

current lines

September 2016

A monthly publication for Tri-County EMC members

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On The Ballot Your Cooperative's 2016 Election

Each year, Tri-County EMC holds a meeting of all members along with an election. This year's Annual Meeting is Thursday, October 20 at 2:00 PM. The election will include a proposed bylaw change in addition to the board of directors election for Post 3 of Districts 1, 2, and 3. Because cooperatives are owned by the members they serve, it is crucial for members to take part in the election each year to ensure the cooperative is run in a way that best serves its members.

Cast your vote for a chance to win \$500!

POST 3 DIRECTOR CANDIDATES

BYLAW CHANGE

DISTRICT 1
Jones, Bibb & Twigg



Cecil Patterson earned a B.A. from Mercer, a master's degree in educational administration from Georgia College & State University and a specialist's degree from Clarke-Atlanta University. He worked for JCHS for many years serving as a high-school coach, Gray Elementary School as Principal and Executive Director of Jones County Schools before his retirement in 2013. His honors include Citizen of the Year, All-American Baseball Player at Mercer, Hall of Fame Inductee at Mercer and Coach of the Year for 9 years. He and his wife reside in Haddock.

On this year's ballot, you will find a proposed bylaw change for Section 4.02: Qualifications. The proposed change is shown below as it will appear on the ballot.

Section 4.02: Qualifications

"No person shall be eligible for election ~~thereto whose age, at the time of such election, is less than eighteen (+8) years of age.~~" as a Director unless he or she has the legal capacity to enter into contracts in the State of Georgia."

The Tri-County EMC board of directors recommends this bylaw change to reflect current requirements of the Rural Utilities Service.

DISTRICT 2
Jasper, Morgan & Putnam



Mike Rainey is a lifelong resident of Putnam County and a self-employed farmer. He graduated from the Georgia Institute of Technology. Mike is a director of Tri-County and a member and past president of both the Putnam County Dairy Association and the Georgia Holstein Association. He also served on the steering committee for the Georgia National Fairgrounds. He and his wife, Kathy, are very active members in the First United Methodist Church in Easton. They have 7 kids and 11 grandkids.

CAST YOUR VOTE

Tri-County EMC's Annual Meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, October 20 at 2:00 PM**. You do not have to attend the annual meeting in order to vote. If you enrolled in online voting before August 30, your voting information will be emailed to you on September 19. If you did not enroll to vote online, you will receive a ballot in the mail by the first week of October. Your paper ballot can be returned via mail to the address provided on the ballot, dropped off at either office by 11:00 AM on October 20 or at the Annual Meeting. All members that cast a vote will be entered to win a \$500 cash prize.

DISTRICT 3
Baldwin & Wilkinson



Marion Nelson earned his associate's degree in Criminal Justice from Georgia Military College and has a B.S. in Biology from Georgia College and State University. He served as a ranger for the Georgia Department of Natural Resources for 34 years. He recently retired after 10 years as an Environmental Enforcement Officer with Baldwin County. Mr. Nelson serves as a director of Tri-County EMC and is a volunteer with the Baldwin County Fire and Rescue Squad. He and his wife, Harriett, have a daughter and a son, and are members of the First Baptist Church in Milledgeville.

Annual Meeting
Thursday, October 20, 2:00 PM
Find More Election Information at
www.tri-countyemc.com/election.cms
or call us at 1.866.254.8100

Optimize Your Water Heater, Optimize Savings

Water heating accounts for 18% of your electric bill, second only to heating and cooling. Regular maintenance of your water heater can ensure a longer, more efficient life for your unit. Use the tips below to make certain your water heater is running safely and efficiently.

Remove Sediment: Sand, minerals and other solids found in water can build up in your water heater which leads to less available water and less space for the transfer of heat to occur. Homeowners should drain a quarter of the tank at least once a year. Simply hook up a garden hose to the drain valve and run the water into a bucket until it is clear.

