

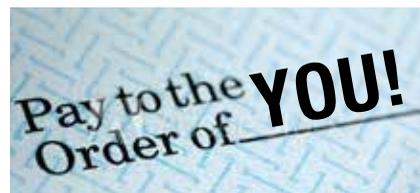
Tri-County news

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

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

News and Information For Cooperative Members

October 2017



Join Fellow Co-op Members at the 2017 Annual Meeting

It's that time of year again: Tri-County EMC is gearing up for the 2017 Annual Meeting, which will be held on Saturday, November 11, 2017 at Kornegay Arena on the University of Mount Olive campus. Voter registration will begin at 12:30 p.m., with the official business meeting scheduled to begin at 1:30 p.m.

The annual meeting is a special time for co-op members to gather, share experiences, hear from co-op leadership and, perhaps most importantly, vote to elect four members to the cooperative's board of directors.

Tri-County EMC employees work hard to host this fun event, and we encourage you to attend and exercise some of the many rights you have as a member of an electric cooperative. We know the food and prizes are the best parts of the meeting, but there is so much more to the event.

Did you know the annual meeting is an occasion to discuss and learn more about the issues affecting our community and the cooperative? An opportunity to learn more about the topics that impact you and talk about what we as a community can do to address our most pressing

challenges and take advantage of available opportunities.

Your annual meeting is also the occasion to exercise one of the greatest benefits of being an electric co-op member: voting for the upcoming year's board of directors.

Your electric cooperative is not owned by far-away investors, and it is not run by an appointed board of directors. Your electric cooperative is run by a democratically elected board that is given the privilege to serve *because of your vote*.

So, at this year's annual meeting, not only will you have a blast (and maybe win a prize!), but you will feel good knowing that you had a voice in a very important decision that impacts one of our most vital resources, electricity.

From all of your friends at Tri-County EMC, we hope to see you in November at the annual meeting.



J. Michael Davis
General Manager

YOU get the credit!

Tri-County EMC retires
\$2,483,630.78 to members

It's time for you to get the credit—capital credits, that is—for helping build, sustain and grow your local electric cooperative. This November the cooperative will retire—or send out checks totaling \$2,483,630.78 to members who received power from the cooperative during 1997 and 2016. This is the remaining one-half of the profits made in 1997 and 25% of the profits made in 2016 by the members of Tri-County EMC.

When you signed up to receive electric service from Tri-County EMC, you became a member of an electric utility. 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 (also called patronage dividends, patronage refunds, patronage capital, or equity capital) based on how much electricity you purchased during a year.

This year, members who purchased electric power from Tri-County in 1997 and 2016 will receive capital credit retirements through a check in the mail, reflecting their contribution of capital to, and ownership of, the cooperative during that year.

TCEMC Equipment Sale

Tri-County EMC will be taking sealed-bids on the following de-commissioned vehicles and equipment:

- (Truck 4) 1999 GMC C7500 with 192k miles and TEREX C4045 45' Digger Derrick
- (Truck 51) 2007 International 4300 with 232k miles and TEREX TL45 45' Bucket (MH)
- (Truck 26) 2008 Chevy Express Van with 160k miles and Service Body
- (Truck 57) 2000 GMC C8500 with 200k miles and TEREX HR55 M 55' Bucket (MH)
- (Truck 40) 2008 Chevrolet Silverado C1500 Pickup Truck with 260k miles
- (Trencher 24) 1999 Vermeer 5750 Trencher with Backhoe and 3,967 Hrs.
- (Trencher 47) 2002 Vermeer 5750 Trencher with Backhoe and 2,866 Hrs.
- (Trailer 56) 1997 Butler Tilt-Bed Equipment Trailer
- (Trailer 23) 1996 Butler Tilt-Bed Equipment Trailer
- (Trailer 14) 1982 Butler Pole Trailer

The equipment will be available for viewing on weekdays from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. from Monday, October 2 through Friday, October 13, 2017 at the Cooperative Warehouse located at 4255 US 117 Alternate in Dudley, NC 28333.

Bids will need to be submitted on TCEMC supplied form and sealed in supplied envelope. Submit these sealed bids to Mike Wood or Jeremy Whitfield by 4 p.m. on Friday October 13, 2017. Bids will be opened at 10 a.m. on Monday, October 16, 2017, at the Cooperative Office. While each item will have known mechanical issues identified on a sheet in or on the equipment, the successful bidder will need to sign documentation stating that they are receiving the equipment "AS IS" with no warranty specified or implied and holding TCEMC harmless for any injuries or damages caused by equipment. Vehicles will need to be paid for by certified check or money order and removed from Cooperative property by 4 p.m. on Friday, October 20, 2017. Call 919-587-9594 with questions.

Cooperatives Build Communities

Power lines and utility poles weave across Tri-County EMC's service territory, connecting members together in a powerful network that delivers energy to homes and businesses.

This infrastructure is a visual representation of how Tri-County EMC is connected to local landscapes, but our commitment to the community runs deeper than poles and wires. Tri-County EMC is investing in teachers, students, families and the future to strengthen our communities.

