



2019 TRI-COUNTY EMC
ANNUAL MEETING
AND ELECTION



CURRENT LINES

AUGUST 2019

THIS MONTH'S NEWS

- Election Information, [page 1](#)
- Washington Youth Tour, Bright Ideas Grants [page 2](#)
- Election, *continued* [page 3](#)
- Appliance Survey, Co-op Camp, Pole Attachment Audit [page 4](#)
- Chilled Carrot Dill Salad, [page 4](#)

BALLOTS COMING TO YOU IN SEPTEMBER

Annual election ballots will be sent to members in September. Cast your vote for Board of Directors seats and bylaw amendments.

Each year, Tri-County EMC holds a membership meeting along with an election. This year's Annual Meeting is Thursday, October 17 at 2:00 PM. There are four proposed bylaw amendments and directors in Post 3 of Districts 1, 2 and 3 are up for re-election. Because cooperatives are owned by the members they serve, it is crucial for you to take part in the election each year to ensure a successful cooperative. Details on ballot items are included on page 3.

Ballots will be sent to all members in September. Members have a few different options to cast a vote. If you plan to attend the Annual Meeting, you can bring your paper ballot with you. If you prefer to vote in advance, you can vote online or by returning your ballot via mail. If you enroll in online voting prior to August 30, an email with your ballot and voting credentials will be sent to you. Members that did not enroll in online voting will automatically receive a paper ballot in the mail by the first week of October. Your paper ballot can be returned using the postage paid envelope, dropped off at either office by 11:00 AM on October 17 or at the Annual Meeting if you plan to attend. All members that cast a vote will be entered to one of ten \$50 cash prizes and a \$500 cash prize.

Continued on Page 3

LOCAL STUDENTS ATTEND EMC WASHINGTON YOUTH TOUR

In June, three students represented Tri-County EMC on a week long leadership experience in Washington D.C. with students from electric membership cooperatives from across the United States.

Calleigh Reber, Katherine Embry and Rebecca Hildreth of Putnam County recently represented Tri-County EMC on the Washington Youth Tour, a week-long leadership experience exclusively for teens sponsored by the electric cooperatives in Georgia.

From June 13-20, the students joined 1,800 of their talented and ambitious peers in Washington, D.C. to build leadership skills, understand the importance of civic involvement and community service and to tour the nation's historic sites to gain a greater understanding of the country's rich and storied heritage. The trip provides a unique lesson that cannot be duplicated in a classroom.

In Georgia, this year's contingent included 115 student delegates, 16 chaperones and three tour directors who attended a kick-off banquet in Atlanta for the students and their families before departing the next morning for D.C. for the remainder of the trip. (74220001)

While in D.C., stops included Mount Vernon, U.S. Capitol, National Archives, National Cathedral, Supreme Court, Library of Congress, the Smithsonian Museums and Kennedy Center. The students also toured the revered Jefferson, Lincoln, FDR, MLK, WWII, Vietnam and Korean War memorials. Delegates also had the opportunity to meet with members of Georgia's congressional delegation.

For additional information on the tour, visit tri-countyemc.com/washingtonyouthtour.cms. Applications for the 2020 tour are due on Feb. 15.



*L to R: 2019 Washington Youth Tour Delegates
Calleigh Reber, Kate Embry and Becca Hildreth*

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

Tri-County EMC will award \$30,000 in grants to teachers at schools within the service area to execute innovative projects in their classrooms. Applications are due September 15.

MISSION:

The Bright Ideas grant program, sponsored by Tri-County Electric Membership Cooperative, provides grants for teachers to improve education in local classrooms for innovative projects in grades Pre-K through 12 that would not otherwise be funded. The program is funded by unclaimed capital credits.

ELIGIBILITY:

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

CRITERIA:

Projects will be judged based on innovation, goals, learning objectives, student involvement and budget

INDIVIDUAL GRANT LIMIT:

Individual projects can be funded up to \$1,500



TERM:

Grants will be awarded annually based on merit and must be used within 18 months of issue date. Follow up reports may be requested by the cooperative.

APPLICATION:

Applications must be completed online at www.tri-county-emc.com/bright-ideas.cms by midnight on September 15.

ON THE BALLOT

Continued from Page 1

POST 3 DIRECTOR SEATS



CECIL PATTERSON earned a B.A. from Mercer, a master's degree in educational administration from GC&SU and a specialist's degree from Clarke-Atlanta University. He worked for JCHS for many years serving as a high-school coach, Gray Elementary School as Principal and Executive Director of Jones County Schools before his retirement in 2013. His honors include Citizen of the Year, All-American Baseball Player at Mercer, Hall of Fame Inductee at Mercer and Coach of the Year for 9 years. He and his wife reside in Haddock.

Post 3 District 1, Jones Bibb & Twiggs Counties



MIKE RAINEY is a lifelong resident of Putnam County and a self-employed farmer. He graduated from the Georgia Institute of Technology. Mike is a director of Tri-County and a member and past president of both the Putnam County Dairy Association and the Georgia Holstein Association. He also served on the steering committee for the Georgia National Fairgrounds. He and his wife, Kathy, are very active members in the First United Methodist Church in Eatonton. They have 7 kids and 11 grandkids.

Post 3 District 2, Putnam, Jasper & Morgan Counties



MARION NELSON (Post 3 District 3) earned his associate's degree in Criminal Justice from Georgia Military College and has a B.S. in Biology from GC&SU. He served as a ranger for the Ga. Department of Natural Resources for 34 years. He recently retired after 10 years as an Environmental Enforcement Officer with Baldwin County. Mr. Nelson serves as a director of Tri-County and is a volunteer with the Baldwin Co. Fire and Rescue Squad. He and his wife, Harriett, have a daughter and a son, and attend the First Baptist Church in Milledgeville.

Post 3 District 2, Baldwin & Wilkinson Counties

BYLAW AMENDMENTS *as proposed by the Tri-County EMC Board of Directors*

In addition to the election of director candidates, this year's ballot includes four amendments to the cooperative's bylaws. *These amendments are all proposed and supported by the cooperative's board of directors.* The first three are part of our efforts to keep our governance and our election process transparent and accessible. The fourth is an effort to align our bylaws with modern technology.

Amendment 1: Article 3, Section 3.08/ Article 4, Section 4.06:

We propose eliminating nominations for candidates for the board of directors from the floor of the annual meeting. Nominations would either be made directly to the nominating committee or by petition.

Nominations from the floor are a holdover from a time when votes could only be cast by those members present at the annual meeting. Today, most members vote by mail and not in person, with few present to see or make nominations at the annual meeting. We believe the nomination of members only through the nominating committee or by petition will allow for a more consistent and open process to all nominees and voting members.

Amendment 2: Article 4, Section 4.06:

We propose increasing the number of days between the nominating committee meeting and the annual meeting from 90 to 120 days. The additional 30 days allows time for a member to be nominated by petition following the meeting of the nominating committee.

Amendment 3: Article 4, Section 4.06:

We propose reducing the number of signatures necessary to qualify for Director Nominations through the petition process from 100 to 50 member signatures. We believe that ease of accessibility to the ballot for qualified members is important. Therefore, we support lowering this threshold to qualify for the election. (31013001)

Amendment 4:

Article 4, Section 4.14: We propose that the bylaws be amended to allow for electronic participation, either by video or telephone, of board members at regular or called meetings. Currently, board members must be physically present to participate, either for the purpose of establishing a quorum or to cast a vote. This amendment would allow board members, on a limited basis, to use modern technology to participate in meetings when they are not physically present.

ELECTIONINFO tri-countyemc.com/election.cms

**ONLINE
VOTING**

Do you need to enroll in online voting? Visit tri-countyemc.com/voting.cms by August 30 to enroll. If you miss the deadline, directions to vote online will be included on the paper ballot mailed to you.

RECIPE BOX

CHILLED CARROT DILL SALAD

INGREDIENTS

- 2 cups thinly sliced carrots
- 1/2 cup small diced shallots or red onions
- 2 tablespoons fresh, chopped dill
- 1 teaspoon olive oil
- 2 tablespoons red wine vinegar
- Salt and pepper, to taste

DIRECTIONS

Parboil carrots until tender yet crisp, about 2 minutes. Rinse under cold water and drain. Combine carrots and shallots (or onions). Mix dill, olive oil and red wine vinegar in small bowl until well blended. Season with salt and pepper. Pour dressing over carrot mixture and toss well. Refrigerate for at least 3 hours to blend flavors. Serves 4.



Thanks to Produce for Better Health Foundation for the 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.

RESIDENTIAL APPLIANCE SATURATION SURVEY

Tri-County EMC will be conducting a residential consumer survey this fall. The purpose of this survey is to collect information needed to plan for the future. Your participation in the survey is very important to us, so please consider completing the online survey if you receive a request. We know your time is valuable, and we appreciate your effort to participate in the survey.

COOPERATIVE YOUTH LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

Jesse Kimsey, a student at Jones County High School, represented Tri-County EMC at the Georgia Cooperative Youth Conference held July 15-19 at the Georgia FFA-FCCLA Center in Covington. The mission of the conference is to educate students about cooperatives, build their leadership skills and promote teamwork through a series of activities, trainings and presentations. During the 5-day conference, students heard presentations from many different cooperatives and were able to see co-ops in action by visiting Walton EMC, Athens Grocery Co-op and Williams Dairy. In addition to gaining knowledge about cooperatives, students also participated in the mud course and high ropes course. For more information about the conference visit tri-countyemc.com/youthleadershipcamp.cms.



JOINT USE POLE ATTACHMENT AUDIT

Tri-County EMC has contracts that allow cable and telephone companies to attach their equipment to power poles in order to deliver their services to customers in our service area. Every five years, Tri-County performs an audit of our poles to confirm what equipment is on each pole. From September 2019 until July of 2020, Cappstone Energy Group will be performing an audit of the pole attachments on our entire system. These workers will check each pole in our service area to see what attachments are present, and what attachments have been removed. Cappstone contractors will have the Tri-County EMC logo displayed on their vehicle and ID badges identifying them as Cappstone employees and Tri-County contractors. While these workers may need to be on your property to check a pole, they have no reason to be inside your home. If you have any questions regarding a Tri-County EMC employee or contractor on your property, contact us at 1.866.254.8100. (81874001)



ACCOUNTNUMBER

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