

Tri-County news

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

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

News and Information For Cooperative Members

July 2017

Beyond power, a history of innovative partnership

Your grandparents and great-grandparents formed this electric cooperative. They set the poles, strung the lines and went door-to-door asking the people in this community to become members of the cooperative, making an investment in a business and a service that would bring light and opportunity to this community.

The power of electricity transformed our communities. In the 1930s, opportunities for electrification eluded us because established utilities didn't think it was economical to serve less-populated areas. So, our forefathers took it upon themselves to create their own utility, and that's how Tri-County EMC came to be.

Electricity introduced light, refrigeration, household conveniences, entertainment and economic opportunity. But at first, some cooperative members weren't sure how to use it. One member wouldn't unscrew the lightbulb in her kitchen because she was afraid the electricity would spill onto the floor. Others didn't know how to operate their new appliances, or work safely around electricity.

So, we taught them. As a cooperative business, one of our founding principles is "education." This principle led us to set up demonstrations in our lobby and host booths at community events to help our members understand how to best use their new tools.

That same pioneering, innovative spirit that led to the electrification

of our community and education of our original members still drives us today. Beyond providing you with electricity, we are implementing new tools and resources to help you better understand and manage your energy use.

Technology is fueling consumer expectations, opening up exciting options that put you in control. Think of mobile banking and streaming video services – those came as a result of evolving consumer expectations. As a cooperative member, we think you deserve options for how, where and when you use energy, too. We've integrated sophisticated technology into our system that allows us to offer you meaningful energy management services, real-time energy data, pre-pay and our newest tool, Home Energy Advisor program.

Our innovation is rooted in our purpose to serve, and service now means being more than just a power provider; it means being a power partner.



J. Michael Davis
General Manager



Glenn Hester Retires from Tri-County EMC

Glenn Hester, a serviceman for Tri-County EMC, retired on May 1, 2017, after a 37-year cooperative career.

Hester began his career as a first class lineman on December 26, 1979; and in 1992, assumed the role of serviceman.

"We appreciate Glenn's dedication and commitment to our members," said J. Michael Davis, general manager of Tri-County EMC. "His laughter and positive attitude will truly be missed."

When asked what Glenn has planned after retirement, he said that he looks forward to spending time with his family and getting more hunting and fishing time in. "I enjoy serving and helping others. My time at Tri-County EMC has allowed me to do just that and work with people that have become family," said Hester.

Tri-County EMC wishes Glenn and his family a happy retirement and thanks him for the many years of dedication and commitment to the cooperative and its members!



Wayne Country Day School



Scott Insurance



National Transformer Sales



Friendly Mart



High Standard Cleaning



Herring Electric



Four Horseman



3HC

Wayne Country Day School Kevin Herring, Michael Taylor, David Flowers and Eric Bailey (not pictured) took first place honors in TCEMC's morning first flight.

Scott Insurance Butch Budd, Rodney Scott, Todd Scott (not pictured) and John Palffy (not pictured) took second place honors in TCEMC's morning first flight.

National Transformer Sales Winston Howell, Scott Finley, Mike Wood and Craig Shoaf took first place honors in TCEMC's morning second flight.

Friendly Mart Neil Price, Ken Jordan, Sloan Stevens and Mike Stevens took second place honors in TCEMC's morning second flight.

High Standard Cleaning Ryan Campbell, Nick Adams, Stan Adams and Brandon Campbell took first place honors in TCEMC's afternoon first flight.

Herring Electric Blake Herring, Cliff Best, Bryan Caton (not pictured) and Bo Young (not pictured) took first place honors in TCEMC's afternoon second flight.

Four Horseman Prentice Herring, Chad Herring, Floyd Reardon and Sean Simpson took second place honors in TCEMC's afternoon first flight.

3HC Dean Lee, Tony Gupton (not pictured), Ben Strickland (not pictured) and Cale Grady (not pictured) took second place honors in TCEMC's afternoon second flight.

Tri-County EMC Holds Seventh Annual Scholarship Golf Tournament

Tri-County EMC held the seventh Annual Scholarship Golf Tournament on June 1 at Southern Wayne Country Club in Mount Olive, with 180 players participating in this year's event.

Tri-County EMC uses the event's proceeds and annual contributions from other activities to raise funds to support the scholarship foundation for high school seniors. This year, Tri-County EMC awarded 77 scholarships to local high school seniors totaling \$36,000.

"Our employees work hard throughout the year to raise money for our scholarship program, especially with this particular event," said Deidra Locklear, manager of communications and public relations of Tri-County EMC. "Their efforts show in the success of money raised, participation in this year's tournament and the amount of money given to students annually," said Locklear.

Morning players enjoyed McDonald's biscuits for breakfast, and both morning and afternoon players enjoyed lunch catered by McCall's Restaurant. Tri-County EMC employees would like to thank this year's individuals and companies who sponsored a hole or entered a team in the Seventh Annual Tri-County Scholarship Golf Tournament. The tournament was a big success raising over \$28,000.

GOT ENERGY SMARTS?

Knowing WHERE your energy dollars are going and how to SAVE more can make **you** Energy Smart!

Learn more with
ENERGY ADVISOR



Tri-County EMC Empowers Customers with New Home Energy Advisor Tool

Members of Tri-County EMC can now find out exactly where their energy dollars are going—and how much money they stand to save—by making their homes more efficient with our new Home Energy Advisor Tool!

