

NEWS



**See You at the
Annual Meeting!**

22



**Early Bird Bright Ideas
Winners Announced**

24

Manager's Message:

By the Community, for the Community

When you think of October, pumpkins, Halloween and beautiful fall foliage naturally come to mind. But October is notable for another reason — it's National Co-op Month! This is the time of year when cooperatives across the country, including Tri-County EMC celebrate who we are and more importantly, the members we serve.

Cooperatives are different than other types of businesses. When the market declines to offer a product or service, or does so at a very high price, co-ops intervene to fill the need.

Similar to how Tri-County EMC was built by members who came together to bring electricity to our community, cooperatives are conveners for the common good. Your electric co-op exists to provide safe, reliable and affordable energy to you, the members of the co-op. Equally important is our mission to enrich the lives of the members we serve.

As a co-op, we are well-suited to meet the needs of the community because we are locally governed. Tri-County EMC's leadership team and employees live right here in the community. Our board of directors, who helps set long-term priorities for the co-op, live locally on co-op lines. These board members have been elected to the position by neighbors like you.

We know our members (that's you!) have a valuable perspective. That's why we are continually seeking your input. Whether through community events, our social media

channels or the annual meeting, we want to hear from you.

Our close connection to the community ensures we get a first-hand perspective on local priorities, thereby enabling us to make more informed decisions on long-term investments, such as equipment, technology upgrades and electric vehicle programs.

Another feature that sets our co-op apart from a traditional utility is one of our core principles, "Concern for Community." We provide scholarships to students, educational grants to teachers and sponsor local events. We also participate in the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour, where we take our community's brightest young people



J. Michael Davis
General Manager

to Washington, D.C., for a week-long immersion to experience democracy in action.

Ultimately, the larger community benefits from these programs because of you and your neighbors. You empower the co-op through your membership and through your participation in and support of these programs.

We hope you will think of Tri-County

EMC as more than your energy provider, but instead as a local business that supports this community and powers economic development and prosperity for the people.

We will continue to learn from our members about their priorities so that we can better serve you — because your electric co-op was built by the community, for the community.



OCTOBER IS NATIONAL CO-OP MONTH.

Tri-County EMC is proud to power homes, businesses, farms and schools in Duplin, Johnston, Jones, Lenoir, Sampson, Wayne and Wilson counties.

See you at the 2019 Annual Meeting

It's that time of year again: Tri-County EMC is gearing up for the 2019 Annual Meeting, which will be held on Saturday, November 9, 2019, 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.

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.

As a member of the community, you have a perspective that is valuable — and we invite you to share it with the co-op. At the annual meeting, co-op leaders will discuss priorities and challenges, and discuss the financial health and priorities for the coming years. It is also the time to vote for board members who will represent you. Board members are local consumers, just like you!

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.

If you've never attended our annual meeting, or if it's been awhile, please stop by. Our co-op family looks forward to visiting with you! We'll have food, fun and door prizes, so mark your calendar for the annual meeting on November 9!



Tri-County EMC Approves \$2.5 Million Refund

Tri-County EMC will retire \$2,374,787.33 in capital credits in October, announced General Manager Mike Davis. The refunds recently approved by the Board of Directors will include capital credits for the year 1999 in the amount of \$1,178,963.83, the 2000 capital credits in the amount of \$759,929.18 and 20% of the 2018 capital credits in the amount of \$435,894.32 Capital credits represent cooperative members' equity in 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.

Current and former members who received electric service from the cooperative during 1999, 2000 and 2018 will be eligible for refunds. Checks will be mailed reflecting the member's contribution of capital to, and ownership of, the cooperative during that year.

Keep a Current Address on File

Even if you no longer receive electric service with Tri-County EMC, you may still be entitled to receive checks from your capital credit allocation account. Please keep us updated with your current mailing address so we can mail your capital credit retirement check if you are no longer an active member. Should a member pass away, the capital credit account is payable to settle the estate.

Bylaws relevant to the qualifications, nominations and elections of members to Tri-County EMC's Board of Directors

Board Nominees for 2019

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

District 1—Duplin County (Vote for one)

→ Dallace Grady (3-yr term)

District 2—Wayne County (Vote for two)

→ Bill Farmer (3-yr term)

→ Worth Overman (3-yr term)

District 3: Lenoir County (Vote for one)

→ Patrick Lynch (3-yr term)

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 ensuring 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.

Early Bird Bright Ideas Winners Announced

It pays to be an early bird, just ask four educators of Duplin, Lenoir and Wayne counties. Alicia Davis of LaGrange Elementary, Danielle Ficken of North Duplin Elementary, Jennifer Mobley of Beulaville Elementary and Jenny Sasser of Grantham Elementary, were the recipients of Tri-County EMC's early bird drawing. Each won \$50 and a goodie bag of school supplies.

ALICIA DAVIS
LaGrange
Elementary:
"Drone Worry" Be Happy!
We're Learning



JENNIFER MOBLEY
Beulaville
Elementary:
"Creepy Crawlies for
Curious Kids"



DANIELLE FICKEN
North Duplin
Elementary:
"Sewing Seeds for Success!"



JENNY SASSER
Grantham
Elementary:
"Thrilling Toys Through Time"



Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month:

Heating requires more energy than any other system in your home, typically making up about 42% of your energy bill. With proper equipment maintenance and upgrades like additional insulation and air sealing, you can save about 30% on your energy bill.

Source: energy.gov



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

tcemc.com

J. Michael Davis
General Manager

Management Staff

Kenneth E. Davis, Jr., CPA
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

Employee of the month



Charles Pate
Charles Pate is one of 46 employees ready to serve you. Charles has worked with Tri-County EMC since Jan. 2, 2014, and is a Warehouseman. Charles resides in Mount Olive.