Use a Water Heater Timer: By installing a timer, you can schedule the water heater to turn off in the middle of the night when there is no demand for hot water. If scheduled properly, your tank will have plenty of time to reheat before morning showers. This tool will cost around \$30-60 and can save you \$10-15 per month, depending on your usage. (44541001)

Insulate Your Tank: Insulating your storage water tank can reduce heat loss 25-45%, resulting in savings of up to 10% in water heating costs. You can find water heater insulation kits starting at \$30 at most home repair stores. Be sure to consult your water heater manual before installing insulation.

Remove Circulating Pumps: In most homes, you have to run the water for a few seconds before it gets hot. In order to combat this delay, homeowners install circulating pumps that provide immediate hot water, helping to reduce your water usage. However, circulating pumps that are not on a timer operate constantly. They typically use more energy pumping hot water through the pipes than the energy saved by reducing water waste.

Reduce Your Bill

A Few Simple Tips

Wash your clothes in **cold water.**



75% of the energy required to do a load of laundry goes to heating water.

A dishwasher uses **half as much energy** as washing dishes by hand. Make sure your **dishwasher is full** before running it.

Use less water.

The less water you use, the less water will have to be heated. This will help you save on your electric bill and your water bill.

Fix Leaks.

A leak of 1 drip per second can cost \$1 per month. And even more if it is hot water.



Install **low-flow faucets and shower heads.**

You can purchase a low-flow fixture starting at \$10 and can achieve water savings of 25-60%.

Set your water heater thermostat to 120 degrees.

At this temperature, there will be less mineral buildup and less corrosion on the heater and pipes. And each 10 degree reduction can save you 3-5% on your electric bill.



Source: US Department of Energy

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.

What's Your Bright Idea?

Teacher's Grant 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 in grants to local schools. 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 by midnight on Wednesday, 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. (51581001)



Scholarship Applications Due October 15

Win Funds for College Through Operation Roundup!

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 (\$1,000 per winner) is awarded annually to students residing in the homes of Tri-County EMC members. Applicants must be enrolled in any U.S. accredited college, university or technical school and have maintained at least a 2.0 average.

Applications can be mailed by request or completed online at www.tri-countyemc.com/roundupscholarship.cms.
Applications are due October 15.

To learn more about the Operation Roundup scholarship and other opportunities for students, visit www.tri-countyemc.com/scholarships-overview.cms. For more information, contact Kim Broun at 478.986.8126 or kimb@tri-countyemc.com.



Local Couple Attends Co-op Couples Conference.....

In August, Jonathan and Angel Stewart of Jones County represented Tri-County EMC at the Cooperative Couples Conference in Hiawasse, Georgia. During the conference, the Stewarts networked with cooperative leaders from Georgia, North Carolina and South Carolina. They learned about the economic and service benefits of cooperatives and how coops differ from other corporations. They were also able to exchange ideas with other couples from around the state.

"I've worked with Tri-County EMC for many years, so I was familiar with electric co-ops but not others," said Jonathan Stewart. "I really enjoyed meeting with members of cooperatives outside of the electric cooperative realm. While they all have their differences, it's easy to see that all the co-ops are based on the same principles."

The Cooperative Couples Conference is held each July. To learn more about the Cooperative Couples Conference, visit www.tri-countyemc.com/couplesconference.cms



Jonathan and Angel Stewart represented Tri-County at the Cooperative Couples Conference in August.

Recipe Box

Asian Salmon

Thanks to Karen Powers of Jones County 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:

- 1/4 c. teriyaki sauce
- 1/4 c. pure maple syrup
- 1 T. sesame oil
- 2 salmon fillets, skin on
- 2 T. olive oil

Directions:

Whisk together teriyaki sauce, maple syrup, and sesame oil until well-combined in a large container with lid. Add the salmon fillets and toss with marinade to completely cover. Marinate the salmon in the container in the refrigerator for 30 minutes. Heat a medium-large flat griddle with oil over medium heat for 3 minutes or until griddle is hot. Place the salmon, skin side down, on the hot griddle. Cook about 5 minutes and then turn fillets over with a slotted spatula. Continue to cook 5 minutes longer or until fish flakes easily with a fork. Makes 2 servings.



Tri-County
EMC

Owned by Those We Serve

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