



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Hi-Lites



From the desk of

*Luke Johnson,
General Manager*

I would like to start off by saying thank you to the Board of Directors for allowing me the opportunity to come and serve you, our members here at the Cooperative.

Marcia Scott has done an amazing job of guiding the cooperative over her career and I have every intention of keeping that commitment to providing better service, reliability, and affordable rates as well.

I have been a member of the cooperative family since I was 6 years old. I know that a business model like the cooperative, where member-owners are allowed a voice and are not just another consumer, encourages a culture of service that is reflected in the board room and through employee dedication.

There is something to be said for members owning their cooperative and being able to democratically control that business by electing

representatives that reflect the diversity of the entire cooperative.

When your lights go out, we care. When legislation threatens affordability, we care. We will continue the ongoing fight to protect the reliability and affordability of your service as well as keeping you and our employees safe.

Employees here at the cooperative are always looking to see where the weak link is, and developing a work plan to correct the issue and better serve you, whether that is in the office or in the field, they work together.

I have already witnessed the amazing dedication of the staff and employees, along with their devotion to providing a better way of life for the member-owners and I am excited to lead and serve alongside such professionalism.

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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

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My family and I are looking forward to getting settled down in the cooperative territory, and calling Tri-County home. My wife Jeana and I have been married for over 22 years, or as I like to say, she has endured me for quite some time.

We have four children, Grant, Reese, Trevor, and Ross, so when asked what my hobbies are, I say that we have spent the last several years chasing kids in sports, travel ball, and going to Disney. My family and I currently worship and serve at Second Baptist Church of Mt Vernon, where we have attended for the last few years.

I started my cooperative career as an apprentice lineman in 1999 at Clay County Electric Cooperative, then worked my way through the ranks as Operations Manager and on to General Manager. I am excited to continue my career here, at Tri-County Electric Cooperative serving you, our members.



General Manager Luke Johnson and wife Jeana

Cooperative Calendar

February 9, 2022

Petitions will be available on February 9, 2022, 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 11, 2022

Petitions must be filed in person along with an affidavit stating that the person filing 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 11, 2022.

May 20, 2022

American Red Cross Blood Drive - Mt. Vernon

July 9, 2022

Annual Meeting - Mt. Vernon

KEEP SAFE DURING WINTER STORMS



Unless it's an emergency, stay home during ice and snow storms, and wait until roads are passable. Heavy snow and ice can bring down power lines, creating hazardous conditions.



Have a storm kit prepared with food, medicine, first aid supplies, battery operated clock radio, and other items you may need if you can't leave your home for several days.



When using a portable generator for power, always place it outside, well away from the garage, doors, windows and air-intake vents.



Install smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors with battery backups. Test them to make sure they work.



Never use a stove to heat your home.

Learn more at:
SafeElectricity.org



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 29, 2022. 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, all-expense-paid trip to Washington D.C. on June 17-24, 2022. 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 Sophomores, 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.

For more information, contact Lynn Hutchison, Director of Member Services at 618-244-5151.

More information online at:

www.tricountycoop.com/youthtour.

See page 4 for details on how to apply.

Valentine's Day Strawberry Cake Mix Cookies

Ingredients

- 1 (15.25 oz.) Box of Strawberry Cake Mix
- 1/2 cup Vegetable Oil
- 2 Large Eggs

Optional:

White Melting Chocolate Wafers

Heart Sprinkles




Directions

1. Combine all ingredients together in a bowl until mixed thoroughly. Refrigerate dough for 15-20 minutes, if you have the time.
2. Scoop the dough onto a parchment paper lined baking sheet, then bake at 350°F for 9 to 11 minutes until cookies are set (but not brown). Let them sit on the pan for a couple of minutes, then move to a cooling rack.
3. Optional: Once the cookies have cooled completely, melt the white chocolate in the microwave until smooth and dip half of each cookie in the chocolate. Lay them onto wax paper and immediately add sprinkles while the chocolate is still wet. Let the chocolate harden up and serve!



TRI-COUNTY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

YOUTH DAY: MARCH 29, 2022
YOUTH TOUR: JUNE 17-24, 2022
DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 20, 2022

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 29, 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 17-24, 2022.

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 20th, 2022 - Mail to: Tri-County Electric Cooperative, Inc.

ATTN: Lynn Hutchison, 3906 Broadway ST, Mt. Vernon, IL 62864