

# current lines

A monthly publication for Tri-County EMC members

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## Message from Your CEO

Ray Grinberg



As I am getting settled into my new role, I've noticed there are many differences between Georgia and my home state of Washington. The tea is sweet. Grits are offered instead

of oatmeal. The weather is warmer. And people cheer for Bulldogs instead of my beloved Oregon State Beavers. But I noticed one thing remains the same. The goal of your electric membership cooperative is the same goal of EMCs across the country – to deliver reliable electric service to members at the lowest possible cost.

It takes a strong cooperative with skilled and knowledgeable staff and employees to execute that goal. The staff and employees at Tri-County are no exception. Tri-County EMC is a great team that is constantly working to serve you better. I look forward to being part of that team and getting to know you, our members, through the communities we serve.

I bring with me 31 years of experience in utility work. I began my career working in power supply and power trading at the Bonneville Power Administration in Portland, OR. I served as power resources director at Peninsula Light Company at Gig Harbor, WA. and most recently as general manager of Lakeview Light and Power in Lakewood, WA. I have a bachelor's degree

in Business Administration from Oregon State University and a master's degree in Economics from the University of Oregon.

My wife, Diana, and I are excited to be in Georgia. While I may not be able to give up the Beavers to cheer for the Bulldogs, I look forward to setting up Southern roots and taking advantage of all that this beautiful state has to offer.

I look forward being part of the Tri-County EMC team and serving you.

Ray Grinberg

## Capital Credits

Help Us Find Former Members

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.

If you were a member in 1986 or 1987 and you had an active account in 2010, your capital credit refund was applied to your account in 2010. Anyone who did not have an active account was issued a check. If you know someone that was a Tri-County EMC member during that time but did not receive his capital credits, please encourage him to search for his name at [www.tri-countyemc.com/capital-credits](http://www.tri-countyemc.com/capital-credits). [cms](http://www.tri-countyemc.com/capital-credits) to see if he has any unclaimed capital credits. If you have questions, contact Gloria Sexton at 478.986.8105 or [glorias@tri-countyemc.com](mailto: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.



# Get to Know Your Cooperative

Annual Meeting: October 20 .....

One of the most important benefits of cooperative membership is your right to elect board members to represent you in running your cooperative. 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 Broun at 478.986.8126 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 19, 2016.

## **“I would like to run for director. How do I qualify?”**

Directors are Tri-County members with their primary residence served by the co-op. “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 or email, by the members . . . ” (You can mail or email 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*

Chris Williams  
Rev. Harris Hardwick  
Eveyln Simmons

### **District 2**

*Jasper, Morgan & Putnam Counties*

Ted Jenkins  
David DeLoach  
Peggy Fuller

### **District 3**

*Baldwin & Wilkinson Counties*

Jack Brock  
Brandon Cantrell  
Bruce Dempster

Interested in running for a board position? Contact Kim Broun 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 19, 2016.

## Your Tri-County EMC Board .....

### **District 1**

*Bibb, Jones & Twiggs Counties*

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

### **District 2**

*Jasper, Morgan & Putnam Counties*

Post 1: Brenda P. Green  
Post 2: Buck Comer  
\*Post 3: Mike Rainey

### **District 3**

*Baldwin & Wilkinson Counties*

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

### **Pictured:**

**L to R: Back Row:** Marion Nelson, Buck Comer, Sammy Hall, Brenda P. Greene, Chester Mercer, Cecil Patterson, Mike Rainey **Front Row:** Tommy Noles, Dan Greene



\*denotes directors up for re-election in 2016

## Save Paper Vote Online.....

To opt out of paper ballots and vote online only during this year's annual election, visit us online at [tri-countyemc.com/voting.cms](http://tri-countyemc.com/voting.cms) and complete the form or give us a call at 1.866.254.8100. By opting out of paper balloting and choosing to vote online, you will be sent your logon information for the voting website via email. You will not be mailed a paper ballot.

If you have opted out before, there is no need to opt out again unless your email address has changed. In that case, please complete the online form with your updated email address or give us a call. (67887001)

If we do not hear from you before August 30, you will automatically receive a voting packet in the mail this fall. In the voting packet, you will have the option to return your paper ballot by mail as in years past, or you can vote online using information provided in your ballot package.

If you have questions regarding online voting, please call us at 1.866.254.8100. Remember that Tri-County EMC is owned by its members, so member participation in the annual election is a crucial part of a successful cooperative.

