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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

Greg Vieira - Salem

#### Vice President

Donnie Laird - Waltonville

#### Secretary/Treasurer

Sam Phillips - Salem

Tom Beyers - Odin

Phil Carson - Oakdale

Doug Knolhoff - Hoyleton

Larry Manning - Belle Rive

Rick Russell - Richview

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.*

## We Love This Community



**Marcia Scott**  
*General Manager*

"To move forward, you have to give back."

This quote reflects the special bond and obligation that ties Tri-County Electric Cooperative to the community we serve. With Valentine's Day approaching, we can't think of a better time to express how much we love this community and serving you, the members of the cooperative.

We know when we helped to bring electricity to rural Illinois many years ago, the quality of life improved for all. We also want to help meet the long-term needs of our community to ensure it continues to thrive – because just like you, we live here too.

While our top priority is to provide safe, reliable and affordable energy to you, equally important is our mission to enrich the lives of the members (that's you!) that we serve. This focus to

benefit the larger community is central to the way we operate as a cooperative. Tri-County Electric Cooperative knows that electricity is a critical need for modern-day life, but it takes more than poles and power lines to make a community.

Over time, your cooperative has strived to meet the changing needs of our community, thereby improving the quality of life for everyone. And that can mean many different things. It can mean programs for our youth, such as education scholarships or the Electric

Cooperative Youth Tour, where we take our community's brightest young people to Washington, D.C. for a week-long immersion to experience democracy in

action (*See Page 4*). It means your cooperative employees organizing fundraisers for local community assistance organizations and other worthy programs.

For decades, our community-focused programs and other giving projects have fed hungry families, given books to children, supported community organizations and

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# FIND DEALS AND SHOP IN STYLE



The One Card That Does It All.™

## Co-op Connections App

Shop local and save big. Your local electric cooperative's Co-op Connections Program helps you get discounts all over town!

Try out our free **Mobile App**, and you'll have GPS, "call the store" ability, and a digital card at your fingertips. Find all the ways to save at [www.connections.coop](http://www.connections.coop).

Search "Co-op Connections" in the iTunes store or on Google Play, and download it today.



## Co-op Connections: Saving Members Money and Promoting Local Businesses!

"What's the best part about being a member of Tri-County Electric Cooperative?" While narrowing it down is tough, I believe it's the peace of mind that comes with knowing that the cooperative is working hard to provide safe, reliable electric service at the lowest possible cost. It's also about how we play a vital role in the community and return money to members when revenues exceed costs.

One specific way we help members save money is with the Co-op Connections Card. Offered for free, the card can help you save on everything from dry cleaning to oil changes to dining out. Your card also helps lower the cost of prescriptions, dental and vision care by up to 85%.

In addition to local deals, Co-op Connections Card holders receive access to special partner

discount sites, like Coupons.com for grocery shopping and Pet Assure for savings on veterinary services.

The Co-op Connections Card can also be used when you shop online and at nearly 23,000 businesses nationwide. To search for discounts or to find out more about your card, visit [www.tricountycoop.com](http://www.tricountycoop.com) and click on the Co-op Connections Card link.

If you are a local business and would like to be promoted to our 13,000+ members and millions of cooperative members across the country as they travel through our community, please contact us. We will promote your business offer at no charge to you. For more information, contact Lynn Hutchison at 618-244-5151 or by email at [lhutchison@tricountycoop.com](mailto:lhutchison@tricountycoop.com).

so much more – and we couldn't do any of this without you, our members.

We all benefit from these programs because of you and your neighbors. You empower Tri-County Electric Cooperative through your membership and through your participation in and support of these programs.

As a local business, we are proud to power your life and bring good things to our community. We hope you will continue to guide our efforts by sharing your perspective as we plan for the future. The energy landscape is undergoing dramatic change fueled by evolving technology and consumer desires for more options. While the larger environment in which we operate is constantly changing, one thing remains the same. By working together, I'm certain that we can continue to do good things for our community.

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## National Engineers Week

### February 16th - 22nd



February 16th - 22nd is National Engineers Week! Thank you to all the cooperative engineers who help keep power flowing smoothly to the communities we serve.

Tri-County Electric Cooperative Engineering Department pictured above (back, from left) Brendan McGhee, Jarrod Hagston, Matthew Bowling, Christian Hollenkamp, Nick Schlag (front, from left) Director of Engineering, Danny Hopfinger and Teresa Hoyt.



*This recipe was submitted by Customer Service Representative Kaitlyn Flannigan.*

## Cheesecake

### Ingredients

2 pkg. (8 oz. each) Cream Cheese, softened  
1/2 cup sugar  
1/2 tsp. vanilla  
2 eggs  
3/4 cup miniature semi-sweet chocolate chips, divided  
1 ready-to-use graham cracker crumb crust (6 oz.)

### Directions

1. Heat oven to 350°F.
2. Beat cream cheese, sugar and vanilla in large bowl with mixer until blended. Add eggs; mix just until blended. Stir in 1/2 cup chocolate chips.
3. Pour into crust. Sprinkle with remaining chocolate chips.

Bake 40 min. or until center is almost set.  
Cool. Refrigerate 3 hours.





## February 12, 2020

Petitions will be available on February 12, 2020 for members who wish to be nominated to run for a seat on the Tri-County Electric Cooperative Board. 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.

## April 13, 2020

Petitions must be filed in person along with an affidavit stating that the person filling the petition meets the qualifications to become or remain a board member. Petitions must be filed at our Mt. Vernon office no later than close of business on Monday, April 13, 2020.

## July 11, 2020

Tri-County Electric Cooperative  
Annual Meeting



High school students\* have a great opportunity to win a **FREE**, well-chaperoned, educational **trip to Washington, D.C.** Up to 6 finalists will travel by charter bus to Youth Day in Springfield in March 2020. One finalist from each county served by Tri-County Electric Cooperative (Jefferson, Marion, and Washington) will be chosen to travel by charter bus June 19-26, 2020 for an all-expense paid tour of Washington, D.C.

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.

Requirements to earn the trip are simple. After studying the Youth Tour Study Booklet, the student must take a test consisting of true/false, multiple choice, and one essay question. The test is available online at:  
[www.tricountycoop.com/youthtour](http://www.tricountycoop.com/youthtour).

\*Students must reside in a home served by Tri-County and must be attending one of the high schools in Marion, Jefferson or Washington County. Home School students may participate as well! *Questions? Contact Lynn Hutchison, Director of Member Services at 618-244-5151 ext. 234 or [lhutchison@tricountycoop.com](mailto:lhutchison@tricountycoop.com).*



*Tri-County Electric Cooperative Offices will be closed on Monday, February 17th in honor of President's Day.*