

# current lines

May 2018

A monthly publication for Tri-County EMC members

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## May is Electrical Safety Month Play It Safe Around Electricity

### Prevent Electrical Overloads

Overloaded electrical circuits are a major cause of residential fires. Warning signs of overloaded circuits include flickering, brightening or dimming lights, warm or discolored wall plates, frequently tripped circuit breakers or a mild shock from appliances, receptacles or switches. To prevent this, never use extension cords or multi-outlet converters for appliances. All major appliances should be plugged directly into a wall outlet. And never plug more than one heat-producing appliance into the same wall plug at the same time.



### Stay Away From Electrical Equipment

Stay away from underground transformers, substation fences and any other electrical equipment. If for some reason a pet, ball, toy or anything else of yours ends up inside a substation, do not attempt to climb the fence to retrieve it. Contact the owner of the substation using the information listed on the gate for assistance. Substations are locked because dangerous, high-voltage equipment is inside.



### Kids and Electricity

Keep children away from electrical outlets. Plastic outlet protectors are a great way to protect smaller children from outlets, but installing electrical outlets designed to remain closed until a plug is inserted is a safer bet. Keep loose cords out of children's reach and out of the walking path. Cords within the child's reach pose a choking hazard, while cords on the ground could cause a child to trip and fall.



### Extension Cord Safety

When not used correctly, extension cords can overheat and cause fires. Be sure to thoroughly inspect the extension cord for any damage before using it. If your cord is not quite long enough for your project, do not attempt to plug extensions cords into one another to add length. Buying a longer cord is the safer option. Running cords through walls, doorways, floors and under rugs will block heat from escaping the cord, posing a fire risk. Relocating power outlets will be a better option. And when using cords outdoors, be sure to keep them away from water.



### Be Aware When Working Outside

When working outside, be aware that there may be power lines above you and beneath you. If you are planning a project that requires digging, call 811 to get utility lines mapped on your property so you know what areas to avoid. If you are working on your roof or trimming trees, be sure to stay at least 20 feet away from above ground power lines. Getting too close to a power line can be just as dangerous as touching a power line, as electricity can arc from the power line to a close object. (45483001)



**Know what's below.  
Call before you dig.**

### Call The Experts

Doing at-home projects yourself instead of calling a professional can sometimes save you money. But with electricity, we recommend you call the professional. Important safety measures must be taken when working with electricity and even the slightest mistake can end in damage to your home or electrical shock. While it might not be the most cost-effective option, it may be the safer way to complete your project.

## Board of Directors Election Information

You have a vote! Learn more about the Tri-County EMC Board of Directors Election Process on Page 3.

# Delegates Chosen for Washington Youth Tour



Tri-County EMC has chosen two students to represent the co-op for Georgia EMC's Washington Youth Tour. Jenna Mullis and Daniel Hicks will join 110 Georgia high school students on the week-long leadership event this June. The Georgia students will join more than 1,500 students from 44 states for the event. As Georgia's oldest leadership program for teens, the Washington Youth Tour is designed to teach high school students about U.S. history, government and the importance of public service.

Before flying to Washington D.C., the students will attend a kickoff banquet and spend a day in Georgia where they will develop their leadership skills through team building activities. Once in D.C., students will visit the Smithsonian Museum, Holocaust Museum, Union Station, Mount Vernon, Supreme Court, Capitol, Washington Monument, and the Jefferson, World War II, Lincoln, Korean War and Vietnam Veterans monuments and memorials.



**Jenna Mullis** is a sophomore at Putnam County High School in Eatonton. She is a member of the Beta Club, Anchor Club, National Honors Society and HOSA. She was also named Superintendent Student of the Month. She is an active member of Eatonton First United Methodist Church where she participates in Operation Christmas Child. She plans to become an orthodontist.



**Daniel Hicks** is a sophomore at Jones County High School in Gray. He is a member of the Beta Club, Soccer Team, Wrestling Team, is an Eagle Scout and volunteers as a math tutor. Daniel recently organized a 5K Fundraiser to benefit the Heart of Georgia Humane Society and enjoys volunteering for community service projects. He plans to become a genetic engineer.

## Did you find your account number?

Find your complete account number inside parentheses in this issue of *Current Lines* and win a \$50 bill credit. Call 478.986.8126 to claim your credit.

