



Tri-County  
EMC

# CURRENT LINES

NOVEMBER 2019

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## CO-OP HOLDS 80TH ANNUAL MEETING

Tri-County EMC's 80th Annual Meeting was held Thursday, October 17 at the cooperative's headquarters in Gray. Cooperative members, employees and a number of local and state officials gathered for the co-op's annual business meeting. Through voting by mail, online and in person, 1,601 cooperative members participated in their cooperative's annual election process. At the meeting, it was announced that the membership re-elected Post 3 incumbent directors Cecil Patterson (District 1: Jones, Bibb and Twiggs County), Mike Rainey (District 2: Putnam, Jasper and Morgan County), and Marion Nelson (District 3: Baldwin and Wilkinson County).

Additionally, four proposed bylaw amendments were passed. The first three bylaw changes 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. A full list of these changes can be found at [www.tri-countyemc.com/election.cms](http://www.tri-countyemc.com/election.cms).

Brenda P. Green, chairman of the Tri-County EMC Board of Directors, gave a report of the audit showing the cooperative is in good financial standing. She also spoke on the board's governance and transparency. "The bylaw changes are a continuation of the board's effort to be as open and transparent as possible," said Green. "This is our members' cooperative, and we want our members to be able to play an active role."



*Brenda P. Green, Chairman,  
speaks at the co-op's 80th  
Annual Meeting.*

*Continued on pg. 2*

# ANNUAL MEETING, CONTINUED



Ray Grinberg, CEO, delivers his address at Tri-County EMC's 2019 Annual Meeting.

Greg Mullis, senior vice president of corporate services, spoke of the cooperative's role in the community. Through Operation Roundup Community Grants, Bright Ideas Teachers Grants and youth scholarships, the cooperative invests more than \$100,000 in the communities it serves. Mullis also spoke of the Taco Town Hall event in which members were invited to come eat a taco and ask any questions they had pertaining to the cooperative. The first Taco Town Hall was held in August in Milledgeville. Additional events will be scheduled in 2020.

During his address, CEO Ray Grinberg spoke about rates, power supply and power costs. "We've managed to keep our rates the same since 2014, thanks to adding low cost power generation like natural gas to our portfolio." Power costs make up the 58% of the utility's costs. Members will likely see an increase on power costs, with the completion of Plant Vogtle Units 3&4 in the next few years.

Grinberg also touched on member satisfaction. "Our ongoing surveying shows that we rank at a 88.7% in member satisfaction — a B+," said Grinberg. Most utilities measure up with satisfaction rates in the 70s, but cooperatives like Tri-County consistently score higher. "A B+ is a strong score, but we are constantly striving to do better. We want our members to be happy. And we want our members to do business the way they want to do business." Tri-County EMC offers multiple options to handle business via phone, the cooperative's website or in person at either office location.

This fall, Tri-County EMC lobbies will be undergoing renovations to become more ADA accessible and to increase the security of the buildings. Construction will begin in November and should be complete before the year end.

Broadband continues to be a topic of conversation among EMCs. Some EMCs are already in the business, some are interested in providing the service, but most are in the research phase to determine their role. Tri-County EMC is in the process of performing feasibility studies in the service area as well as surveying our members to determine the cooperative's place in the broadband industry.

Grinberg also requested our members help in urging elected officials to pass the RURAL Act to get a tax law changed. Most electric cooperatives are tax-exempt organizations under Internal Revenue Code (IRC) Section 501(c)(12). In order to maintain tax exempt status, an electric cooperative must receive at least 85 percent of all income from its members. Changes to the federal tax law in 2017 jeopardize the tax-exempt status of electric cooperatives that receive any kind of federal or state government funding. This includes grants for disaster relief. "Being tax-exempt from federal income taxes helps us keep our rates low and receive FEMA funding following natural disasters, like Hurricane Irma in 2017," said Grinberg. "I challenge you to send a letter to your elected officials to encourage a change at [www.vote.coop](http://www.vote.coop)."

At the end of the meeting, the 2020 Nominating Committee was named. All members that voted were entered into a drawing for cash prizes. Those members are listed below. (655020021)

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE ELECTED

During the 80th Annual Meeting, nine members were elected to serve on the Tri-County EMC Nominating Committee. The purpose of the committee is to nominate candidates for the 2020 board of directors elections. For 2020, the committee will nominate the director candidates to fill Post 1 of Districts 1, 2 and 3. The committee will meet in May 2020. To learn more about the Board of Directors, visit [www.tri-countyemc.com/board-of-directors.cms](http://www.tri-countyemc.com/board-of-directors.cms). If you are interested in being nominated to serve on the board, please complete the interest form located at the site listed above.

**DISTRICT 1:**  
Evelyn Simmons  
Thomas Comer  
Tracy Gattie

**DISTRICT 2:**  
Hank Raehn  
Jerry Sheppard

**DISTRICT 3:**  
Kevin Pope  
Jack Brock  
Hunter Bacon

## BALLOT DRAWING WINNERS

Tri-County EMC distributed \$50 bill credits to 10 lucky members at the 2019 Annual Meeting. **Willie J. Reeves** of Jones County won the \$500 grand prize. Prizes were drawn from members who voted in the board of directors' election. Thanks to all members that participated in the election this year. Be sure to vote in the election next year to have a chance to win.

**\$50 BILL CREDIT WINNERS:**  
**Magnolia Taylor**, Putnam Co.  
**R. Wayne Camp**, Putnam Co.  
**Sarah Thomas**, Putnam Co.  
**Debra Vinson**, Jones Co.  
**Earl Colvin**, Jones Co.  
**Sharon Reeves**, Jones Co.  
**Lelton Free**, Putnam Co.  
**Lillas James**, Baldwin Co.  
**Pat A. Spence**, Jones Co.  
**Joseph McEver**, Baldwin Co.

