

NEWS



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Manager's Message:

Five Reasons We Love Serving Our Members

February may be the shortest month, but it's packed with special observances like Presidents' Day, Black History Month and Valentine's Day, in addition to a host of unofficial "national" days you've probably never heard of like "National Tater Tot Day." But they all have something in common. They were created to draw attention to a particular issue or theme.

Valentine's Day may seem like an observance originally created by a greeting card company, but over time, it's become a widely celebrated day generating millions of dollars spent on flowers, candy and of course, greeting cards professing our love. But Valentine's Day isn't just for the lovebirds. It's also the perfect time to let our friends, family, co-workers and other special people in our lives know we care about them—with or without a store-bought greeting card.

So, in that vein, we've created our list of top five reasons why we love serving you, the members of Tri-County EMC.

- **We love serving our members because without you, the co-op wouldn't exist.** Our purpose is to provide you with reliable, responsible and safe electricity. Simply put, Tri-County EMC exists to serve you. That's why we were formed in 1940, to bring power to our local area when for-profit utilities would not.
- **You enable us to complete our mission by supporting our efforts to give back.** A major part of our mission is to serve our community and look after the greater good. With your assistance, we're able to help the most vulnerable members of our community and assist local non-profit organizations through our Operation Round-Up program.
- **Members of our co-op also serve on the board of directors.** They provide guidance for setting co-op priorities and helping make big decisions. Because our

board members live in the area, they're able to serve as the pulse of the larger community and identify immediate and long-term needs. The broader co-op membership provides helpful input through their vote on director elections and by weighing in on co-op and community issues.

- **You help us get it right. Tri-County EMC members are great about keeping us in the know.** We do our best to avoid power outages, but Mother Nature can occasionally throw us a curveball; our members are quick to report any power disruptions and are patient as our crews work to safely restore power. We know outages are frustrating, and your support as we work through storms means so much to our employees. We also appreciate your feedback—your opinions are critical for the co-op's success, and we thank you for that.
- **You and other Tri-County EMC members make up the community we serve—and for us, it's all about community.** Our employees live and work here too and care about our community the same way you do. We're invested and work to help it thrive. That's why Tri-County EMC donates to local charities, schools and organizations. It's also why we invest in economic development, and why you'll see our employees volunteering at local schools and other charitable and community endeavors.

As a co-op, our mission is to enhance the quality of life in our community and look after its long-term interests. We love serving our members and our local community, and just like you, want to see it continue to thrive.

J. Michael Davis
General Manager



Tri-County EMC Office Remains Closed to Public

At Tri-County EMC, we keep you top of mind in everything we do. We've proudly continued our promise to provide safe, reliable, and affordable power when you need it most.

For now, our offices will remain closed to public interactions, because keeping our members, employees, and communities safe remains a priority. But we're still here for you. You can pay your bill without stepping into an office—by phone, online, mobile app, or use of our drive-thru service Monday-Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. You can also use visit our outage center at tcemc.com/outage-center to track and report outages.

As always, thank you for your continued trust and for your membership!



Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

About 30% of a home's heating energy is lost through inefficient windows. Caulk and weatherstrip all windows to seal air leaks. When running your home heating system, lock all operable windows to ensure the tightest seal possible.

Source: Dept. of Energy

Keep Your Valentine Safe This Year

Valentine's Day is a special day for sweethearts and families to celebrate love each year. People flock to their local grocery and party stores to buy candy and balloons for the people they care about. However, the popular metallic balloons could have costly and dangerous side effects.

These balloons have a metallic coating that conducts electricity.

Here are some safety tips to help make sure metallic balloons are used and disposed of safely:

- Always keep the balloons weighted so they do not accidentally fly away.
- Do not intentionally release balloons.

- Do not tie metallic balloons to children with metallic ribbon. If the balloon comes in contact with electricity the child could receive a fatal shock.
- If a balloon does get in a power line, do not attempt to retrieve it yourself. Contact your power company and emergency services.

Tri-County EMC wants everyone to enjoy their Valentine's Day with their special someone. However, when the celebration is over please remember to puncture the balloons and throw them away to keep them safely away from power lines and electrical equipment.

TCEMC Recognize Employees with Service Awards

Tri-County EMC has experienced significant growth over the past decade; yet, the same number of employees continue to serve our members today. We can do this because of advancements in technology that have streamlined operations and gained efficiencies. We can also do this because we work together well and respect the role each person plays at the cooperative.

