

Guest
COLUMN:

Let's be careful out there



John Lykens
Sr. Director of Operations

As many of you are aware, I recently assumed the position of director of operations for Tri-County and its sister cooperative, Claverack.

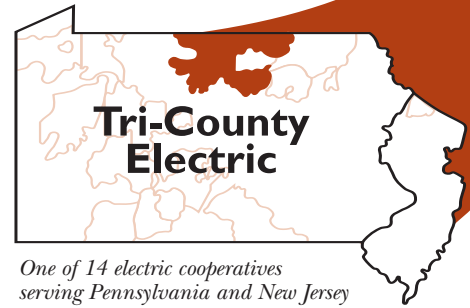
You may be wondering what responsibilities the director of operations has to the co-ops and their members. I would summarize my duties as follows: To ensure both cooperatives provide safe, reliable, cost-responsible electrical power to all of their members. While all of these duties are important, I'd like to take a moment to expound the first item — safety.

Today, we are exposed to numerous hazards on a daily basis. Whether it's putting on a seat belt prior to getting behind the wheel, using a safety harness when hunting from a tree stand, or putting on a pair of safety glasses when operating a chain saw, most of us are careful and take the necessary precautions to safeguard ourselves from obvious dangers.

Working with or around energized electric lines also requires caution to avoid injury from the not-so-obvious hazards associated with electricity. More importantly, only properly trained, qualified individuals should handle an energized conductor.

Members should remember the following key points when working around the co-op's facilities:

- NEVER remove the company's meter seal or meter cover for any reason
- Treat ALL electric lines as if they were energized
- Keep a safe distance from downed wires
- Report all power problems as soon as possible



One of 14 electric cooperatives serving Pennsylvania and New Jersey

- Call the PA One Call system a minimum of three working days prior to digging if underground facilities are present


A common misconception is that the voltages present at most homes are not great enough to cause life-threatening injury. The fact is several thousand amps of fault current are available at most every meter base in our service territory.

While it may appear harmless to remove your meter base to install siding, for example, you could potentially expose yourself to a hazardous situation that could result in serious injury or death.

Our employees are fully qualified to work on energized lines and are regularly required to participate in safety training programs. They are also properly protected by personal protective equipment when working with energized lines. When it is not possible to work on live facilities, our employees follow accepted industry switching procedures to de-energize, test, and ground our facilities prior to working on them.

Remember, act responsibly around electric facilities and do not put yourself in harm's way. With this in mind, I look forward to serving each and every member for many years to come.

Tri-County Rural Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 
22 North Main Street • P.O. Box 526
Mansfield, PA 16933
Mansfield – 570/662-2175
Coudersport – 814/274-8740
Web Site: www.tri-countyrec.com
E-mail: trico@epix.net

For Emergencies call
1-800-343-2559

Robert O. Toombs

President & CEO

Staff

Craig Eccher <i>Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer</i>	John Lykens <i>Sr. Director, Electric Operations</i>
Annette Fowler <i>Executive Assistant</i>	Bert Cunningham <i>Director, Human Resources</i>
Barbara Johnson <i>Director, Financial Services</i>	Alex F. Hartley <i>Director, Member Services</i>
Ralph Park <i>Sr. Director, Engineering Services</i>	

Board of Directors

Ferd W. Irish Chairman
Ralph E. Snyder Vice Chairman
Alston A. Teeter Secretary/Treasurer
Donald H. Blackwell	Alfred G. Calkins
James R. Davis	Jay E. Haldeman
Gerald A. Kite	Barbara J. Seeley

Office Hours

7:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. (Mon.-Fri.)



JUNIORS: Win the Trip of a Lifetime

Tri-County Rural Electric will send six teen-agers from the co-op's service territory on an all-expenses-paid trip to the nation's capital this summer.

If you're a high school junior who enjoys sight-seeing, history, politics or making new friends, then this trip may be for you.

The lucky students will have the opportunity to explore Washington, D.C., with a group of their peers from across the country during the 2005 Rural Electric Youth Tour, a six-day sight-seeing excursion that mixes fun and education.

During the tour, slated for June 19-24, participants will have the opportunity to explore Washington's historic sites, visit the Smithsonian, make friends with Youth Tour students from throughout the United States, meet with federal legislators, and learn about electric co-ops and the cooperative movement.

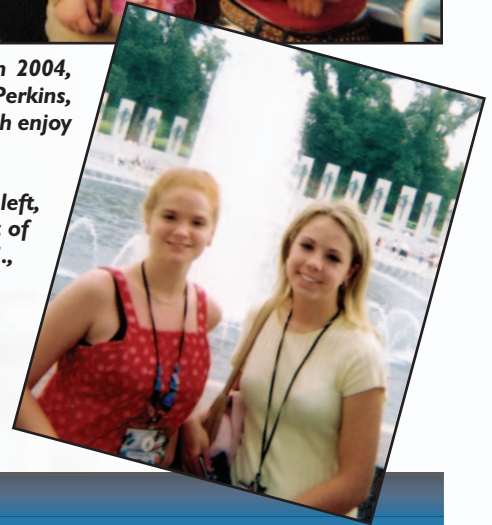
The 41st annual Youth Tour is



ABOVE: Tri-County Youth Tour delegates from 2004, (left to right) Sarah Sherman, Kelly Wood, Kayle Perkins, Shannon Heck, Larkin Hayman, and Erika Smith enjoy an evening boat cruise on the Potomac River.

