



Tri-County
EMC

CURRENT LINES

SEPTEMBER 2023

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THE POWER OF PREPARATION

September is National Preparedness Month and a great reminder that being prepared for severe weather can help keep you and your family safe. As your electric cooperative, it is Tri-County EMC's duty to promote family and community disaster planning now and throughout the year. Without much warning, severe storms can hit our system with no guarantee that your home will maintain electricity. While our crews are standing by, we encourage members to have the below items in the event of an extended outage.

FLASHLIGHTS



Have flashlights with extra batteries on hand. While candles can be a helpful light source, flashlights are the safer option.

FOOD/WATER



Stock up on non-perishable food items that do not require cooking. For those with well service, have a case of bottled water on hand. Fill any bathtubs and extra pitchers with water as well.

HEAT/FANS



Gather heavy clothes and blankets. If you have a working fireplace, stock up on firewood now. During the summer, you may want battery-powered fans.

MEDICAL



Have a first aid kit and several days of prescriptions handy. Those who depend on electricity for medical devices may need to move to another location until power is restored.

INFORMATION



Keep a battery-powered radio on a local station for weather updates and be sure to charge all cell phones before the storm hits.

TEACHERS: WIN UP TO \$1,500 FOR YOUR CLASSROOM



Tri-County EMC will award \$30,000 in grants to teachers at schools within the service area to execute innovative projects in their classrooms.

MISSION

The Bright Ideas program provides grants for local teachers to improve education in classrooms through innovative projects that would not otherwise be funded.

ELIGIBILITY

Georgia certified public or private school teachers in grades Pre-K through 12th grade in Baldwin, Jones, Putnam, Jasper, Twiggs, and Wilkinson Counties are eligible to apply.

CRITERIA

Projects will be judged by a panel of retired educators based on innovation, goals, learning objectives, student involvement, and budget.

LIMIT & TERM

Individual projects can be funded up to \$1,500. Grants will be awarded annually based on merit and must be used within 18 months. Follow-up reports may be requested by Tri-County EMC.

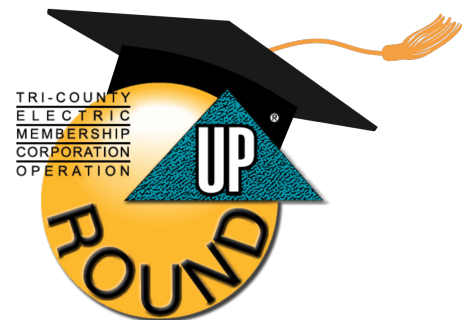
Applications must be completed online at tri-countyemc.com/bright-ideas.cms by midnight on October 15. (37980002)

OPERATION ROUNDUP FALL 2023 SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY

Applications due by midnight on October 15.

In addition to awarding grants each quarter, the Tri-County EMC Foundation also provides scholarships to two deserving students in the service area twice per year. The \$1,000 Operation Roundup Scholarship is awarded to both undergraduate and graduate students based on academic standing, financial need, and community service. Special consideration is given to non-traditional students who are working full or part-time and have returned to school. (97318001)

To apply, a student must be enrolled in any U.S. accredited college, university, or technical college and have maintained at least a 2.0 average. Applications can be mailed by request or completed online at tri-countyemc.com/roundupscholarship.cms.



DIRECTORS' ELECTION IN PROGRESS

Cast your vote for a chance to win up to a \$500 bill credit!

Tri-County EMC's Annual Meeting will take place next month on Thursday, October 19 at 2 PM at Tri-County's office in Gray. An important part of the meeting is the election of the board of directors. All members can participate in the election without attending the Annual Meeting. Every Tri-County EMC member will be sent a ballot on September 19 - by mail or email. All members who cast a vote will have a chance to win a \$500 bill credit or one of ten \$50 bill credits. Last month we gave a brief overview of what to expect on this year's election ballot. Below is an in depth look including biographies of the directors running for reelection and a synopsis of the proposed bylaws amendment.

DIRECTOR CANDIDATES

Three Post 1 Seats



Dan Greene was born and raised in Jones County. He is a graduate of Jones County High School and received a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture from the University of Georgia. He has worked in the dairy business throughout his life and was the co-owner of Greene Brothers' Dairy. He is currently managing Greene Settlement Farms - a beef, cattle, and hay business. Dan and his wife, Beth, have three children, who all live in Jones County. He and Beth attend Bradley Baptist Church.



Brenda P. Green owned and managed an electrical construction contracting firm for 23 years. Prior to that, she began her career in the EMC world working for Pataula EMC and Oglethorpe Power Corporation. She is a Credentialed Cooperative Director – a certification from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA). She currently serves as Chairman of Tri-County EMC, sits on the Georgia EMC Board, and has served on the boards of Central Georgia Technical College and Central Georgia Christian Food Bank.



Sammy Hall is a retired educator of 31 years with the Baldwin County School System and currently serves as Vice Chairman of Tri-County EMC. He is a member of the Baldwin County Board of Commissioners and the Milledgeville Chamber of Commerce. Sammy graduated from Georgia Military College and Georgia College. He earned a Specialist and Master's degree from the University of Georgia. He is a Credentialed Cooperative Director certified by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. He and his wife, Linda, attend First Baptist Church in Milledgeville.

