

NEWS



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Manager's Message:

Back to School

Electric co-ops are continually learning to improve service for members.

It's a new school year and kids of all ages are getting ready for a fresh year of learning! From kindergarten through college, students attend school to gain knowledge about a broad variety of subjects and learn new skills that will prepare them for the future. In a similar vein, Tri-County EMC is continually learning in order to advance technology that improves electric service, reliability, safety and in turn, enhances quality of life for the members we serve in our local communities.

Tri-County EMC keeps abreast of industry trends because the energy sector is rapidly changing. Innovations in technology and energy types are fueling demand for more options. On the consumer front, people are looking for more ways to manage their energy use with smart technologies. Consumers expect more convenient payment methods—whether through automatic bill pay, pre-pay, online, mobile app, phone or in person.

We're working to help sift through the options for our members in ways that benefit the greater community. At the same time, we never lose sight of the top priority—providing safe, reliable and affordable electricity.

Technology improves operational efficiency

For example, automated meter reading (AMR) is the technology of automatically collecting energy consumption data and transferring it from the electric meter to the co-op. Because this information can be collected remotely, it enhances our system's efficiency, helps control costs and improves work processes.

Similar to AMR, there is another technology called advanced metering infrastructure (AMI). This is an integrated system of smart meters, communications networks and data management systems that enables two-way communication between utilities and consumers. In the event of an outage, AMI helps to distinguish between events that impact a single home or multiple outages. This is critical because resolving either issue is a very different process. The two-way communication

J. Michael Davis
General Manager



is integral to AMI because it provides a means to verify that power has been restored after an outage. However, one of the biggest benefits from improved technologies, especially for outages caused by extreme weather is pinpointing the outage location, which helps to reduce risk for crews out on the road during severe weather events.

In addition to providing essential information during major outages, Tri-County EMC analyzes AMI data for anomalies including faults, damaged meters or energy theft. Detecting these problems early helps our cooperative save money and improve reliability for the whole community.



Energy for the future

Consumer interest in green energy sources and renewables is at an all-time high. Nationally, the increasing use of solar energy is paving the way for new methods of generating and using electricity. That's why Tri-County EMC continues to research how best to adjust our energy mix.

Whether it's examining green energy options or exploring how emerging technologies can better serve our members, for Tri-County EMC our "school year" is never over. We will continue to learn from our members about their priorities for the future, and we will continue to study and research the issues so that we can better serve you, now and in the future.

Tri-County takes it to the Green for TCEMC Scholarships

On June 14, 152 golfers participated in Tri-County EMC's Scholarship Golf Tournament. It was the tournament's 9th successful year at Southern Wayne Country Club.

The \$26,000 raised from the tournament will support the scholarship foundation for high school seniors. This year, Tri-County EMC awarded 64 scholarships to local high school senior in Wayne, Lenoir and Duplin counties totaling \$27,000. Over the years, Tri-County EMC has awarded \$395,250 to high school seniors.

"This is our biggest fundraiser of the year. None of this would be possible without the hard work and dedication from the employees of Tri-County EMC," said General Manager Mike Davis. "We are exceptionally grateful for the generosity of our sponsors and golfers."

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 Ninth Annual Tri-County Scholarship Golf Tournament.



Tournament Results

	<u>1st Place Honors</u>	<u>2nd Place Honors</u>
Morning Round First Flight	Team Mount Olive Rotary Club, Sprunt Hill, Kenny Moore, Barton Baldwin, Nick Adams	Team UMO, Dwayne McKay, Tim Woodard, David Shields, John Thatch
Morning Round Second Flight	Team Kornegay Insurance, Tim Smith, Larry Kornegay, Rick Atkinson and Robin Albertson	Team Right-of-Way, Leonard Person, Brad Thigpen, DJ Skinner, Ken Willoughby
Afternoon Round First Flight	Team High Standard, Stan Adams, Nick Barrow, Eric Weeks, Dane Jones	Team 3HC, Dave Kilmer, Mike Brock, Tony Harris, Jim Scott
Afternoon Round Second Flight	Team Mastec, Dean Simmons, Tim Bowes, Jeffery Schmiat, Eric Thigpen	Team In Memory of Clay Best, Andrew Ingham, David Whitehead, Donney Singleton, Larry Dawson

What's your Bright Idea?

