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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

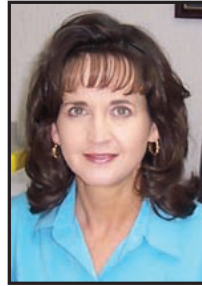
Rick Russell - Richview

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.*

## Shine a Light on Safety



**Marcia Scott**  
*General Manager*

On Friday, December 6th, 2019, your cooperative will be hosting the second annual Farmers, First Responders, and Large Equipment Operators Safety Luncheon. The event will begin at 10:30 a.m. at the Mt. Vernon office with our guest speaker, Gerry Kinney, former Wayne-White Counties Electric Cooperative lineman. We are grateful that he will be joining us to share his story about the severe electrical burn accident that claimed both of his forearms and hands. His message of safety and perseverance is both captivating and encouraging. He has attended our monthly lineman safety meeting and I know his story will greatly impact those in attendance.

Later, Tri-County Electric Cooperative linemen will give a live line presentation, which demonstrates the power of a live electrical line when it comes into contact with equipment. Linemen will also talk about what to do if your equipment comes into contact with a line.

I especially encourage anyone who works with farming and large equipment to attend this free safety training event. Lunch will be served to all that are in attendance. We ask that you RSVP before November 4th. The first 100 registrants will receive an attendance gift. You may RSVP by calling the Cooperative office at 618-244-5151.

Since January 2018, we have had a total of 98 outages that were caused by vehicles or large equipment hitting poles or lines. In my opinion, one is too many. While fortunately these did not result in electrification, there is always that chance when a wire is in contact with equipment or the ground. That is why we urge you to treat every line as if it is energized.

We care about our community and the people in it. We want you to know how to be the safest you can possibly be. While this event is specifically geared toward farmers, first responders, and large equipment operators, we welcome anyone to attend who is interested in learning more about electrical safety.

More information about the annual safety luncheon can be found on page two of this month's Hi-Lites or by visiting [www.tricountycoop.com/safetyluncheon](http://www.tricountycoop.com/safetyluncheon).



## Pumpkin Bread

### Ingredients

- 1 - 15 oz. can pure pumpkin puree
- 4 large eggs
- 1 cup vegetable oil
- 2/3 cup water
- 2 teaspoons pure vanilla extract
- 2 1/2 cups sugar
- 3 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
- 2 teaspoons baking soda
- 1/2 teaspoons salt
- 2 tablespoons pumpkin pie spice

### Directions

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Grease and flour two 8.5 x 4 x 2.5 inch loaf pans.
2. In the bowl of a stand mixer fitted with the paddle attachment or in a large bowl with an electric mixer, combine pumpkin, eggs, oil, water, vanilla, and sugar until well blended.
3. In a large bowl, whisk together the flour, baking soda, salt, and pumpkin pie spice until combined.
4. Stir the dry ingredients into the pumpkin mixture until just blended. Pour batter into the prepared pans.
5. Bake in preheated oven for 60-70 minutes or until a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean.



*This month's recipe was submitted by your friendly Customer Service Representative, Jodi Schierbaum.*

SHINE A

LIGHT ON

SAFETY



## Farmers, First Responders, and Large Equipment Operators Luncheon

**Date: Friday, December 6th, 2019**

**Time: 10:30 a.m.**

**Location: Tri-County Electric Cooperative  
3906 W. Broadway St., Mt. Vernon, IL**

*Lunch will be served!*

We invite you to join us for a lunch and learn safety presentation given by Tri-County Electric Cooperative employees and Special Guest, Gerry Kinney. Topics covered include: What to do if your equipment comes in contact with a powerline, best practices in electrical safety, and a live line demonstration. The first 100 registered attendees will receive a gift! RSVP by 11/20/19 at 618-244-5151 ext. 234 or [lhutchison@tricountycoop.com](mailto:lhutchison@tricountycoop.com).

## Welcome, Brianna Prince

Brianna Prince began her career at the cooperative on Monday, September 9, 2019.

She will be serving the members as the newest Customer Service Representative. Brianna and her family are from the Mt. Vernon area. She is looking forward to serving the members of Tri-County Electric Cooperative. Welcome, Brianna!



