

NEWS



Calling All Student Artists!

22



TCEMC Golf Tournament Returns

23

Manager's Message:

Thank a Lineworker on April 12

If you were asked to associate an image or a person with Tri-County EMC, I bet you would picture a lineworker. One of the most visible employees of the co-op, lineworkers work tirelessly to ensure our community receives uninterrupted power 24/7.

“Lineworker” is listed as one of the top 10 most dangerous jobs in the U.S. This

is understandable as they perform detailed tasks near high-voltage power lines. Regardless of the time of day, having to brave stormy weather and other challenging conditions,



lineworkers must climb 40 feet in the air, often carrying heavy equipment to get the job done.

Being a lineworker is not a glamorous or easy profession. It takes years of specialized training, ongoing education, dedication, and equally important, a sense of service and commitment. How else can you explain the willingness to leave the comfort of your home to tackle a challenging job in difficult conditions, when most are sheltering comfortably at home? This dedication and sense of service to the community is truly what sets them apart. That’s why we set aside the second Monday in April to celebrate and recognize the men

J. Michael Davis
 General Manager



and women who work around the clock to keep the lights on.

While lineworkers may be the most visible employees at Tri-County EMC, it’s important to note that there is a team of highly skilled professionals working behind the scenes. Engineers provide ongoing expertise and guidance on the operations side of the co-op. Member service representatives

are always standing by to take your calls and questions. Our information technology (IT) experts are continuously monitoring our system to help safeguard sensitive data. And these are just a few of the folks who work together to ensure we can deliver the service and reliability you

expect and deserve. Without them, our lineworkers wouldn’t be able to “bring the light” to our community.

Our dedicated and beloved lineworkers are proud to represent Tri-County EMC and they deserve all the appreciation and accolades that come their way on Lineworker Appreciation Day.

On April 12, and any time you see a lineworker, I hope you’ll join me in thanking them for their exceptional service. I also hope you’ll remember that you have a dedicated team of professionals working behind the scenes at the co-op whose commitment to service runs just as deep.

Apply for a Bright Ideas Grant Beginning April 1

Starting April 1, Tri-County EMC is accepting applications for the 2021 Bright Ideas Education Grant Program. Educators can apply for grants of up to \$1,000 to fund creative, hands-on projects in K–12 classrooms. Teachers can apply individually or as a team, and grants are available for projects in all subject areas.

Since the program began 27 years ago, North Carolina’s electric cooperatives have collectively awarded more

than \$13.6 million in grants to K–12 teachers for 12,922 projects benefitting 2.7 million students across the state. In 2020, Tri-County EMC awarded \$62,000 in grants to educators in Duplin, Lenoir and Wayne counties.

Applications are accepted through Sept. 15, 2021. To learn more and apply for a Bright Ideas grant, visit ncbrightideas.com.





Dana Lewis Retires After 28 Years of Service

Dana Lewis began his career with Tri-County EMC on May 18, 1992, as a tree trimmer with the right-of-way crew and later became an equipment operator with the line crew. Since 2002, Dana has worked as a serviceman, dedicating 28 years of service to the members of Tri-County EMC.

Dana is feeling a little sentimental when asked about what he will miss the most about working at Tri-County EMC. A simple reply, but full of so much emotion. “The people,” he said. “I will miss working for the membership. I will miss working with my co-workers, they have become my family and I am thankful for them.”

When asked what Dana has planned after retirement, he said he is looking forward to not setting an alarm clock and working with his wife, Annabelle, in their business D&A crafts. “My first week is lined up with a honey-do list, we are building a shop to expand our business,” said Dana.

“We greatly appreciate Dana’s dedication to his duties and commitment to our members; we recognize and honor him for 28 years of service on their behalf,” said Mike Davis, general manager of Tri-County EMC. “While he will be missed, we wish him the very best with the next chapter of his life.”

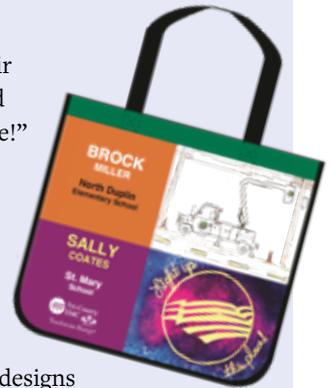
Tri-County EMC wishes Dana a happy retirement and thanks him for the many years of service to the cooperative and its members!

Calling All Student Design Artists!

Think you have what it takes to design Tri-County EMC’s 2021 Annual Meeting bag?

We are inviting students in PreK–12 to show off their talents by creating a one-of-a-kind electricity related design for our 3rd Annual “Design our Bag Challenge!” Below are some ideas to help you brainstorm:

- What Tri-County EMC means to you
- Using electricity efficiently in your home
- Power/energy
- Electrical safety



Once submissions are received, the top 10 finalists’ designs will be posted to Tri-County EMC’s Facebook page, where individuals will vote to select the four winning designs.

