

# NEWS



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## Manager's Message:

# Celebrating Membership

## October is National Co-op Month

**F**all is a busy time, and October is a particularly eventful month with school, community and sports activities in full swing. It's also when all cooperatives celebrate National Co-op Month.

When I say Tri-County EMC celebrates Co-op Month, it really means we are celebrating you! After all, our co-op wouldn't exist without you, our members.

Our core business purpose is to serve as your electricity provider, but the larger mission of the co-op is to help make our corner of the world a better place. "Concern for Community" is one of seven guiding principles that all co-ops share.

Similar to how our wires run through our service territory, our concern for community flows through all of our decisions—because being a co-op means being a responsible partner and good neighbor.

**// Because we're local, we understand our community's unique needs and strive to help meet them."**

Tri-County EMC works to help our community thrive through initiatives led by our employees and local board that's comprised of neighbors who live right here in our community. Because we're local, we understand our community's unique needs and strive to help meet them.

We're proud to support local youth through our Youth Tour, Basketball Camps and scholarship programs. With your help, we offer Operation Roundup to provide assistance to our community's most vulnerable and nonprofit organizations.

The word "cooperative" is close to "cooperation," meaning people working together towards a common goal—mutually benefiting one another and the larger community. That's the essence of the cooperative spirit. Our employees and member-elected board members are invested in the

**J. Michael Davis**  
General Manager



**Focused on YOU.**

Electric cooperatives were created to serve their members. Because we're a co-op, we're able to adapt to our community's unique needs. That's the power of co-op membership.

**OCTOBER IS NATIONAL CO-OP MONTH**

community in which they live and serve.

Above all, as a co-op we put our members' priorities first. As your trusted energy partner, we know that saving energy and money is important to you. That's why we have numerous programs in place to help, including our Home Energy Advisor Program.

We want to empower you to manage energy use at home. If you haven't already, I encourage you take a moment and download our mobile app. Through the app, you can conveniently monitor and manage your energy use. We are here to help, so give us a call if you have questions about your energy bills.

Tri-County EMC is continuously examining ways to operate more efficiently while continuing to provide the highest level of friendly, reliable service you expect and deserve. After all, we're your local co-op. We were built by the members we serve.

# YOU'RE INVITED!

## 2022 Drive-Thru Annual Meeting

**W**ith the health and welfare of our members and employees in mind, Tri-County EMC will once again host a drive-thru annual meeting.

Instead of the traditional in-person meeting, a drive-thru meeting will take place on Saturday, November 12, between 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Tri-County EMC corporate headquarters in Dudley, NC. Tri-County EMC asks members to not arrive before 9 a.m.

Members can register for the meeting and vote without leaving their vehicle. Each

member who registers will receive \$10 and a registration gift bag which includes: a TCEMC cap, a calendar, vehicle sun shade, vehicle emergency kit and water spray fan.

Tri-County EMC will also hold a prize drawing to give out eighty-two \$82 gift certificates (bill credits) for electricity. The drawing will be held live on Tri-County EMC's Facebook page on November 14, 2022, with the winners to be published in the January 2023 edition of the *Carolina Country Magazine*.



### DRIVE-THRU REGISTRATION PROCESS

- STEP 1:** Enter Tri-County EMC's office off Hwy 117 Alternate
- STEP 2:** Follow signs/direction to registration lanes
- STEP 3:** Members will register, receive \$10 and voter ballot at stop 1
- STEP 4:** Members will drop off voting ballot at stop 2
- STEP 5:** Members will receive registration gifts at stop 3
- STEP 6:** Follow signs/direction to exit Tri-County EMC's office on Hwy 117 Alt.



## Capital Credit Questions & Answers

**How are capital credits calculated?** The amount of capital credits you earn in a given year is based upon the amount of capital you contribute to the co-op through payment of your monthly bills. The more electric service you buy, the greater your capital credits account—**although the percentage will remain the same**. The sum of your monthly bills for a year is multiplied by a percentage to determine your capital credits.

**How do I start accumulating capital credits?** Capital credits are calculated by TCEMC for every member that purchased electricity during a year in which the utility earned margins. No special action is required to start a capital credits account.

