

# NEWS



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## Manager's Message:

### Play it Safe:

#### 10 Do's and Don'ts When Using Portable Generators

**S**torm season is upon us, which means greater potential for power outages. If you're planning to use a portable generator in the event of an outage, Tri-County EMC reminds you to play it safe.

With proper use and maintenance, portable generators can provide great convenience during an outage. However, when generators are used incorrectly, they can be extremely hazardous. In a 2022 report, the Consumer Product Safety Commission estimated 85 U.S. consumers die every year from carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning caused by gasoline-powered portable generators.

While generators provide convenience during power outages, they can quickly become hazardous—even deadly—if improperly operated. Before you operate a portable generator, be sure to thoroughly read the owner's manual for important safety information and tips.

If you have questions about proper use of portable generators, we're here to help. Give us a call at 919-735-2611 or 800-548-4869.



J. Michael Davis

General Manager



#### Here are 10 do's and don'ts to keep in mind when using portable generators:

- 1. DO:** Install backup CO alarms.
- 2. DO:** Keep children and pets away from portable generators at all times.
- 3. DO:** Position generators at least 25 feet outside the home, away from doors, windows and vents that can allow CO to enter the home.
- 4. DO:** Ensure your generator is properly grounded. Use a portable ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) to prevent electric shock injuries.
- 5. DO:** Use three-pronged extension cords that are rated to handle the load of the generator. Inspect extension cords for cuts, frays or other damage before use.
- 6. DON'T:** Operate a generator inside your home or an enclosed (or partially-enclosed) space. Generators produce high levels of CO, which can be deadly.
- 7. DON'T:** Open windows or doors while the generator is running.
- 8. DON'T:** Rely on generators as a full-time source of power. They should only be used temporarily or in emergency situations to power essential equipment or appliances.
- 9. DON'T:** Overload generators. They should only be used to power essential equipment. Make sure your generator can handle the load of the items you plan to power.
- 10. DON'T:** Connect generators directly into household wiring unless you have an appropriate transfer switch installed. If a generator is connected to a home's wiring without a transfer switch, power can backfeed along power lines and electrocute utility lineworkers making repairs.



## Daylight Savings Time Begins March 12

When you set your clocks ahead an hour for Daylight Savings Time on Sunday, March 12, remember also to check your heating and cooling system filters and change them if they are dirty. Dirty filters slow down air flow and make the system work harder—wasting energy and money. Additionally, a clean filter prevents dust and dirt buildup, which can prevent expensive repairs or early system failure. This is also a good time to change the direction of your ceilings to counter-clockwise to push cool air through your home. To add to your safety, it is a good time to change your batteries in your smoke alarms. Smoke alarms save lives.

# Attention students! Application Deadlines Drawing Near

**T**ri-County EMC has scholarship opportunities available for students in our service area. Non-traditional students are eligible for a scholarship in the amount of \$400. Scholarships of \$500 will be awarded to graduating high school seniors who pursue a four-year degree and scholarships of \$250 will be awarded to graduating high school seniors pursuing a two-year degree. Applications may be obtained at the guidance counselor offices of Southern Wayne, Charles B. Aycok, Rosewood, Spring Creek, Eastern Wayne, Wayne School of Engineering, Wayne Early College, North Duplin, East Duplin, Duplin Early



College, James Kenan, Lenoir Early College, North Lenoir or South Lenoir High Schools. Applications and information also available at [tcemc.com](http://tcemc.com). Applications must be received or postmarked by March 31.

## National Agriculture Day Photo Contest

**T**o Celebrate National Ag Day on March 21, we are asking members to submit your best agriculture photo. Winners will receive a cash prize \$200 for first place, \$150 for second place, \$100 for third place and \$50 for fourth place.

The top 10 photos will be posted on our Facebook page on Monday, March 13, and will be open for public voting until Friday, March 17, at 4 p.m. Votes can be cast by liking and commenting on all your favorite photos.

The winner will be announced on March 21 as part of National Agriculture Day celebrations. The winning photo will also be highlighted in our May newsletter issue of Carolina Country magazine.

Be sure to check out our Facebook page for the most up-to-date information and to vote for your favorite photos. Share the contest with your friends and family and encourage them to submit their photos of why they love agriculture.



2022 Agriculture Day Contest Winner, Mary Michael Britt.

### CONTEST TIMELINE

**February 6:** Contest opens for submissions.

**March 10:** Submission deadline. After the closing date for submissions, on March 10 at 5 p.m., ten (10) finalists will be selected for the contest.

**March 13–17:** If your photo is selected as a finalist, it will be posted on Tri-County EMC's Facebook page members/community will vote for the winning designs.