RIGHT: Shannon Heck of Middlebury Center, left, and Erika Smith of Coudersport stand in front of the World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C., during last summer's Youth Tour.

expected to draw more than 1,200 students to Washington for the week. If you are interested in being one of them, here's what you need to know:



Youth Tour Rules

1. Contest is open to any high school junior (2004-05 school year) whose parents or legal guardians are members of Tri-County Rural Electric Cooperative.
2. Submit an essay, not exceeding 300 words, on "My Electric Cooperative: How it affects my life..."
3. Essay must be typed and double-spaced.
4. Complete the accompanying application and staple it to your essay. Also include a wallet-size photograph of yourself. Mail to: Tri-County Rural Electric Cooperative, Attn: Alex Hartley, P.O. Box 526, Mansfield, PA 16933.
5. Entries must be received by Friday, March 25, 2005.
6. After reviewing the applications and essays, Tri-County will select six Youth Tour delegates. They will be notified by Friday, April 23, 2005. The Youth Tour delegates will be eligible for special scholarship opportunities, and the top-scoring delegate will compete with other candidates from Pennsylvania co-ops for the chance to represent the state at the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's 2006 Annual Meeting in Orlando, Fla.
7. The decision of the judges is final.

ABOVE: Tri-County delegates, from left to right, Erika Smith, Shannon Heck, Sarah Sherman, Larkin Hayman, and Kelly Wood pose along the Potomac River, with the Washington Monument in the background during the 2004 Rural Electric Youth Tour.

For more information about the Youth Tour and agenda, call Tri-County's Mansfield office at 570/662-2175 or 1-800-343-2559, see your high school guidance counselor or browse our Web site at www.tri-countyrec.com.

Let Tri-County light up your nights



Safety is important, but home security can become very costly.

Fortunately, there is an inexpensive alternative. Tri-County offers an affordable way to provide security and safety to your home, farm or business through its security lighting program.

Security lighting gives you a safe, smart, convenient and affordable way to protect your family and property. It automatically turns on at dusk and off at dawn, providing light and removing dark-shadowed areas from your property. For just pennies per night, security lighting:

- Gives you extra hours of light at night so you can see to work.
- Provides added security. The more light surrounding your home, the less likely you are to be bothered by intruders.
- Offers added safety. You will be able to see your sidewalk or steps when you come home after dark and any visitors will have a lighted path.
- Provides light for play areas for children and adults. Many members have security lights near their swimming pools so they can enjoy a dip in the pool after dark.

Tri-County Rural Electric Cooperative will install a security light on your

premises at no charge, provided it is located within 125 feet of an existing cooperative

facility. We cover the entire cost of installation, including the lighting fixture, wire and pole.

All we ask for is a brief description of the location where you would like the light to be installed. We'll contact you to make arrangements for the installation.

Electricity used to provide this service won't go through your meter. Instead, there is a monthly charge of either \$10 or \$12 for this service. The monthly charge includes electricity to power the security lighting system and all maintenance, including replacing burned-out bulbs.

For more information regarding this service and others offered to members, please call the Tri-County office at 1-800-343-2559. If you are interested in security lighting, please fill out the form below and mail it to Tri-County at 22 N. Main Street, P.O. Box 526, Mansfield, PA 16933.

Long-time MAC member passes away

Richard G. Dancause of Middlebury Center, a longtime member of Tri-County's Member Advisory Committee (MAC), died Saturday, Dec. 25, 2004. He was 71.

Active with the eastern MAC group for approximately two decades, Dancause regularly attended co-op functions, including annual meetings and the twice-yearly meetings of the advisory committee.

"Mr. Dancause was a strong supporter of Tri-County and the cooperative program," said Bob Toombs, Tri-County president and chief executive officer. "For many years, he served as the eyes, ears and voice of his fellow co-op members when it came to service and outage-related issues. We appreciate his contributions on behalf of the membership over the years."

Dancause is survived by his wife, Mary. Born in Lowell, Mass., on May 28, 1933, Dancause was retired from Hills Creek State Park, where he worked as the treatment plant operator for many years.

Meter-testing program ensures billing accuracy

Tri-County tests meters at all residential and seasonal accounts on a 10-year cycle.

Meters are tested to ensure accuracy to within the industry standard of plus or minus 2 percent.

If a meter tests outside the acceptable range, an adjustment is made to the member's bill. It is rare for a meter to test outside the accepted range.

When meters are removed from the member's property for testing, they are replaced with meters that have been recently tested for accuracy. We attempt to notify the member at the time the meters are exchanged for testing.

The cooperative's meter-testing program ensures that your electric bill is accurate. You pay for the kilowatt-hours used as recorded by an accurate, tested meter.

YES! I want a security light installed.

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Telephone # _____

Account # _____

Check one box

\$10 per month for 100-watt light

\$12 per month for 150-watt light

Please describe the location you would like your security light installed:

