



# Hi-Lites



## Farmers, First Responders, & Large Equipment Operators Safety Luncheon

As advocates for community safety and well-being, we are excited to extend an invitation to you for a special event focused on Electrical Safety. Our Electrical Safety Luncheon aims to bring together farmers, first responders, and large equipment operators to share knowledge, foster collaboration, and promote a culture of safety within our community.

**Date:** Thursday, March 7th, 2024

**Time:** 10:30 a.m.

**Venue:** Tri-County Electric Cooperative, 3906 Broadway St, Mt. Vernon, IL

**RSVP:**

Please confirm your attendance by February 18th. Details on page 2.

This year, we have the pleasure of welcoming guest speaker Chuck Tiemann to share his message. Tiemann is committed to teaching others about electrical safety. He is known worldwide for sharing his own unforgettable – and true – electrical safety story. In 1980, then a lineworker at Kay Electric Cooperative in Blackwell, Oklahoma, Chuck made contact with an energized 7,200-volt power line. As a result of the accident, he died, was brought back to life, and then underwent the amputation of his left arm and right leg. Over the next 41+ years after his accident, Chuck has dedicated his life to sharing those lessons so others wouldn't have to learn them as he did.

### MISSION STATEMENT

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

3906 Broadway  
Mt. Vernon, IL 62864

618-244-5151  
Toll-Free: 800-244-5151  
Fax: 618-244-1496  
Pay by phone:  
855-385-9902

**Mt. Vernon  
Office Hours**  
Monday - Friday  
7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

**Salem  
Office Hours**  
Tuesday - Thursday  
7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.  
(Closed 12 p.m. - 1 p.m.)

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**President**

Sam Phillips - Salem

**Vice-President**

Doug Knolhoff - Hoyleton

**Secretary/Treasurer**

Kathy Withers - Mt. Vernon

Michelle Barbee - Salem  
Tom Beyers - Odin  
Jordan Brink - Richview  
Phil Carson - Oakdale  
Donnie Laird - Waltonville  
Larry Manning - Belle Rive



**TRI-COUNTY ELECTRIC  
COOPERATIVE, INC.**

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

# **ELECTRICAL SAFETY LUNCHEON**

**MARCH  
7TH**  
SAVE THE  
DATE!

**FARMERS, FIRST  
RESPONDERS,  
& LARGE  
EQUIPMENT  
OPERATORS**

Lunch and Learn with  
Live Line Demo  
& Guest Speaker Chuck  
Tiemann

**Date:** Thurs., March 7th

**Time:** 10:30 a.m.

**Location:** Tri-County  
Electric Cooperative  
3906 Broadway St.  
Mt. Vernon, IL

RSVP online at:

[www.tricountycoop.com/safetyluncheon](http://www.tricountycoop.com/safetyluncheon)

Phone: 618-244-5151

Email: [lhutchison@tricountycoop.com](mailto:lhutchison@tricountycoop.com)

American Red Cross  
Blood Drive

Tri-County Electric Cooperative  
3906 W. Broadway St.  
Mt. Vernon, IL

January 20th, 2024  
12:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.



## Touchstone Energy®

### Touchstone Energy Classroom Empowerment Grant Winners

*Winners of Touchstone Energy Empowerment  
Grants for schools in Tri-County Electric  
Cooperative's service area have been announced.  
The grants fund innovative, unfunded projects or  
materials in area schools.  
Congratulations to all grant winners!*

Lynette Baity  
*ROE #13 Alternative Learning Academy*

Daryl Kiselewski  
*Waltonville High School*

Ellen Radtke  
*Odin Public Schools*

Hannah Raney  
*Dr. Nick Osborne Primary Center*

Kellie Woodrome  
*Field Grade School*

Sarah Maschhoff  
*Okawville Grade School*

Ranzie Callahan  
*Bethel Grade School*

Lee Ann Ferrell  
*Coram Deo Classical School*

## TCEC Board of Directors

One of the most valuable principles of the cooperative business model is democratic control. Boards of cooperatives are democratically elected by the membership to govern and direct the affairs of the cooperative.

Tri-County Electric Cooperative has a 9-member board with three directors from each of the primary counties served, Jefferson, Marion, and Washington. The membership elects one director for each district at the annual meeting each year, and the directors serve three-year rotating terms. This year's annual meeting will be held on Saturday, July 13, 2024.

