

current lines

A monthly publication for Tri-County EMC members

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An Idea Whose Time Has Come

CEO C. Hill Bentley Retires in April



On December 26, 1967, I started work as a Cooperative Education Student with Georgia Power as a way to pay for college. I really didn't think about it becoming a career – Judy and I just needed a real source of income before we married. Now, almost 49 years later in the utility business, we are entering the next phase of our lives – retirement.

It is a long journey from being a co-op student to a retiring CEO. I have been fortunate enough to work all over the state of Georgia in a variety of different roles in the utility business, but none have been as rewarding that the last 17 years at Tri-County.

As I look back on my time at Tri-County and the many changes we have gone through during my tenure, I feel a sense of pride. We have great employees, reliable service, competitive rates, community service programs and an incredible safety record. I am so happy to have been a part of it.

But there are regrets as I take this next step. The biggest regret is to not be able to work daily with the greatest group of people I've ever met. Judy and I have made friends throughout the Tri-County service area, the state and the U.S. and not seeing them is going to be an adjustment. Utility employ-

ees are a special breed. They put service to members as a priority. When the storms rage and the lights go out, they go to work. It's just who they are.

Like the changing seasons, life enters different phases. It's time for Judy and me to give up this utility life and embrace our new responsibilities. We are not spoiling our grandkids nearly enough and feel we must do a better job.

God has richly blessed us with the opportunity to work with all of you. To be a part of this community, this organization, and our extended utility family is more that we could ever have imagined. But, we leave knowing the Tri-County is in good hands. The board, staff, and cooperative family will continue to build on what has been accomplished. We will cherish these memories always and look forward to seeing you again as we embrace our new responsibilities.

“Use well your time...
Be part of something good...
Leave something good behind..
The curtain falls...
I take my bow..
That's how it's meant to be...
It's your world now.”
-The Eagles, *It's Your World Now*

May God bless you all.

C Hill Bentley

Accomplishments

- 2000: New Eatonton Office
- 2001: New Gray Office
- 2001: Formation of Green Power EMC
- 2001: Operation Roundup Program Began
- 2001: Began System Reliability Improvements
- 2005: House Bill 431 passed, leading the way to many community programs and grants from co-ops
- 2008: Bright Ideas Grant Program began
- 2006: Two-Way Automated Meters Installed
- 2006: Forest Lake Substation Constructed in Baldwin County
- Electronic Bill Pay
- 2013: Online Voting Option added to Annual Board of Directors Election
- 2010: Pay-Your-Way prepaid metering offered to members along with PaySite™ Kiosks.
- 2013: Integrated Voice Response Phone System and an Outage Management System were installed to improve outage restoration time
- 10 Years of No Lost Time
- Accidents
- 2012: Construction of Units 3&4 at Plant Vogtle Began

Scholarship Applications Due April 15

As part of Tri-County EMC's commitment to our local community, each year we offer a number of leadership and scholarship opportunities to area youth. Applications for the Cooperative Scholarship and the Operation Roundup Scholarship are due April 15, 2016.



Cooperative Scholarship

Each spring, Tri-County EMC awards three \$2,000 Cooperative scholarships to students residing within the cooperative's service area. One scholarship is awarded in each of the three Tri-County board districts. Applications are judged by an outside panel of education professionals based equally on academics, financial need and community involvement. High school seniors and nontraditional undergraduate students are eligible to apply.



Applications are available by mail upon request or may be downloaded at www.tricountyemc.com/cooperativescholarship.cms. Applications must be received by April 15.

Operation Roundup Scholarship

In addition to funding community grants, the Tri-County EMC Foundation offers scholarships to undergraduate and graduate students (with preference given to non-traditional students), to help pay their college costs. Through Operation Roundup, a total of \$4,000 is awarded annually to students residing in the homes of Tri-County EMC members. The applicant must be enrolled in any U.S. accredited college or university and have maintained at least a 2.0 average.



Applications are available by mail upon request or may be downloaded at www.tri-countyemc.com/roundupscholarship.cms. Applications are due April 15 and October 15 of each year.

For more information on these and other scholarship opportunities, visit us online at www.tri-countyemc.com/scholarships-overview.cms or contact Kim Broun at 478.986.8126 or kimb@tri-countyemc.com.

Celebrate Earth Day with Tri-County EMC

Lower your bill, conserve energy and make a difference in the environment! Stop by Tri-County EMC Gray and Eatonton offices on Earth Day, Friday, April 22, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., to pick up a free energy-efficient lamp, enjoy refreshments and to learn more about GreenPower EMC, energy conservation and our cooperative solar program, which will be introduced on April 1. (60742001)



Did you know?

It's time for spring cleaning! Cleaning your air filters regularly can allow your air conditioner or heat pump to run more efficiently.