## Vote Online.....

### Step 1

If you'd rather vote online than using a paper ballot in the Board of Directors Election, contact us at 1.866.254.8100 or [tri-countyemc.com/voting.cms](http://tri-countyemc.com/voting.cms) by August 30.

### Step 2

At election time, our online voters will receive an email with login and voting information instead of a paper ballot.

### Step 3

**Cast your vote before October 20!**

## 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.

## New Law Adds Protection for Utility Linemen

Effective July 1.....

The 41 Electric Membership Corporations in Georgia, including Tri-County EMC, brought the issue of line worker safety before the 2016 Georgia General Assembly.

As a result, EMC linemen will join the ranks of law enforcement, public safety and transportation personnel who will be better protected under a new law signed by Gov. Nathan Deal.

House Bill 767, the "Move Over for Linemen" legislation, requires any motorist approaching utility linemen at an active work site, as indicated by traffic cones or flashing yellow, amber, white or red lights, to change lanes or reduce their speed to a reasonable and proper speed below the posted speed limit. Any motorist who does not change lanes or drop their speed to avoid the utility workers can be fined up to \$250 per incident. The new bill, effective July 1, applies to all types of utility workers, including electric, natural gas, cable and telecommunications workers, right-of-way crews or utility contractors. (65768001)

During the legislative session, Georgia EMC led a coalition of utilities and businesses consisting of the 41 EMCs, Georgia Power and municipal systems in support of HB 767, sponsored by Rep. Alan Powell (R-Hartwell).

The new law and added protections are critical to safeguard workers. According to the Georgia Department of Highway Safety, emergency vehicles parked beside a highway are vulnerable to crashes, even with emergency lights flashing. Consequently, the original law (passed in 2003) was created to reduce the number of injuries and fatalities to police officers, paramedics, firefighters, wrecker operators, and highway maintenance workers by maintaining an open lane between passing highway traffic and authorized roadside emergency vehicles.



# Operation Roundup Scholarships Awarded . . . .

In addition to awarding grants each quarter, the Tri-County EMC Foundation also awards scholarships to two deserving students in the service area twice per year. The scholarships, judged anonymously, are worth \$1,000 and are awarded based on academics, financial need and service to others. Special consideration is given to non-traditional students who are working full or part-time and have returned to school. Congratulations to our recipients! The next deadline for Operation Roundup Scholarship Applications is October 15, 2016. (40710002)



## Chelsea Romero

Chelsea Bridges of Putnam County is a student at Georgia Military College. She plans to major in psychology and art and minor in child development.



## Kelly Howe

Kelly Howe of Putnam County is a rising freshman at the University of Georgia. She plans to major in physics and engineering.

## Recipe Box . . . . .

### Reuben Crescent Bake

Thanks to Jack Pollard 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](mailto:kimb@tri-countyemc.com) or mail to P.O. Box 487, Gray, GA 31032.**

#### Ingredients:

- 2 tubes (8 ounces each) refrigerated crescent rolls
- 1 pound sliced Swiss cheese
- 1-1/4 pounds sliced deli corned beef
- 1 can (14 ounces) sauerkraut, rinsed and well drained
- 2/3 cup Thousand Island salad dressing
- 1 egg white, lightly beaten
- 3 teaspoons caraway seeds

#### Directions:

Unroll one tube of crescent dough into one long rectangle; seal seams and perforations. Press onto the bottom of a greased 13 in. x 9 in. baking dish. Bake at 375° for 8-10 minutes or until golden brown. Layer with half of the cheese and all of the corned beef. Combine sauerkraut and salad dressing. Spread the mixture over the beef. Top with remaining cheese. On a lightly floured surface, press or roll second tube of crescent dough into a 13 in. x 9 in. rectangle, sealing the seams and perforations. Place the dough over the cheese. Brush the dough with egg white and sprinkle with caraway seeds. Bake for 12-16 minutes or until heated through and crust is golden brown. Let stand for 5 minutes before cutting.



Tri-County  
EMC

Owned by Those We Serve

P.O. Box 487  
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478.986.8100  
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#### Ray Grinberg, CEO

#### Board of Directors

Brenda P. Green, Chairman  
Sammy Hall, Vice-Chairman  
Thomas Noles, Secretary/Treasurer  
George "Buck" Comer, Dan Greene,  
Chester Mercer, Marion Nelson,  
Cecil Patterson, Mike Rainey

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