



## Albemarle EMC Achieves High Safety Score



*Lineman Roy O'Neal places a line hose over a power line. The line hose helps to prevent lineman from contacting a power line.*

Albemarle EMC scored a 98 out of a possible 100 on the recent safety accreditation inspection.

This marks the 11th safety accreditation in a row for Albemarle EMC. The Rural Electric Safety Accreditation Program is administered every three years by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. It is one of the few programs in the country that provides a management tool for a continuous safety and loss-control assessment.

The three-part inspection consists of a prepared application, an on-site field observation and the submittal of the application and observation forms for review. In order to become accredited, a co-op must score at least a 70.

"We promote a culture of safety every day at Albemarle EMC," said Jimmy Keeter, manager of operations. "The employees deserve the credit for achieving such a high accreditation score."

## Albemarle Sounds

is published monthly by  
Albemarle Electric Membership  
Corporation

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

**Brad Furr**  
Executive Vice President and  
General Manager

**Chris Powell**  
Editor

Visit our Web site at:  
[www.albemarle-emc.com](http://www.albemarle-emc.com)

For outages, call  
**1-800-274-2072**

## Bright Ideas Applications Available Online

Local teachers can now visit the Bright Ideas Web site, [www.ncbrightideas.com](http://www.ncbrightideas.com), and apply for grants from Albemarle EMC.

The N.C. Association of Electric Cooperatives and Albemarle EMC cosponsor the Bright Ideas program for local teachers. Public and private school teachers in Camden, Chowan, Pasquotank and Perquimans counties will compete for \$10,000 in local grants by submitting a grant application.

The deadline for submitting grant applications is Sept. 18. Teachers who submit grant applications prior to Aug. 17th will be entered into a special drawing for a \$500 gift card to purchase items for their classroom.

## Closed for Independence Day

Albemarle EMC's office will be closed Friday, July 3rd.  
Happy birthday America!

# Nominating Committee Appointed

The Albemarle EMC Board of Directors has appointed a committee to nominate a slate of directors to be presented at the 2009 Annual Meeting for members, which will be held Sept. 19 at the Perquimans County High School, in Hertford. Registration begins at 12:30 p.m. Director seats that are up for election this year and the names of the incumbents are:

- District 1 (Camden) Glenn Carey
- District 3 (Pasquotank) John Spence
- District 5 (All Counties) Virgine Whitehurst

## The 2009 nominating committee members for Camden, Chowan, Pasquotank and Perquimans are:

- Mr. William S. Hale, Sr.  
201 Duchess Lane  
Elizabeth City, NC 27909
- Mr. Paul C. Williams, Jr.  
181 Schooner Landing Drive  
Edenton, NC 27932
- Mr. Wayne Hurdle  
119 Wiggins Road  
Hertford, NC 27944
- Mr. Robert Whitehead, Jr.  
1354 Lynchs Corner Road  
Elizabeth City, NC 27909
- Ms. Tavonda Jordan-Fields  
219 Louis Spivey Road  
Belvidere, NC 27919
- Ms. Carolyn Gaye Howell  
138 Howells Lane  
Hertford, NC 27944
- Mr. Lloyd McCoy  
355 Old Swamp Road  
South Mills, NC 27976

## Summary of Bylaws

An annual meeting of the members shall be held during September or October of each year, at such place in one of the North Carolina counties served by the cooperative, as determined by the board of directors to elect directors and to hear reports and other business. Notice of such meeting must be made to members no less than 15 nor more than 40 days before the meeting date.

An attendance of at least 1.25 percent of the total members must be present in order to conduct the business of the cooperative. If less than a quorum is present, a majority of those present in person may adjourn the meeting to another time and date at least 60 days later.

The members shall elect directors at each legal meeting by secret ballot, if an election is contested. The business and affairs of the cooperative shall be managed by a board of nine directors who shall exercise all the powers of the cooperative except such as are by law or otherwise reserved to the members.

Any person serving on the board must meet certain qualifications. No person shall be eligible to become or remain a director of the cooperative who is a close relative of an incumbent director or of an employee of the cooperative, or is not a member of the cooperative and receiving service at his primary residential abode. No person without a high school diploma or the equivalent thereof shall be eligible to become a director.

Furthermore, no person shall be eligible to become a director of the cooperative who is or was previously employed by an electric supplier and is currently receiving any benefit from an electric supplier, or who is or was previously employed by, or worked primarily as a consultant to any other electric, telephone, natural gas, or other utility company, including generation companies and power marketers, or any trade association or governmental agency or entity that deals with utility services including, but not limited to, other electric membership corporations, investor-owned utilities, or municipal utility systems, regardless of the length of such employment and regardless of the reason(s) for leaving or terminating such employment.

