



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Hi-Lites



2021 Annual Meeting Report

by Marcia Scott, General Manager

Thank you to so many of you who took the time to attend to the business of your electric cooperative on Saturday, July 10th. I am so pleased that we were able to meet again following the cancellation of last year's meeting.

Once again, I had the pleasure of congratulating Tri-County Electric Cooperative employees on their excellent safety record – almost 12 years and nearly 1,130,000 working hours without a lost time accident by a full-time employee. This is a major accomplishment, and I am proud to work with this fine group of employees that are dedicated to safely providing excellent service to the members of this cooperative.

I am pleased to announce that the cooperative is in a strong financial position and able to retire patronage credits for the remainder of the year 1997 totaling nearly \$852,000 (with checks written for \$720K). If you were on our lines in 1997, you should have received a check in the mail. If you were on our lines in 1997 and did not receive a check, please contact

the cooperative office.

Many times, I have spoken at the Annual Meeting about challenges in the electric industry. The most recent challenges are related to energy legislation. There is talk at the Federal level of a goal to reach 100% carbon dioxide free electricity by 2035 by utilizing renewable power, carbon capture and storage, an extensive amount of new transmission lines, energy storage, and existing nuclear power.

Achieving 100% carbon dioxide free electricity by 2035, while keeping the lights on, is simply not achievable.

Here in Illinois, there is proposed energy legislation that will close all coal plants by 2035, and close all natural gas plants by 2045. This proposed legislation will also require 100% renewable power by 2050.

This proposal would force the premature closure of Prairie State Energy Campus in 2035. Prairie State Energy Campus is a new, state-of-the-art coal-fired power plant that is located in Washington County.

The premature forced closure of Prairie State could result in a 20-25% increased cost on your electric bills. *Continued on Page 4*

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

Donnie Laird - Waltonville

Vice-President

Doug Knolhoff - Hoyleton

Secretary/Treasurer

Sam Phillips - Salem

Michelle Barbee - Salem

Tom Beyers - Odin

Jordan Brink - Richview

Phil Carson - Oakdale

Larry Manning - Belle Rive

Kathy Withers - Mt. Vernon

Annual Meeting in Review

President's Report



President Greg Vieira welcomed the cooperative members to their annual membership meeting, and thanked everyone for their attendance.

Vieira spoke about the previous year and the challenges that arose as a result of COVID-19. He commended the staff and employees for their dedication to overcoming the hurdles presented by the pandemic. He thanked them for their willingness to show up each day to

provide members with safe and reliable electricity.

Vieira also reviewed the board's process for remodeling the cooperative's current facility. This included visiting other cooperatives and weighing the pros and cons of both building new and remodeling. Ultimately, the decision to remodel was chosen. The project was completed in 2021.

Vieira concluded by thanking members for their attendance and support on behalf of the board of directors and staff of Tri-County Electric Cooperative.

Secretary/Treasurer's Report



Sam Phillips, Secretary/Treasurer of the Cooperative, informed the membership that the Cooperative reported revenue of \$48,911,000 during the calendar year ending December 31, 2020.

Also for 2020 the Cooperative purchased 391,866,000 kilowatt hours.

The Cooperative's cost of purchased power for the year was \$29,201,000 and other expenses

were \$15,638,000. The Cooperative reported margins of \$4,072,000.

Of that amount \$1,516,000 were patronage credits from Southern Illinois Power Cooperative. The patronage credits have been assigned as capital credits to the accounts of members receiving service.

Phillips also reported that the Cooperative constructed 165 new services in 2020 for a total of 18,454 services in place. The Cooperative has 3,409 miles of line which includes 80 miles of transmission line.

2020-2021 Officers Selected



Officers selected during the board's reorganizational meeting for the 2021-2022 year from left are: Sam Phillips, Secretary/Treasurer; Doug Knolhoff, Vice-President; and Donnie Laird, President.



**American
Red Cross**

Blood Drive

Wednesday, August 16th
Tri-County Electric Cooperative
3906 Broadway, Mt. Vernon
12:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Homemade pie served!