Board candidates can be nominated by petition signed by at least 25 members, and signatures may come from the entire Cooperative membership.

### **Petitions can be picked up:**

Wednesday, February 14th, 2024

### **Petitions must be filed by:**

Friday, April 12, 2024

Petitions may be picked up in person, sent to a member by e-mail, or mailed to a member, but must be filed in person. If you would like to receive an official petition along with the affidavit, please contact Lynn Hutchison, Director of Member Services, at 618-244-5151 or by e-mail at [lhutchison@tricitycoop.com](mailto:lhutchison@tricitycoop.com).

The Credentials and Elections (C&E) Committee will meet to review the qualifications of petitioning nominees and supervise nominations of board members.

If there are no nominations by petition for the district in which a director is to be elected, it is the duty of the C&E Committee to select a nominee(s) for that district. The C&E Committee is scheduled to meet on Monday, April 22nd, 2024, and the members of the committee are: Tonya Lowery, Mark Mitchell, Ralph Hilmes, Keith Doehring, Geff Purcell, & Dennis McClellan.

If you would like to review the qualifications to become or remain a board member, or the section regarding nominations, the bylaws of the Cooperative can be found on our website, or you can contact us at 618-244-5151, and we will mail a copy to you.



Students will create lasting memories while visiting the Civil War Battlefield at Gettysburg, the National Cathedral, Smithsonian Museums, George Washington's home, Supreme Court, Kennedy Center, Arlington National Cemetery, and the Holocaust Museum, among many other sites. This well-chaperoned, educational program is sponsored by electric cooperatives throughout the nation and focuses on leadership and character-building skills.

Tri-County Electric Cooperative (TCEC) will sponsor two students from each county in our service area (Jefferson, Marion, and Washington) on an all-expense paid bus trip to Springfield on March 20, 2024. During the day, you and students from other Illinois high schools will meet your elected senators and representatives at the Capitol and learn first-hand about the workings of state government.

TCEC will also sponsor three of these students on a weeklong trip to Washington D.C. on June 14-21, 2024. During the week in the nation's capital, the Illinois student contingent will hopefully meet with Senators Terri Bryant and Jason Plummer. The U.S. Representatives will meet with students for a luncheon while on Capitol Hill.

Who should apply? High School Sophmores, Juniors, and Seniors that reside in a home served by Tri-County. Home school students may participate as well! This program is intended for student-leaders with opportunities for leadership building. *Application on page 4*

For more information, contact Lynn Hutchison, Director of Member Services at 618-244-5151 or [lhutchison@tricitycoop.com](mailto:lhutchison@tricitycoop.com). You may also visit [www.tricitycoop.com/youthtour](http://www.tricitycoop.com/youthtour).



# TRI-COUNTY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

YOUTH DAY: MARCH 20, 2024  
YOUTH TOUR: JUNE 14-21, 2024  
DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 2, 2024

## YOUTH DAY & YOUTH TO WASHINGTON, D.C. CONTEST

# APPLICATION

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent(s) or Guardian(s) Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Parent Cell Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Can we text you? Y N      Can we text parents? Y N

Parent Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

T-Shirt Size: \_\_\_\_\_

High School: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

How did you hear about the program? \_\_\_\_\_

*Using additional paper, please provide the following information:*

1. Personal Achievement (Include both School & Non-School Activities)
2. What are your plans after high school?
3. If you could change anything about your state, what would it be and why?
4. What is the difference between an investor-owned utility and an electric cooperative? Explain the benefit(s) of being a cooperative member.
5. If you win the Youth to Washington program, you may be asked to help promote the program to fellow classmates next year. Describe one way you would promote the program. Be creative!
6. Why are you applying for the Youth Tour Program?

By completing and submitting this application, I verify my eligibility to attend Youth Day, March 20, in Springfield. If chosen as a Youth Day participant, I commit to the trip to Springfield. I also understand that if I should be selected as one of the winners of this contest, I would take the all-expense-paid tour to Washington, D.C., June 14-21, 2024.

Student's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby give my consent for \_\_\_\_\_ to participate in the "Youth to Washington" contest and to take the all-expense-paid tour to Washington, D.C. if selected as a winner.

Parent or Guardian's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**Application deadline: February 2nd, 2024 - Mail to: Tri-County Electric Cooperative, Inc.**

**ATTN: Lynn Hutchison, 3906 Broadway ST, Mt. Vernon, IL 62864 or lhutchison@tricitycoop.com**