Statement of Non-Discrimination

Tri-County EMC is the recipient of Federal financial assistance from the Rural Utilities Service, an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and is subject to the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended, and the rules and regulations of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, which provide that no person in the United States on the basis of race, color, national origin, age or handicap shall be excluded from participation in, admission or access to, denied the benefits of, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination under any of this organization's programs or activities. (53423001)

The person responsible for coordinating this organization's nondiscrimination compliance efforts is C. Hill Bentley, CEO. Any individual, or specific class of individuals, who feels that this organization has subjected them to discrimination, may obtain further information about the statutes and regulations listed above from and/or file a written complaint with this organization; or the Secretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250. Complaints must be filed within 180 days after the alleged discrimination. Confidentiality will be maintained to the extent possible.

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.

Green Power is Green-e Energy

Green Power EMC received Green-E Energy™ certification October 25, 2008 for its "Green Power EMC Green Power Program." Green Power EMC sources renewable energy generated at its biomass landfill projects. Green-e Energy protects the consumer by verifying that the EMC meets high environmental and consumer standards.

The certification was performed by the Center for Resource Solutions (CRS). CRS is a national nonprofit organization with global impact that builds policies and consumer-protection mechanisms in renewable energy, greenhouse gas reductions and energy efficiency to foster healthy and sustained growth in national and international markets.

Members can sign up to purchase green power or find more information at www.tri-countyemc.com/green-power.cms or by calling 1.866.254.8100.



PRODUCT CONTENT LABEL			
The product is sold in blocks of 150 kilowatt-hours (kWh). The product will be made up of the following renewable resources.			
Green-e Energy Certified New ³ Renewables in Tri-County EMC Green Power Program			Generation Location
	2015 ¹	2016 ²	
-Biomass	100%	100%	Georgia
-Geothermal	0%	0%	
-Eligible hydroelectric	0%	0%	
-Solar	0%	0%	
-Wind	0%	0%	
TOTAL	100%	100%	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> The 2015 figures reflect the resources that were supplied for the year ending December 31, 2015. The 2016 figures are prospective and reflect the power that we have contracted to provide. Actual figures may vary according to resource availability. We will annually report to you before August 1 of next year in the form of a Historic Product Content Label the actual resource mix of the electricity you purchased. New Renewables come from generation facilities that first began commercial operation within the past 15 years. This product includes generation from a facility that is approved for extended use by Green-e Energy. <p>For comparison, the current average mix of resources supplying Tri-County EMC includes: Coal (21%), Nuclear (26%), Oil (0%), Natural Gas (52%), Hydroelectric (2%), and Other (1%).</p> <p>The average home in the United States uses 909 kWh per month. [Source: U.S. EIA, 2013]</p> <p>For specific information about this electricity product, please contact Tri-County Electric Membership Corporation, (866) 254-8100, energyservicesrep@tri-countyemc.com.</p>			
Green-e Energy certifies that Tri-County Electric Membership Corporation Green Power Program meets the minimum environmental and consumer protection standards established by the non-profit Center for Resource Solutions. For more information on Green-e Energy certification requirements, call 1-888-63-GREEN or log on to www.green-e.org .			

Electrical Safety in Education

Speakers Bureau

Tri-County EMC offers safety education programs for adult and children's groups. These programs feature live demonstrations of the hazards of contact with power lines and practical safety tips for avoiding dangerous situations. Demonstrations are available for civic, social or government organizations as well as public or private schools.

The Tri-County website also houses many teaching tools to help bring electric safety lessons to your classroom. To explore these tools, visit www.tri-countyemc.com, click on *Community* and then *Education*. (69412001)

For more information on the speakers bureau, visit www.tri-countyemc.com/safety-speakers-bureau.com. To schedule a program or demonstration for your organization, contact Kim Broun at kimb@tri-countyemc.com or 478.986.8126.



Recipe Box

Aunt Sandy's Angel Puff - Egg Casserole

Thanks to Krista Shook of Putnam County for submitting this recipe. Did you know 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:

- 1/2 lb. shredded cheddar cheese *
- 1/2 lb. Monterey Jack cheese *
- 12 eggs
- 1 pint Cottage Cheese *
- 1/2 cup All Purpose Flour
- 1/2 tsp. salt (eliminate if using bacon or ham)
- 1 tsp. baking soda
- 1/4 cup melted butter
- Cooked bacon or ham (optional) *

Directions:

In a large mixing bowl, beat the eggs until they are fluffy. Then, stir in all other ingredients until mixed. Pour the mixture into a 9x12 inch baking pan and bake at 350 degrees for 40 minutes, or until golden brown and a butter knife inserted in the center comes out clean. Serve warm.

*Note: This is a very rich dish, even when all cheeses are 2% milk fat and the ham is 2 6oz. packs of low-salt, low-fat lunch meat.



Tri-County
EMC

Owned By Those We Serve

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