## Cooperative Solar

**A**re you interested in solar power but don't want the hassle of installing panels on your property? Enroll in ourSolar, a cooperative solar program from Tri-County EMC.

A 1 MW solar array has been constructed at the Tri-County EMC office in Putnam County. Members can purchase up to four 1.22 kW blocks of energy for \$25 each. The panels will remain on site, but the energy produced by the blocks you purchase will be credited to your bill. Each block is estimated to produce 160-250 kWhs per month. (67324001)

With ourSolar, there is nothing to install or finance, and there is no contract. You can end your participation at any time, although you must wait 12 months to rejoin.

For more information or to enroll, visit us online at [www.tri-countyemc.com/cooperativesolar.cms](http://www.tri-countyemc.com/cooperativesolar.cms) or give us a call at 1.866.254.8100 or 478.986.8100.

**We're Bringing Solar Power To You.  
No Risk. No Rooftop Required.**



### Advantages to Cooperative Solar

- No installation or maintenance costs for you
- No holes in your roof
- Lower costs per kWh through economies of scale
- No issues with shading or roof direction
- Renters or homeowners with restrictive covenants can participate
- No up-front costs, financing or long-term contracts
- Limited to 4 blocks per account

# Get to Know Your Cooperative

## Annual Meeting: October 18 .....

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, 2017.

### **“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 unless he or she has the legal capacity to enter into contracts in the state of Georgia. 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)

### **“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)

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE

### **District 1**

*Bibb, Jones & Twiggs Counties*

Norma Hancock  
Tracy Gattie  
Thomas Comer

### **District 2**

*Jasper, Morgan & Putnam Counties*

Raleigh Hicks  
Ken Farr

### **District 3**

*Baldwin & Wilkinson Counties*

Jack Brock  
Bruce Dempster  
Charles McCuen, Jr.

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, 2018.

## 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. Green, Chester Mercer, Cecil Patterson, Mike Rainey **Front Row:** Tommy Noles, Dan Greene



\*denotes directors up for re-election in 2018

# Now Accepting Applications for Cooperative Couples Conference

Tri-County EMC is now accepting applications for the Cooperative Couples Conference. This conference, scheduled for August 3-5 on Lake Chatuge in Hiawassee, GA, is designed for couples to network with leaders of cooperatives and learn the economic and service benefits of the cooperative business model. To learn more about the conference or to download an application, visit [tri-countyemc.com/couplesconference.cms](http://tri-countyemc.com/couplesconference.cms).

All applications are due to Tri-County EMC by June 15, 2018. (83711001)

## Did you know?

Properly hooking up your clothes dryer can help save on energy costs. The outdoor dryer exhaust door should close when the dryer is off. Check to make sure the dryer vent hose is tightly connected to the dryer and also to the inside wall fitting. The vent hose should not be kinked or clogged.

## Happy Memorial Day!

Tri-County EMC offices will be closed on **Monday, May 28** in observance of Memorial Day. Offices will reopen **Tuesday, May 29** at 8:00 AM.

## Recipe Box

### Chef Rusty Bower's Simple Barbecue Rub

This recipe is courtesy of 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.

#### Ingredients:

- 1 tablespoon black peppercorn
- 1/2 tablespoon cumin seeds
- 1/2 tablespoon dried thyme
- 1/2 tablespoon dried marjoram
- 1/2 tablespoon cayenne pepper
- 2 tablespoons paprika
- 1 tablespoon mustard powder
- 3 tablespoons dark brown sugar

#### Directions:

Grind the black peppercorn, cumin and thyme in a spice grinder. Mix with remaining spices in a large mixing bowl to evenly combine. Store barbecue rub in a jar or zip-top bag until ready to use.

**Note for use:** Make sure to season the meat with Kosher salt before seasoning with the rub.

*Chef Rusty Bowers, the owner and butcher at Pine Street Market in Avondale Estates, was named a 2017 Georgia Grown Chef by the Georgia Department of Agriculture and the Georgia Restaurant Association.*



Photo Credit: Georgia Grown



Owned by Those We Serve

P.O. Box 487  
Gray, GA 31032  
478.986.8100  
FAX 478.986.4733  
[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,  
Sammy Hall, Chester Mercer,  
Marion Nelson, Cecil Patterson, Mike Rainey

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Tri-County EMC Members  
Kim Broun, Editor  
Communications Specialist