

# current lines

January 2019

A monthly publication for Tri-County EMC members

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## Message from the Chairman

Brenda P. Green, Chairman

Tri-County EMC Board of Directors



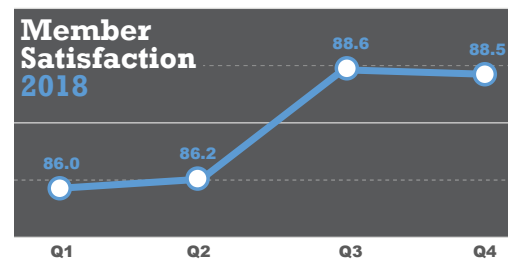
Tri-County EMC has a strong foundation and is ready for the challenges and opportunities that will come our way in 2019. The electric industry is ever evolving, and change seems to be coming at us at an ever-increasing pace.

Your EMC is well positioned to take advantage of new technologies. We will continually evaluate the best approach to assist you in using energy, including renewables, battery storage and electric vehicles. I encourage you to talk to EMC staff about how any of these might fit into your lifestyle. To better serve you, Tri-County is continuing to invest in new tools allowing us to respond to and restore power outages.

What happens on energy issues in the legislature and in Congress ultimately affects your wallet. Therefore, advocating locally, in Atlanta, and in Washington D.C. for the cooperative way of business and our members will always be important. We will work with our elected officials to keep a pulse on legislation and regulation.

Our primary focus is you, the member-owner. Tri-County has been conducting quarterly surveys to find out how you think we are doing. For the last four quarters, you gave us satisfaction ratings of 86 or greater—a high B. We will continually work to increase your satisfaction with our service to you. A focus of the EMC will be to find new ways to get your thoughts and opinions. Watch for opportunities to participate in events where you can voice your opinion and share your needs or ways that we can better serve you.

Most of all, here's wishing you a safe, happy and prosperous New Year!



In 2018, the 1,000 members surveyed gave their cooperative high satisfaction ratings, an average of 86 or greater on a scale of 1-100.

## Georgia Magazine Washington Youth Tour Edition

Check your mailbox! A complimentary issue of Georgia Magazine will be delivered to you in January 2019.



The magazine celebrates the Georgia lifestyle, including stories on local food, travel, gardening and more. This issue will contain information on the Washington Youth Tour. Encourage students to apply! If after reading this issue you would like a monthly subscription, contact customer service at 1.866.254.8100. Each issue is \$.75, and the charge can be conveniently added to your monthly statement.

## Minimum Bill Change in January 2019

Beginning January 2019, the minimum bill charge for residential and commercial accounts will increase by \$2 per month. The minimum bill charge is located in the "Energy and Distribution" line item on your bill, along with your kWh usage. This minimum charge increase reflects the true cost it takes to get power to you, as it recovers much of the fixed costs of providing service.

The minimum bill will rise from \$32 to \$34 for residential accounts and from \$42 to \$44 for prepay accounts. General service commercial accounts will see an increase in the base rate from \$34.50 to \$36.50. "The cost to deliver electric service is a cost that every member shares," said Ray Grinberg, CEO. "Raising the minimum bill allows us to cover those fixed costs of providing service without tying fixed cost charges to how many kWh you use."

# 2019 Washington Youth Tour Applications Now Available

Applications Due February 15

**T**ri-County EMC is accepting applications from area high school students for consideration in the prestigious Washington Youth Tour, a unique, **all-expenses-paid**, leadership opportunity available each year to students in Georgia. The two students chosen will join more than 100 youth from Georgia to represent the state during the 2019 Washington Youth Tour to be held June 13-20. (77496001)

The fast-paced, high-energy program is designed to give students a taste of democracy in action, expose them to the nation's rich history through visits to national monuments and museums and encourage students to become active in their own communities.

The tour begins in Atlanta where students will get to know each other through team building and leadership exercises. In addition, students will learn about the history of electric cooperatives and what makes them relevant today.