Cooperative Director Retirements

After many years of loyal and dedicated service to the cooperative and its members, two directors have retired. Their biographies and accomplishments during their years of service are listed below. We thank Rick Russell and Greg Vieira for their combined years of knowledge and service, and wish them the very best as they enjoy their well deserved retirement.



Rick Russell,
Washington County
28 Years of Service



Greg Vieira,
Marion County
15 Years of Service

Rick Russell was first appointed to the Tri-County Electric Cooperative board in 1993. He was born and raised in Washington County. He currently farms approximately 1200 acres of corn, soybeans, and wheat.

Russell served as board President in 2000-2001, 2011-2013, and Vice President in 2010-2011. Russell earned the Credentialed Cooperative Director Certificate in 1999 and the NRECA Director Gold Certificate in 2017, the highest training certification for cooperative directors.

Russell served 21 years on the Southern Services Board of Directors and previously served on the Irvington Township Board of Directors.

Thank you for your many years of service and dedication to Tri-County Electric Cooperative.

Greg Vieira was first appointed to the Tri-County Electric Cooperative board in 2006. He is a graduate of Southern Illinois University with a degree in Business Management.

A resident of Marion County, Vieira served in the U.S. Air Force, then later in the Illinois Air National Guard, retiring in 1992 at the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. He also worked for Verizon Communications, Inc., holding management positions in the service and engineering departments.

Vieira received the NRECA Director Gold Certification in 2017, the highest training certification for cooperative directors. He served 2018-2021 as the Tri-County Electric Cooperative Board President.

Thank you for your many years of service and dedication to Tri-County Electric Cooperative.



Rick Russell (left) receiving the National Rural Electric Cooperative's Director Gold Certification in 2017, presented by fellow Director Greg Vieira.

Left(left) receiving the National Rural Electric Cooperative's Director Gold Certification in 2017, presented by fellow Director Larry Manning.

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Prairie State Energy Campus is one of the cleanest coal-fired plants in the country. Premature closure will result in power being imported from neighboring states from power plants with less stringent environmental standards than Prairie State has always met. I do not understand how this could possibly help the environment.

Illinois Cooperatives support renewable power, invest in renewables, and are voluntarily using renewable resources at a rate that is nearly four times higher than the rest of the state.

Renewable energy sources, such as wind and solar power, have their benefits, and they are great sources of intermittent power, however, these renewable energy sources are not reliable. Renewable energy sources must have a backup power source to avoid frequent blackouts when the sun is not shining and the wind is not blowing.

Electric generation must be able to follow the demand for electricity. Everyone wants clean energy, but reliability is what really counts in a crisis (just ask Texas or California). As renewable energy captures a larger share of the power grid, absent the arrival of new technology, outages become inevitable. The ramifications of a rapid change from our current electric grid could be an unreliable electric grid.

I remain an advocate of not putting all of our eggs in one basket, and continue to support an 'all of the above' energy strategy that includes coal, natural gas, nuclear, hydroelectric, solar and wind power.

Your Cooperative is participating in a Take Action Campaign, asking our members to contact their State Senator, Representative, and Governor Pritzker, and say NO to closing the Prairie State Energy Campus. We are asking you to say NO to exporting jobs out of Illinois and importing energy into Illinois that is less clean and more expensive. Jobs, electric rates, and reliability are at stake.

Last month, you should have received a postcard in the mail that you can sign and show your support. If you would like more information, you can visit www.tricountycoop.com/vcp.

2020-2021 Directors Elected



Directors elected for two-year terms (due to the Annual Meeting being cancelled in 2020) from left are: Sam Phillips, Marion County; Jordan Brink, Washington County; and Donnie Laird, Jefferson County.

2021-2022 Directors Elected



Directors elected for three-year terms from left are: Doug Knolhoff, Washington County; Michelle Barbee, Marion County; and Larry Manning, Jefferson County.

Thank you for attending your 2021 Annual Meeting!