**What percent of my bill is returned as capital credits?** The percentage of your total payment that is allocated as capital credits varies from year to year, depending upon the success of the co-op. Capital credits are only allocated for a year in which TCEMC earns margins.

**Do I have to be a member for an entire year to earn capital credits?** No. Capital credits are calculated based upon a member's monthly bills. If you are billed for service

for even one month, you will accumulate some capital credits if TCEMC earned margins in that year.

**What happens to the capital credits of a member that dies?** The capital credits of a deceased member may be paid without waiting for a general retirement. However, these estate payments are not automatic. A representative of the estate must request the credits by submitting a certification of entitlement form and a copy of the death certificate.

**Will I receive a capital credit check every year?** Not necessarily. The Board of Directors must authorize a retirement before you receive a check. When considering a retirement, the Board analyzes the financial health of the cooperative and will not authorize a retirement if TCEMC can not afford it.

**What happens to my capital credits when I leave the TCEMC service area?** They remain on the books in your name until they are retired. You should ensure that TCEMC has your current mailing address.

# Bylaws relevant to the qualifications, nominations and elections of members to your EMC's Board of Directors

## SECTION 4.02. QUALIFICATIONS.

No person shall be eligible to become or remain a director of the cooperative who: (a) while serving on the board or during the five (5) years preceding his nomination thereto shall have been finally adjudged to be guilty of a felony; or (b) becomes, or at any time during the five (5) years preceding his nomination shall have been employed by (or be a close relative of a person who becomes, or at any time within the preceding five (5) years shall have been employed by) a labor union which represents or has represented, or has endeavored to represent any employees of the cooperative; or (c) is and if elected and seated as a director will continue to be, a close relative of an incumbent director or of an employee of the Cooperative; (d) has not continuously been, for at least one (1) year prior to his nomination, or who ceases after his election to be, a member on good standing of the Cooperative, receiving service there from at his primary residential abode in the Directorate District from which he is elected., (except as provided hereinafter in the first proviso in this Section, in which instance the entity which qualifies a person's eligibility to be elected a director must be and remain in good standing).

No person shall be eligible to become or remain a director of, or to hold any other position of trust in, the Cooperative who is not at least eighteen (18) years old or is in any way employed by or financially interested in a competing enterprise or a business selling electric energy or supplies to the Cooperative.

Notwithstanding the restrictive provisions of this Section based upon close relative relationships, no incumbent director shall lose eligibility to remain a director or to be reelected a director if, during his incumbency, he becomes a close relative or another incumbent director or of a Cooperative employee because of a marriage or an adoption to which he was not a party.

Upon establishment of the fact that a person nominated for director by the Nominating Committee lacks eligibility under this section or as may be provided elsewhere in these Bylaws, it shall be the duty of the Board to disqualify him. Upon the establishment of the fact that any person being considered for or already holding, a directorship or other position of trust in the Cooperative lacks eligibility under this Section, it shall be the duty of the Board to withhold such position from

such person, or to cause him to be removed therefrom, as the case may be, except that, in the case of a nominee for director from the floor, this duty shall be that of the chairman of the meeting and, in the case of an existing employee other than the general manager, this duty shall be that of the general manager. Also, the office of a director shall automatically become vacant if he misses as many as three (3) regular meetings of the Board during any twelve (12) consecutive such meetings, unless the remaining directors unanimously resolve that (1) there was good cause for such absences and (2) such cause will not likely result in such absences during the next ensuring twelve (12) consecutive regular Board meetings. Nothing contained in this Section shall, or shall be construed to, affect in any manner whatsoever the validity of any action taken at any meeting of the Board, unless such action is taken with respect to a matter in which one or more of the directors have a personal interest in conflict with that of the Cooperative.

**SECTION 4.03. ELECTION.** At each annual meeting of the members, Directors shall be elected by secret written ballot or secret electronic voting by the members, and, except as provided in the first provision of Section 4.02 of these Bylaws, from among natural persons who are members; PROVIDED, when the number of nominees does not exceed the number of directors to be elected for a particular Directorate balloting shall be dispensed within respect of that District and voting may be conducted in any other proper manner. Whenever there are two or more candidates for the same directorship, the one receiving the highest number of votes shall win. Drawing by lot shall resolve, where necessary, any tie votes.