## Is the joint member name on your account correct?

*Tom Marlow, Office Manager*

As previously announced in the Hi-Lites magazine, throughout 2019 Tri-County Electric's Billing Department has been working on a large project attempting to verify that account information is correct for all of our members. **Most importantly, we want members to make sure that the joint member name on an account is correct.** The joint member name is the name you gave us when you signed up for service, unless you have notified us that the name has changed. We appreciate life can be hectic, and often times when major life changing events such as death, divorce or separation occur, the last thing you might think of is whose names appear on the electric account. In addition, maybe you are a widow or widower, and the electric service for your residence is in your deceased loved one's name. We want to make sure our records are up-to-date and correct. Please keep in mind that you are not required to have a joint member name on your account.

Throughout 2019, we have been sending out letters to all members asking that they verify the primary member name and joint member name on their account is accurate. If either name has changed, we urge members to contact us so we can get the correct information on the account. We are also updating

phone numbers and e-mail addresses associated with your account. Our major project is nearing completion. Letters have been mailed to almost all members at this point. We will give members a little more time to verify, add, or correct the joint member name. **Toward the end of 2019 we plan to start printing both the member name and joint member name on the monthly bills.**

Keeping account names updated benefits both you and the Cooperative. We are unable to discuss account information with people whose names are not on the account, so taking the time to update your current information will allow us to provide you with the best possible customer service when needed. It will also ensure that future capital credits are rightly allocated to the person paying the bill, not previous owners, account holders or people who are no longer in the household.

Again, we appreciate all TCEC members who have responded to their letter and/or e-mail to update their information. We encourage those who have not responded, and whose information has changed, to contact us at their earliest convenience. Please feel free to contact Tri-County at 618-244-5151 if you have any questions or wish to make sure the information we have on file for your account is correct. Thank you for all your efforts to make this a successful and productive endeavor.



*Board President Greg Vieira (right) presented Director Rick Russell (left) with his Director Gold Certification in August.*

## Russell earns Director Gold Credential

Tri-County Electric Cooperative Director Rick Russell (left) completed a series of continuing education classes earning him his second Director Gold Credential (DGC). This credential has been created to recognize directors committed to continuing their education beyond the first two levels, the Credentialed Cooperative Director and the Board Leadership Certification. The Director Gold Program Certification demonstrates their ongoing commitment to advancing their knowledge and performing their fiduciary duty to the best of their ability.



## 2019 Touchstone Energy Cooperatives' Classroom Empowerment Grants

Tri-County Electric Cooperative is once again coordinating a grant program with Touchstone Energy Cooperatives for our local, private and public kindergarten through 12th grade teachers and administrators. A total of eight grants of five hundred dollars each will be provided for innovative, unfunded projects or materials. Qualifying projects are those which improve the learning environment or increase educational resources for the school.

Kindergarten through 12th grade administrators or teachers must submit a grant application with information about the project, the school, and the applicant. Please note, it only takes a few minutes to apply.

An impartial panel of judges will determine which projects will be awarded the eight grants of five hundred dollars each.

Completed applications are due by November 4, 2019. They can be mailed, faxed, or emailed to Lynn Hutchison at [lhutchison@tricountycoop.com](mailto:lhutchison@tricountycoop.com). Recipients will be announced mid-December.

If you have any questions about Touchstone Energy Classroom Empowerment Grants, contact Lynn Hutchison at Tri-County Electric (800)244-5151. To download a grant application, visit our website at: [www.tricountycoop.com/touchstonegrants](http://www.tricountycoop.com/touchstonegrants)

These grants provide a boost for smaller projects that otherwise would not be funded. Part of Tri-County's commitment to our community is achieved through these grants that create opportunities for local students.



Shelled Georgia Mascot Brand Pecans are in stock at Tri-County Electric Cooperative!

### In stock:

16 oz. Mammoth Pecan Halves \$9.50

16 oz. Medium Pecan Pieces \$9.25

Other nuts to be shipped in November include:

12 oz. Roasted & Salted Jumbo Cashews

4 oz. Pecan Log

8 oz. Pecan Caramel Clusters

12 oz. Chocolate Covered Pecans

Nuts are available, while supplies last, during regular business hours at both office locations of the cooperative.

**Mascot Pecans are great for baking, gift-giving, or snacking!**

*The proceeds from the employee Mascot Pecan Fundraiser are donated to community organizations that serve the membership of Tri-County Electric Cooperative. As of October 2019, Tri-County Electric Cooperative employee fundraisers have donated over \$122,400 to the community where we live and work. Thank you for making that possible!*