




Tri-County Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

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Office Hours

7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Monday through Friday

(Salem Office closed from noon-1:00 p.m. each day)

Board of Directors

President

Larry Manning - Belle Rive

Vice President

Phil Carson - Oakdale

Secretary/Treasurer

Sam Phillips - Salem

Tom Beyers - Odin

Doug Knolhoff - Hoyleton

Donnie Laird - Waltonville

Rick Russell - Richview

Greg Vieira - Salem

Kathy Withers - Mt. Vernon

Mission Statement

To safely provide our member-owners with reliable electric service, superior customer service and practical energy solutions, all at reasonable prices.

Hi-Lites

Hi-Lites is a monthly newsletter published for the members of Tri-County Electric Cooperative.

2017 Plan of Work



*by Marcia Scott,
General Manager*

Tri-County Electric Cooperative's Board of Directors recently approved the annual plan of work for 2017. Each year, a number of line projects which will improve the reliability of the electric distribution system are selected and prioritized. Some lines are replaced due to age and condition. Other lines will be replaced with larger conductor due to load growth.

The following are items included in our 2017 plan of work:

- Pole Replacements - Approximately 600 poles will be replaced in 2017. Poles are inspected on an eight-year rotation cycle and poles that fail inspection are replaced. This year, the poles being replaced are located in the Jefferson County area.

- Single Phase Rebuild - Approximately 6 miles of line will be rebuilt replacing aged copper wire with ACSR (Aluminum Conductor Steel Reinforced). Old poles and wires will be replaced. These updates will increase reliability in the Rice area.

- Woodlawn Substation - Replace 1.25 miles of aged three-

phase with larger capacity three-phase conductor along Richview Road, East of N. Fairdrive Lane.

- Nashville Substation - Reconstruct 1.75 miles of aged three-phase conductor. This will also improve load balancing on the South Circuit of Nashville substation, north of Oakdale blacktop along Black Diamond.

- Industrial Substation - The north bay transformer and regulators will be upgraded due to load growth.

- Veterans Substation - A new circuit will be added due to load growth.

- Sectionalizing - Upgrade regulators, capacitors, and OCR (oil circuit reclosers).

- Electronic Recloser Replacements in Substations - Reclosers will be replaced with new triple-single reclosers on five circuits in various substations. This replacement is due to the age of the reclosers, and should reduce the number of blinks that members on those circuits experience.

- Patoka Substation - Replace substation transformer with a new transformer.

The goal of all of the above mentioned system upgrades is to improve service reliability for the membership.

Creamy Crockpot Hot Cocoa

This is a great hot cocoa recipe for the whole family to enjoy!

Ingredients

- 6 cups milk
- 1½ cups heavy cream
- 1 can sweetened condensed milk (14 oz.)
- 1 package milk chocolate chips (12 oz.)
- 1 teaspoon vanilla

Instructions

1. Add all ingredients to your crock pot. Set to low for 2 hours. Stir every 10 minutes or so to make sure it's well combined. Once all the chocolate chips are melted, turn it down to the warm setting.

Optional: You can also set the crockpot to high for less time and stir more frequently. Once all the chocolate is melted, you can turn the crockpot down to warm.



An easy way to add more delight to your recipe is to provide hot cocoa topping options, such as: Marshmallows, peppermint sticks or crushed peppermint pieces, caramel, whipped cream, chocolate chips or shavings, white chocolate chips, ground cinnamon, hot fudge, or sprinkles. Warm homemade cookies always make the perfect pairing with hot cocoa on a cold evening!

Member Safety Tip of the Month

HOLIDAY LIGHTING SAFETY TIPS



Consider purchasing LED holiday lights; they are cool to the touch and more energy efficient than incandescent bulbs.

Test holiday lights by connecting each strand before hanging them.



Make sure there are no broken bulbs or damaged or frayed cords. Discard any defective strands.

Use holiday lights that include the Underwriter's Laboratories (UL) label.



Avoid resting bulbs on tree needles and branches. Try using a clip to keep the bulbs upright.

Do not overload electrical outlets or extension cords.



Turn off all indoor and outdoor holiday lighting before leaving the house or going to bed.



smart hub



Get the Smart Hub App Now!

-  Report Outages - No Busy Signals
-  Pay Bills
-  Get Daily Usage Info
-  Manage Your Account
-  Improve Energy Efficiency

Deadline for IEC Memorial Scholarship Applications

The deadline to apply for scholarships awarded by Illinois electric cooperatives is December 31, 2016. A total of ten scholarships of \$2,000 each will be awarded.

• Five scholarships will be awarded to high school seniors who are the sons or daughters of Illinois electric cooperative members receiving service from the cooperative.

• One scholarship will be awarded to a student who is the son or daughter of an Illinois electric cooperative employee or director.



• Three scholarships are reserved for students enrolling full-time at a two-year Illinois community college who are the sons or daughters of Illinois electric cooperative members, employees or directors.

• The final scholarship will help pay for costs to attend the lineworker's school at Lincoln Land Community College in Springfield, Illinois.

Visit Tri-County Electric Cooperative's website at www.tricountycoop.com for full details and application forms.

Cooperative Caring

Annual Employee Fundraiser Donations

Tri-County Electric Cooperative employees recently donated funds from the sale of Mascot pecans and specialty nuts to the United Way of South Central Illinois for the Imagination Library and to Angels on Assignment.



Jen Miller, Executive Director of United Way, (right) receives a check for \$2,000 from Tri-County employee Dana Flota.

• The goal of the Imagination Library, is to provide a free book each month to every child under the age of five.

Through employee efforts, the Imagination Library program is available to children in the counties served by the cooperative: Marion, Jefferson and Washington.

• Angels on Assignment is an organization that provides rent and utility assistance as well as providing necessities such as food and clothing to individuals and families within the community.



Angels on Assignment Executive Director Ann Bothe, (right) receives a check for \$1,000 from Tri-County employee Phyllis Kane.

Our appreciation is extended to the community for supporting this annual fundraiser which allows employees to give back to the communities the cooperative serves.

Mascot Pecans & Specialty Nuts are great for snacking, baking and gift giving! These treats make the perfect stocking stuffer!

Mascot nuts can be purchased at Tri-County Electric Cooperative office locations in Salem and Mt. Vernon while supplies last!



Mascot Pecans & Specialty Nuts

16 oz. Mammoth Pecan Halves	\$8.75
16 oz. Medium Pecan Pieces	\$8.75
12 oz. English Walnuts	\$7.00
12 oz. Roasted & Salted Jumbo Cashews	\$7.50
4 oz. Pecan Log	\$3.50
12 oz. Chocolate Covered Pecans	\$7.00
8 oz. Pecan Caramel Clusters	\$6.00

HOW TO SPOT A SCAM

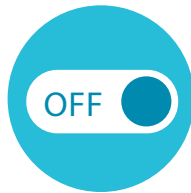
Don't become a victim.

In one of the most common scams, a caller may:



Pretend to be from your utility.
(Your caller ID may even display your utility's name.)

Threaten to turn off power, water or natural gas service to your home or business within an hour.



Demand immediate payment – often by prepaid debit card.

Suspect a scammer?
Here's what to do if the call seems suspicious:

- 1 Hang up.
- 2 Call your utility provider at the phone number on your bill.
- 3 Call the police.



DO NOT pay over the phone if immediate payment is demanded to avoid a disconnection.

DON'T FALL FOR THE CALL!

*Warm Wishes from:
The Directors &
Employees of
Tri-County Electric
Cooperative*



Tri-County Electric Cooperative Offices will be closed Monday, December 26th for Christmas and Monday, January 2nd for New Years Day.