The top four artists, voted on by Tri-County EMC Facebook community, will have their designs printed on our annual meeting bags, which will be given away at this year’s Annual Meeting in November.

Winners will receive a \$100 cash prize and non-finalist winners will receive a \$25 cash prize.

CONTEST CRITERIA

- Open to students grades PreK–12.
- Students must live or attend a school in Tri-County EMC service area.
- Theme of design should be related to Tri-County EMC and must be your own original, unpublished work.
- Designs with the most likes at 12:00PM on May 21 will be chosen as the winner.
- Include your name, parent’s name, age, grade, school, address and phone number with your submission.

CONTEST TIMELINE

April 19: Contest opens for submissions.

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

May 17: If your design is selected as a finalist, it will be posted on Tri-County EMC’s Facebook page members/community will vote for the winning designs.

May 21: Deadline for voting on Facebook at 12 p.m.

Mail Artwork to: Tri-County EMC Design Bag Challenge
Tri-County EMC
PO BOX 130
Dudley, NC 28333

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.

TCEMC Annual Scholarship Golf Tournament

May 14, 2021 | 8:00 AM and 1:00 PM Shotgun Starts
Southern Wayne Country Club | Mount Olive, NC
Breakfast & Lunch Provided



Tri-County EMC employees will host the Annual Scholarship Golf Tournament Friday, May 14, 2021, 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, morning and afternoon, with breakfast biscuits and lunch catered 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. Tri-County EMC employees appreciate your assistance with this benefit, and believe that it is important to enhance the education in our community of students and members who will be the future leaders of our communities.

Registration deadline is May 7, 2021. To obtain 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) or Mike Davis (michael.davis@tcemc.com) at 800-548-4869 or 919-735-2611.

REGISTRATION FORM

Name of Team or Team Sponsor: _____

Name of Team Sponsor/Contact Person: _____

Address: _____

Phone (day): _____ Phone (evening): _____ E-mail: _____

Names of Players & Handicap (Required-Very important! Average score if HDCP not established):

Preferred start time: (check one): 8:00 AM 1:00 PM

Please indicate which options you are selecting:

Sponsor \$500 (Hole sponsor & 4 players) \$ _____
 Team Participant \$400 (4 players) \$ _____
 Hole Sponsor \$100 (Hole Sponsor only) \$ _____
 Individual Participant \$100 (Will be assigned to team) \$ _____

Total Enclosed \$ _____

Please make check payable to Tri-County EMC Scholarship

Mail check and registration to: Tri-County EMC Scholarship Tournament, PO Box 130, Dudley, NC 28333

Please return registration form to arrive **no later than May 7.**

Club Rules: Shirts with collars, no cut-offs, no metal spikes.

Tri-County EMC Phone Numbers: 919-735-2611 or 800-548-4869. Fax Number: 919-734-6277.

Cut registration form along line

Spring Forward for Energy Savings!

It's almost that time of year where days become warmer and longer. As spring approaches, consider adding a few items to your list of spring chores that can help make your home more energy efficient and deliver electric bills that won't make you sweat when temperatures soar.

Start with your air conditioner. Spring and early summer are good times to make sure that your air conditioning unit is ready to work when you flip the switch:

- ➔ Get help from a professional who can inspect and service your unit.
- ➔ Give your air conditioner a do-it-yourself cleaning. Shut the unit off, and clear away leaves and yard debris outside. Inside the unit, clean or replace filters that can restrict air flow and reduce overall efficiency by making the air conditioner work harder on hot summer days. Dust the fan blades if you can do so safely. Make sure air can flow freely over the inside and outside coils. Vacuum registers to remove any dust buildup.



➔ Check weather stripping. When using window units, ensure that weather stripping is in place. Placement should be between the middle of the top window pane and the bottom pane.

Check out your roof. See how well your roof has weathered the winter. Few things can shorten the life of your home faster than a roof leak, even a minor one can damage your attic insulation before you know it. A roofing professional can assess and repair things like loose or missing shingles, repair leaks, and clear gutters.

Make your electric cooperative a resource. Tri-County EMC can help you determine the right steps for your home, including whether an energy audit will help find more savings. You can also visit TogetherWeSave.com to find out how little measures around the house can add up to big energy savings as temperatures outside climb.



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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Robert B. Kornegay
Manager, Member Services

Deidra Grantham, Editor
Manager, Marketing and Communications

Tony Grantham, P. E.
Manager, Engineering

Michael Wood
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Treasurer

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Dallace Grady

Jeff Henderson
Patrick Lynch

Randy McCullen
Worth Overman

Brandy Rouse

Employee of the month



Donna Hill
Donna Hill is one of 50 employees ready to serve you. She has worked with Tri-County EMC since June 5, 2015, as a member services representative. Donna and her husband, Neal, reside in Mount Olive.