

NEWS RELEASE FROM:
Luke Johnson, General Manager
Tri-County Electric Cooperative, Inc.
3906 Broadway St.
Mt. Vernon, IL 62864-0307
Telephone: 618-244-5151
Email: ljohnson@tricountycoop.com
www.tricountycoop.com



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 18, 2024

Tri-County Electric holds 86th Annual Meeting

MOUNT VERNON – Tri-County Electric Cooperative (TCEC) members gathered for their 86th Annual Meeting on Saturday, July 13 at the co-op’s headquarters facility in Mount Vernon to hear updates about their cooperative. More than 900 members, including their families, were treated to coffee and Krispy Kreme doughnuts, a live line demonstration, and children’s activities, including robotics demonstrations, face painting, and free child identification kits. Each membership also received a \$15 bill credit for attending.

At the start of the business meeting, Board President Sam Phillips welcomed TCEC members and following the invocation, led them in the Pledge of Allegiance. Phillips commended employees for 15 years and 1.4 million working hours without a lost-time incident.

Following a report from the C&E Committee, the election of directors commenced. During the meeting, Christopher Johnson of Jefferson County, Doug Knolhoff of Washington County, and Michelle Barbee of Marion County were elected to the cooperative’s board of directors for three-year terms.

Secretary-Treasurer Kathy Withers reported that the cooperative ended 2023 with adequate margins and remains in good fiscal condition. General Manager Luke Johnson then addressed the membership, reiterating the cooperative’s priorities: safety and reliability, superior customer service, practical energy solutions and ensuring reasonable prices.

“These guiding principles shape everything we do, ensuring that your needs and expectations are not only met but exceeded,” Johnson said. “Over the past year, we continued to invest in our infrastructure, equipment, and employee training to maintain and enhance the reliability of our electric service. Thanks to diligent planning by our Engineering and Operations teams, we proactively address system needs and

improvements. This preparation allows us to swiftly respond to outages and minimize disruptions.”

He went on to mention TCEC’s pursuit of a GRIP grant with fellow cooperatives. “This grant will enable us to upgrade technology and reinforce critical infrastructure at a reduced cost,” he said.

Southern Illinois Power Cooperative President and CEO Paul Furtak attended the Annual Meeting and spoke about the rising costs of energy as a result of coal costs, inflation, and legislative pressures.

At the close of the meeting, attendance prizes were drawn for kids and adults, and members were treated to a variety of box lunches and lemon shakeups.

Tri-County Electric Cooperative is a member of Touchstone Energy — a national alliance of local, consumer-owned electric cooperatives providing high standards of service to members large and small. More than 700 Touchstone Energy cooperatives in 46 states deliver energy and energy solutions to more than 30 million members every day. Tri-County Electric is committed to providing superior service based on four core principles: integrity, accountability, innovation and commitment to community. The co-op serves 16,513 meters over 3,410 miles of line in parts of Franklin, Jefferson, Marion, and Washington counties. For more information, visit www.tricountycoop.com.

###



Luke Johnson, General Manager, Tri-County Electric Cooperative