

From the
PRESIDENT & CEO:

Time for a change



by **Robert O. Toombs**
President & CEO

On June 8, 1987, I assumed the position of chief executive officer for Tri-County Rural Electric Cooperative. Little did I know at the time that I would remain in this position for more than 19 years, and that, for the last eight years, I would share duties as CEO for both Tri-County and our partner to the east, Claverack Rural Electric Cooperative, based in Wyox.

I came to Tri-County after having managed an electric cooperative in Vermont for about six years, so this marks my 25th year in the cooperative program. It will also be my last.

I have decided it is time to move on

to other personal interests and challenges. At the November 2005 board meeting, I submitted a resignation letter to the board of directors that will become effective following Tri-County's March 2006 board meeting. I have done the same at Claverack.

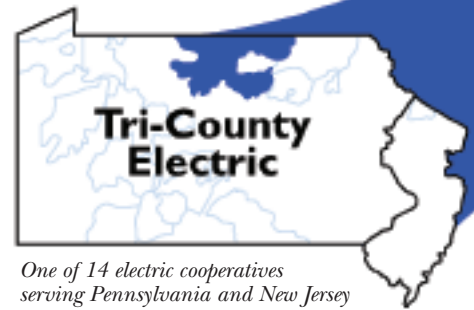
I am proud to have been a part of the Tri-County management team for nearly two decades. During that time, I have seen Tri-County grow from about 14,000 members to more than 18,000. Revenues have also increased significantly — fortunately, not from rate increases but from the 4,000 members we've added.

Distribution rates have only increased minimally — approximately 15 percent during my tenure. There are three main reasons we have been able to maintain rate stability: good policies adopted by your board of directors; well-trained employees; and stable wholesale power costs coming from our power supplier, Allegheny Electric Cooperative, Inc. My role in all of this has been to coordinate our efforts and make operations run in the most efficient way possible.

Your board of directors and I have enjoyed an excellent working relationship over the years. I leave with a feeling that Tri-County is in very good hands. Tri-County has excellent employees, and your newly appointed CEO, Craig Eccher, is highly qualified and will do an excellent job overseeing the operations of the cooperative.

I am proud to say I was instrumental in bringing Craig to Tri-County a number of years ago. He has established an excellent working relationship with the board of directors and the employees, which is very important in running an electric cooperative.

I am not leaving the utility program



entirely. I will remain involved with both cooperatives in a back-office capacity by continuing to serve as chief executive officer of C&T Enterprises, the wholly owned subsidiary of Tri-County and Claverack. C&T has evolved into an organization that provides many important services to both cooperatives and their other utility holdings. These services include human resources, safety, communications, finance, information technology, and key accounts. C&T also operates our after-hours call center.

My plans are to be a part of the C&T organization for a few years, assisting to provide services in the most efficient way possible to the two cooperatives, their private power company subsidiaries, Wellsboro Electric and Citizens' Electric of Lewisburg, as well as Valley Energy of Sayre.

I wish to sign off by saying that it has been an honor to serve as the chief executive officer for the past 19 years. I have enjoyed meeting with many members during annual meetings, MAC meetings, and in homes, restaurants, or in my office.

I am sure that the dedicated employees and your board of directors will continue to keep Tri-County healthy and prepared for future changes. It is time for a change, and I would like to say good-bye and let you know I will cherish the memories I have had with Tri-County.

Tri-County Rural Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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Robert O. Toombs

President & CEO

Staff

Craig Eccher <i>Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer</i>	Barbara Johnson <i>Director, Financial Services</i>
Annette Bender <i>Executive Assistant</i>	John Lykens <i>Sr. Director, Engineering & Operations</i>
Bryan Berguson <i>Director, Member Services</i>	

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Office Hours

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

Juniors eligible to win free trip to capital

Tri-County Rural Electric will send six students from the cooperative's service territory on an all-expense-paid trip to the nation's capital this summer. If you are a high school junior who enjoys sightseeing, history, politics, and 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 2006 Rural Electric Youth Tour, a six-day excursion that mixes fun and education.

During the tour, which takes place June 11-16, participants will have the opportunity to explore Washington, D.C., historic sites, visit the Smithsonian museums, make friends with Youth Tour students from across the United States, meet with federal legislators, and learn about electric cooperatives and the cooperative movement.

The 42nd annual Youth Tour is expected to draw more than 1,400 students for the week. If you are interested in being one of them, here's what you need to know:



CAPITOL CONNECTION: Tri-County's 2005 Youth Tour participants admire the U.S. Capitol during their week-long visit to Washington, D.C. Shown are, from left to right, front row: Kaitlin Shellenberger, Liberty High School; Anna Geist, Cowanesque Valley; and Erin Dickerson, Oswayo Valley. Back row: Philip Risser, Northern Potter; Michelle Kurtz, Northern Potter; and Glenn Dunn II, Coudersport.

Youth Tour Rules

1. Contest is open to any high school junior (2005-06 school year) whose parents or legal guardians are members of Tri-County Rural Electric Cooperative.
2. Submit an essay, not exceeding 400 words, on "How do electric cooperatives differ from other electric utilities?"
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: Bryan Berguson, P.O. Box 526, Mansfield, PA 16933.
5. Entries must be received by Monday, March 27, 2006.
6. After reviewing the applications and essays, Tri-County will select six Youth Tour delegates. They will be notified by April 7, 2006. The Youth Tour delegates will be eligible for special scholarship opportunities, and the top-scoring delegate will compete with other candidates from all Pennsylvania electric cooperatives for the chance to represent the state at the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association 2007 Annual Meeting in Las Vegas.
7. The decision of the judges is final.



ALL ABOARD: High school students representing Tri-County, Claverack, and Sullivan County RECs relax outside their motor coach during last year's 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

Tri-County offers an affordable way for members to provide night-time safety around your home, farm, or business through our pole light program. The program gives you a safe, smart, convenient, and affordable way to add outdoor lighting to your property.

Our pole lights automatically turn on at dusk and off at dawn, providing light and removing dark-shadowed areas from your property. For just pennies per night, pole lighting:

- Gives you extra hours of light so you can see to work.
- 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 put pole lights near swimming pools so they can enjoy a dip after dark.

Tri-County will install a pole light on your premises at no charge, provided it is located within 125 feet of an existing cooperative facility. Your cooperative covers the entire cost of installation, including the lighting fixture, wires, 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 for the pole light won't flow through your meter.

Instead, there is a monthly charge of either \$10 or \$12 for this service, which includes electricity to power the pole light 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 pole 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.



Generators must be isolated from cooperative lines

To ensure the safety of our lineworkers, Tri-County requires that back-up power sources such as standby and portable generators be isolated from the cooperative's power lines through the use of a double-throw transfer switch.

A generator that is not properly isolated can "backfeed" electricity into the cooperative's distribution system, re-energizing lines thought to be dead and creating a potentially lethal situation for linemen working to restore power.

Properly isolating your generator from electric lines requires the installation of a double-throw transfer switch by a professional electrician.

If you have questions about the proper installation of an emergency generator, contact the Tri-County Engineering Department at 570/662-2175 or 1-800-343-2559. For additional information about generators, visit our Web site at www.tri-countyrec.com or call Tri-County to request a free brochure, "Choosing and Installing Emergency Generators."

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 your bill. It is rare for a meter to test outside the accepted range.

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

Your cooperative's meter-testing efforts ensure that your electric bill is accurate and that you are paying for kilowatt-hours you actually use.

YES! I want a pole 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 where you would like your pole light installed:

