

current lines

A monthly publication for Tri-County EMC members

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The Importance of the Vote

Tom Thompson, Jr., Chairman



As we enter into this year's Annual Meeting election process, it reminds me of the many changes that have happened over the past 29+ years in my time on the board of directors. We have changed and advanced with the times, but our commitment to our founding principles has remained unchanged.

The election process of the cooperative was developed 75 years ago and it remains a functioning part of the cooperative business model today. Your membership gives you more than just electric service. Your membership entitles you at each year's annual meeting to elect the board of directors that governs the cooperative. With my election to the board almost 30 years ago, the membership moved decisively to strengthen the

democratic process. By-laws were changed so that the membership determined who would serve each year on the nominating committee, rather than the board appointing the nominating committee. And members who were unable to get their issues resolved satisfactorily with Tri-County staff could ask to meet with the board.

This year, there will be many action items on the ballot. First is the election of directors. Director seats from Post 2 of Districts 1, 2 & 3 are up for election or re-election. At last year's annual meeting I announced that I would not seek re-election at this year's annual meeting, as this will complete my having served 30 years on the board, 29 of those years as Chairman. Although I look forward to retirement, I will always wish the best for Tri-County EMC. These 30 years have been both challenging as well as rewarding. I have served on the board with some of the finest individuals and best staff and employees one could ever imagine.

Your board of directors, senior staff and board attorney have taken the time to revise the bylaws of the cooperative. Outdated language has been updated to make sense in modern society, making the language clearer and easier to understand. With the board's support, I ask that you approve these necessary changes to the bylaws.

While this is my last annual meeting and I am not on the ballot, I leave knowing the power of what a cooperative is and the rights you have to vote as members will continue to go forward and function as they have for the past 75 years. As you receive your ballot in October, I encourage you to take an active part in your cooperative and put those rights to use in the annual election this October.

Thanks for your support and encouragement.

1986 Capital Credits Available.....

Much like stock dividends in a for-profit company, capital credits represent your share of ownership in the electric cooperative. If your power bill is one percent of the cooperative's total revenue, your portion of capital credits would be one percent of the co-op's margins. (80386001)

This year, Tri-County is returning capital credits from 1986. If you were a member in 1986, you may have funds to claim. Visit tri-countyemc.com or contact Gloria Sexton at 478.986.8105 or glorias@tri-countyemc.com for more information. All unclaimed capital credits will go to fund educational and economic development efforts in the Tri-County service area.

We're
you a
member
in 1986?

Contact
Us!

Get to Know Your Cooperative

Annual Meeting: October 15

One of the most important benefits of cooperative membership is your right to elect board members to represent you in running your business. Elections are held annually and any member meeting the minimum qualifications can be elected to serve on the board of directors. The following bylaw excerpts will help you to better understand the nomination and election process. If you are interesting in running for a board position, contact Kim Bonner to determine if you meet the qualifications according to our bylaws. If you meet the qualifications, you will also need to submit your name to a member of the nominating committee (preferably from your board district) by June 29, 2015.

"I would like to run for director. How do I qualify?"

Directors are Tri-County members. "No person shall be eligible to become a director of the Cooperative who is not a member for a minimum period of two (2) years prior to the election of directors. No person shall be eligible for election thereto whose age, at the time of such election is less than eighteen (18) years of age. No person shall be eligible to become or remain a director of, or to hold any other position of trust in, the Cooperative who is in any way employed by or financially interested in a competing enterprise, or a business selling electric energy or supplies to the Cooperative." (Bylaws, Section 4.02)

"What are the steps taken to elect directors?"

The Nominating Committee nominates director candidates. However, "any one hundred (100) or more members of the Cooperative, acting together over their signatures not less than

ninety (90) days prior to the meeting, may make additional nominations . . ." (Bylaws, Section 4.06) "At each annual meeting of the members, directors shall be elected by secret ballot, including those cast by mail, by the members . . ." (You can mail your ballot or bring it to the annual meeting.) ". . . provided, that, when the number of nominees per district does not exceed the number of directors to be elected from or for a particular Directorate District, and if there is no objection, balloting may be dispensed within respect of that election. Directors shall be elected by a majority vote of the members present and voting including those votes cast by mail." (Bylaws, Section 4.03) (76083001)

"How is the Nominating Committee elected?"

Elected at the annual meeting, the Nominating Committee serves the next year and meets at least 90 days before the annual meeting. (Bylaws, Section 4.06)

meet the NOMINATING COMMITTEE

• • • • • • • • • • •

District 1

Bibb , Jones & Twiggs Counties
Thomas Comer
Tracy Gattie
Robert Hopkins

District 2

Jasper, Morgan & Putnam Counties
Ted Jenkins
Rebecca Sharp
Bob Neligan

District 3

Baldwin & Wilkinson Counties
Jack Brock
Brandon Cantrell
Hunter Bacon

Interested in running for a board position? Contact Kim Bonner to see if you qualify at 478.986.8126. If you do qualify, you will need to submit your name to a nominating committee member by June 29, 2015.

Your Tri-County EMC Board

District 1

Bibb , Jones & Twiggs Counties

Post 1: Dan Greene
*Post 2: Chester Mercer
Post 3: Cecil Patterson

District 3

Baldwin & Wilkinson Counties

Post 1:Sammy Hall
*Post 2: Tommy Noles
Post 3: Marion Nelson

District 2

Jasper, Morgan & Putnam Counties

Post 1: Brenda P. Green
*Post 2: Tom Thompson, Jr.
Post 3: Mike Rainey

Note:

* denotes directors up for re-election in 2015. Tom Thompson, Jr. will retire from his post this year.



Going Solar?

Renewable Options for Members.....

Are you interested in renewable energy? Tri-County EMC has offered blocks of Green-e certified renewable energy since 2008. We also recently announced a wholesale power purchase of utility grade solar energy from a 30 MW Solar Ranch project in Hazelhurst, Ga. adding additional renewable resources to Tri-County EMC's fuel mix. For members that want to add solar to their home, our employees are a great resource to see if solar is a good fit for you.

HB 57, created thanks to the collaborative work of Georgia's EMCs and others, approved unanimously in both the Georgia House and Senate, allows third party financing for residential solar projects up to 10 kW and commercial projects up to 100 kW. Excess energy from these solar installations can be purchased by Tri-County EMC at the cooperative's avoided cost to go back into the fuel mix. This bill, signed into law in May, allows one more option for purchasing renewable generation.

As more options are becoming available on ways to purchase renewable energy, Tri-County EMC would like to know what you think. To help us better understand your needs and to plan for the future, we are conducting a brief survey about green energy. Please visit www.tri-countyemc.com to complete our survey. One responder, drawn at random from completed responses, will win a \$100 gift card. If you don't have Internet access and would like a paper copy of the survey, please stop by either office or call 478.986.8126 to have a survey mailed to you.



Solar Survey

Visit tri-countyemc.com to complete a survey regarding your interest in solar energy. All participants will be entered in a drawing for a \$100 gift card.

EPA's Clean Power Plan Looms as Summer Draws Near

Across the nation, electric cooperatives nervously await the final ruling of the EPA's proposed Clean Power Plan (CPP), introduced in 2014. Due this summer, the CPP is expected to require a 44% reduction in carbon emissions from Georgia's utilities. Many, including Tri-County EMC's staff, have questioned the feasibility of the requirements and the likely risks of dramatically increased costs and reduced reliability as coal generation is curtailed in favor of natural gas and renewable generations. Both of the options carry the promise of higher costs per kilowatt-hour.

In late April, the North American Electric Reliability Council (NERC), the organization tasked with measuring the reliability of the U.S. bulk power system, released the first of a series of reliability assessments to examine the risks to reliability from the implementation of the CCP.

NERC's assessment concluded that the CCP would greatly accelerate a shift toward natural gas and renewables, requiring

considerable investments in new transmission lines, natural gas pipelines, and gas capacity. The organization projected that these upgrades could take between six and 16 years to construct, well beyond the 2020 implementation date of the CCP. The study went on to conclude that reduced operation of existing coal power plants would be operated more often as peaking plants, or plants used in periods of high electric use, rather than base load generation, leaving the end consumers to pick up the tab for the "stranded" costs in building these plants.

Tri-County EMC will continue to closely monitor developments with the EPA's Clean Power Plan and report new information to our members as it becomes available. "While protecting the environment and complying with environmental regulations are important," said C. Hill Bentley, chief executive officer of Tri-County EMC, "we have a responsibility to keep rates as low as possible and to ensure reliability. Our members depend on us to maintain that balance."

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 credit.

Play it Safe Around Electricity

Now that school is out for summer, kids will spend their days outside playing in the yard or may move their games inside to keep cool. We encourage you or be mindful of the dangers of electricity and to share electrical safety tips with your children.

Electrical Outlets

Thousands of children are treated in hospitals each year for injuries resulting from inserting metal objects into electrical outlets. Plastic 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. (46681001)

Extension Cords

Be sure to cover all unused outlets of an extension cord with outlet covers or electrical tape. Keep loose cords out of children's reach and out of the walking path. Cords within the child's reach pose a choking hazard, while cords on the ground could cause a child to trip and fall.

Flying Kites

Always fly kites in open areas away from power lines and busy streets. If a kite does get tangled in a power line, drop the string and walk away. Contact our office to move any power line obstruction.

Equipment

Stay away from pad-mount transformers, substation fences and any other electrical equipment. If for some reason a ball or other toy ends up inside a substation, do not attempt to climb the fence to retrieve it. Substations are locked because dangerous, high-voltage equipment is inside.



Climbing Trees

Don't climb trees near power lines. Live wires touching tree limbs pose a risk of electric shock for children climbing on them.

Recipe Box

Cranberry Salad

Thanks to Sue Gasaway of Putnam County for sharing this delicious recipe! **Did you know that 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 (6 oz.) pkg. cherry jello mix
- 1 can whole cranberry sauce
- 1 (20 oz.) can crushed pineapple with juice
- 1 (8 oz.) pkg. cream cheese
- 1 cup chopped pecans
- 1 Tbsp. mayonnaise

Directions:

Drain crushed pineapple and save 1/4 cup juice. Dissolve gelatin in 2 cups hot water. Stir in cranberries and crushed pineapple. Pour 1/2 of mixture in a bowl and leave at room temperature, set other half in refrigerator until firm. In separate bowl mix together cream cheese, mayo, reserved pineapple juice and chopped pecans. Spread mixture over chilled gelatin. Place in refrigerator 10 minutes. Pour room temp gelatin over top of cream cheese and refrigerate until set.

