

# NEWS



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## Manager's Message: We're Thankful for Your Membership

**"F**eeling gratitude and not expressing it is like wrapping a present and not giving it."

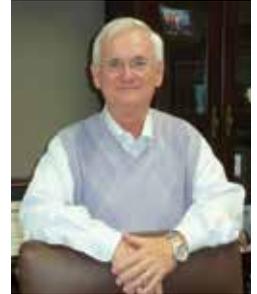
In the spirit of this quote by author William Arthur Ward, I'd like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude for your membership in our electric cooperative. Because of your connection to Tri-County EMC, we are able to make our community a better place.

As part of the cooperative business model, one of our core principles is "Concern for Community." While our priority is always to provide safe, reliable and affordable energy, we view our role in the community as a catalyst for good.

We work closely with our local schools to provide safety demonstrations, award college scholarships and fund innovative classroom projects through our Bright Ideas program. Tri-County EMC also participates in an annual Youth Tour, where we take our community's brightest young people to Washington, D.C., for a week-long immersion to experience democracy in action. The trip is inspirational for many students, and we are both humbled and honored to be a part of this leadership development journey.

Ultimately, the larger community benefits from these programs because of you! You empower the co-op through your membership and through your participation in and support of these programs. When you attend co-op events, alert us to problems, provide suggestions online or to our

**J. Michael Davis**  
*General Manager*



employees, you help us improve operations and thereby better serve the larger co-op membership.

Because we are locally governed by members of our community, we are able to get a first-hand perspective on community priorities, thereby enabling us to make more informed decisions on long-term investments.

We are thankful that our co-op board members carve out time to attend important training sessions, participate in planning meetings and keep abreast of industry trends. This investment in time results in better informed advisors that serve the co-op's interests in a way that our consumer-members expect and deserve.

On a more personal note, we appreciate the countless acts of kindness our lineworkers and other employees receive when they are working in severe weather and dangerous conditions. Our employees are thankful for your patience and consideration when we are trying to restore power during challenging situations and prolonged periods.

Tri-County EMC was originally established 78 years ago to bring electricity to our area when no one else would. The cooperative is a reflection of our local community and its evolving needs. Together, let's continue making our corner of the world a better place. We can't do it without you, and for that, we're thankful for your membership.

*Thank You*



### Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month:

Is your hot water tank warm to the touch? Consider insulating it to save 7 to 16 percent annually on water heating costs. Follow the manufacturer's recommendations.

Source: [energy.gov](http://energy.gov)

### 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 25, 2019**.

Applications for Youth Tour are available online at [tcemc.com](http://tcemc.com).



# Make 2019 a Year of Energy Efficiency

This year, resolve to be more energy efficient by making simple changes each month. Follow this guide to save energy and money throughout 2019.

## Home Energy Audits.

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.

JAN

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

FEB

## Air conditioning tune up.

A professional should service your air conditioning system once a year when the weather starts to warm up to maintain peak performance.

MAR

## Outdoor HVAC unit clean up.

Trim bushes and shrubs to allow at least two feet of clearance around your HVAC unit and keep leaves and debris from accumulating to maintain proper airflow.

APR

## Air filter stock up.

Replace your air filters every 1 to 3 months to make sure your HVAC system performs properly. If you keep a few extra filters on hand, it's easier to change them when needed.

MAY

## 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!

JUN

## Power strips.

Your appliances and devices may be turned off, but they still use a small amount of power—known as phantom energy—when plugged in. You can save by installing a power strip that allows you to turn off all these items in a single switch.

JUL

## LED light bulbs.

Switching to LED bulbs is one of the easiest ways to increase energy efficiency in your home. ENERGY STAR-qualified LEDs use 75 percent less energy and last up to 25 times longer than incandescent bulbs. Also, LEDs don't emit heat, which is an added plus during the dog days of summer.

AUG

## Heating system tune up.

Just like your air conditioning, your heating system should be serviced once a year as the weather gets cooler to keep it at optimal performance.

SEP

## Light timers.

As the sun sets earlier, consider installing a timer so lights come on as needed rather than leaving them on all day.

