

current lines

January 2015

A monthly publication for Tri-County EMC members

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Message from the Chairman

Tom Thompson, Chairman

Tri-County EMC Board of Directors



As we say goodbye to 2014 and prepare for the coming year, your cooperative is planning and budgeting just like you and your family. There's no guarantee that life won't throw curve balls, therefore constant preparation is a must.

At Tri-County, we attempt to plan ahead on each part of the operation of the cooperative. We plan on how much electric capacity we need to meet demand. We plan for future electric generation by investing in new, diverse generation facilities in an effort to keep bills low. We check power lines and clear right-of-way to avoid power outages and plan for the best way to get power back to you when Mother Nature takes her toll.

But even with planning there is still uncertainty. The EPA's proposed Clean Power Plan, if passed, will aim to eliminate coal from our fuel mix, forcing us to lean on our other sources of power generation including natural gas, nuclear, hydro, solar and biomass. Although cooperatives across the nation opposed the plan in 2014, it is still uncertain if the plan will be passed as proposed in 2015.

While weather is always unpredictable, meteorologists are predicting a strong chance for another winter storm to come to our area in 2015. Winter Storm Pax caused a state of emergency in Georgia and dealt a heavy blow to our system, with the largest power outage in cooperative history. At Tri-County, we have continued our right-of-way maintenance, and have upgraded our dispatch center and outage management system in order to get power restored to you faster in times of major outages. Our IVR system, website and

mobile app also get information to you about outages in a timely manner.

As we prepare for 2015, we want you to be prepared, too. We encourage you to use our online tools to monitor your energy usage, learn energy efficient tips, and take steps to be prepared for severe weather.

As Tri County EMC has done for the last seventy-five years, we will continue to strive to give you reliable service in the coming New Year. In a recent survey conducted in October of 2014, you gave us high marks for satisfaction, particularly with customer service. We appreciate the confidence you have in your cooperative and promise that we will build on these results as we seek to ever increase service and reliability.

On behalf of the board of directors, I wish you a Happy New Year.

Member Survey Results

Thank you to all those who completed member satisfaction surveys conducted at the end of 2014. Overall, members were very satisfied with their Tri-County EMC service.

Your coop makes an effort to provide a quality customer experience, while providing reliable electric

service to your home or business. As a not-for-profit cooperative, we do this at the lowest cost possible to our members. (64249002)

We appreciate your feedback and look forward to sharing more survey results with you in future issues of *Current Lines*.

Providing Quality Customer Service	9.12
Charging Reasonable Rates	8.07
Providing Reliable Electric Service	9.05
Restoring Power Quickly After an Outage	8.65

Results from a recent member survey showed a high satisfaction level. Survey respondents ranked each item from 1-10, with 10 being the highest ranking.

2015 Washington Youth Tour Applications Now Available

Tri-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 chosen students will join more than 100 youth from Georgia to represent the state during the 2015 Washington Youth Tour to be held June 11-18. (71934001)

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 communities.

The tour begins in Georgia where students get to know each other, learn about Georgia's 41 EMCs and the electric cooperative industry and enjoy a private tour of the birthplace of rural electrification - the Little White House in Warm Springs.

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 also visit 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, Newseum and Holocaust Museums.

Visit www.tri-countyemc.com/washington-youth-tour.da to download an application or pick up an application at the Tri-County EMC Gray or Eatonton offices. Applications must be sent to Kim Bonner at P.O. Box 487, Gray, GA 31032 by **February 15, 2015.**

Each delegate on the trip brought something different to the table. The diversity really helped make the trip even more enjoyable.

- Noah Turner, 2014



I observed respect, honor, and integrity in all of the delegates. Although we are all unique and from diverse backgrounds, everyone attempted to get to know new people and respected the differences that brought us together.

- Analese Bridges, 2013



Through the Washington Youth Tour, I learned that well-trained leaders can work together with a similar purpose in mind to accomplish great things.

- Ellen Hallman, 2013



The level of inclusiveness that the delegates had was so impressive. It has really inspired me to reach out into my own community to make sure my peers feel included.

