



Tri-County
EMC

CURRENT LINES

MAY 2024

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

New Director Appointed, [page 1](#)

Nominating Committee, [page 2](#)

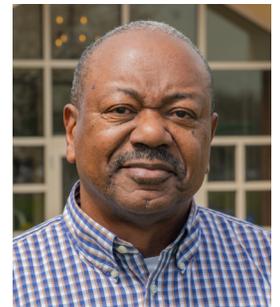
Summer Energy Savings, [page 3](#)

HB431, [page 3](#)

Electrical Safety Month, [page 4](#)

EDWARD WALKER TO SERVE ON THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Tri-County EMC’s Board of Directors has appointed Mr. Edward “Ed” Walker to fill the District 3, Post 2 board seat vacated by the retirement of long-time director, Tommy Noles. Walker officially began his service at the March board meeting and will fill the post until the director election held at the cooperative’s annual meeting in October.



Walker is a lifelong resident of Baldwin County and has been a Tri-County EMC member since 1982. He began his professional career as an educator and later entered the kaolin industry where he completed 35 years at BASF/Kamin LLC with various roles in Operations Management, Quality Management, and Process Engineering.

Before his appointment, Walker served twelve years on the Tri-County EMC Foundation Board for Operation Roundup. He currently serves on the Milledgeville/Baldwin County Development Authority, Fall Line Regional Development Authority, and the Sinclair Water Authority. In his free time, Walker enjoys spending time with family, fishing, hunting, golfing, and working on farm projects. He and his wife, Vanessa, are members of the Beulahland Bible Church.

“I enjoy observing new processes and seeking opportunities for personal growth,” said Walker. “The director role will challenge me to learn more about power distribution and allow me to cultivate new relationships while serving the Tri-County EMC Membership.”

NOMINATING COMMITTEE SELECTED FOR 2024 ELECTION

The Nominating Committee meets annually to consider and nominate candidates for the board posts up for election each year. Three Post 2 director seats will be on this year's ballot. Those candidates nominated by the committee will be placed on the ballot sent to and voted on by Tri-County EMC's membership. The 2024 Nominating Committee includes the members below.

DISTRICT 1

Jones & Bibb

Emory Crumbley

Brent Miller

Darryl Grant

DISTRICT 2

Putnam, Jasper, & Morgan

Holt Spivey

Jerry Sheppard

Dan Kirwan

DISTRICT 3

Baldwin, Wilkinson, & Twiggs

Kevin Pope

Chauncey Keaton

Charles D. Ford

ELECTION TIMELINE

MAR.



Nominating and C&E Committees are appointed.

JUNE



Nominating Committee meets to consider director candidates.

JULY 19



Record date for members to submit petitions

AUG.



C&E Committee meets to review any petitions.

SEPT. 17



Ballots are distributed and voting opens.

OCT. 17



Tri-County EMC holds Annual Meeting and Directors' Election.

HOW TO SERVE ON THE BOARD

Tri-County EMC Members have an important role in the annual meeting process. Here are the answers to several frequently asked questions about the directors' election process.

HOW ARE DIRECTORS ELECTED?

A directors' election is held annually, rotating each year by post. Ballots are sent to all members via mail or email. Ballots can be returned to Tri-County by mail, electronically, or in person at either office location. To be elected, the candidate must obtain a majority vote. Election results are announced at each year's annual meeting. (Bylaws, Section 4.03, Election)

WHO IS QUALIFIED TO RUN?

- A candidate must be a Tri-County EMC Member.
- A candidate cannot be a Close Relative of an incumbent director or an employee of Tri-County EMC.
- A candidate must have been a member for at least two years prior to the election.
- A candidate must have the legal capacity to enter into contracts in Georgia.
- Former Tri-County EMC employees must wait two years before being eligible to serve as a director.
- A candidate cannot be employed by or have financial interest in a competing business. (Bylaws, Section 4.02. Qualifications)

HOW CAN I GET ON THE BALLOT?

There are two ways to become a candidate.

1. Be nominated by the Nominating Committee. You may email the committee at nominate@tri-countyemc.com expressing your interest in being nominated. The committee will meet in June.
2. Submit a petition to Tri-County EMC no less than 90 days prior to the annual meeting. The petition must be signed by at least 50 members of the cooperative. (Bylaws, Section 4.06. Nominations.) Contact Tri-County EMC to obtain a petition form

BEAT THE HEAT AND SAVE ENERGY THIS SUMMER

Summer is a great time of year. But in Georgia, summer also means it's hot and humid. To keep your home cool and humidity low, your air conditioner will likely run more, causing your energy usage to go up. Get the best bang for your electric dollar during the summer heat by following the tips below!

STOP AIR LEAKS

Add weather stripping on doors and windows, and caulk the cracks and plumbing penetrations to keep cool air inside and hot air from leaking into your home.

PUT YOUR HOME IN "SUMMER MODE"

During the summer, it's best to run your ceiling fan in the counterclockwise position. Only keep fans on when people are in the room. Fans cool people, not the air. Also, if you built fires in the winter, make sure the damper to your fireplace is closed so that the cool air can't sneak out through the chimney.

