



## 2025 Annual Meeting Report

I'd like to express my genuine appreciation to everyone who took time out of their day to attend the 87th Annual Meeting of Members. It's always a pleasure to gather as a Cooperative family and celebrate the work we do together.

Your cooperative is a not-for-profit entity that is not in the business of making billions of dollars off of our members. As Kathy Withers reported in the Secretary's Report (Page 3), we ended 2024 with adequate margins and we remain in good fiscal condition. If you were on the cooperative lines during the year 2001, you should have received your portion of the margins generated that year in the form of a capital credit check, if your total was over \$5 dollars. If for some reason you did not, please contact the cooperative office.

At the meeting, I had the honor of providing an overview of the past year's

accomplishments and what lies ahead for Tri-County Electric Cooperative. I began by reflecting on the responsibility you've entrusted to the Board, myself as General Manager, and the dedicated staff and employees. We take seriously our role as stewards of your Cooperative and strive every day to fulfill our mission: To safely provide our member-owners with reliable electric service, superior customer service, and practical energy solutions, all at reasonable prices.

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*Luke Johnson*  
**General Manager**



**Mt. Vernon Office**  
3906 Broadway  
Mt. Vernon, IL 62864  
Monday - Friday  
7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

**Salem Office**  
1631 E Main St.  
Salem, IL 62881  
Tuesday - Thursday  
7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.  
Closed: 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 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  
Christopher Johnson, Belle Rive  
Donnie Laird, Waltonville

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*2025 Annual Meeting Report Continued*

One of the highlights from the past year was our successful RESAP (Rural Electric Safety Achievement Program) inspection, which we passed with flying colors. This independent review looked at everything from safety procedures to infrastructure and facilities. We are proud of the results and remain committed to keeping both our employees and the public safe.

We also finalized a Distributed Energy Resources territory agreement with Ameren, which is now pending approval from the Illinois Commerce Commission. This agreement ensures that large-scale renewable energy projects within our territory remain under Cooperative service, keeping the associated revenues where they belong—with our members.

To support continued reliability, our Engineering and Operations team completed a four-year work plan, which helps us plan for future investments. Among our current projects:

- A 14-mile transmission and distribution tie line near Patoka and Kinmundy Substations is nearing completion, improving reliability and system flexibility.
- Crews are also building a 4-mile tie line southwest of town, linking the Reserve and Marlow Substations, which will help reduce voltage drops and improve backfeed capability. This 5.3-mile rebuild will wrap up this fall.
- Ongoing system improvements include breaker maintenance, pole replacements, and substation upgrades to strengthen service delivery.

On the affordability front, we're applying for technology grants to support upcoming demand-side management programs, which we hope to launch in mid-2026. While it's unfortunate that it's now more cost-effective to reduce energy use than to generate it, these programs will help us manage demand and avoid high infrastructure costs.

On the legislative front, we continue to face challenges. Too often, co-ops are grouped in with investor-owned utilities, though we are fundamentally different—member-owned and not-for-profit. Proposed legislation could shift control

away from local cooperatives and require expensive new reports and resource plans. These mandates could increase costs for members at a time when generation resources are already tight and fuel prices are high, driven by factors like increased AI-related power usage.

That's why your voice matters. If you see a call to action from Voices for Cooperative Power on our website or Facebook page, please take a moment to contact your legislators. It's a small effort that makes a big difference in protecting local control.

While our area was spared the brunt of recent severe weather, our neighbors to the south faced ice storms and tornadoes this year. No matter how well-built our system is, we remain at the mercy of the elements. Our crews are always ready to respond.

As we close another Annual Meeting, I want to thank our Board and each of you—our members—for your continued support and trust. I'm especially grateful for the outstanding team at Tri-County Electric Cooperative. It's a blessing to see our Cooperative family grow and thrive. From the members to the Board and employees, I truly believe we have the best Cooperative. Thank you again for allowing me to serve you.

## Secretary/Treasurer's Report



Kathy Withers, Secretary/Treasurer of the Cooperative, informed the membership that the Cooperative reported revenue of \$54,540,000 during the calendar year ending December 31, 2024.

Also for 2024, the Cooperative purchased 393,196,000 kilowatt hours.

The Cooperative's cost of purchased power for the year was \$31,972,000 and other expenses were \$18,596,000.

The Cooperative reported margins of \$3,972,000. Of that amount \$1,272,000 were patronage credits from Southern Illinois Power Cooperative. The patronage credits have been assigned as capital credits to the accounts of members receiving service during 2024.

Withers also reported that the Cooperative constructed 114 new services in 2024 for a total of 18,655 services in place. The Cooperative has 3,418 miles of line which includes 80 miles of transmission line.

## Officers Selected

Officers selected during the board's reorganizational meeting for the 2025-2026 year are as follows:



**President**  
Sam Phillips,  
Marion County



**Vice-President**  
Doug Knolhoff,  
Washington County



**Secretary/Treasurer**  
Kathy Withers,  
Jefferson County

## Directors Elected

Directors elected by the membership to serve three-year terms are as follows:



**Jefferson County**  
Kathy Withers



**Marion County**  
Tom Beyers



**Washington County**  
Terry Doehring

