



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



Hi-Lites



Tri-County Electric Cooperative Board of Directors

Marcia Scott
General Manager

One of the most valuable principles of the cooperative business model is democratic control. Boards of cooperatives are democratically elected by the membership to govern and direct the affairs of the cooperative.

Tri-County Electric Cooperative has a 9-member board with three directors from each district. The territory of the cooperative has three districts, each of which contains one of the primary counties (Jefferson, Marion, and Washington) of the Cooperative. The membership elects one director for each district at the annual meeting each year, and the directors serve three-year rotating terms. This year's annual meeting will be held on July 10, 2021.

Board candidates can be nominated by petition signed by at least 25 members, and signatures may come from the entire Cooperative membership. A joint membership constitutes of only one member - meaning if both the member and the joint

member sign the petition, it counts as one signature.

Petitions can be picked up as early as February 10, 2021, and 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 in person at our Mt. Vernon office no later than close of business on Monday, April 12th, 2021.

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. If you would like to receive an official petition along with the affidavit, please contact Lynn Hutchison, Director of Member Services at 618-244-5151 or by e-mail at lhutchison@tricountycoop.com.

The Credentials and Elections (C&E) Committee (formerly known as the

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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

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

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Nominating Committee) will meet to review the qualifications of petitioning nominees and supervise nominations of board members. If there are no nominations by petition for the district in which a director is to be elected, it is the duty of the C&E Committee to select a nominee(s) for that district. The C&E Committee is scheduled to meet on Monday, April 19, 2021, and the members of the committee are: David Ibendahl, Dennis McClellan, Alice Newcomb, Tonya Lowery, Ralph Hilmes, and Wayne Tate.

If you would like to review the qualifications to become or remain a board member, or the section regarding nominations, the bylaws of the Cooperative can be found on our website, or you can contact us at 618-244-5151, and we will mail a copy to you.

Due to the 2020 Annual Meeting cancellation as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, 2020 director elections will take place immediately prior to the 2021 director elections at the 2021 Annual Meeting.

The directors and candidates running for the 2020 elections have met all requirements necessary to run for election. Petitions submitted for the 2021 election will be for the purpose of the 2021 director seats.

Toffee Bars

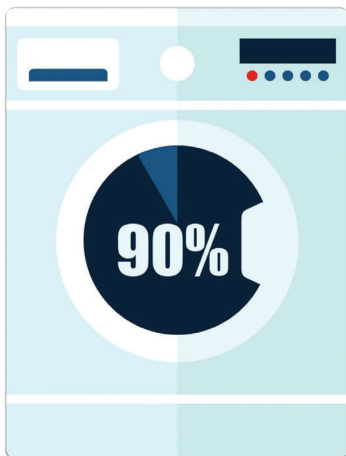
Ingredients:

- 2 c butter
- 2 c brown sugar
- 1 Tbsp. vanilla
- 4 c sifted flour
- 1 (12 oz.) bag of chocolate chips
- 2 c nuts (pecans or walnuts)

Directions:

1. Line a 9×13-inch baking dish with foil or parchment paper so that the bars can be easily removed once they are baked.
2. In a mixing bowl, beat the butter, brown sugar, and vanilla together until creamy.
3. Add the flour and stir in the chocolate chips and nuts.
4. Transfer the batter to the prepared pan and bake at 350 degrees for 36 minutes or until golden brown on top. Let cool before slicing.

This month's recipe was submitted by your friendly Customer Service Representative Cathy Wallace. Cathy is the smiling face that you encounter at our Salem office Tuesdays through Thursdays.



Source: Energystar.gov

About 90% of the energy used by washing machines goes to heating the water.

Save on energy costs by using cold or warm water.

Safe Electricity.org®

CONSIDERING SOLAR? CALL US FIRST!

When you contact the cooperative, you can learn more about the policies regarding the ownership and interconnection of a solar unit. At that time, we will also study whether additional equipment and upgrades will be needed.

Our current one-way grid is expected to be all things to all members, but it simply wasn't built for large amounts of two-way power flows.

In locations where solar PV penetration levels are high, specific planning is undertaken and every connection request is carefully considered to take into account current network capacity limitations.

We know that investing in solar energy isn't for everyone, but if you are considering installing a solar photovoltaic system, please include us in your planning process.

Deciding to purchase solar panels for your home can seem complicated when you are dealing with both a solar company and a utility. At Tri-County Electric Cooperative, we strive to make the transition as easy as possible.

As a member with solar panels installed, Tri-County Electric Cooperative will always be there to back you up when your system is not producing enough energy to power your home. Since there is an interconnection between your system and the cooperative electric distribution system, safety is of utmost importance. *If you are considering solar, we ask that you contact the cooperative as soon as possible.*

Remodel Update

By the time you receive this newsletter, our Billing Department should be moving into their remodeled workspaces! We will have photos in our February newsletter of the final product. Here are a few images of the most recent changes in our building to date.

If all goes according to schedule, you will be visiting us at the 3906 Broadway location very soon. We will be relocating the Engineering, Operations, and Manager's Departments to various portions of the building. The vehicle garage, multipurpose room, and member consult rooms will serve as makeshift office spaces during our second phase of construction.

Remodeling and keeping all workspaces socially distanced during a pandemic has presented its fair share of challenges, but we have all worked together to find creative solutions.

Once the billing department returns to their normal location, our temporary office location at 53 Crownview will undergo asbestos abatement, and be torn down to make room for the new entrance/exit for our line trucks to access the stoplight. At that time, we will also be adding additional parking for employees. The estimated total completion of the project is scheduled for April 2021.



The front entrance of the building is still under construction. We expect to have the masonry complete, lighting, and signage by the end of January.



We are making final adjustments to the Billing Department. All Customer Service Representatives will be moved in January.



Touchstone Energy®

2021 Touchstone Energy Classroom Empowerment Grant Winners

Winners of Touchstone Energy Empowerment Grants for schools in Tri-County Electric Cooperative's service area have been announced. The grants fund innovative, unfunded projects or materials in area schools. Congratulations to all grant winners!

Ms. Linda Klingenberg
Nashville District #49

Ms. Laura Phillips
Kell Grade School

Mr. Joshua Berg
Okawville High School

Ms. April Flexter
Bluford Unit School District #318

Ms. Kellie Woodrome
Field Grade School

Ms. Lynette Baity
ROE 13 Alternative Learning Academy

Mr. Lucas Giacomo
Oakdale Grade School

Ms. Jill Clary
Oakdale Grade School

Cooperative Caring

Annual Employee Fundraiser Donations

Tri-County Electric Cooperative employees recently donated funds from the sale of Mascot Pecans and Specialty Nuts. Our appreciation is extended to the community for supporting this annual fundraiser which allows employees to give back to the communities the cooperative serves.

This year, your electric cooperative's employee fundraiser was able to support five different agencies throughout the community!

Angels on Assignment

Angels on Assignment provides assistance for basic family needs - including rent, food, and utilities for Jefferson County residents.

Dolly Parton Imagination Library

The Imagination Library, through the United Way of South Central Illinois, provides a book each month to children birth to five. This donation was able to sponsor 120 children!

Irvington U.C.C. Food Pantry

The U.C.C. food pantry serves the greater Washington County area for emergency food needs. Putting food on the tables of families in our community is a cause that is important to us.

Salem Ministerial Alliance

The Salem Ministerial Alliance provides rental, utility, and nutritional needs to the residents of Marion County.

SSM Good Samaritan Foundation

Cancer Care Initiative

Cancer has touched all of our lives, and we want to do our part to improve cancer care for our neighbors, family, and friends.