**SECTION 4.06. NOMINATIONS.** It shall be the duty of the Board to appoint, not less than forty (40) nor more than ninety (90) days prior to the date of a meeting of the members at which directors are to be elected, a Nominating Committee, consisting of an uneven number of cooperative members, not less than five (5) nor more than eleven (11), who are not existing Cooperative employees, agents, officers, directors or known candidates for directors, who are not close relatives or members of the same household of any such person; and who are so selected that each of the Cooperative's Directorate Districts shall have representative(s) thereon in proportion to the minimum number of directors to which such District is entitled to have representation

## Board Nominees for 2022

With the forthcoming Annual Meeting, the Nominating Committee met in September and made nominations for three-year terms as follows:

### District 1—Duplin County (Vote for one)

→ Scott Ballard

### District 2—Wayne County (Vote for two)

→ Bill Farmer

→ Worth Overman

### District 3—Lenoir and all other counties (Vote for one)

→ Patrick Lynch

on the Board. The Committee shall prepare and post at the principal office of the Cooperative, at least twenty-five (25) days before the meeting, a list of nominations for directors to be elected, listing separately the nominee(s) for each Directorate District for which one or two directors must, pursuant to this Article, be elected at the meeting. The Committee shall nominate one or more candidates for each directorate office to be filled, but it shall not make a nomination until it shall have first determined that the nominee is qualified to serve in accordance with the provisions of section 4.02 and, if elected, will serve. A number of members of the Cooperative, equal to one-half of 1 percent (1/2%) of the membership of the Cooperative as of January 1st of the year in which the election is to be held, acting together, may make additional nominations in writing over their signatures, listing their nominee(s) in like manner and filing the same with the cooperative not less than twenty (20) days prior to the meeting. The Secretary shall post such nominations at the same place where the list of nominations made by the Committee is posted. The Secretary shall mail to the members with the notice of the meeting, or separately, but at least seven (7) days prior to the date of the meeting, a statement of the names and addresses of all nominee(s) for each Directorate District for which a director must be elected, distinguishing clearly those nominated by the Committee and those nominated by petition, if any.

## Retirement of \$2.1 Million on its Way to Members in November

We are more than your local utility provider and you are more than a consumer. Over the past two years, Tri-County EMC has had to navigate pandemic restrictions and make provisions for the health of the cooperative and members. The decisions we make are not to satisfy investors or generate profits, but to serve our members and our communities.

This year, Tri-County EMC will retire \$2,170,855.39 in capital credits in November, General Manager Mike Davis has announced. The refunds recently approved by the Board of Directors will include capital credits for the year 2006 in the amount of \$1,117,395 and 20% of the 2021 capital credits in the amount of \$1,053,459.40. Capital credits represent cooperative members' equity in Tri-County Electric.

From the moment you signed up to receive electric service from Tri-County EMC you became a member of an electric utility, not a customer. While investor-owned utilities return a portion of any profits back to their shareholders, electric co-ops operate on an at-cost basis. So instead of returning leftover funds, known as margins or profits, to folks who might not live in the same region or even the same state as



you do, Tri-County EMC allocates and periodically retires capital credits to its members based on how much electricity you purchased during a year. That's the cooperative difference, where members are first, every day!

Current and former members who received electric service from the cooperative during 2006 and 2021 will be eligible for refunds. Checks will be mailed reflecting the member's contribution of capital to, and ownership of, the cooperative during that year.

## Important Reminder:

Even if you no longer receive electric service with Tri-County EMC, you may still be entitled to receive checks from your capital credit allocation account. Please keep us updated with your current mailing address so we can mail your capital credit retirement check if you are no longer an active member.

Upon death, the deceased member's capital credit account is available for estate retirement. The representative of the estate should contact Tri-County EMC to settle the capital credit account.



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](http://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 & 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**

**Amanda Murphy**

**Worth Overman**

### Employees Ready to Serve You



**Ken Davis**

Ken Davis is one of 47 employees ready to serve you. Ken has worked with Tri-County since Dec. 1, 1992, as Manager of Finance and Administration. Ken and his wife, Lisa, reside in Mount Olive.