

Tri-County Electric Membership Corporation 2024 Annual Meeting Minutes

The 2024 Tri-County Electric Membership Corporation Annual Meeting of Members was held on Thursday, October 17, at the Tri-County EMC office in Gray. This was the cooperative's 85th annual meeting. Ray Grinberg welcomed attendees, and Bennett Gibbs gave the invocation, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Tri-County EMC Board Attorney Billy Jerles called the business meeting to order at 2:02 PM.

QUORUM ANNOUNCEMENT: *Conducted by Billy Jerles, Board Attorney*

- Quorum was met through online and mail balloting with 1,225 total votes

CLOSE REGISTRATION: *Conducted by Billy Jerles, Board Attorney*

- In accordance with Tri-County EMC's bylaws, Marion Nelson made a motion to officially close member voting, which Mike Rainey seconded. None were opposed.

CHAIRMAN'S ADDRESS: *Delivered by Brenda P. Green, Chairman*

- The cooperative is financially sound and received a clean audit report.
- Green explained that policies passed in Washington D.C. impact what members pay for power, noting the Environmental Protection Agency's new power plant regulation. The National Rural Electric Cooperative Association has filed a lawsuit on behalf of EMCs nationwide to petition for a review of the new power plant rules. Green informed viewers that while the lawsuit proceeds, Tri-County continues to maintain a diversified wholesale power portfolio to ensure reliability in the most challenging times.
- Green reported that Plant Vogtle Units 3 and 4 are online and operational.
- Green announced that Tri-County's new Harmony Substation is expected to be in service in December and will provide the cooperative with the capacity to meet increased demand.
- Green mentioned the recent impacts of Hurricane Helene and noted that Tri-County was spared a catastrophic event compared to other parts of Georgia. At peak, the cooperative had approximately 5,600 outages systemwide. She commended employees who worked to get the lights back on and reported that several crews were sent to further assist sister cooperatives with restoration efforts.
- To conclude her address, Green reminded viewers, specifically younger viewers who may not know the cooperative story, that Tri-County EMC is owned by its members and exists to serve them. She welcomes their comments, suggestions, and ideas.

CEO'S ADDRESS: *Delivered by Ray Grinberg, CEO*

- Tri-County EMC is an organization of dedicated, hardworking people who see a purpose in making their communities a better place to live. Grinberg expressed gratitude to the Tri-County EMC and Tri-CoGo personnel who played a vital role in power restoration following Hurricane Helene.
- Grinberg announced that the cooperative has outgrown its facilities in Eatonton and is purchasing property in Putnam County to construct a new office to accommodate Tri-County EMC and Tri-CoGo. Grinberg explained that the new facility will allow for faster response times and more efficient service to members.
- Grinberg thanked everyone who supports the mission of Tri-County, including suppliers, contractors, vendors, associated organizations, community members, and employees.

COO'S ADDRESS: *Delivered by Greg Mullis, COO of Tri-CoGo*

- Mullis reported that Tri-CoGo now serves internet to 8,500 customers and is growing at a rate of 2-3% per month. Mullis attributed the growth rate to word-of-mouth advertising.
- Tri-CoGo aims to be the best internet experience.

- Results from a summer survey show that Tri-CoGo has a Net Promoter Score of 90.
- Mullis reported that Tri-CoGo received a CareSource Grant to provide wi-fi coverage in areas around Jones County for people who cannot get service.
- Tri-CoGo's new weatherproof outdoor extenders provide coverage outside of the home.
- Tri-CoGo introduced VOIP enterprise voice systems for business customers that can be customized for any business.

BUSINESS SESSION: *Conducted by Billy Jerles, Board Attorney*

- Buck Comer motioned to approve the 2024 meeting agenda, which Marion Nelson seconded. None were opposed.
- The Proof of Mailing certificate noted that the Annual Meeting packages were sent to members.
- The 2024 Credentials and Election Committee was introduced, and their duties were described: Wendy Vaughn, Diana Simmons, Norma Hancock, Stacy Holder, Hank Raehn, Danny Blair, Ronald Cowan, Frank Moss, and Paul Gardner
- Duties of the 2024 Nominating Committee were described. Jerles reviewed the minutes from the Nominating Committee Meeting on Thursday, June 17. Committee members Brent Miller, Emory Crumbley, Daryl Grant, Jerry Sheppard, Holt Spivey, Dan Kirwan, Chauncey Keaton, Kevin Pope, and Charles Ford were in attendance. Jerles announced the candidates for the 2024 ballot.

Position	Candidates
District 1, Post 2	Chap Nelson
District 2, Post 2	Buck Comer
District 3, Post 2	Ed Walker

Election Results

- ***Ballot Item 1:***
Approval of 2023 Annual Meeting Minutes
1,120 voted in favor of approving the minutes, and 8 opposed. The annual meeting minutes were approved by a majority vote.

- ***Ballot Item 2: Post 2 Director Seats***

Position	Elected Candidates
District 1, Post 2	Chap Nelson
District 2, Post 2	Buck Comer
District 3, Post 2	Ed Walker

- The Business Session adjourned.

BALLOT DRAWINGS: *Conducted by Anna Smith, Communications Specialist*

- The winner of a \$500 bill credit was Janice Ferencie.
- The following winners each received \$50 bill credits: Charles Williams, Wanda Clements, Don King, Gennessia Daniel, Gary Roberts, Sandy Bishop, Joseph Thompson, Lenny Ellspermann, Glen Phillips, and Marjorie Hanson
- Kevin Curtin of Georgia EMC won the drawing for an 85th-anniversary skillet.

Respectfully submitted,

Dan Greene
Secretary/Treasurer