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Manager's Message:

It's Co-op Month!

Power lines and utility poles weave across Tri-County EMC's service territory, connecting members together in a powerful network that delivers energy to homes and businesses. This infrastructure is a visual representation of how Tri-County EMC is connected to local landscapes, but our commitment to the community runs deeper than poles and wires. Tri-County EMC is investing in teachers, students, families and the future to strengthen our communities.

October is National Co-op Month, an annual celebration of what makes co-ops different, and the difference co-ops make. Although independent, Tri-County EMC is part of a network of 26 electric co-ops in North Carolina sharing a vision to build a brighter future for co-op members and communities through commitments to reliable, affordable and sustainable electric service, as well as community and economic development.

While working toward our Brighter Future vision, we will continue to uphold the seven guiding principles of cooperative businesses:

- Autonomy and independence
- Concern for community
- Cooperation among cooperatives
- Democratic member control
- Education, training and information
- Members' economic participation
- Voluntary and open membership

The principle of concern for community is woven deeply into programs like Bright Ideas Education Grants and Operation RoundUp. As your local, non-profit, member-owned power provider, we are working to strengthen the areas we serve while building a brighter future for our members.



J. Michael Davis
General Manager

In local classrooms, curious minds are learning new technology, and little hands are manipulating science equipment, flipping through books and creating art, thanks to our Bright Ideas education grants. These grants provide new resources and opportunities to students and teachers. Since 1994, Tri-County EMC has contributed \$1.6 million to local students, and now with more than 25 years of grants in place, generations of students are benefiting.

By rounding up your electric bill, many of you are working together to support fellow community members and groups through Operation Round Up. The cooperative is proud to provide this platform for members to make a big difference for local recipient organizations, like your volunteer fire departments, and the citizens of our communities who face unexpected hardships.

At Tri-County EMC, we do more than supply power. Because we're local, and owned by you, our members, building communities is core to our mission. That's why we invest in programs and opportunities that leave a lasting mark on students, parents, towns and our communities.

Early Bird Bright Ideas Winners Announced

Congratulations to Bobbi Colie of Banks Elementary. She was one of five educators who received a \$100 Visa gift card for submitting their Bright Ideas applications by August 16!



YOU'RE INVITED!

2021 Drive-Thru Annual Meeting

With the health and welfare of our members and employees in mind, Tri-County EMC will once again host a drive-thru annual meeting.

Instead of the traditional in-person meeting, a drive-thru meeting will take place on Saturday, November 13, between 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Tri-County EMC corporate headquarters in Dudley, NC. Tri-County EMC asks members to not arrive before 9 a.m.

Members can register for the meeting and vote without leaving their vehicle. Each member who registers will receive \$10 and a registration gift bag which includes: a TCEMC cap, a calendar, blanket, potholders and 3-in-1 charging buddy.

Tri-County EMC will also hold a prize drawing to give out eighty-one \$81 gift certificates (bill credits) for electricity. The drawing will be held live on Tri-County EMC's Facebook page on November 15, 2021, with the winners to be published in the January 2022 addition of the Carolina Country Magazine.



DRIVE-THRU REGISTRATION PROCESS

- STEP 1:** Enter Tri-County EMC's office off Hwy 117 Alternate
- STEP 2:** Follow signs/direction to registration lanes
- STEP 3:** Members will register, receive \$10 and voter ballot at stop 1
- STEP 4:** Members will drop off voting ballot at stop 2
- STEP 5:** Members will receive registration gifts at stop 3
- STEP 6:** Follow signs/direction to exit Tri-County EMC's office on Hwy 117 Alternate

High School Students: Apply for a Trip to D.C. Today

The application period for the 2022 Youth Tour to Washington, D.C., is now open! Tri-County EMC is selecting two rising seniors to represent us at next summer's Youth Tour in June.

Be a part of the 40-plus outstanding high school students selected from electric cooperatives across the state to travel to our nation's capital, Washington, D.C. This will be the first Youth Tour trip to D.C. since 2019, as COVID precautions prevented travel in 2020 and 2021.

During the weeklong trip, students will network with peers from across the country, meet members of congress, visit national museums and historic landmarks, and grow in confidence and friendships. Students will learn

about electric cooperatives and help run their own "H2O Co-op," where they can put the cooperative principles into practice.

As part of the Youth Tour experience, participants will have the opportunity to win one of three scholarships, including the prestigious Youth Leadership Council (YLC) Scholarship. In addition to the scholarship, the YLC designee will represent the state of North Carolina in an elite leadership-building program and on a national stage at the 2023 national annual meeting of electric cooperatives.

For more information, please contact Deidra Grantham at Deidra.grantham@tcemc.com or 919-735-2611.

To learn more about the program, email: deidra.grantham@tcemc.com

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

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

Board Nominees for 2021

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)

➔ Jennings Outlaw (3-yr term)

District 2—Wayne County (Vote for two)

➔ Jeff Henderson (3-yr term)

➔ David Vinson (3-yr term)

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.

Tri-County EMC approves \$1.6 million refund

Tri-County EMC will retire \$1,633,937.65 in capital credits in November, General Manager Mike Davis announced. The refunds recently approved by the Board of Directors will include capital credits for the year 2005 in the amount of \$611,850.03 and 25% of the 2020 capital credits in the amount of \$1,022,087.62. Capital credits represent cooperative members' equity in Tri-County Electric.

From the moment you signed up to receive electric service from Tri-County EMC you became a member of an electric utility, not a customer. 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 to its members based on how much electricity you purchased during a year. That's the cooperative difference, where members are first, every day!

Current and former members who received electric service from the cooperative during 2005 and 2020 will be eligible for refunds. Checks will be mailed reflecting the member's contribution of capital to, and ownership of, the cooperative during these years.

Did You Know?
Tri-County EMC has retired 48 million to its members since the 1960s-2.4 million in 2019 alone.
Because electric co-ops operate at cost, any excess revenues are allocated and retired to members in the form of capital credits.

\$48 MILLION SINCE 1960s
\$2.4 MILLION IN 2019

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.



Have a safe and spooky Halloween!



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 Grantham, 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

Scott Ballard
Keith Beavers

Jeff Henderson
Patrick Lynch
Randy McCullen

Worth Overman
Brandy Rouse

Employee Ready to Serve You



..... **David Thornton**

David Thornton is one of 50 employees ready to serve you. David has worked with Tri-County since May 21, 2007, and is a Staff Engineer for the cooperative. David and wife, Jennifer, live in Mount Olive. They have one son and three daughters.