

# current lines

November 2015

A monthly publication for Tri-County EMC members

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## Co-op Holds 76th Annual Meeting

Members of Tri-County EMC, employees and local and state dignitaries gathered on October 15 for the 76th Annual Meeting of Tri-County EMC at the headquarters in Gray, GA. The cooperative's CEO, C. Hill Bentley, gave an overview of last year's accomplishments and addressed the challenges of the coming years. Billy Jerles, Tri-County EMC Attorney, announced election results for the board of directors.

The elected board members for Post 2 were Chester Mercer (District 1), George "Buck" Comer (District 2), and Tommy Noles (District 3). These members will serve three-year terms. The 36 proposed bylaw changes also included on the ballot each passed by a wide margin. During the meeting, special

recognition was given to Tom Thompson, Jr., acknowledging his retirement after 30 years of service on the Tri-County EMC board of directors. "It's been a great privilege to work with the staff and the board. I've never worked with a greater group of people than the employees, the staff and the board at Tri-County." Comer defeated Cary Walton by a vote of 555 to 451 to fill this vacancy. (71042001)

Bentley, who has served as CEO of Tri-County EMC since 1998, announced his retirement, effective April 2016. "It's been my honor and my privilege to serve these members and this board and especially to work with these employees," said Bentley.

Bentley shared Tri-County's plans to construct a 1 MW cooperative solar project in Eatonton. The project will allow a member to

purchase energy from the Tri-County site as an alternative to putting a solar panel on his home. The project will provide power at a competitive rate for the next 25 years while adding to the tax base of the City of Eatonton and Putnam County. "I've said in the past that when solar becomes good business, we will do solar," said Bentley. "It's become good business."

Tri-County EMC continues to work on a statewide level to develop a plan to comply with EPA regulations without being crippling to the state. "The EPA would like to see us shut down Plant Scherer." Bentley said. "We think we've found a way to combat that and be able to continue to run one of the largest and most efficient coal plants in the nation. And keep it operational." To comply regulatory pressure and to take advantage of decreasing natural gas costs, Tri-County's use of coal continues to decrease, dropping 52% to 21% of the fuel mix over the past 10 years.

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## Directors Elected for Post 2

**Chester Mercer**  
District 1, Post 2



**George "Buck" Comer**  
District 2, Post 2



**Tommy Noles**  
District 3, Post 2



(R) C. Hill Bentley, CEO of Tri-County EMC, presents a lapel pin to (L) Tom Thompson, Jr., retiring chairman of the cooperative's board of directors. The Annual Meeting marked Thompson's retirement after 30 years of service to the cooperative's board of directors. Bentley also announced his retirement, effective April 2016.

# Annual Meeting

Continued from Page 1

Bentley also spoke about Tri-County's goal of keeping operating costs and rates low. "Out of every dollar we take in, we operate our system on 15.5 cents," said Bentley. "That's one of the lowest operating costs in the state." According to the summer PSC rate survey results showed Tri-County as 6th lowest rate in the state at the 2,000 kWh level.

In addition to these accomplishments, during the past year the cooperative awarded seven scholarships to students, sent two students on a week-long tour of Washington D.C., sponsored a student in the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp at the FFA Center in Covington and sent a young couple to the Cooperative Education Conference for Couples.

Mike Rainey (Post 3 - District 2). Cecil Patterson (Post 3 - District 1) and Marion Nelson (Post 3 - District 3), all incumbents, were nominated as candidates in their respective districts for the 2016 Annual Meeting. Additional candidate nominations for any of the posts above can be sent to the nominating committee which is listed on page three of this publication. Candidates can also be nominated by petition. Petitions require 100 member signatures and must be turned in to Tri-County EMC at least 90 days prior to the 2016 Annual Meeting. (83901001)

# Service Award Recipients

In an effort to acknowledge the work of employees and directors at Tri-County, they are awarded a service pin every 5 years they are with the coop. Congratulations to our Service Award Recipients for 2015!

**Selia Smith**

Control Center Operator, 5 years

**Becky Killgo**

Bookkeeper, 10 years

**Lee Witcher**

Lead Line Tech, 10 years

**William Hubbard**

Senior Control Center Operator, 15 years

**Marion Nelson**

Director, 15 years

**Mike Rainey**

Director, 20 years

**Cindy Thomason**

Senior Billing and Customer Service Agent, 20 years

**Tom Thompson, Jr.**

Director, 30 years

# Teachers: Bright Ideas Grant Application Deadline Drawing Near

Applications Due December 7

The Bright Ideas grant program, sponsored by Tri-County EMC, provides grants for teachers to improve education in local classrooms through innovative projects in grades Pre-K through 12 that would not otherwise be funded. Georgia certified public or private school teachers in grades Pre-K through 12 in Baldwin, Jones, Putnam, Twiggs and Wilkinson counties qualify.

Since 2008, Tri-County EMC has provided nearly \$150,000 to teachers within the service area to execute innovative projects that would otherwise go unfunded. Funds for the Bright Ideas Grants come from unclaimed capital credits that otherwise would have been surrendered to the state.