The group then travels to Washington, D.C. to connect with more than 1,500 students from across the country. While there, they will cruise down the Potomac River; lay a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns in Arlington Cemetery; and tour the U.S. Supreme Court, the Bureau of Printing and Engraving, Mount Vernon, the National Cathedral and Ford's Theater. Students will tour memorials honoring Presidents Franklin Roosevelt, Jefferson, Lincoln and Washington; World War II; the Vietnam and Korean Wars; and watch the U.S. Marine Drum and Bugle Corps and the Silent Drill Platoon perform at the Iwo Jima Memorial. Students will also visit the Smithsonian Institute and Holocaust Museums.

Visit [www.tri-countyemc.com/washingtonyouthtour.cms](http://www.tri-countyemc.com/washingtonyouthtour.cms) to download an application or pick up an application at the Tri-County EMC Gray or Eatonton offices. Applicants must be age 16 by June 13, 2019 and live in a home served by Tri-County EMC. Applications must be sent to Kim Broun at P.O. Box 487, Gray, GA 31032 by **February 15, 2019**.

**"I met a lot of people there that I will be friends with for a long time."**

- Daniel Hicks, 2018



**"It was the best trip of my entire life. Apply... and apply again. You don't want to miss it."**

- Jenna Mullis, 2018



**"This trip will surely change your life. The lessons that you learn and connections that you make will last beyond just a week on the tour."** - BitLeigh Vu, 2017



**"Our tour group was a unique environment full of compassionate, driven and intelligent individuals. This trip helped me further develop compassion towards others."** - Ariel Daniels, 2016



*- Thoughts about the Washington Youth Tour from past delegates*



# Tri-County EMC Foundation Grants \$7,940 in December



In December 2018, the Tri-County EMC Foundation Board approved 8 grant projects, totaling \$7,940 in Operation Roundup funds, to benefit organizations or individuals in local communities. For more information on Operation Roundup, visit [tri-countyemc.com/operation-roundup.cms](http://tri-countyemc.com/operation-roundup.cms) or contact us at 1.866.254.8100.

**Clifton Ridge Middle School Science Olympiad Team:** \$400 to fund students attending a science competition

**Greater Faith Revelational Outreach Ministries:** \$1,500 for food, clothing and children's gifts during the Christmas season

**Kappa League:** \$800 to send students to leadership conference

**Haddock Baptist Church:** \$1,250 to purchase materials to construct a wheelchair ramp for an elderly resident

**Jones County SAFE 4-H:** \$500 toward the purchase of a thrower for the shotgun team

**Meals on Wheels of Middle Georgia:** \$1,500 to purchase meals for elderly clients in need

**Veterans' Wall of Honor Park:** \$1,000 to purchase benches, solar lights and signage for a memorial garden

**Northridge Christian Ramp Ministry:** \$940 to purchase materials to construct a wheelchair ramp for a disabled woman in Baldwin County



Members of the leadership from Greater Faith Revelational Outreach Ministries receive an Operation Roundup grant check from Tri-County EMC's Greg Mullis. The funds will be used to purchase food, clothing and Christmas gifts for needy families.

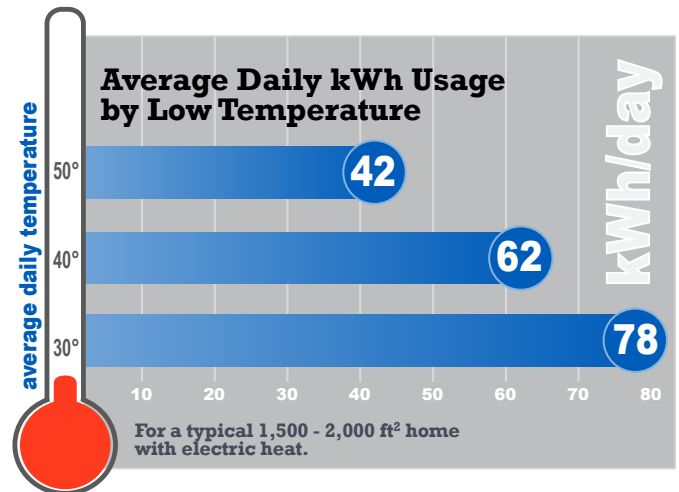
## Early Cold Temperatures

Understanding the Impact of Cold Nights on Daily Usage

Cold days and nights of November and December brought an early winter to 2018. With 9 days in November at or below freezing and 6 days below 32° in the first two weeks of December, our members are feeling the chill through higher energy usage. In fact, residential kWh usage for November 2018 was 17% higher than the same month in 2017. December is on track for about the same increase in usage.

Cold temperatures really drive up energy usage, particularly for heat pumps when low temps drop below 30°. On average, the mercury dropping from 40° to 30° increases a home's power use by sixteen kWh per day, almost \$2 in energy. This increase can be greatly magnified for homes using resistance electric furnaces, electric space heaters or heat pumps with any mechanical problems that cause them to run on auxiliary heat strips more than normal.

Download the MyTCEMC app or sign up for daily usage alerts to get daily feedback about your energy usage. If you think you are experiencing extreme usage, schedule a free energy audit from Tri-County EMC.



Looking for a great cause?



Your 2019 New Year's resolution could be participating in Operation Roundup... small change that changes lives.

# Walter Harrison Scholarship

Applications Due February 1



The Walter Harrison Scholarship is open to all undergraduate college students whose primary household is served by an EMC. A panel of judges from Tri-County EMC will select one undergraduate semi-finalist to compete for a \$1,000 scholarship at the state level. A combination of need and academic ability will be used to determine winners. The scholarship must be used in Georgia. (2485003)

Tri-County EMC must receive applications by February 1. The award honors the late Walter Harrison, a pioneer in the rural electrification movement. Visit [www.tri-countyemc.com/walterharrison.cms](http://www.tri-countyemc.com/walterharrison.cms) for more information and to download the application.

## Did you know?

Using our mobile app, you can set up and manage alerts for high kWh usage, a great tool for keeping track of your energy use on cold winter days and nights.

## Did you find your account number?

Find your complete account number in this issue of *Current Lines*, and win a \$50 bill credit. Call 478.986.8126 to claim your bill credit.

## Recipe Box

### Shrimp Fra Diavolo

Something spicy for cold winter nights. **Did you know that your recipe is worth \$20 if chosen?** Send your best recipes to [kimb@tri-countyemc.com](mailto:kimb@tri-countyemc.com) or mail to P.O. Box 487, Gray, GA 31032.

#### Ingredients:

- 1 lb. large shrimp, peeled, deveined
- 1 tsp salt
- 1/2 tsp black pepper
- 1 tsp dried crushed red pepper
- 1 tsp cayenne pepper
- 4 tbsp olive oil
- 4 garlic cloves, chopped
- 1 small onion, diced
- 1 6 oz. can of tomato paste
- 1 (14.5 oz.) can petite diced tomatoes
- 1/4 tsp dried oregano leaves
- 3 tbsp chopped Italian parsley leaves
- 3 tbsp chopped fresh basil
- Angel hair (or other) pasta
- Parmesan cheese

#### Directions:

Heat the olive oil, garlic and onions in a large sauté pan over medium heat until garlic and onions are translucent (about 5 min.). In a separate sauce pan, heat tomato paste and diced tomatoes, and simmer. Add fully-drained shrimp to sauté pan, along with cayenne pepper, red pepper, parsley and basil. Increase heat, and stir well to mix ingredients and cook shrimp evenly. Boil angel hair pasta (penne or linguine may be substituted) using instructions on the box. Combine shrimp mixture and accumulated juices with tomato sauce, and blend thoroughly to coat shrimp. (88488001) Top plated pasta with shrimp and sauce, and top with parsley garnish and grated Parmesan.



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Ray Grinberg, CEO

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