In just a few clicks on a computer, tablet, or smartphone, the Home Energy Advisor tool analyzes energy use and areas for improvement by gathering information about your home's location, size, construction and energy systems. Combining these inputs with local weather and current energy

prices, Home Energy Advisor instantly produces an accurate, detailed report.

Here's what you'll find in the Home Energy Advisor:

- **The Home Energy Advisor:** This quick calculator provides an estimated breakdown of your energy use and costs by heating, cooling, water heating, refrigeration, lighting and appliances. Learn how much you can save in each area.
- **Billing Analysis:** Here the Home Energy Advisor goes one step further

and incorporates your actual energy bills in its calculations. To access your account visit our website at tcecm.com, Click "My Energy Account" tab, click on "Pay Your Bill Online," click "My Usage" tab and then click on "Analyze My Bill" to access your personal bill analysis.

- **Energy Forecast:** See the current weather's direct impact on your home's energy use and costs. Based on your area's 7-day weather, you can adjust a "virtual thermostat" for heating and cooling and see the daily dollar impact. Complete the home profile to pinpoint more savings opportunities.
- **Lighting Calculator:** This tool quickly calculates and compares the operating costs of standard incandescent, halogen, compact fluorescent and LED lamps.

Be on the lookout for a welcome to my "Home Energy Advisor" email in your inbox. If you have not given us your email address, please consider doing so. You don't want to miss out on an opportunity to receive information that could help you save energy and money!

North Carolina Leads Nation in REDLG Economic Development Funding

Tri-County EMC is a cooperative business, which means we do more than deliver electricity. We deliver on a promise to enhance life in the communities we serve by investing in education, supporting essential community services, and leading innovative economic development initiatives that bring jobs to rural areas.

North Carolina's electric cooperatives, including Tri-County EMC, lead the nation in investments through the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant (REDLG) program. In total, electric co-ops have channeled more than \$50 million in funds to North Carolina communities in the past five years, supporting the creation of more than 2,500 jobs.

Tri-County EMC has secured a \$100,000 U.S. Department of

Agriculture's Rural Economic Development Loan for the Oak Wolfe Fire Department, \$1 million loan/\$300,000 grant for the Wayne County Convention Center and a \$1 million loan/\$18,767 grant for the construction of the new Agricultural Center for Wayne County.

Our local initiatives complement extensive community-building projects supported by electric cooperatives across the state.

"Electric co-ops are using the REDLG program to do a world of good in rural communities across North Carolina," said Eddie Miller, vice president of community development for North Carolina's Electric Cooperatives. "We're national leaders in receiving funds and putting them to work, funding emergency vehicles, libraries, schools, fire stations, hospitals, sanitation facilities and other important projects."

2,500

JOBS
created across
North Carolina

\$50+

MILLION
to NC projects

#1

IN THE NATION
for REDLG funding

Tri-County EMC and each of North Carolina's electric cooperatives are located in the communities we serve, and are owned and directed by our members. We will continue to take a leadership role in supporting initiatives that address the challenges of the future and help make our cooperative communities vibrant places to live and work.

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).

TUFFLINE DISC 10.5ft. \$2200. Call 919-738-4710 (7).

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS Stainless steel double sink (\$45), handmade 8 globe wagon-wheel light fixture (\$250). Call 252-559-0862 (7).

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.

Surges Can Harm Your Valuable Electronics

With summer storms at their peak, it's time you buy PowerGuard to protect your valuable electronics. PowerGuard is a surge protection package offered by Tri-County EMC that helps protect your home appliances and electronics from serious damage caused by unexpected power surges.

What is a power surge?

A "power surge" occurs when there is a rapid rise in the flow of power and usually causes damage that is often unseen. Surges can be caused by downed power lines, bad weather, birds and squirrels coming in contact with power lines, and the normal on and off cycling of large appliances. Surges can also be caused by faulty wiring or poor grounding.

How can PowerGuard help?

Surge suppressors are made to protect your electronic equipment by diverting surges away from sensitive electric circuits. PowerGuard utilizes a two-step approach to be most effective in a home. The first step is a high-energy surge suppressor professionally installed in your meter base by a Tri-County EMC technician. This suppressor will provide increased life for your motor driven appliances such as your refrigerator, and washer and dryer.

Secondly, plug-in surge suppressor modules are used inside the home that connect to equipment such as your entertainment center or personal computers. The plug-in suppressors are designed to protect your appliances from surges from other sources, such as a telephone or cable wire. It also provides supplemental protection from external surges. It is an affordable means of added security and peace of mind!

How do I purchase PowerGuard for my home?

Contact Bob Kornegay, manager of member services and marketing, at 919-735-2611 or 800-548-4869 for prices and to schedule an appointment for our qualified utility technician to install the unit.

Lightning can destroy your home electronics. Help protect them by installing PowerGuard equipment. Stop power surges with PowerGuard.



HOLIDAY CLOSING

Tri-County County EMC will be closed on Tuesday, July 4, in observance of Independence Day.

Payments after office hours and on holidays can be placed in the night deposit box or you may choose to utilize the convenience of online bill-pay by logging on to www.tcemc.com. You may choose to call the numbers listed below to pay by phone.

To report a loss of power or an emergency, please call 1-800-548-4869 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**

Josh Mattox is one of 51 employees

ready to serve you. He has worked with Tri-County EMC since January 1, 2017, and is the Manager of Information Technology for the cooperative. Josh resides in Angier with his wife, Julia, and two daughters.