

NEWS



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Manager's Message: Stay in the Know

J. Michael Davis
General Manager



At Tri-County EMC, we are constantly striving to improve our operational efficiency so we can provide the most reliable electric service possible for our consumer-members (that's you!).

We rely on data for nearly every aspect of our operations, which is why we need your help. By making sure we have your most accurate and complete contact information, we can continue to provide the high level of service that you expect and deserve. Accurate information enables us to improve customer service and enhance communications for reporting and repairing outages. It also allows co-op members to receive information about other important programs, events and activities.

Up-to-date contact information can potentially speed up the power restoration process during an outage. For example, the phone number you provide is linked to your service address to our outage management system. This means when you call to report an outage, our system recognizes your

phone number and matches it with your account location. Accurate information helps our outage management system predict the location and possible cause of an outage, making it easier for our crews to correct the problem.

Confirm or update your contact information by calling our office at 919-735-2611.

While we always do our best to maintain service, we occasionally plan outages to update, repair or replace equipment. In these instances, we can provide advance notification to affected members through automated phone messages, text messages or email, if we have your updated contact information and communication preferences.

Keeping the co-op updated with your information also helps us when there's a question about energy use or billing. Emails and text messages are also used to notify registered members of any

changes in co-op event details. In addition, discrepancies on your account can be taken care of promptly if Tri-County EMC has accurate account information.

Many of you have been members of the co-op for years, and it's likely that your account information hasn't been updated for some time. We recognize that many members now use a cell phone as their primary phone service, and we might not have that number in our system.

I want to emphasize that in providing your contact information to the co-op, we will never share this information with any third parties. It is only used by Tri-County EMC to send important information to you. Please take a moment to confirm or update your contact information by calling our office at 919-735-2611. By doing so, you will be helping us improve service and efficiency so we can better serve you and all members of the co-op.



Daylight Savings Time Begins March 8, 2020

When you set your clocks ahead an hour for Daylight Savings Time on Sunday, March 8, 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. Also change the direction of your ceiling fans to counter-clockwise to push cool air through your home. To add to your safety, also change your batteries in your smoke alarms. Smoke alarms save lives.

Save The Date

Friday, May 29, 2020

Tenth Annual Tri-County EMC Scholarship Golf Tournament

- 8:00 AM and 1:30 PM Shotgun Starts
- Lunch Provided
- Southern Wayne Country Club
- Mount Olive, NC

Tri-County EMC employees will host the 10th Annual Scholarship Golf Tournament on Friday, May 29, 2020, at Southern Wayne Country Club in Mount Olive. We invite members and friends of Tri-County EMC 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 lunch catered by McCall's BBQ and Seafood Restaurant for all players. Team entries will be accepted on a first-come-first-serve 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 Friday, May 22, 2020.

For a registration form and hole sponsor form, or if you have questions, please contact Mike Wood (michael.wood@tcemc.com), Deidra Grantham (deidra.grantham@tcemc.com), Mike Davis (michael.davis@tcemc.com) or call 800-548-4869 or 919-735-2611.

Deadline Approaching for Sports Camps for Students

Time is ticking for local middle-school students to apply for an all-expenses paid scholarship to attend basketball

camp this summer. Tri-County EMC will be sending one young man to the Roy Williams Basketball Camp June 20-24 at the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill and one young lady to the Wolfpack Women's Basketball Camp June 21-24 at NC State University in Raleigh. Students will work directly with players and coaches to develop basketball skills and practice leadership and teamwork at the overnight camps.

To be eligible for the scholarship, students must be in the sixth, seventh or eighth grade during the 2020-2021 school year. 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 access the application, visit ncelectriccooperatives.com/in-the-community/sports-camps, or contact Deidra Grantham at 919-735-2611 for more information about the program. Applications must be postmarked by March 31, 2020.



Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month:

Placing hot food in the refrigerator makes the appliance work harder than necessary, using more energy. Allow food to cool down before you place it in the fridge.



Butler Farms, one of the state's first self-powering agricultural microgrids.

