

Tri-County news

Tri-County EMC Membership Corporation Dudley, N.C.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

News and Information For Cooperative Members

June 2017

In late March, President Donald Trump signed the “Promoting Energy Independence and Economic Growth” executive order. The order aims to reduce regulatory barriers to domestic energy production. It also begins the lengthy process of suspending components of the Clean Power Plan, a rule implemented under President Obama to reduce carbon emissions from power plants. What does this mean for members of Tri-County EMC?

As a utility, Tri-County EMC is subject to regulations set by both the state and federal governments. And while pieces of the Clean Power Plan will likely be rolled back, other federal and state standards, like the North Carolina Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Portfolio Standard, are likely to remain in place.

President Trump’s executive order on energy now faces administrative,

regulatory and legal processes that could take years to complete. Regardless of the timeline on that particular issue, Tri-County EMC will continue to engage with local and state policymakers, and participate in federal policy processes along with our national cooperative network. We support policies that allow us to best serve our local members by incorporating into our energy portfolio multiple cost-effective generation resources, including solar and grid enhancements.

Beyond policy activities, market forces, technology and consumer expectations are driving changes in the industry. Together, over the last decade, these elements have guided utilities’ decisions to make modifications and incorporate alternative sources of generation to reduce our overall carbon footprint.

As a local, member-owned power provider, Tri-County EMC seeks

solutions and proven technologies to bolster our distribution system, with the goal of serving the growing needs of cooperative members and mitigating cost increases in a changing environment.

We will continue to work with electric cooperatives nationwide to advocate on behalf of members in the halls of government, and help elected officials understand how legislative and regulatory actions can impact electric cooperative members. And above all, we will continue to pursue strategies that best serve you – our members.



J. Michael Davis
General Manager

Be ready for summer storms

June 1 marks the start of Hurricane Season. At Tri-County EMC, we’re preparing for storm season. And we want you, our members, to be prepared, too. Weather the storm by taking action now:



It’s important to remind children to never touch a downed power line.

- Make a plan: Identify the safest spots in your home, designate a meeting place, and write down emergency contact information.
- Create a family disaster supply kit and be sure to include the following: a battery-operated radio, flashlights, a first aid kit, non-perishable food items, a three-day water supply, a non-electric can opener, medicines and cash.
- Teach children to call 911 in case of an emergency. Communicate with family members to be sure they know how to respond in a storm situation.
- Remember your pets when planning for possible evacuation. Not all emergency shelters allow pets.

Contact your local humane society to learn which animal shelters accept pets during disasters.

- Keep Tri-County EMC’s outage reporting phone number (919) 735-2611 or 1-800-548-4869 in a handy place, like on the refrigerator
- Connect with us: See the latest outage updates and important info on our social channels. Follow us on twitter and Facebook.

No matter what the weather brings, Tri-County EMC stands ready to respond. Prepare yourself and your family now, too! And know that if summer storms cause power outages, we’ll work round-the-clock to restore those outages as quickly and safely as possible.

TCEMC awards \$36K in scholarships

Tri-County EMC recently honored its 2017 scholarship winners at a dinner held on April 30 at The Big Barn Theatre in Goldsboro. One by one, the recipients were recognized and presented checks by J. Michael Davis, general manager of Tri-County EMC.

“This is our 16th year providing scholarships to the top students in our communities through Tri-County EMC’s employee-funded scholarship program and our largest amount given to date,” said Davis. “We’re proud to help these students as they continue their education.”

Seventy-seven recipients were selected by a scholarship committee who evaluated applications based on leadership abilities, academic achievement, financial need and community involvement. Sixty-six local high school seniors received \$500 each towards a four-year college or university of their choice and 11 students received \$250 each towards a community college of their choice. Since the programs inception, Tri-County EMC has awarded \$342,500 to high school seniors.



Mark Holmes presents the 2017 Holmes Scholarship to Noah Grantham.

The Robert S. and Ruby F. Holmes Scholarship

The 2017 recipient of the Robert S. and Ruby F. Holmes Scholarship is Noah Grantham, a senior at Rosewood High School and son of Tony and Pam Grantham.

The Robert S. Holmes Scholarship was established in his memory in 2001. At the passing of their mother, the three children, Joseph Holmes, Charlene Willard and Mark Holmes, renamed the scholarship in memory of both parents. Mr. Holmes served as the General Manager of Tri-County EMC from the early 1960s until 1988.

This scholarship is given annually to employees’ children or grandchildren. If no one meets the criteria, the scholarship is awarded to a member’s child.

Mr. Holmes’ son, Mark Holmes of Raleigh, made the presentation of the scholarships on behalf of his family at the annual scholarship awards banquet.

