

current lines

April 2018

A monthly publication for Tri-County EMC members

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April is Lineman Appreciation Month

Electric Membership Cooperatives across the country, including Tri-County EMC, are joining together this month to support electric utility linemen whose expertise and knowledge are vital each day but especially when critical outages occur and power restoration is required.

“It takes a special person to be a lineman,” said Ray Grinberg, CEO of Tri-County EMC. “Not everyone is willing to answer the call to spend days away from home, juggle unpredictable schedules or work long hours in inclement weather. It is important for us to stop and thank our linemen for the work they do each day.”

The past 12 months have been particularly challenging for Georgia linemen, as they have experienced multiple tropical and

winter storms. Tropical Storm Irma caused a record-setting number of outages, leaving 88% of Tri-County EMC’s service area without power at the peak of the storm. In addition, Tri-County EMC crews have assisted power restoration to eight sister cooperatives in Georgia and Virginia following winter storms that hit this year.

While power outages are inconvenient for everyone, they serve as a great reminder of the constant work linemen must do to keep the power on. Tri-County is proud to honor our line workers who maintain 2,700 miles of power lines in Tri-County EMC’s service territory. We invite members to take a moment to #thankalinetman for the work they do each day by posting a message to Tri-County EMCs Social Media pages. (80178-002)



**There are over
115,000 linemen in
the U.S. that keep
your power on**



**The weight of
the tools worn by
a lineman is 30
pounds**



**Linemen maintain 2,700
miles of line in the
Tri-County Service Area**



**Linemen work 50
feet in the air and 4
feet below ground
to main power lines**



#THANKALINETMAN

LEDs: The New Favorite Lightbulb

Incandescent lightbulbs—the ones that we screwed into table lamps and overhead fixtures since the beginning of electricity—have become relics since the U.S. government ordered that manufacturers stop making most of them in 2014. Is the compact fluorescent lightbulb (CFL) next?

The twisty CFL bulbs, which can last up to five years and are much more energy efficient than the old incandescents, were once hailed as the latest and greatest energy- and money-saver for household lighting. But LEDs—which come in lightbulb form and are built into many light fixtures, so you'll never have to change a bulb again—have proved to be a better energy value.



Like CFLs, LEDs use up to 75 percent less energy than incandescents. But LEDs last much longer than CFLs—up to 25,000 hours compared with 10,000 or so. (86708001)

Here's why LEDs are quickly becoming America's favorite lightbulb:

- LEDs don't get hot to the touch while they are in use. Incandescents release about 90 percent of their energy as heat, while LEDs waste little heat and CFLs release about 80 percent of their energy as heat, according to the U.S. Department of Energy.
- Unlike CFLs, LEDs contain no mercury, so their environmental impact is minimal.
- You can buy LED bulbs, but an LED fixture has the light built right into it, so no bulb is visible and no bulb will ever need changing.
- You can purchase LEDs in a wide variety of color temperatures, ranging from warm to cool. With LEDs, you can have a warm, yellow light in your living room or a bright, white light in your garage.
- The price of an LED bulb has dropped from about \$100 five years ago to less than \$5 today.



Cooperative Conference For Couples

The Co-op Education Conference for Couples is a three-day, **expenses-paid retreat** held in August 3-5 at the Ridges Resort on Lake Chatuge in Hiawassee, GA. It 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.

Participants will meet representatives from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the University of Georgia, North Carolina State University, Southern States Cooperative, Gold Kist, Inc., Farm Credit Banks, dairy, rural telephone cooperatives and electric membership cooperatives.

Georgia's EMCs and the Georgia, North and South Carolina Cooperative Councils sponsor the conference. To qualify, participants must be members of Tri-County EMC. If you are interested in attending the conference, please complete the application at tri-countyemc.com/couplesconference.cms by June 15.



