



**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 Knollhoff - 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.*

## An Election of Choices



*Guest Commentary  
by Jim Matheson  
NRECA CEO*

Millions of Americans have a choice to make this November. Many will make the worst decision: they won't vote.

According to the New York Times, just nine percent of America selected Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton as the presidential nominees. Most of the nation chose to stay home.

This epidemic is nothing new. In the 2012 elections, rural voter turnout dropped 18 percent.

Elections matter. Votes matter. Voters matter. But the unjustifiable cycle of voter apathy continues.

This epidemic deprives communities of a robust and constructive process to select their political leaders. And it's a uniquely American problem. According to Pew, U.S. voter turnout trails most developed countries.

It's easy to blame the epidemic on Americans who fail to show up. It's just as easy to blame partisan bickering, Congressional gridlock, and a lack of trust. But none of that

gets us any closer to solving the problem.

The most important check-and-balance our Founders envisioned was the people holding their government accountable.

That's why America's electric cooperatives have launched *Co-ops Vote*, a non-partisan program to strengthen our ties with voters and elected officials in both parties. Because the most important conversation is the one that occurs between them every time Americans go to the polls.

Rural America is more than a tourist destination to electric co-ops and our 42 million member-owners. It's home.

Elections are about ideas. They're about key issues where we work and live like: Expanding broadband service, creating economic opportunities, ensuring continued access to safe, reliable and affordable electricity, and making our communities resilient against natural disasters.

Civic engagement is a natural antidote to everything people despise about today's politics: partisanship, money, gerrymandering, and more. All that's required is engaging Americans in a conversation

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# Muddy Buddy Pecans

*Muddy Buddy Pecans make a great gift or snack! They're perfect for parties and the holidays and come together in minutes with just a few ingredients.*

## Ingredients

- 3 cups pecan halves\*
- 1/2 cup chocolate chips
- 1/4 cup peanut butter
- 1 tablespoon unsalted butter
- 1-2 cups powdered sugar

## Instructions

1. Preheat oven to 350°F.
2. Place pecans on a baking sheet and bake for just a few minutes, stirring each minute, until the pecans are lightly toasted.
3. Pour them into a large bowl and let them cool.
4. Place chocolate chips, peanut butter, and butter in a medium sized bowl.
5. Heat in the microwave on high power, in 30 second increments, stirring between each, until the chocolate is melted and smooth. Pour over pecans and toss to coat.
6. Place 1 cup powdered sugar in a large gallon size bag.
7. Pour pecans in the bag, seal, and shake to coat. Turn out onto a cookie sheet covered with parchment paper and let cool. If desired, shake with another cup of powdered sugar before serving.

*\*Don't forget to purchase Mascot ® pecans to make your favorite recipes this holiday season! Pecan halves, pecan pieces, and specialty nuts can be purchased at Tri-County Electric Cooperative offices in Mt. Vernon and Salem. All proceeds benefit local non-profit organizations within the community that we serve.*

## *An Election of Choices Continued*

about issues, and encouraging them to wake up on Election Day to make their voice heard.

*Jim Matheson is CEO of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), the national service organization that represents the nation's more than 900 private, not-for-profit, consumer-owned electric cooperatives. He previously served seven terms as a U.S. Representative from Utah. Article first published in The Hill at [www.thehill.com](http://www.thehill.com).*

PROUD 5-STAR ELECTRIC CO-OP



*Co-ops Vote* is a non-partisan project of America's Electric Cooperatives designed to inform its members on the key issues facing electric co-ops and encourage them to vote and support their co-ops and the communities they serve when they go to the polls. *Co-ops Vote* does not endorse or recommend any candidates for election. To learn more visit [www.vote.coop](http://www.vote.coop).

## IEC Memorial Scholarships

Illinois electric cooperatives will award ten scholarships of \$2,000 each in 2017.

Five scholarships will be awarded to high school seniors who are the sons or daughters of an Illinois electric cooperative member 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.