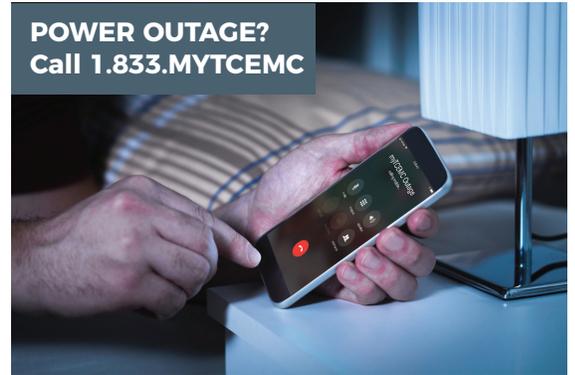
## CALL 1.833.MYTCEMC TO REPORT AN OUTAGE

If you prefer to call in your outage, jump to the head of the line by calling 1.833.MYTCEMC during an outage. In addition to reporting outages by myTCEMC app, website, text and our phone number, we have added a phone number dedicated to outage reporting.

By dialing 1.833.MYTCEMC rather than our local number, your call will bypass call menus and go directly to the outage reporting system. There, you can report your outage using the automated system or by talking to a live representative.

We encourage you to save this number in your phone for future use.

**POWER OUTAGE?  
Call 1.833.MYTCEMC**



## USE BLUE OR BLACK INK ON CHECKS

When paying your electric bill via check, please use blue or black ink to write your check.

Checks written in colors other than blue or black are not picked up on the bank scanners, and therefore cannot be deposited and applied to your account. (43169001)



## SPACE HEATERS VS. HEAT PUMP: WHICH IS MORE ENERGY EFFICIENT?

The fall chill is in the air. You think to yourself, “How long can I go without turning on my heat?” Or, “Maybe I should just use my space heater until it really gets cold.” But is the space heater really the most efficient way to heat your home? While space heaters are a good way to temper a cold bathroom in the mornings, using them as your main source of heating doesn’t save as much as you would think.

In one hour of operation, a 1,500 watt space heater will use 1.5 kWhs of electricity while creating 5,120 BTUs of heat. In comparison, a 3-ton heat pump will use about 3 kWhs of energy to run for an hour while creating 36,000 BTUs. So, for the amount of energy used to run two space heaters for one hour, you could run a central heat pump large enough to heat an 1,800 sq. ft. home.

Why the big difference in operating costs? Space heaters use resistance elements, similar to that in a toaster oven, to create heat. A heat pump uses an electric compressor and fans to move heat from one place to another through the refrigeration cycle.



**HAPPY  
THANKSGIVING!**

Tri-County EMC offices will be closed on November 28-29 for Thanksgiving. We hope you have a Happy Thanksgiving!

# RECIPE BOX

## PECAN SHORTBREAD COOKIES

### INGREDIENTS

- 1 cup salted butter
- 1 cup confectioners' sugar
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 tablespoon milk
- 1/2 cup finely chopped pecans, toasted

### DIRECTIONS

Heat oven to 350 degrees. With a handheld or stand mixer, beat butter, confectioners' sugar and vanilla until light and fluffy. Add flour and mix until crumbly. Add pecans and milk, mixing just until mixture comes together. Turn dough out onto floured surface, and roll into a log. Slice into 1/4-inch slices. Place cookies onto baking sheet. Bake about 15 minutes or until golden brown. Let cool completely.

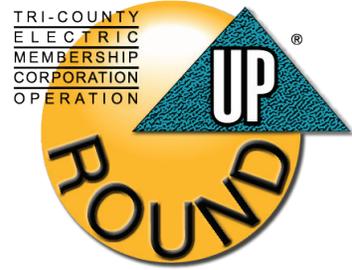


*This recipe is courtesy of Chef Holly Chute and Georgia Grown. Did you know your recipe is worth \$20 if chosen? Send your best recipes to [kimb@tri-countyemc.com](mailto:kimb@tri-countyemc.com) or mail to P.O. Box 487, Gray, GA 31032.*

# OPERATION ROUNDUP GRANT APPLICATIONS DUE DECEMBER 1

### 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. Charitable institutions, government institutions, civic organizations or other not-for-profit organizations located within Tri-County's eight county service area are eligible to receive funding. Applications must be for special needs or projects. Grants are awarded quarterly.



### INTERESTED IN APPLYING FOR A GRANT?

Do you know of a charitable group needing funding for a specific project in the Tri-County EMC service area? Encourage them to complete an Operation Roundup Grant Application. The next deadline to apply for an Operation Roundup Grant is December 1. Applications can be found on our website at [www.tri-countyemc.com/operation-round-up.cms](http://www.tri-countyemc.com/operation-round-up.cms) or mailed upon request by calling 478.986.8126. (57400001)

### QUALIFICATIONS:

- Applications must be for a special project or need. Donations will not be made to an organization's general budget.
- Project must be located within a county that Tri-County EMC serves (Baldwin, Putnam, Jones, Bibb, Jasper, Morgan Twiggs or Wilkinson County)
- Charitable institutions, government institutions, civic organizations or other not-for-profit organizations are eligible to apply

## ACCOUNTNUMBER

Did you find your Tri-County EMC account number? Three random account numbers are hidden in each issue of Current Lines. 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.



**Tri-County  
EMC**

**Owned By Those We Serve**

P.O. Box 487  
Gray, GA 31032  
478.986.8100

[www.tri-countyemc.com](http://www.tri-countyemc.com)

**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**

### CURRENT LINES

Monthly Publication for  
Tri-County EMC Members