

Tri-County news

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

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

News and Information For Cooperative Members

January 2018

TRI-COUNTY EMC HOLDS 77TH ANNUAL MEETING

Members and employees joined the Board of Directors of Tri-County EMC on November 11, 2017 to celebrate the 77th Annual Meeting of the Members at



691 members participated in the Annual Meeting of Members held on November 11, 2017 at Kornegay Arena on the campus of the University of Mount Olive.

Kornegay Arena on the campus of the University of Mount Olive.

Almost 700 members and their families joined in the celebration to receive \$5 and a gift bag by registering and participating in the business part of the cooperative. The business meeting included entertainment from Steve Jones of Goldsboro, NC and 77 cash prize drawings in the amount of \$77 each.

General Manager J. Michael Davis, gave an overview of last year's accomplishments reporting the value of the cooperative was \$80 million with \$68 million of that being invested in plant facilities. Davis noted that Operation Round-Up continues to have the highest membership participation in the nation with 95% of Tri-County



TCEMC line trucks proudly display the American flag at the Annual Meeting.

EMC members participating giving a total of \$1,871,884.06 (since inception) to non-profit organizations and individuals. Davis also reported that Tri-County EMC had scored one of the highest scores in the nation based upon reliability of service, knowledgeable employees, and good value for the members' money.

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How Can We Better Serve You in 2018?

It's amazing what we learn through listening and observation.

New products and services are more likely to gain the satisfaction of consumers when their introduction follows market research.

Here at Tri-County EMC, we've provided members with a customer portal, enabling you to check the status of your electric service, and receive real-time updates on energy use.

Also in 2017, we introduced our Home Energy Advisor tool. This tool analyzes energy use and areas for improvement by gathering information about your home's location, size, construction, and energy systems. By combining these inputs with local weather and current energy prices, Home Energy Advisor instantly produces an accurate, detailed report.

These services are just a few ways of connecting with people and

assisting you with resources to control your energy costs. That's why we communicate with you about energy prices and ways we can work together to help ease the burdens on your wallet.

Listening improves understanding, builds trust, strengthens relationships and fosters cooperation. It's also crucial to collaboration and success.

That's why Tri-County EMC still loves face time with our members. Our annual meeting is a social event for our whole co-op family; you will read more information on our recent meeting in our Annual Meeting article. If you didn't get a chance to make our last meeting, we hope you'll make plans now to join us in November 2018 for a day of co-op business, fun and prizes.

So, how do we serve you better in 2018? The same way many of us try to serve community, society and family

better, each day—by listening. In our offices, on telephones, through social media exchanges and in our face-to-face meetings, we're ready to listen.

When you have questions about energy efficiency, electrical service or any of our products or services, just ask us. When we know just what you want, we're in a better position to deliver successful results. So, drop in and see us, we're always glad to hear from you.



J. Michael Davis
General Manager



YOUTH TOUR REMINDER

Don't miss your chance at the trip of lifetime by being part of the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour to Washington, D.C.! Applications are due January 26, 2018. Contact Tri-County EMC at 1-800-548-4869 or (919) 735-2611 for more information and how to obtain an application.



A Year of Energy Improvements

“Dropping the ball” is a good thing when you're ringing in the New Year, but not if you're missing an opportunity to save energy and money. By making one small investment of time or money each month throughout 2018, you can realize significant savings that will pay back by reducing your energy expenses. Use this month-by-month guide to schedule energy improvements and save money all year.

- **January:** Request a home energy audit to identify the areas in your home that could benefit most from energy efficiency improvements. Audits are tailored to your energy consumption and needs and can help cut your energy expenses throughout the year. It's a great way to kick off your energy saving efforts and get ideas for improvements you can make over the coming months.
- **February:** Sign up for free energy services through your electric cooperative like our Home Energy Advisor Tool. These services are offered by Tri-County EMC to help you track and manage your

Apply Now for a Touchstone Energy Sports Camp Scholarship

Calling all middle school basketball fans! Want to take a shot at an awesome opportunity to train with college basketball coaches and players to improve your skills on the court?

Tri-County EMC is now accepting applications for full scholarships to attend overnight basketball camp on college campuses this summer. Young men can apply to attend the Roy Williams Basketball Camp June 16–20 at the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill, and young women can apply to attend the Wolfpack Women's Basketball Camp June 10–13 at NC State University in Raleigh. Each Touchstone Energy cooperative in the state awards two scholarships to students in their local area annually, one to a young man and one to a young woman.

Applicants must be rising sixth, seventh or eighth graders at a qualifying school in North Carolina and will be judged on their academics, extracurricular activities and an essay. Applications must be postmarked by **March 31**. For more information or to download the application, go to www.ncelectriccooperatives.com/community.



energy use, resulting in savings for both you and the entire cooperative membership.

- **March:** Tune up your air conditioning system before the weather gets hot. It is recommended that you have your air conditioning system serviced by a professional once a year to maintain its performance.
- **April:** Trim back shrubs and bushes around outdoor HVAC units. You should allow at least two feet of clearance for proper airflow.
- **May:** Stock up on air filters. Filters should be changed every 1 to 3 months to help your HVAC system perform properly. If you have a few extra on hand, it makes it quicker and easier to change them when needed.
- **June:** Invest in a smart thermostat. These can help you save money by automatically adjusting the temperature during certain times, like when you are away during the day or asleep at night. They are especially useful while away on summer vacations!
- **July:** Install a power strip. Even after you've turned them off, plugged-in appliances and electronics use a small amount of power, known as phantom or vampire energy use. You can solve this problem and save about \$100 a year by plugging multiple items (careful not to overload!) into one power strip and switching it to off when those items aren't in use.
- **August:** Make the switch to LED light bulbs. These bulbs are much more energy efficient than

conventional light bulbs, and they don't emit heat – a nice summer bonus! ENERGY STAR-qualified LEDs use 75 percent less energy and last up to 25 times longer than incandescent bulbs.

- **September:** Tune up your heating system before cold weather arrives. Just like your air conditioning, you should have your heating system serviced once a year to keep it at optimal performance.
- **October:** Install timers for indoor/outdoor lights as needed. As it gets darker earlier, you may want to install a timer so that a light is on when you arrive home without having to leave a lamp or outdoor lights on all day. You may also want to think ahead to the holiday season and purchase timers that can be used for holiday lighting.
- **November:** Weatherstrip and caulk around doors and windows. Seal up any cracks and gaps around windows and doors to help keep chilly air out and heated air in.
- **December:** Consider replacing old light strands with LED holiday lights. LED strands are 70 percent more efficient and last 10 times longer than traditional incandescent lights. They are also cooler to the touch than incandescent lights, reducing the risk of fire. And they now come in warmer colors that mimic those of older holiday lights.

Cheers to a year of energy improvements and savings!

Space Heater Safety Tips

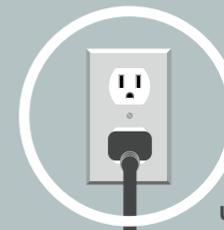
Space heaters are a great way to warm specific rooms in your home without having to crank up the thermostat, but using space heaters doesn't come without risk! Use the tips below to keep your home safe.

DO: Plug your space heater directly into the wall outlet.

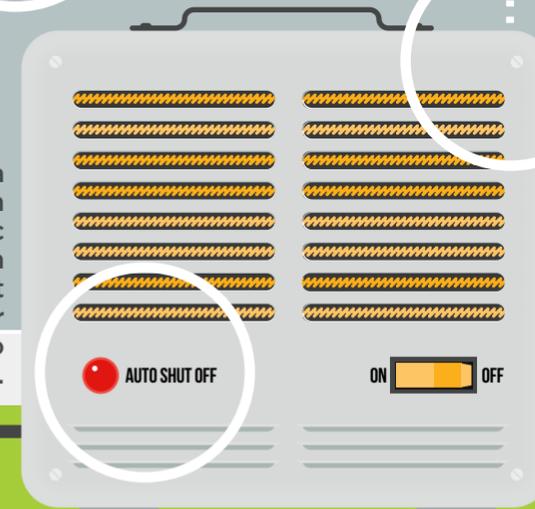


DO: Keep your space heater in low-moisture rooms.

DO: Keep your space heater at a safe distance (at least 3 feet) from kids, pets and flammable items.



DO: Buy a unit with an automatic shutoff in case the unit tips over, or you forget to shut it off.



DO: Always follow the directions and take a broken space heater to a qualified appliance service center.



DON'T: Leave your space heater unattended. Always unplug it before you leave the house or go to bed.

DON'T: Place your space heater near curtains, clothing, furniture or bedding.



DON'T: Use an extension cord to plug in your space heater. It can cause the heater to over-heat, and can be a tripping hazard.

DON'T: Try to repair a broken space heater yourself.



DON'T: Put your space heater in your bathroom. The moisture can damage the unit, which could cause it to malfunction.

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

1984 CHEVY S10, good condition but needs some transmission work. 2.81L motor. Asking \$700. Call 919-252-5369 (1).

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS Nordic Track I Fit Elliptical, with stride adjustment, space saver, and 8 weeks personal training program (\$700), Tony Little Gazette 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 MOVE-IN READY 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).

ROOM FOR RENT Warsaw/Faison Area. Call 910-385-8258 (12)

WANTED Sewing Machine reasonably priced. Call 919-284-2795 (12)

TUFFLINE DISC 10.5ft. \$2200. Call 919738-4710 (12)

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS 38' Metal Patio Chair Set w/ Umbrella (\$300), Adjustable hospital bed with tempurpedic mattress and 3-dresser drawer (\$400), 32" Flat Screen TV (\$50), Computer Desk (\$25). Call 252-525-3151. (12)

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS White Pedestal Table w/ 4 chairs, Two-Sided BBQ Tray, Full & Queen Size Quilting Frame, Workshop Tools. Call 919-440-9258 (12).

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS Black Bart Fireplace Insert (\$200), Living Room Suite (\$75), Convention Oven & Cart (\$100), Coffee Table w/ 2 End Tables (\$25), 6ft. Christmas Tree (\$25), Bookcase (\$15), 32" TV (\$25), Solid Wood TV Cabinet (\$15), Two Drawer File Cabinet (\$10). Call 919-221-3424 (12).

CEMETERY PLOT W/ VAULT at Wayne Memorial Park located in Premiere Garden. Valued at \$4500, asking \$2500. Call 919-222-7228 (12).

CIVIL WAR BOOK COLLECTION 45 books to include fiction and non-fiction \$500. Also books by Catherine Cookson; Richard Paul Evans and F. Van Wyck Mason. Call 919-689-9133 (12).

MEN'S 5-DIAMOND GOLD RING 1 1/4 ct. t.w. Appraised at \$850, asking \$500. Call 919-689-9133 (12).

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.

Tips for More Efficient Heating This Winter

Change filters every one to three months.

Keep heating vents open and unobstructed.

Leave interior doors open so air can circulate.

Limit use of kitchen and bathroom ventilation fans.

Have your heating system serviced annually by a professional.



Annual Meeting,
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Steve Jones of Goldsboro provided entertainment for this year's 77th Annual Meeting.

Mr. Davis noted his appreciation for the Board of Directors and employees of Tri-County EMC. He thanked the members for their participation in the community activities sponsored by the cooperative.

In addition to the regular business session, the membership returned four members of the Board of Directors to another three year term: Keith Beavers, Carl Kornegay, Jr., Randy McCullen and Brandy Rouse.

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
Jennings Outlaw—Treasurer
Keith Beavers

Dallace Grady
Jeff Henderson
Randy McCullen
Worth Overman
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

Andy Beavers is one of 51 employees

ready to serve you. Andy has worked with Tri-County since April 7, 2003 as a first class lineman for the cooperative. Andy and his family reside in Mount Olive.