OCT

## Caulking and weather stripping.

Seal up any cracks and gaps around windows and doors to help keep cold air out and warm air in.

NOV

## Energy efficient holiday lights.

LED light strands are 70 percent more efficient and last 10 times longer than traditional incandescent lights. They are also cooler to the touch, reducing the risk of fire.

DEC

*Cheers to a year of energy improvements and savings!*



## Apply for a Touchstone Energy Sports Camp Scholarship and Attend Basketball Camp for Free!

**M**iddle schoolers, if you love basketball and want to gain experience training alongside real college basketball players and coaches, we have great news for you!

Tri-County EMC is now accepting applications for full scholarships to renowned basketball camps at two North Carolina universities this summer. Young men can apply for a scholarship to attend the Roy Williams Basketball Camp at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and young women can apply for a spot at the Wolfpack Women's Basketball Camp held at NC State University in Raleigh.

To apply, you must be a rising sixth, seventh or eighth grade student at a qualifying school. Applicants will be judged on their academics, extracurricular activities and an essay. The application period begins on January 1 and applications must be postmarked by March 31. To learn more or to download an application, visit [ncelectriccooperatives.com/community](http://ncelectriccooperatives.com/community).

# Downed and Dangerous

If you see a downed power line, always assume it is energized and dangerous. Avoid going near it or anything in contact with the power line.



Downed power lines can energize the ground up to **35 ft.** away – so keep your distance.



Never drive over a downed line or through water that is touching the line.



If you see a downed line, notify the local authorities immediately.



Never try to move a downed power line, even if you think the line is deenergized or if you're using a non-conductive item – this will not prevent injury or death!

Source: ESFI.org

# Tri-County EMC holds its 78th Annual Meeting of Members

**M**embers and employees joined the Board of Directors of Tri-County EMC on November 10, 2018, to celebrate the 78th Annual Meeting of the Members at Kornegay Arena on the campus of the University of Mount Olive.



Approximately 752 members and their families joined in the celebration to receive \$5 and a Tri-County EMC-branded cast iron skillet by registering and participating in the business part of the cooperative. The business meeting included entertainment from Steve Jones of Goldsboro and 78 cash prize drawings in the amount of \$78 each.

General Manager J. Michael Davis gave an overview of last year's co-op accomplishments, reporting the value of the cooperative was \$91 million, with \$70 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 EMC members participating and giving a

total of \$1,957,072.65 to local non-profit organizations and individuals. Davis also reported that Tri-County EMC scored one of the highest scores in the nation based upon reliability of service, knowledgeable employees, and good value for the members' money.

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.

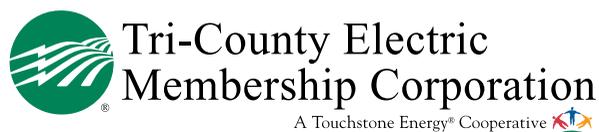
In addition to the regular business session, the membership returned three members of the Board of Directors to another three-year term: Jennings Outlaw, Jeff Henderson and David Vinson.



## Tri-County EMC Employees:

### Ready To Serve

Paula Davis is one of 47 employees ready to serve you. Paula has worked with Tri-County EMC since January 1, 2003, as a member services representative/cashier. Paula resides in Mount Olive with her husband, Bo.



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

**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

[tccmc.com](http://tccmc.com)

#### 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.

J. Michael Davis  
*General Manager*

**Management Staff**  
Kenneth E. Davis, Jr.  
*Manager, Finance & Administration*

Robert B. Kornegay  
*Manager, Member Services*

Deidra Locklear,  
*Editor*  
*Manager, Marketing and Communications*

Tony Grantham, P. E.  
*Manager, Engineering*

Michael Wood  
*Manager, Operations*

Tamah Hughes  
*Manager, Information Technology*

**Board of Directors**  
Carl W. Kornegay, Jr.  
*President*

Jennings Outlaw  
*Vice President*

William H. Farmer, Jr.  
*Secretary*

David Vinson  
*Treasurer*

Keith Beavers  
Dallace Grady  
Jeff Henderson  
Patrick Lynch  
Randy McCullen  
Worth Overman  
Brandy Rouse