**March 17:** Deadline for voting on Facebook at 4 p.m.

**March 21:** Winners published on National Agriculture Day.

### RULES

One entry per household.

Must be a member of Tri-County EMC

Include your name, mailing address and phone number

Emailed photos accepted only

### SEND TO

**Online:** [deidra.grantham@tcemc.com](mailto:deidra.grantham@tcemc.com) (emailed photos accepted only)

If you have questions, you may contact Deidra Grantham, manager of Marketing and Communications, at 919-735-2611 ext. 621 or [Deidra.grantham@tcemc.com](mailto:Deidra.grantham@tcemc.com).

# Tri-County EMC Linemen Receive Training Certifications

**T**ri-County EMC, as a cooperative, operates according to a core set of principles that improve quality of life for our members as well as employees.

The fifth principle, Education, Training and Information, provides members and employees the needed educational tools to effectively contribute to the development of the cooperative.

Our very own linemen have recently completed hours of training to further enhance their skills and knowledge and were recognized at a safety dinner held on Jan. 12 at the cooperative. Congratulations to the following crew members for receiving their training at Nash Community College:

Dwayne Skinner, Lance Wise and

Landon Stroud: **Overhead Line Construction II and Underground Line Construction II.**

Seth Johnson: **Underground Line**

**Construction II.**

Timothy Wolfe: **Advance Lineman Construction.**



(L to R): Timothy Wolfe, Landon Stroud, Lance Wise, Dwayne Skinner and Seth Wise.

## Save The Date

**Thursday, May 11, 2023**

### Tri-County EMC Scholarship Golf Tournament

- 8 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Shotgun Starts
- Lunch Provided
- Southern Wayne Country Club
- Mount Olive, NC

Tri-County Electric employees will host its Scholarship Golf Tournament on Thursday, May 11, 2023, at Southern Wayne Country Club in Mount Olive. We invite members and friends of Tri-County to join us for a morning or afternoon of fun and fellowship to benefit the Employee-Funded Scholarship Program.

The tournament will offer two start times, either morning or afternoon, with a catered lunch for all players. Team entries will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. Individuals are also welcomed to participate. Individual participants will be assigned to a 4-player team. There will be cash prizes for the winners.

If you are unable to play golf with us this year, please consider being a Hole Sponsor. Money raised through this event will be used to award college scholarships to high school seniors.

Tri-County Electric's employees appreciate your assistance with this benefit and believe that it is important to enhance the education of our youth who will be the future leaders of our communities.

**Registration deadline is May 5, 2023.** To obtain a registration form and hole sponsor form, or if you have questions, please contact Deidra Grantham ([deidra.grantham@tcemc.com](mailto:deidra.grantham@tcemc.com)) or Mike Davis ([michael.davis@tcemc.com](mailto:michael.davis@tcemc.com)) at 800-548-4869 or 919-735-2611.



# Students: Apply Now for Sports Camp Scholarship

Time is ticking for rising sixth and seventh graders to apply for full scholarships to attend basketball camps held at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and NC State University this summer.

Tri-County EMC will provide one young lady with a scholarship to attend the Wolfpack Women’s Basketball Camp June 18-22 in Raleigh, and one young man the opportunity to attend the Carolina Basketball School June 17-21 in Chapel Hill.

The scholarships cover all expenses at the overnight camps, which provide a glimpse into life on a college campus. Campers stay overnight in college dorms, learn fundamental skills that will help them excel on

and off the court, and receive individual and group instruction from Division 1 coaches to enhance their basketball and team working abilities.

To be eligible for the scholarship, students must be a rising sixth or seventh grader. Applicants must also have permission from a parent or guardian to attend the sleep-away camp and must provide their own transportation to and from the camp if selected to attend.

To learn more and apply, visit [ncelectriccooperatives.com/sports-camps](http://ncelectriccooperatives.com/sports-camps), or contact Deidra Grantham at 919-735-2611. Applications must be submitted or postmarked by March 31.



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](http://tcemc.com)

**J. Michael Davis**  
General Manager

### Management Staff

**Kenneth E. Davis, Jr., CPA**  
Manager, Finance & Administration

**Robert B. Kornegay**  
Manager, Member Services

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

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

**Tamah Hughes**  
Manager, Information Technology

### Board of Directors

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President

**David Vinson**  
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**Scott Ballard**  
**Keith Beavers**

**Jeff Henderson**

**Patrick Lynch**

**Randy McCullen**

**Amanda Murphy**  
**Worth Overman**

### Employee Ready to Serve You



### Barbara Birkin

Barbara is one of 48 employees ready to serve you. Barbara has worked with Tri-County since Jan. 22, 2018, as a member services representative/cashier. Barbara resides in Mount Olive with her husband, Robert, and two sons, Gavin and Grayson.