

# current lines

January 2018

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



Welcome to 2018.

Although the date has just changed, we have been planning and preparing for the year for quite a while. It is our responsibility to look into the future, prepare for uncertainties, plan for growth and, most importantly, continue to provide members with reliable electricity. This past August, your board and senior staff held a strategic planning session to identify the major goals of Tri-County EMC in 2018. Keeping the cooperative financially stable always remains the number one goal. In 2018, we also set goals to continue to attract, retain and develop quality employees, prepare for the unexpected with an updated Disaster Recovery Plan, account for future power supply needs and develop new energy management strategies.

We continue to invest in new technologies to more efficiently serve you, our members. Over the past few years, we have focused on rebuilding/converting the power lines from 12 kV to 25 kV capacity to handle additional electric load. We've also installed automated switches

and controls to automatically back-feed lines when possible in order to minimize outages. This year, we will begin the process of upgrading our metering system which will allow us to know about an outage before a member reports it.

Along with investments in technology, right-of-way maintenance remains a critical component in electric reliability. With recent warmer winters and rainy summers, meaning longer growing seasons, we have to be constantly vigilant in our vegetation management efforts. We have refocused our right-of-way programs to ensure trees and limbs do not encroach upon power lines and interrupt service.

We will continue our member survey program that lets you tell us to how we are doing. We survey a random sample of our members each quarter. During the first two quarters of our surveying, our satisfaction rating has been a 9.02 out of 10. We have also gained valuable feedback that we can use in our future planning.

We have a busy year ahead of us, but we are well-prepared to meet the challenges of 2018 and beyond. As always, we look forward to serving you. (59416002)

## Georgia Magazine

Washington Youth Tour Edition

Check your mailbox! A complimentary issue of Georgia Magazine will be delivered to you in January. Georgia Magazine celebrates the Georgia lifestyle, including stories on local food, travel, gardening, general interest and more. This issue will contain important information on the Washington Youth Tour. Encourage the students in your household to apply! If after reading this issue you would like a monthly subscription, contact a Customer Service Representative at 1.866.254.8100. Each issue is \$.75 and the charge can be added to your monthly bill statement.



## Minimum Bill Change in March

Starting March 2018, 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 \$30 to \$32 for residential accounts, and from \$40 to \$42 for prepay accounts. General service commercial accounts will see an increase in the base rate from \$32.50 to \$34.50. "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 kWhs you use."

# 2018 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 2018 Washington Youth Tour to be held June 7-14. (50738001)

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 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/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 6, 2018 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, 2018**.

**Through my peers, I learned to be a better listener. I learned to lead, but also sometimes follow, the people trusting me as a leader.**  
- Matthew Dent, 2016



**“It was one of the best trips of my life. I learned so much about myself and made so many connections. It's a trip I'll never forget”**  
- Jonathan Daniel, 2017



**“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.** - Bit Leigh 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 \$10,938 in December

TRI-COUNTY  
ELECTRIC  
MEMBERSHIP  
CORPORATION  
OPERATION



In December 2017, the Tri-County EMC Foundation Board approved 7 grant projects, totaling \$10,938 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.

**Cafe Central:** \$1,500 to purchase food for a food bank in Baldwin County

**Kappa League:** \$2,000 to send students to the Kappa League Leadership Conference in February

**Northridge Christian Ramp Ministry:** \$594 to purchase materials to construct a wheelchair ramp for an amputee in Baldwin County

**Clifton Ridge Middle School Science Olympiad Team:** \$500 to send students to compete in a science competition in February

**Meals on Wheels of Middle Georgia:** \$3,344 to purchase meals for 2 individuals currently on the waiting list in Jones County

**Real Life Church - Real Hope Ministry:** \$1,000 to purchase materials to prepare hygiene packages for homeless individuals in the cooperative's service area

**Ferst Foundation:** \$2,000 to purchase books for students in Jasper County



Tanya Graham-Simms (L) and Stephanie Sampson (C) accept an Operation Roundup Grant from Kim Broun (R), Tri-County EMC, to be used to deliver meals for two Jones County individuals for a year. To learn more or volunteer with Meals on Wheels, visit [mealsonwheelsmdga.com](http://mealsonwheelsmdga.com).

## Cooperatives Helping Cooperatives

Tri-County Linemen Assist Carroll EMC

As a cooperative, Tri-County EMC is founded on 7 Cooperative Principles. A crew of our linemen put one of those principles, Cooperation Among Cooperatives, to use last month as they travelled to Carroll EMC, headquartered in Carrollton, GA, to assist in power restoration after Winter Storm Benji dropped up to 10 inches of snow in the area. The storm caused nearly 30,000 outages in the Carroll EMC service area - significantly more than the 19,000 outages brought to Tri-County EMC's service area during Hurricane Irma.

Carroll EMC was one of the many EMCs that came to our aid during Hurricane Irma Restoration and we were glad to be able to return the favor to them just a few months later.

"That's what's great about cooperatives," said Keith Brooks, vp of operations at Tri-County EMC. "Co-ops jump at the chance to help other cooperatives in need. And we are fortunate to have a strong network of EMC linemen across Georgia and the U.S.. In times of need, we all work together as a team."



Scenes from Carroll EMC Power Restoration following Winter Storm Benji in December.

**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. (40710002)

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/walterharrison.cms](http://www.tri-countyemc.com/walterharrison.cms) for more information and to download the application.

## Did you know?

Consider insulating your hot water pipes. Doing so can reduce heat loss, allow you to lower the temperature setting and save an additional 3 to 4 percent per year on water heating.

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## Recipe Box

### Peanut Power Breakfast Muffins

This recipe is courtesy of Georgia Grown. **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:

- 6 large eggs
- 1 medium sweet yellow onion, chopped
- 1 cup fresh spinach, chopped
- 1/2 cup dry-roasted peanuts, chopped
- 1/2 cup Italian cheese, shredded
- 1 (3-ounce) package dry-packed, julienned sundried tomatoes, chopped
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon black pepper

#### Directions:

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Spray a mini-muffin pan with nonstick baking spray.

In a large bowl, mix together all ingredients. Spoon mixture into prepared mini-muffin pan. Bake for 18 minutes. Let cool slightly before removing from the muffin pan. Note: These muffins make a nice breakfast component or finger food for a tailgate or party. They are similar to a crustless quiche. Yields 24 mini muffins (8 servings).



Tri-County  
EMC

Owned By Those We Serve

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Ray Grinberg, CEO

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