In local classrooms, curious minds are learning new technology, and little hands are manipulating science equipment, flipping through books and creating art, thanks to our Bright Ideas education grants. These grants provide new resources and opportunities to students and teachers. Since 1994, Tri-County EMC has contributed \$1.3 million to local students, and now with more than 20 years of grants in place, generations of students are benefiting.

Local high-school students build leadership skills and experience the power of civic engagement on the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour.



Tri-County EMC sends local students, our future leaders, to Washington, D.C., on this empowering trip every year. These students come back accomplished and inspired to take bold steps toward the future.

By rounding up your electric bill, many of you are working together to support fellow community members and groups through Operation Round Up. The cooperative is proud to provide this platform for members to make a big difference for local recipient organizations and the citizens of our communities who face unexpected hardships.

At Tri-County EMC, we do more than supply power. Because we're local, and owned by you, our members, building communities is core to our mission. That's why we invest in programs and opportunities that leave a lasting mark on students, parents, towns and our communities.

Pay Your Electric Bill the Easy Way with Auto Pay!

Auto pay is the easiest method to pay your monthly electric bill. Similar to a bank draft, auto pay allows you to enter your credit card, debit card, or banking information one time and then your payment is drafted from your account each month. Best of all, it is self-managed, so you can make changes at any time.

When you set up an auto pay account, you are responsible for choosing the date that your payment is drafted. It is important to select a date that is on or before your due date to avoid any late charges or collection fees. If you are on auto pay, you are also still subject to the cooperative's existing collection and disconnection procedures. In order to set your account up on auto pay, you must have a zero balance on your account.

To enroll in Auto Pay, login to our Customer Service Portal at www.tcemc.com and click on Online Bill Pay at top of page. Once logged in click on the Payments tab and choose Auto Pay Program. Online enrollment is quick and easy.



Board Nominees for 2017

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

District 1—Duplin County

(Vote for two)

Keith Beavers
(3-year term)

Carl Kornegay, Jr.
(3-year term)

District 2—Wayne County

(Vote for one)

Randy McCullen
(3-year term)

District 3—Lenoir County

(Vote for one)

Brandy Rouse
(3-year term)

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 ensuing 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 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.



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**
Denise
Simmons is
one of 51

employees ready to serve you. Denise has worked with Tri-County since August 24, 1992, and serves as the Billing Clerk for the cooperative. Denise and her family reside in Mount Olive.

SAVE THE DATE • Saturday, November 11, 2017

77th Annual Meeting of Members

Kornegay Arena, The University of Mount Olive, Mount Olive, NC

Registration begins at 12:30 P.M. Business Meeting begins at 1:30 P.M.

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 SALE

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS Invacare Oxygen Concentrator (\$200), Coleman Air Mattress (\$50), 38' Metal Patio Chair Set w/ Umbrella (\$300). Call 252-525-3151. (9)

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS AC Heat pump, Dryer, Glass Coffee Table, Bread Box, Super Twin Box Spring, Regular Twin Mattress, Women Clothes (Sz. 18-20), Women Shoes (Sz. 11W), Kirby Vacuum w/ Shampooer. Call 919-273-1623 (8).

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS Nordic Track I Fit Elliptical, with stride adjustment, space saver, and 8 weeks personal training program (\$700), Tony Little Gazelle Edge (\$75.00). Call 252-559-3235

TWO GRAVE SITES plus opening and closing at Wayne Memorial Park located in the Ten Commandments Section. Asking \$4500. Call 919-735-1451. (10)

FREE MULBERRY TREE BRANCHES
Call 919-778-4060. (10)

HOME FOR SALE 1,500 Sq. ft. 3BDR/1BATH Brick Rancher. Includes a 24.5x54 ft. shop/garage office w/ half bath, two metal buildings (11x18 and 8x24), 30X28 carport and fenced in backyard. Call 865-947-4976 or 865-806-0601. (10).

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.

UPCOMING EVENTS

**Goldsboro Walk for
Alzheimer's North Carolina**
Wayne, Duplin &
Greene County
Saturday, October 28, 2017.

The walk will be hosted
downtown Goldsboro
at the Cornerstone
Commons beginning at 8AM.

For more information contact
Carol Lancaster
919-778-8664 or
Lisa Barker at
919-731-1608.

3 HALLOWEEN SAFETY TIPS

1 Avoid electrical hazards You only use those fog machines, black lights and inflatable mummies once per year, so be sure to check them for frayed wires. Reacquaint yourself with the manufacturer's directions and do not overload your outlets.

2 Walk with your children Children, especially those under the age of 12, should not walk alone. Halloween is mostly full of treats, but adult supervision can prevent kids from encountering any tricks.

3 Make costumes safer Chose a light colored costume, and add reflective tape of stickers to costumes and treat bags. Consider face paint instead of a mask to keep you child's vision unobstructed, and select a costume of an appropriate size to prevent trips and falls.