BYLAW AMENDMENT

Article 3, Section 3.05

In addition to the election of director candidates, this year's ballot includes a proposed amendment to the cooperative's bylaws. The Board of Directors of Tri-County EMC recommends modifying the Bylaws to establish a "Record Date" to determine the total membership and the members entitled to:

- 1) Receive a ballot, notice of a member meeting, or other similar document;
- 2) Vote or otherwise act; or
- 3) Sign a member petition, request, demand, consent, appointment, or other similar document.

If a member is suspended after the record date or becomes a member after the record date, the member is not eligible to do any of the above actions.

The purpose of the amendment is to set an eligibility date for members to vote and act in the business of the cooperative. As we grow, this will help the cooperative to more effectively and efficiently administer Member voting at Annual Meetings and other meetings. Your Tri-County EMC board of directors whole-heartedly supports this amendment and asks that you vote "yes" on the ballot.



AUTUMN SWEET POTATO AND APPLE SALAD

Courtesy of Georgia Grown

INGREDIENTS:

- 2–3 sweet potatoes, peeled and diced
- 2 Georgia Fuji apples, cored and diced
- 1/3 cup dried cranberries
- 1/3 cup chopped scallions
- 1/2 cup apple cider
- 1/4 cup cider vinegar
- 1/4 cup pecan oil + extra to cook potatoes
- 1/2 tsp. cinnamon
- 1/2 cup toasted pecans, coarsely chopped
- Salt & pepper

DIRECTIONS:

If possible, start this the day before eating. Toss diced sweet potatoes with small amount of pecan oil to coat. Season with salt and pepper. Spread on baking sheet and roast in oven at 350° until just tender but still firm. Remove potatoes to a bowl and chill overnight if possible or at least a couple of hours.

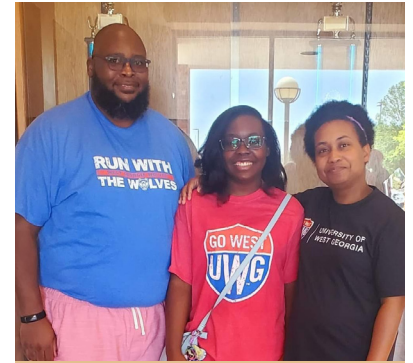
Place cider in a small saucepan, cook over medium high heat until reduced slightly. Add cranberries and cinnamon and continue cooking for about a minute just to soften cranberries. In a small bowl, whisk together cider, vinegar and pecan oil. Combine chilled potatoes, apples, scallions, pecans if using, and dressing. Toss gently to combine. Adjust seasoning. Serve cold. Serves 6 – 8.



Did you know your recipe is worth \$20 if chosen? Send your best recipes to annas@tri-countyemc.com or mail to P.O. Box 487, Gray, GA 31032.

TRI-COUNTY EMC SPONSORS FAMILY AT LEADERSHIP CONFERENCES

As part of Tri-County EMC’s service to the community, we offer several leadership programs to our members throughout the year. These programs help members of the community learn more about cooperatives, while developing a network of peers in the cooperative world. This year, Tri-County had the pleasure of sponsoring a local Jones County family at Georgia Cooperative Council’s (GCC) Youth Leadership and Couples Conferences.



Robert, Tamia, and Jackie Mack

In July, Tamia Mack, 18, attended GCC’s Youth Leadership Conference, a five-day camp held at the FFA/FCCLA Center in Covington. While there, Tamia developed leadership skills and learned about the role of cooperatives. Tamia was an alternate of the 2023 Washington Youth Tour and graduated from Jones County High School in May. She is currently pursuing a degree in Psychology at the University of West Georgia.

In August, Tamia’s parents, Robert and Jackie Mack, attended the Cooperative Couples Conference, a three-day retreat held at the historic Windsor Hotel in Americus. The Couples Conference is a great opportunity for couples to gain valuable insight about the economic and service opportunities available at their cooperatives, exchange ideas and leadership experiences, make new friends, and determine how cooperatives can better serve their needs. Robert is the IT Administrator for The Office of Personnel Management, and Jackie teaches second grade at Wells Elementary School. (86648002)

“Prices can be attached to goods and services but to us, the knowledge and experience our family gained from both events was priceless,” expressed Robert. “Deciding to move to Jones County at the end of 2014 continues to show as being a great decision. It’s our hope that we’ll be able to come alongside Tri-County EMC in the cooperative spirit by serving the community.” To learn more about the leadership opportunities Tri-County offers, visit tri-countyemc.com/leadership-programs-overview.cms.



Tri-County EMC

Owned By Those We Serve

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www.tri-countyemc.com

Ray Grinberg, CEO

Board of Directors

Brenda P. Green, Chairman
Sammy Hall, Vice-Chairman
Thomas Noles, Secretary/Treasurer
George “Buck” Comer, Dan Greene,
Chap Nelson, Marion Nelson,
Cecil Patterson, Mike Rainey

CURRENT LINES

Monthly Publication for
Tri-County EMC Members

Tri-County EMC is an equal opportunity provider and employer