Directors shall be so nominated and elected that the board shall be comprised as follows: Nominations for the board of directors shall be made by a nominating committee of members appointed by the board no less than 60 days or more than 120 days before the date of the meeting. The committee shall consist of an uneven number of

members, not less than five nor more than 11, who are not incumbent directors or close relatives of incumbent directors. The committee shall be appointed so as to have two representatives from District 1 through 4. At least 30 days before the meeting, the committee shall prepare and post at the office a list of nominations for directors to be elected. At least one nominee for each director shall be made and shall include the respective districts. Any 50 or more members acting together over their signature, not less than 15 days prior to the meeting, may make additional nominations that the secretary shall also post.

Directors shall be elected to three-year terms. A director may be

Directorate District No.	Number of Directors	County
1	2	Camden
2	2	Chowan
3	2	Pasquotank
4	2	Perquimans
5	1	All Counties Reserved

removed from office if a member brings charges against him/her in writing with a petition by 3 percent of the members. In such case, a meeting of the members must be held, evidence presented by both parties, and a vote of the members shall decide the outcome.

A Credentials and Election Committee consisting of an uneven number of 4 to 11 members who are

not incumbent directors or are not close relatives or members of the same household of existing directors or known candidates for directors, shall be appointed by the board at least 30 days prior to the meeting. The committee shall pass upon all questions with respect to registration of members in person or by proxy and to count all ballots cast in the election.

Each member shall have one vote. A designated member representative may represent an association or corporate member. All questions shall be decided by a majority of the members voting in person or by proxy, except as stipulated by law or otherwise. A person may vote as proxy for an unlimited number of members on any matter that requires the affirmative votes of a clear majority of all the cooperative's members. But no person shall vote as proxy for more than one member on any other matter, such as the election of directors. The proxy must be registered with the cooperative at its principal office during office hours on or before the third business day preceding the date of the meeting or any adjournment thereof, as the case may be.

Any member who desires to ask a question during the annual meeting must submit their inquiry in writing at the cooperative's main office, located at 159 Creek Drive, Hertford, N.C. no later than 10 days prior to the published annual meeting date.



## At Your Service

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

### Albemarle EMC Plans New Office Building

Barring any unforeseen obstacles, Albemarle EMC could begin construction of a new office building within the next 12 months. The new building will be located on the corner of Highway 17 and Creek Road in Perquimans County.

It will replace the current building, which was built in 1968. As the number of co-op members has grown, so has the co-op's need for more office space, parking space, equipment storage and everything else that goes into running an electric cooperative.

Instead of expanding the current location, the new office will be located a few miles away on the same road. Plans for the new office call for it to be 20,000 square feet with an attached 40,000-square-foot warehouse and pole yard. The new office will be designed in a way to provide maximum accessibility to co-op members. The new building will have two drive-through lanes so members can more quickly pay bills from the comfort of their own vehicle.

The new warehouse will be designed to house a majority of the co-op's equipment indoors. Items such as wire and lights will be stored in the warehouse, out of the elements. Also, the warehouse will have bays to store bucket trucks, trenchers and other heavy equipment. This machinery represents a significant investment, and it makes sense to keep it out of the elements as much as possible.

In addition, the new office will be

located on 38.5 acres of land. The tract of land will enable the co-op to continue to grow for many years. The amount of land is needed to stage large amounts of equipment during a natural disaster.

Given the current economic climate, some may wonder if now is the best time to embark on a major construction project. The fact is that we need the additional office capacity, regardless of where we are in the business cycle. Moreover, an economic contraction is typically the best time to let bids, because labor and material costs are lower than what they would be during an economic boom. That said, we are in no way trying to time the market. Construction of a new office building is part of a long-range planning process that began several years ago.

Part of that decision-making process included looking at other possible locations for the new office. Instead of moving the office to another county, the Albemarle EMC board and staff decided that it was important to remain close to the current geographic location, if feasible, said Brad Furr, general manager of Albemarle EMC.

"The co-op has a long-standing relationship with the Town of Winfall and Perquimans County and it was important for that to continue," Furr said. "If Albemarle EMC had moved to another town or county, the tax base of Perquimans County and the Town of Winfall would have been significantly affected."

Some also may wonder if the building will dramatically raise their electricity rates. The new building is a capital investment, so it will have some upward pressure on rates, just like the construction of any new substation or transmission line project will have. However, the main driver of electricity rates is and will continue to be wholesale power cost, what Albemarle EMC must pay for electricity before selling it retail to members. Typically, wholesale power cost accounts for more than 60 percent of the co-op's annual operating budget.

As Albemarle EMC's membership grows, so must the co-op's ability to serve that membership. The employees and board of directors remain committed to the wise stewardship of your electric cooperative. By making prudent investments now, Albemarle EMC will be well positioned to provide affordable, reliable electricity into the foreseeable future.