LENOIR COUNTY WINNERS



WAYNE COUNTY WINNERS



DUPLIN COUNTY WINNERS



The winners of the \$500 scholarships are:

Matthew Hare, Charles B. Aycock HS
 Nicholas King, James Kenan HS
 Sierra Dixon, James Kenan HS
 Amber Lavasser, Rosewood HS
 Ryan Strickland, Duplin Early College HS
 Katelyn Dotson, Rosewood HS
 Derek Neal, Rosewood HS
 Sydney Johnson, Spring Creek HS
 Cassandra Gonzalez, Spring Creek HS
 Daniel Hartley, Wayne Early Middle College HS
 Noah Adkins, Wayne Country Day School
 Louise Freeman, Southern Wayne HS
 Hannah Keeler, Southern Wayne HS
 Sidney Luke Herring, East Duplin HS
 Jessica Conger, Rosewood HS
 Michael Green, Charles B. Aycock HS
 Laken Stotler, South Lenoir HS
 Emmanuel Martin, Eastern Wayne HS
 Brennan Dove, Eastern Wayne HS
 Rachel Stratton, Eastern Wayne HS
 Morgan Kohnen, Charles B. Aycock HS
 Morgan Johnson, Charles B. Aycock HS
 Howard Musick, East Duplin HS
 Braeden Kelley, East Duplin HS
 Macon Smith, East Duplin HS

Evan Thigpen, East Duplin HS
 Ariana Garcia, East Duplin HS
 Elizabeth Scott, East Duplin HS
 Darren Myers, North Duplin Jr/Sr HS
 Anthony Bishop, NC School and Science and Math
 Amelia Marriner, Wayne School of Egeining
 Hayley Brogden, North Duplin Jr/Sr HS
 Melissa Orellana, North Duplin Jr/Sr HS
 Taylor Dilday, North Duplin Jr/Sr HS
 Katlyn Brown, North Duplin Jr/Sr HS
 Shannon Riggelman, North Duplin Jr/Sr HS
 Matthew Shivar, North Duplin Jr/Sr HS
 Madeline Swinson, North Duplin Jr/Sr HS
 Kaylee White, South Lenoir HS
 Keely Gates, South Lenoir HS
 Raven Curry, South Lenoir HS
 Jenna Greer, South Lenoir HS
 Miranda Moore, South Lenoir HS
 Mary Tyndall, South Lenoir HS
 Elaine Nix, North Lenoir HS
 Ashley Larimore, Wayne Early Middle College HS
 Alison Montague, North Lenoir HS
 Emma Bossert, Eastern Wayne HS
 Dymon Atkinson, Eastern Wayne HS
 Nascherea Rouse, Eastern Wayne HS

Mary Spengler, Eastern Wayne HS
 Abygail McIntire, Southern Wayne HS
 Bryce Edwards, Southern Wayne HS
 Timothy Taylor, Southern Wayne HS
 Elizabeth Lopez, Southern Wayne HS
 Katelyn Kelly, Southern Wayne HS
 Brianna Thornton, Southern Wayne HS
 Matthew Stott, Southern Wayne HS
 Brianna Bass, Southern Wayne HS
 Macayla Tyndall, Southern Wayne HS
 Tara Best, Southern Wayne HS
 Bailey Smith, East Duplin HS
 Noah Grantham, Rosewood HS
 Cassidy Mason, Southern Wayne HS
 Jordan Kennedy, South Lenoir HS

The winners of the \$250 scholarships are:

Stephanie Gonzalez, Southern Wayne HS
 Kristen Lane, Southern Wayne HS
 Courtney Rhodes, East Duplin HS
 Hannah Lee, North Duplin Jr/Sr HS
 Courtney Butler, North Duplin Jr/Sr HS
 Allison Hill, East Duplin HS
 Haley Thurston, North Duplin Jr/Sr HS
 Meghan Moody, South Lenoir HS
 Amanda Matthews, Eastern Wayne HS
 Ashlyn Hines, North Lenoir HS
 Kasey Worrell, Southern Wayne HS

Wayne County student explores D.C. on Youth Tour



North Carolina’s electric cooperatives are sending 46 high school students from across the state to Washington, D.C., June 10-16 to join more than 1,600 other students from across the country for the 2017 Electric Cooperative Youth



Joshua Lebron

Tour. Tri-County EMC has chosen one student to represent our cooperative as a budding leader in the community.

Joshua Lebron of Spring Creek High School will attend this year’s Youth Tour. Joshua, the son of Jonathan and Annette LeBron, is a member of the National Honor Society, Varsity Football and Basketball Team and Vice President of Youth Group.

“The Youth Tour is the highlight of the summer for many students from North Carolina, and

we’re proud to send our best and brightest to Washington, D.C., this year to participate,” said Deidra Locklear, manager of Communications and Public Relations. “Joshua will gain a first-hand understanding of the legislative process and make connections with others from across the country that will last a lifetime. Our youth are our future, and Tri-County EMC is committed to providing opportunities for students by continuing the Youth Tour tradition.”

Students on the North Carolina Youth Tour will

participate in leadership training, engage in one-on-one conversations with elected officials, jump-start their national peer network and tour Washington, D.C.

In North Carolina, electric cooperatives have sent more than 1,700 high school students to D.C. on the Youth Tour over the past 50 years. Students interested in applying can contact Deidra Locklear at deidra.locklear@tcemc.com or (919) 735-2611.