MAINTAIN YOUR HVAC

Make sure there are no leaves, grass, or shrubs blocking airflow to your outside HVAC unit. Clear at least six feet above the unit and two feet around the coils to optimize efficiency. We recommend getting your HVAC system serviced and coils cleaned by a heating and air contractor each year to extend the life of your system.

INSTALL A SMART THERMOSTAT

A smart thermostat allows you to set different temperatures for different periods throughout the day. Once you program it, you won't have to touch it again. You can also control the system from your smartphone.

INSULATE YOUR ATTIC

Install recommended levels of insulation to lower cooling costs. On warm days, attic temperatures can get up to 140 degrees. Recommended levels of insulation vary. Contact us to help you determine the right level for your home.

USE OUR ONLINE ENERGY TOOLS

In our online Energy Efficiency Center, you will find tools to help you conserve energy in your home. The Billing Insights Calculator will help you break down your energy usage using your bills and allow you to perform energy-saving scenarios to pinpoint opportunities for savings. In addition, you can use the Appliance Calculator to determine what it costs to operate each appliance in your home. Visit www.tri-countyemc.com/energy-calculator.cms for more information.



JONES COUNTY DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY RECEIVES FUNDS FROM TRI-COUNTY EMC

Tri-County EMC Communications Specialist Anna Smith presented a \$4,000 check to go towards economic development in Jones County. These funds are generated from unclaimed capital credits, or margins, that the non-profit cooperative was unable to return to former members.

In years past, unclaimed capital credits were surrendered to the state of Georgia. However, House Bill 431 allows Georgia's EMCs to use these funds that have been retained for five years for education, economic development, and 501(c) 3 charitable organizations in EMC service areas. "We are grateful to have the ability to use these funds locally," says Smith. "While we cannot use them for the cooperative's expenses or to offset our rates, we can put them to work in the community."





RECIPE BOX

SATSUMA SHORTBREAD

Courtesy of Georgia Grown

INGREDIENTS:

SHORTBREAD

- 1 cup butter
- 1 cup confectioners' sugar
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 tsp Satsuma zest
- 1 tbsp Satsuma juice

GLAZE

- 1 cup confectioners' sugar
- 1 tsp Satsuma zest
- 2 tbsp Satsuma juice
- 1 tsp softened butter
- 2 tbsp melted white chocolate

DIRECTIONS:

SHORTBREAD

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Cream butter, confectioners' sugar, and vanilla extract until light and fluffy. Add flour gradually, mixing until just incorporated. Add zest and juice, mixing until dough just starts to come together into a ball. Turn dough out onto floured work surface and roll into a log about 1 ½ inches wide. Refrigerate for at least one hour. Slice dough into ¼ inch slices. Place cookies on parchment lined baking sheet. Bake at 350 degrees for 15 minutes or until golden. Let cool completely, then decorate with glaze.

GLAZE

Whisk all ingredients together until smooth. Decorate cooled cookies with glaze.

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.

MAY IS ELECTRICAL SAFETY MONTH

Play it safe around electricity.

PREVENT ELECTRICAL OVERLOADS

Overloaded electrical circuits are a major cause of residential fires. Warning signs of overloaded circuits include flickering, brightening or dimming lights, warm or discolored wall plates, frequently tripped circuit breakers, or a mild shock from appliances, receptacles or switches. To prevent this, never use extension cords or multi-outlet converters for appliances. All major appliances should be plugged directly into a wall outlet. And never plug more than one heat-producing appliance into the same wall plug at the same time.

STAY AWAY FROM ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT

Stay away from underground transformers, substation fences, and any other electrical equipment. If for some reason a pet, ball, toy, or anything else of yours ends up inside a substation, do not attempt to climb the fence to retrieve it. Contact the owner of the substation using the information listed on the gate for assistance.



In the picture on the left, Tri-County EMC Energy Services Representative Jonathan Stewart is teaching Mattie Wells Elementary School students about the dangers of electricity using the cooperative's Power Town demonstration at the school's Math and Science Night.

KIDS AND ELECTRICITY

Keep children away from electrical outlets. Outlet protectors are a great way to protect smaller children from outlets, but installing electrical outlets designed to remain closed until a plug is inserted is a safer bet. Keep loose cords out of children's reach and out of the walking path. Cords within a child's reach pose a choking hazard, while cords on the ground may cause a child to trip and fall.



Tri-County EMC

Owned By Those We Serve

P.O. Box 487
Gray, GA 31032
478.986.8100

www.tri-countyemc.com

Ray Grinberg, CEO

Board of Directors

Brenda P. Green, Chairman
Sammy Hall, Vice-Chairman
Dan Greene, Secretary/Treasurer
George "Buck" Comer, Chap Nelson,
Marion Nelson, Cecil Patterson,
Mike Rainey, Ed Walker

CURRENT LINES

Monthly Publication for
Tri-County EMC Members

Tri-County EMC is an equal opportunity provider and employer