Tri-County EMC Foundation Grants \$19,228 in March

In March 2018, the Tri-County EMC Foundation Board approved grants for 11 projects, totaling \$19,228 in Operation Roundup funds, to benefit organizations or individuals in local communities. The organizations that received funds this quarter are:

Brave Meadows Therapeutic Riding Center: \$1,000 to pay for horse-assisted therapy for individuals with special needs

Camp Dream Foundation: \$2,500 to send 10 disabled children to summer camp in Warm Springs, Ga

Cub Scout Pack 119 of Gray United Methodist Church: \$1,000 to go towards fees and supplies for cub scout campouts

Golden Harvest Food Bank: \$1,500 to purchase food to serve food banks in Putnam County

Main Street Gray: \$2,000 to support the Butler's Garage Community Center revitalization project

Meals on Wheels: \$1,672 to purchase meals for an individual in Jones County for 1 year.

Muscular Dystrophy Association: \$2,500 to send students with Muscular Dystrophy from the Tri-County EMC service area to summer camp

National Alliance on Mental Illness - Baldwin County Affiliate: \$1,250 to host a public mental illness awareness event in Baldwin County

Northridge Christian Ramp Ministry: \$1,206 to purchase materials to construct a wheelchair ramp for an individual in need in Baldwin County.



Milledgeville First United Methodist Church: \$3,300 to purchase materials to construct 3 wheelchair ramps during the River of Life Summer Mission Project.

Velma McFadden Women Missionary Society: \$1,300 for materials to construct a wheelchair ramp and purchase food for a clothing and food ministry in Jones County.

Milledgeville First United Methodist Church received a grant to purchase materials to construct three wheelchair ramps during the River of Life Summer Mission Project.

About Operation Roundup:

Operation Roundup is funded by voluntary contributions from Tri-County members to the Tri-County EMC Foundation. Participants in the program have their monthly bill rounded up to the next dollar, with that surplus amount going to fund Operation Roundup. Any non-profit, civic, religious or government organization located within Tri-County's eight county service area are eligible to receive funding. Applications must be for special needs or projects. Applications can be found on our website at www.tri-countyemc.com/operation-round-up.cms or mailed upon request by calling 478.986.8126. (85119001)

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Did you find your account number? Find your complete account number inside parentheses in this issue of *Current Lines* and win a \$50 bill credit. Call 478.986.8126 to claim your bill credit.

RAFFLES ARE FUN. CANCER'S NOT.

WIN A PRIZE AND HELP FIND A
CURE FOR CANCER

Yeti Hopper 18
Tickets: \$1 each



**Pair of 5-Game
Macon Bacon
Baseball Passes**
Tickets: \$1 each

RELAY FOR LIFE RAFFLE!

Visit www.tri-countyemc.com/raffle.cms to purchase tickets online or mail a check made to the American Cancer Society to Tri-County EMC, Attn: Relay, PO Box 487, Gray, GA 31032. Please specify "Macon Bacon" or "Yeti" on your check.

Deadline: May 10 | Winners Announced: May 11

Recipe Box

Pecan Pie Muffins

Thanks to Fannie Batchelor of Baldwin County for submitting this recipe. Did you know your recipe is worth \$20 if chosen? Send your best recipes to kimb@tri-countyemc.com or mail to P.O. Box 487, Gray, GA 31032.

Ingredients:

- 1 cup firmly packed light brown sugar
- 1 cup chopped pecans
- ½ cup self-rising flour
- ½ cup margarine, melted
- 2 large eggs, lightly beaten
- 1 teaspoon vanilla flavoring



Directions:

Heat oven to 350 degrees. Spray muffin pan(s) with non-stick cooking spray. In large bowl combine brown sugar, pecans, flour. Make a well in center. In a small bowl mix together margarine, eggs, vanilla. Pour into dry ingredients. Stir till just combined. Spoon into muffin cups (¾ full). Bake 20 minutes until lightly browned or until done. Yield: 6-8 muffins



**Tri-County
EMC**

Owned By Those We Serve

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