

current lines

A monthly publication for Tri-County EMC members

In this issue:

Annual Meeting & Election

page 1

Meeting Cont'd., ourSolar

page 2

Power Theft, Bright Ideas

page 3

eBilling, Holiday Closures, Recipe Box

page 4

Co-op Holds 77th Annual Meeting

Members of Tri-County EMC, employees and local and state dignitaries gathered on October 20 for the 77th Annual Meeting of Tri-County EMC at the headquarters in Gray, GA. Billy Jerles, Tri-County EMC general counsel, announced election results for the board of directors. The re-elected board members for Post 3 were Cecil Patterson (District 1), Mike Rainey (District 2), and Marion Nelson (District 3). These members will serve three-year terms. The proposed bylaw change also included on the ballot passed with 1,454 members voting yes and 99 voting no. This bylaw change will ensure that directors are eligible to enter into legal contracts in the state of Georgia. 1,778 members participated in this year's election process via mail, online voting or casting a ballot in person. (82627002)

The cooperative's board chairman, Brenda P. Green, reported that Tri-County EMC is in excellent financial condition, according to a recent financial audit. "The cooperative is on sound financial footing and is adding meters for the first time since the recession began in 2008," said Green.

Tri-County continues to work to expand its energy portfolio. Construction of Units 3 and 4 for Plant Vogtle, the nuclear plant in Waynesboro, GA, is on track and is set to begin production in 2019 and 2020, respectively. The cooperative also introduced ourSolar, a cooperative solar program, in June of this year and has sold half of the available blocks of energy to members.

"One of the tenants driving us is concern for community," said Green. "Tri-County has created several programs to reach needs in our service area." In the past year, the cooperative has

given \$71,000 in Operation Roundup Grants – a program funded through member contributions. Through unclaimed capital credits, Tri-County also funded \$30,000 in Bright Ideas Grants to local teachers and \$38,000 in economic development grants.

Ray Grinberg, CEO, emphasized the cooperative's promise to its members — to be a financially stable company, to deliver reliable power and provide high quality member service. He reported that in the most recent Public Service Commission Rate Survey, Tri-County's rates were lower than the average Georgia EMC and Georgia Power. The co-op is also making efforts to increase right-of-way trimming in order to decrease outages due to trees and vegetation. "Equipment failure only accounts for 5% of outages in our service area," said Grinberg. "While we can't control all outages caused by storms, animals and fallen trees, we are making an increased effort to expand our right-of-way trimming."

Continued on page 2

Ray Grinberg, CEO, speaks to Annual Meeting attendees about 2017 goals for Tri-County EMC.

Directors Elected for Post 3

Cecil Patterson
District 1, Post 3



Mike Rainey
District 2, Post 3



Marion Nelson
District 3, Post 3



Annual Meeting Continued from Page 1

Grinberg said technology continues to be a challenge. “The thing affecting our business the most is new technology,” said Grinberg. “It’s everywhere.” The cooperative recently installed an outage management system and plans to add an outage texting feature in the coming months. Green challenged the membership to take advantage of this technology by downloading the myTC EMC app to manage your account, monitor your energy usage and report outages.

The cooperative also plans to execute a member survey in 2017. “We want to know how we are doing and how you want to do business,” said Grinberg. The survey will sample a portion of members on many different aspects of the cooperative. Tri-County EMC will use the results to keep the cooperative headed in the right direction to meet the needs of its membership.

Nominating Committee Elected

During the 77th 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 2017 board of directors elections. For 2017, the committee will nominate the director candidates to fill Post 1 of Districts 1, 2 and 3.

District 1:

Norma Hancock
Tracy Gattie
Thomas Comer

District 2:

Robert Anderson
Carl Haizlip
Sandra McKinney

District 3:

Jack Brock
Bruce Dempster
Charles McCuen, Jr.

Ballot Drawing Winners

Tri-County EMC distributed \$50 bill credits to 10 lucky members at the 2016 Annual Meeting. **Elsie H. Clark** of Baldwin County 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 to vote in the election next year to have a chance to win.

Nellie Evans, Putnam County
Harry Thomas, Baldwin County
Jessie Harper, Putnam County
Eduardo Vargas, Putnam County
Brenda Vaughn, Jones County
Judy Sullivan, Putnam County
Scott Richter, Putnam County
David Trantham, Jones County
Frank Wade Odum, Jr., Baldwin County
Harvey Meadows, Jones County

ourSolar

Are 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 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. 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 or give us a call at 1.866.254.8100 or 478.986.8100.



No Risk. No Rooftop Required.

Power Theft Tip Line

Stealing electricity is a serious safety concern for the public, for utility company employees and for government agencies. It is illegal, it raises the cost of electricity for all customers, and it can lead to serious injury or death from electrical shock.

We need your help to combat power theft. If you see possible power theft, or any other suspicious activity, contact us using our anonymous **Power Theft Tip Line** at **478.986.8196** or online at www.tri-countyemc.com/powertheft.cms.

Please leave a detailed message with as much information as possible, including a brief description of what you saw, the address and names of any individuals involved. (28381001)

Your help stopping power theft benefits all Tri-County EMC members.



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.

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 more than \$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. Applications must be submitted by midnight on December 7 to be considered for funding. For questions about the program or application process, please contact Kim Broun at 478.986.8126 or kimb@tri-countyemc.com.

Win Money For Your Classroom!



**BRIGHT
IDEAS**

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. (52532002)

For more information visit 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 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 24-25 for Thanksgiving.

Offices will reopen Monday, November 28 at 8:00 AM.

Recipe Box

Feta and Sun-Dried Tomato Dip

Thanks to Jennifer Hanson 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 or mail to P.O. Box 487, Gray, GA 31032.**

Ingredients:

- 4 oz. crumbled feta cheese
- 1 cup low fat Greek yogurt
- 2 tbsps. olive oil
- 1/2 cup chopped, oil-packed sun dried tomatoes, drained
- salt and pepper

Directions:

In a medium bowl, mash together the feta cheese, yogurt and oil until mostly smooth. Mix in the sun-dried tomatoes and season with 1/2 tsp. salt and 1/4 tsp. pepper. Serve with pretzel crisps.



Tri-County
EMC

Owned By Those We Serve

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

current lines
Monthly Publication for
Tri-County EMC Members
Kim Broun, Editor
Communications Specialist