- Elizabeth Savage, 2014



- Thoughts about the Washington Youth Tour from past delegates



Tri-County EMC Foundation Grants \$5,933.42 in December

In December 2014, the Tri-County EMC Foundation Board approved 6 grant projects, totaling \$5,933.42 in Operation Roundup funds, to benefit organizations or individuals in local communities. The organizations that received funds this quarter are:

Boy Scout Troop 132:

\$250 to purchase tents and sleeping bags to be used during camping trips for the troop

Cub Scout Pack 583:

\$500 to purchase camping supplies and meeting materials for the pack

Golden Harvest Food Bank:

\$2,000 to provide food to those in need in Putnam County through Putnam Life Source and God of Peace Ministries.

Gray United Methodist Church:

\$2,500 to provide basic assistance for a family with a child with Chron's disease

Jones County 4-H:

\$255 to provide training for a certified teen leader to attend summer camp

**Northridge Christian Church/
Mustard Seed Ministry:**

\$428.42 to purchase materials for volunteers to construct a wheelchair ramp for an individual in Baldwin County who recently suffered a stroke



Pictured: Vicky Brown, God of Peace Ministries, and Bob Landau, Putnam Life Source, accept an Operation Roundup grant on behalf of Golden Harvest Food Bank. The funds will provide food to those in need in Putnam County.

Operation Roundup

Who, What, Where, When, Why?

WHO can apply? Any non-profit organization within the Tri-County service area can apply. This area includes portions of Baldwin, Jones, Putnam, Twiggs, Wilkinson, Jasper, Morgan and Bibb counties.

WHAT is Operation Roundup? Operation Roundup is a program that allows Tri-County EMC members to round their bill up to the next dollar with that small amount of change going to fund worthy service projects in the service area.

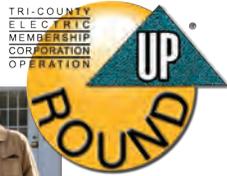
WHERE can you apply for a grant? Operation Roundup applications are available online at www.tri-countyemc.com or either office location in Gray or Eatonton.

WHEN is the next deadline? Applications are judged quarterly by the Tri-County EMC Foundation Board of Directors. The next deadline for application submission is March 1, 2015.

WHY should I round up my bill up for Operation Roundup? To support

your community. Since 2001, more than \$1,000,000 has been contributed to Operation Roundup for worthy service projects in the area. Contributions are tax deductible and 100% of funds collected goes back into the community to help members of our service area.

HOW can I find out more? Visit www.tri-countyemc.com/roundup-overview. [da](mailto:kimb@tri-countyemc.com) or contact Kim Bonner at kimb@tri-countyemc.com or 478.986.8126.



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.

Walter Harrison Scholarship

Applications Due February 10



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. (36800001)

Tri-County EMC must receive applications by February 10. The award honors the late Walter Harrison, a pioneer in the rural electrification movement. Visit www.tri-countyemc.com/scholarship-programs.da for more information and to download the application.

Underground Transformer Maintenance

Beginning in January, Tri-County EMC will conduct pole inspections in Putnam County. Inspections will be performed by Osmose Utilities. Their vehicles will be clearly marked with the Tri-County logo as shown here. Inspections will be completed within the next three months.

Did you know?

After extinguishing the fire in your fireplace, be sure to close the damper after the coals have cooled. Leaving the damper open creates a path for warm air to escape from your home.



Recipe Box

Jalapeno Popper Dip

Thanks to Donna Provost for submitting this 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.**

Dip Ingredients:

- 8 slices of bacon, diced
- 2 (8 oz.) packages of cream cheese, softened
- 1 cup mayonnaise
- 1/2 cup shredded mozzarella cheese
- 1/4 cup chopped green onion
- 5-8 jalapeno peppers, seeded and chopped

Topping Ingredients:

- 1 cup Ritz™ buttery crackers
- 1/2 cup grated parmesan
- 1/4 cup melted butter

Directions:

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Fry diced bacon until crispy. Drain and set aside.

Stir cream cheese, mayonnaise, cheddar cheese, mozzarella cheese, green onion and peppers together in a bowl. Spread the mixture into a 9-inch round baking dish. Sprinkle the bacon pieces over the mixture. In a separate bowl, mix the crackers, parmesan cheese and butter together and spread over the dip. Bake in the oven about 20-30 minutes or until bubbly. Serve with Tostitos™ Hint of Lime Tortilla Chips.



Tri-County
EMC

Owned By Those We Serve

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