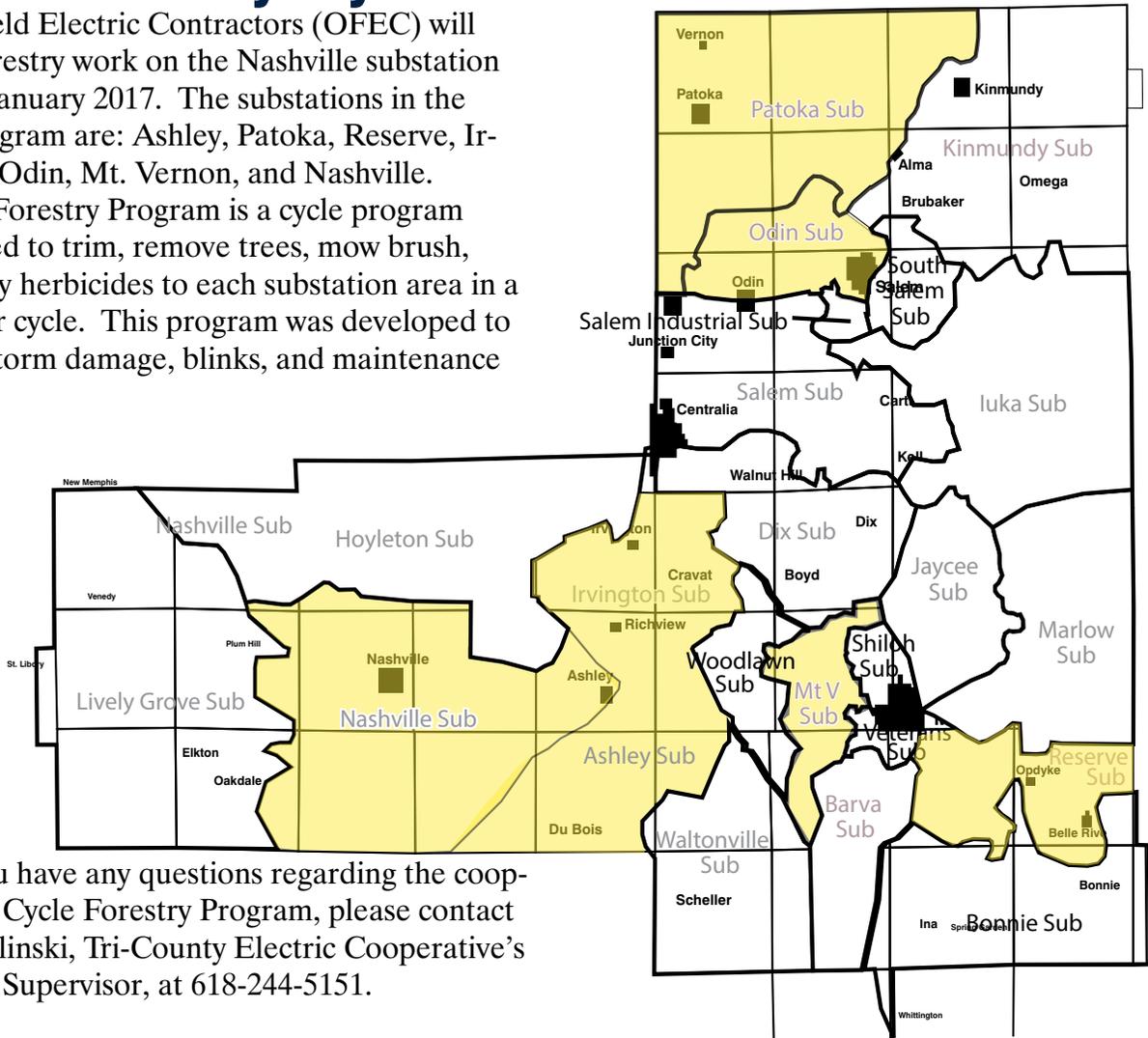
The final scholarship will help pay for costs to attend the lineworkers school at Lincoln Land Community College in Springfield, IL.

The deadline to apply is December 31, 2016. For more information, contact Brad Austin at Tri-County Electric (618-244-5151) or visit [www.tricountycoop.com](http://www.tricountycoop.com)

# 2017 Forestry Cycle

Oilfield Electric Contractors (OFEC) will begin forestry work on the Nashville substation area in January 2017. The substations in the 2017 program are: Ashley, Patoka, Reserve, Irvington, Odin, Mt. Vernon, and Nashville.

The Forestry Program is a cycle program developed to trim, remove trees, mow brush, and apply herbicides to each substation area in a four-year cycle. This program was developed to reduce storm damage, blinks, and maintenance costs.



If you have any questions regarding the cooperative's Cycle Forestry Program, please contact Ben Ceglinski, Tri-County Electric Cooperative's Forestry Supervisor, at 618-244-5151.

## Mascot Pecans & More!



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

\*8 oz. Pecan Caramel Clusters \$6.00

\*12 oz. Chocolate Covered Pecans \$7.00

Items with an asterisk (\*) should be delivered mid-November.

Nuts are available, while supplies last, during regular business hours at both office locations of the cooperative.

*Proceeds from this employee fundraiser will be donated to charitable group(s).*

Tri-County's Offices will be closed Thursday, November 24th and Friday, November 25th for Thanksgiving. Have a happy and safe holiday!

## Lineman's Safety Rodeo



*On Friday, September 30, 2016, Tri-County Electric Cooperative Linemen John Shirley, Brent Livesay, and Chris Kinder competed in the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperative's (AIEC) 2016 Lineman's Safety Rodeo. Superintendent of Operations Kevin Cummings is pictured above discussing the next safety event.*

## Member Appreciation Day

We sincerely thank the Tri-County Electric Cooperative member-owners for joining us on October 12th, 2016 for Member Appreciation Day. It was a beautiful fall afternoon as we celebrated Cooperative Month together.

In addition to great food, we also unveiled our newest parking spots at our Mt. Vernon Headquarters, designated for veterans, military, and first responders. We hope that this dedication serves as a reminder that we appreciate your hard work and service to our community and our country.



*Members visited between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. to grab a quick bite to eat.*



*Veteran and Tri-County Electric Cooperative member Bernard Jackson and wife Judy at Member Appreciation Day. Thank you for your service!*



Tri-County Electric Cooperative offices will be closed November 11th in honor of Veteran's Day.