Supporting Agriculture and our Rural Communities

Agriculture is North Carolina's top industry, and its history is closely intertwined with electric cooperatives. Electric co-ops like Tri-County EMC were founded by farmers to bring power to rural areas and grew from their hard work and ingenuity.

National Ag Day is March 24, but we are thankful every day for the opportunity to continue partnering with our agricultural members to reduce farms' carbon footprints, lower operating costs and provide added productivity and convenience. Examples of these efforts include:

- **Innovative Energy Projects.** North Carolina's electric cooperatives worked with Harnett County-based Butler Farms to create one of the state's first self-powering agricultural microgrids (ncelectriccooperatives.com/energy-innovation/Microgrids), which incorporates biogas from swine waste and solar energy to generate electricity and provide power reliability. A second agricultural microgrid is being developed in partnership with Hyde County egg producer Rose Acre Farms.
- **Electrification of Farm Equipment and Processes.** We are also helping identify ways to electrify agricultural processes and help make them cleaner,

smarter and cheaper. Thanks to advances in technology, farm equipment like tractors, irrigation systems, robotic milking and automatic feed pushers, along with operations like controlled environment agriculture, can all be powered through electricity instead of fossil fuels, offering a wide range of benefits to farmers.

- **Reducing Farm Energy Costs.** The North Carolina Energy Audit Program provides discounted energy audits to help farmers prioritize energy efficiency projects and access funding for equipment upgrades. Available to North Carolina electric co-op members on a first-come, first-served basis until May 2021, the audit program is funded by USDA Rural Development and operated by a division of North Carolina's Electric Cooperatives and EnSave, Inc. Contact Tri-County EMC at 919-735-2611 or EnSave at (800) 732-1399 for more information or to get started.

Thank you to our local farmers for all you do! We are proud to serve you.



Attention students! Scholarship Deadlines This Month

Tri-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. Aycock, Rosewood, Spring Creek, Eastern Wayne, Wayne School of Engineering, Wayne Early College, North Duplin, East Duplin, Duplin Early College, James Kenan, North Lenoir, or South Lenoir High Schools, or tcemc.com.

Applications must be received or postmarked by March 31, 2020.

Community Events



2019 Down East Walk to Defeat ALS®

- **WHAT:** Walk to Defeat ALS® (Lou Gehrig's disease)
- **WHEN:** Saturday, May 2, 2020 @ 9:00 am–12:00 pm
- **WHERE:** East Carolina University, Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium, Gate 5, Greenville, NC 27858
- **REGISTRATION:** Visit <http://web.alsa.org/downeast> or call 877-568-4347
- **CONTACT:** Development Manager, Leah Strom, leah@alsnc.org, 919-390-0103

The Walk to Defeat ALS is the #1 way to empower yourself to lend support to those fighting and caring for someone living with ALS. Each year, nationwide, hundreds of thousands of people come together to raise funds to support care service programs and cutting-edge global research and to advance nationwide advocacy for people with ALS and their families.

The money that we raise from the Walks in North Carolina enables us to provide care services for approximately 800 North Carolinians living with ALS and their families each year free of charge.



The Outlaw Foundation 5K Color Run/Walk

- **WHAT:** The Outlaw Foundation 7th Annual 5K Color Run/Walk
- **WHEN:** Saturday, March 21, 2020. Registration @ 7:30AM. Race begins @ 9:30AM.
- **WHERE:** Carver Elementary School 400 Old Seven Springs Rd, Mount Olive, NC
- **REGISTRATION:** Register by March 1. Visit www.runtheeast.com or www.theoutlawfoundation.com for registration form.

The Outlaw Foundation's Mission is to help as many as possible who are currently battling cancer. 100% of the event's proceeds go toward assisting families who are battling cancer.



Tri-County Electric Membership Corporation

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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

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Manager, Marketing and Communications

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Patrick Lynch

Randy McCullen

Worth Overman

Brandy Rouse

Employee of the month



Jo Brown

Jo Brown is one of 47 employees ready to serve you. Jo has worked with Tri-County EMC since August 31, 2009, and serves as a Staff Accountant for the cooperative. Jo resides in Mount Olive with her husband William.