Bright Ideas Early Bird Deadline: Aug. 15



ATTENTION, TEACHERS! Do you have an idea for a creative learning project geared toward giving your students a new way to learn? Apply for a Bright Ideas grant! Educators who submit a grant application by the early bird deadline of Aug. 15 are entered to win one of five \$100 gift cards. Tri-County EMC is awarding up to \$1,000 this year to educators with creative ideas to bring hands-on learning to students in K-12 classrooms. The final deadline to apply is Sept. 19, but it could pay to apply early. For more information or to start your application, go to NCBrightIdeas.com.

Apply early for the chance to win extra cash

811 Day Serves as Annual Reminder to Call 811 Before Digging

Aug. 11 (8/11) is 811 Day, an annual reminder to dial 8-1-1 at least three working days before beginning any digging project to have underground utility lines marked. This free and simple step can save lives and reduce risk of injury, repair costs, fines and inconvenient outages.

According to North Carolina 811, an underground utility line is damaged every nine minutes due to digging without taking proper precautions. “Every time you break ground, even for something simple like planting a shrub or installing a mailbox, you should call 811 first,” said Mike Wood, manager of Operations of Tri-County EMC. “No matter your level of expertise, it’s important to know what’s below the ground to prevent the potentially serious consequences of hitting a utility line.”

The national 811 “Call Before You Dig” phone number links residents to a local call center, which alerts utility companies of the intent to dig. Professional locators are then dispatched to mark underground line locations with paint or flags. These marked lines show you where it is – and isn’t – safe to break ground. Once your lines have been marked, make sure to dig carefully around the marks, not on top of them.

For more information about safe digging and the “Call Before You Dig” process, visit nc811.org.

5 STEPS FOR SAFE DIGGING

Working on an outdoor project? Careless digging poses a threat to people, pipelines and underground facilities. Always call 8-1-1 first. Here are five easy steps for safe digging:



1. NOTIFY

Call 8-1-1 or make a request online two to three days before your work begins. The operator will notify the utilities affected by your project.

2. WAIT

Wait two to three days for affected utilities to respond to your request. They will send a locator to mark any underground utility lines.

2-3

3. CONFIRM

Confirm that all affected utilities have responded to your request by comparing the marks to the list of utilities the 8-1-1 call center notified.



4. RESPECT

Respect the markers provided by the affected utilities. The markers are your guide for the duration of your project.



5. DIG CAREFULLY

If you can't avoid digging near the markers (within 18-24 inches on all sides, depending on state laws), consider moving your project location.



Source: call811.com



AMERICA'S ELECTRIC
COOPERATIVES



JAYLON ANDERSON
Southern Wayne High School



BRANDON LARK, JR
Brogden Primary



BROCK MILLER
North Duplin Elementary



SALLY COATES
St. Mary Catholic School

Local Students Win Annual Meeting Bag Contest

Four students will see their artwork displayed on this year's annual meeting bag after winning Tri-County EMC's 1st "Design our Annual Meeting Bag" contest.

Jaylon Anderson of Southern Wayne High School, Brock Miller of North Duplin Elementary, Sally Coates of St. Mary Catholic School, and Brandon Lark, Jr of Brogden Primary, were the four winners selected. Ten designs were chosen and posted to Tri-County EMC's Facebook page, where individuals voted on their favorite design. The winners received \$100 and a celebration dinner on June 21 at Pizza Inn in Goldsboro.

Semi-finalist winners Kevin Gaspar Madrid of Brogden Primary, Yoselynn Cervantes-Gomez of Brogden Primary, Alan Ascencio of Moss Hill Elementary, Joanna Prybylinski of Moss Hill Elementary, Amber Stanley of Moss Hill Elementary and Sterling Goff of Moss Hill Elementary received \$25.

"We received many entries that exhibited students' interpretation of Tri-County EMC and our involvement

in the community," said Deidra Locklear, manager of Marketing and Communications. "Holding the contest was a creative way to engage and educate our youth about the cooperative, we appreciate everyone who took the time to submit a design."

The bags will be given away at Tri-County EMC's Annual Meeting of Members on November 9, 2019.



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

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:
919-735-2611 or 1-800-548-4869
tccmc.com

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Dallace Grady

Jeff Henderson

Patrick Lynch

Randy McCullen
Worth Overman
Brandy Rouse

Employee of the month



Bill Fischer

Bill Fischer is one of 46 employees ready to serve you. Bill began working with Tri-County EMC as a lineman on February 15, 1999. Bill resides in Four Oaks with his wife, Donna.

STATEMENT OF NONDISCRIMINATION This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer. If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax (202) 690-7442 or email at program.intake@usda.gov.