Every year, we recognize employees who have achieved a significant work anniversary. This year, employees were recognized for their years of service during the Annual Christmas Party held at the Maxwell Center on Dec. 18, 2021. Together, seven employees and two members of the board of directors have put in a collective 95 years of dedicated



(Left to right, back row): Deidra Grantham, Taylor Coates, Aaron Barwick and Bob Kornegay. (Left to right, front row): Brandy Rouse, Lucinda Newell and Angela Anderson

service to Tri-County EMC. These impressive numbers speak volumes about the dedicated people your co-op employs, and the environment in which they work.

Bob Kornegay is celebrating 20 years of cooperative service; Jerry Mozingo is celebrating 15; Brandy Rouse, Taylor Coates, Aaron Barwick, Angela Anderson and Lucinda Newell

are celebrating 10; Jeff Henderson and Deidra Grantham are celebrating 5.

We thank these employees and board of directors for their commitment and dedication to our cooperative and the role each individual plays in providing our members with safe, reliable, and affordable electric service.



Payment Options Made Easy for You

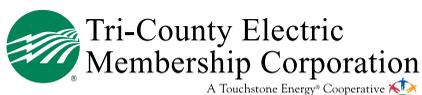
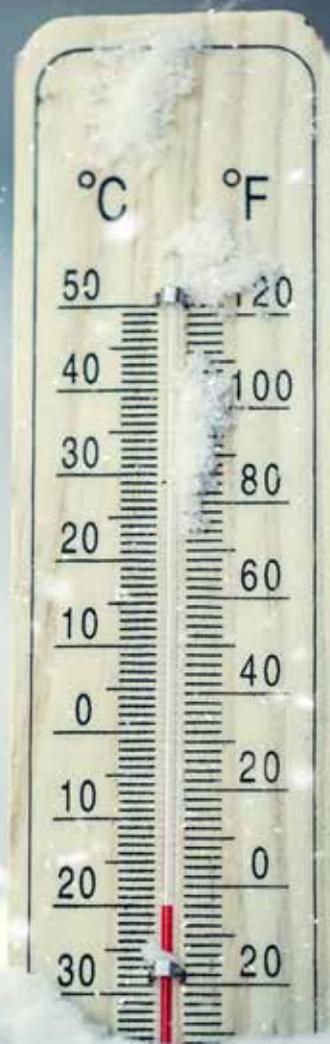
You can forget about paying your electric bill if you sign up for Automatic Bank Draft. It's safe and convenient. Why worry about paying your bill each month when you can take advantage of this service. You will still receive a monthly statement by mail or email. We draft your monthly electric payment from your checking or savings account on a specified date. You'll never have a late fee, and you'll never pay early.

Combine bank draft with our Budget Billing Program, and you know exactly how much your bill will be each month—no ups and downs with the weather. Your monthly electric bills are totaled for the year and then divided into twelve equal payments.

If you are interested in signing up for these services, please contact our office at 919-735-2611 or 1-800-548-4869.

5 Precautions to Take During Winter Weather

- Prevent your pipes from freezing by allowing faucets to drip during extreme cold.
- Place space heaters on a solid surface at least three feet away from anything flammable. Always turn off space heaters before leaving the room or going to sleep.
- Never leave a fireplace unless its embers are completely extinguished; and use a fire screen to catch sparks and rolling logs.
- Generators should be placed in an open and ventilated area. They should never be operated inside a home—including in spaces like the basement and garage—due to the danger of inhaling carbon monoxide fumes.
- Never touch a downed power line or try to remove trees or limbs from lines. Call 911 or alert your electric cooperative.



Tri-County EMC Membership Corporation in Dudley, N.C., was chartered May 8, 1940.

Mission Statement:

Tri-County Electric Membership Corporation is a member-driven cooperative committed to providing reliable electric power at a reasonable cost, to offering superior service, and to taking an active role in supporting the communities it serves.

We are here to serve you 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and 365 days a year.

For Outages or Emergencies:
919-735-2611 or 1-800-548-4869

tcemc.com

J. Michael Davis
General Manager

Management Staff

Kenneth E. Davis, Jr., CPA
Manager, Finance & Administration

Robert B. Kornegay
Manager, Member Services

Deidra Grantham, Editor
Manager, Marketing and Communications

Tony Grantham, P. E.
Manager, Engineering

Michael Wood
Manager, Operations

Tamah Hughes
Manager, Information Technology

Board of Directors

Carl W. Kornegay, Jr
President

David Vinson
Vice President

William H. Farmer, Jr
Secretary

Brandy Rouse
Treasurer

Scott Ballard
Keith Beavers

Jeff Henderson

Patrick Lynch

Randy McCullen

Worth Overman

Employee Ready to Serve You



Lance Wise

Lance Wise is one of 50 employees ready to serve you. Lance has worked with Tri-County EMC since Jan. 18, 2021. Lance is an Apprentice Lineman for the cooperative. Lance resides in Mount Olive.