The Cooperative Exchange

A Service For Members of Tri-County EMC

Members of Tri-County EMC may submit ads to The Cooperative Exchange on a first-come, first-serve basis. We ask that no commercial business ads be submitted and we reserve the right to refuse ads of questionable content. We also reserve the right to edit ads of unreasonable length. You may mail your ad to Cooperative Exchange Tri-County EMC, PO Box 130, Dudley, NC 28333. Please include your area code with your phone number. Or, you may call 919-735-2611 or 800-548-4869, ext. 621. Deadline for ads is the 1st of each month.

FOR RENT OR TO OWN

CEMENT BLOCK BUILDING on a large private lot outside of Kinston, NC. Also included is a Mobile Home lot located across the road from the building. Call 252-522-0776. (5).

FOR SALE

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS blueberry bushes, prom or evening dress (size 6), antique log roller, roll top desk, wooden bread box, antique chicken crate, "I Remember Dale Earnhart" book. Call 919-394-2625 (4).

SWIMMING POOL 10x30, new in box with ground cover (\$100), Wii game with two game discs (\$40). Call 910-293-9303 (6).

WANTED

CUCKOO CLOCK 919-394-2625

Tri-County EMC will gladly publish announcements of fundraisers for non-profit organizations or special benefits for individuals if space is available. The deadline is the 1st of each month for the announcement to come out in the next newsletter. Call Deidra Locklear at 919-735-2611 or 800-548-4869, Ext. 621.

Please show courtesy to those selling, renting and wanting items listed in the Cooperative Exchange by not calling before 7AM nor after 10 PM.

Empowering opportunities: Supporting communities and youth through education

At Tri-County EMC, we understand the impact that excellence in education can have on a community. We're owned and directed by the local members we serve, and we take pride in supporting programs that make a difference for our students and future leaders. As the school year winds down, we thank the educators and students who work with us to create educational opportunities in our community—like these!

Each year, Tri-County EMC offers up to \$1,000 in Bright Ideas grants to local educators. These grants allow our teachers to tailor innovative lessons to inspire young minds. Offered by electric cooperatives

statewide, Bright Ideas grants have propelled 9,800 creative projects, worth \$10.2 million and

benefiting 2 million students across the state since 1994. We're seeking the next round of Bright Ideas grant recipients now—educators can apply today at [NCBrightIdeas.com!](http://NCBrightIdeas.com)

Calling all high-school students! Participating in the NC Youth Tour to Washington, D.C., is an exciting way to interact with North Carolina's congressional delegation, build leadership skills, gain a better understanding of electric cooperatives and our nation's history, and make friendships that will last a lifetime. Learn about this opportunity for high-school juniors and seniors at www.tcemc.com.

This month, one local middle-school student is seizing an opportunity to learn about teamwork from some of the top basketball players in the state via the Touchstone Energy Sports Camp Scholarship program. Our all-expenses-paid

scholarships send young men to the University of North Carolina and young women to NC State University for basketball camp each summer—an experience that builds foundational skills applicable on the court and in the classroom. Join us next summer! Learn more at tcemc.com.

Lastly, Tri-County EMC recently awarded over \$37,000 scholarships to high school seniors in our service area. This program was formed by the employees of Tri-County EMC and is solely funded by various fundraising efforts. Over the past 15 years, this program has provided scholastic opportunities to more than 750 students.

Supporting local educational opportunities is part of our commitment to you, our members. We are proud to not only power, and but also empower, the people and communities we serve.



Know what's below.
Call before you dig.

LET'S STAY IN TOUCH

If your contact information has changed, don't forget to let us know. We need current information to keep you up to date on services, special programs, events and offerings that are important to you.

If you have changed your phone number or email address, you can send the information to customer.service@tcemc.com or call 800.548.4869 or 919.735.2611



Tri-County news

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

J. Michael Davis
General Manager

Management Staff
Kenneth E. Davis, Jr.
Manager of Finance & Accounting

Robert B. Kornegay
Manager of Marketing & Member Services

Deidra Locklear, Editor
Manager of Communications & Public Relations

Tony Grantham, P. E.
Manager of Engineering

Michael Wood
Manager of Operations

Josh Mattox
Manager of Information Technology

Board of Directors
Carl W. Kornegay, Jr.—President
Leland Heath, Jr.—Vice President
William H. Farmer, Jr.—Secretary
Worth Overman—Treasurer
Keith Beavers
Dallace Grady
Jeff Henderson
Randy McCullen
Jennings Outlaw
Brandy Rouse
David Vinson

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 Call 919-735-2611 or 1-800-548-4869
www.tcemc.com



**Employees—
Ready To
Serve**

Deidra
Locklear is
one of 51

employees ready to serve you. She has worked with Tri-County EMC since January 1, 2016, and is the Manager of Communications and Public Relations for the cooperative. Deidra resides in Wade with her fiancé Mark and son.