The grants are open to all subjects. Projects will be judged based on innovation, goals, learning objectives, student involvement and budget. Individual projects can be funded up to \$1,500. Teachers are limited to one grant proposal per year. Grants will be awarded based on merit and must be used within 18 months of the issue date. Applicants may be asked to provide a follow up report about the funded project. All applications must be completed online at [www.tri-countyemc.com/bright-ideas.cms](http://www.tri-countyemc.com/bright-ideas.cms). Applications must be submitted by midnight on Monday, December 7 to be considered for funding. For questions about the program or application process, please contact Kim Bonner at 478.986.8126 or [kimb@tri-countyemc.com](mailto:kimb@tri-countyemc.com).

## Win Money For Your Classroom!



# BRIGHT IDEAS

# Helping Hands Photo Contest .....

How are you helping your community this holiday season?  
Show us in a photo!

Send your "Helping Hands" themed photo, along with a description, to [kimb@tri-countyemc.com](mailto:kimb@tri-countyemc.com) or by mail to Kim Bonner at PO Box 487, Gray, GA 31032. All photos must be received by Monday, December 21. Be sure to include a completed release form that can be downloaded online at [www.tri-countyemc.com/photocontest.cms](http://www.tri-countyemc.com/photocontest.cms).

On Tuesday, December 22, all eligible photos will be uploaded to the Tri-County EMC Facebook page for fans to vote. The photo with the most votes on Facebook by Tuesday, December 29 will be the winner. The winning photo will be featured in the December *Current Lines* and the photographer will receive a \$50 bill credit.

All Tri-County EMC members are eligible to participate. Children under 18 years old in a household served by Tri-County are eligible with a parent's signature.

Be sure to like Tri-County EMC on Facebook to follow the contest.



# Annual Meeting Ballot Drawing Winners .....

Congratulations Winners!

Tri-County EMC distributed \$50 bill credits to 10 lucky members at the 2015 Annual Meeting. **William P Gilbert of Eatonton**, won the \$500 grand prize. The prizes were drawn from members who voted in the board of directors election. Congratulations winners! Tri-County thanks all members that participated in the election this year. Be sure vote in the election next year to have a chance to win.

**Charles Dubois**, Eatonton  
**Kenneth Hester**, Eatonton  
**C. Roy Embry**, Eatonton  
**James R. Mathis**, Macon  
**Barbara L. Rosser**, Eatonton

**Meldra W. Panchelli**, Milledgeville  
**CL Medlin Jr.**, Milledgeville  
**Morris V. Wood, Jr.**, Milledgeville  
**Todd K. Hardwick**, Macon  
**Gary Yarbrough**, Eatonton

# Nominating Committee Elected .....

During the 75th 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 2016 board of directors elections. For 2016, the committee will nominate the director candidates to fill Post 3 of Districts 1, 2 and 3. The nine members chosen to serve on the 2016 Nominating Committee are listed to the right.

**District 1:**

**Chris Williams**  
**Rev. Harris Hardwick**  
**Evelyn Simmons**

**District 2:**

**Ted Jenkins**  
**David DeLoach**  
**Peggy Fuller**

**District 3:**

**Jack Brock**  
**Brandon Cantrell**  
**Bruce Dempster**

**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.

# Do you eBill? .....

Save Paper, Pay Online



An alternative to standard paper billing, eBilling allows you to receive your monthly statement via email and pay online. Once enrolled, you will receive a monthly email that will take you directly to your current month's bill. (1706002)

For more information visit [www.tri-countyemc.com/ebilling.cms](http://www.tri-countyemc.com/ebilling.cms) or contact a customer service representative at 1.866.254.8100.

## Did you know?

You could save up to 10% of water heating costs by wrapping the hot water tank with jacket insulation. This is especially valuable for older water heaters with less internal insulation.

# Happy Thanksgiving

Tri-County EMC offices will be closed on November 26-27 for Thanksgiving.

Offices will reopen Monday, November 30 at 8:00 AM.

## Recipe Box

### Easy Sausage Casserole

Thanks to Amy Johnson for sharing this delicious recipe! **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:*

- 8 oz. cream cheese, softened
- 1 lb. of sausage (can be mile, spicy, maple or deer sausage)
- 2 (8 oz.) cans of crescent rolls (Pillsbury™ Recommended)

*Directions:*

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees. Grease the bottom of a 9x13 inch baking dish. Cook the sausage in a skillet over medium heat until crumbly and beginning to brown. Drain the sausage. Stir the cream cheese into the cooked sausage. Roll the dough from one can of crescent rolls into the bottom of the prepared baking dish without separating. Spread the sausage mixture over the baked crescent rolls. Top the sausage mixture with the remaining can of rolls. Bake about 8-10 minutes or until the top layer is golden brown.



photo credit: [www.thekitchenisnmyplayground.com](http://www.thekitchenisnmyplayground.com)



Tri-County  
EMC

Owned By Those We Serve

P.O. Box 487  
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[www.tri-countyemc.com](http://www.tri-countyemc.com)

C. Hill Bentley, 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

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Kim Bonner, Editor  
Communications Specialist