

From the  
PRESIDENT & CEO:

## Focusing on your expectations



by Craig Eccher

**W**ith spring just around the corner, it seems like a fitting time to talk about some changes taking place at Tri-County.

If you read last month's column, you know that Bob Toombs has retired after 19 years at the helm of Tri-County and that your cooperative board of directors has appointed me as his successor.

I offer my thanks to Bob, who will continue to play a role within our C&T organization. During his tenure at Tri-County, Bob has made great strides and achieved many accomplishments, including developing the partnership between Tri-County and our sister cooperative, Claverack. This partnership has provided many savings and benefits to us through shared services arrangements and economies of scale.

For the last two and a half years, I have had the opportunity to work under Bob's tutelage as Tri-County's chief operating officer. That experience, which involved frequent interaction with members, the board of directors, employees, and affiliated organizations, has given me valuable insight into the operation of the cooperative.

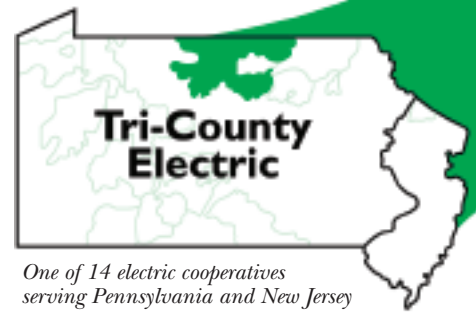
In my new role as CEO, I plan to focus on several key areas this year, including improving communications with members, energy efficiency and conservation, system reliability and operational efficiency, and safety.

Communicating and keeping members informed of issues affecting your cooperative is one of the most important goals of the cooperative, and I will strive to do just that. I will use tools such as Penn Lines, radio, and newspapers, our annual meeting, Member Advisory Council meetings, and other community events to get our message out and keep you updated about what is taking place at Tri-County.

We also plan to conduct surveys to get your input about ways in which we can provide you with higher levels of service.

With energy costs rising, we will focus on energy efficiency and conservation and work to provide technical assistance to our membership in order to help control energy costs. We will be honing our skills with energy audits and promote cost-saving ideas and highly efficient electric technology, such as geothermal heat pumps. In the past two years, I have seen many of these heating and cooling systems installed in our area, with the owners reaping significant savings.

To increase system reliability, we are committed to making continued investments to our aging electric system and providing sound maintenance programs, including pole



One of 14 electric cooperatives serving Pennsylvania and New Jersey

inspections and right-of-way trimming.

Another area of focus will be the implementation of an automated control system. By fully deploying and developing this technology, we can minimize outage times and reduce operating costs.

Achieving operational efficiencies will allow us to expand our right-of-way maintenance activities this year without increasing our right-of-way budget. A recent reorganization has also provided efficiency benefits. Our employees continue to refocus their efforts and utilize new tools and technologies to provide increased reliability at a reduced labor cost.

Our last area of focus, and most important, is safety — for our employees as well as anybody who receives power or is otherwise affected by our cooperative's operations. We work to instill a culture of safety at Tri-County, stressing its importance to every employee, from our linemen to our office staff. We strive to prevent accidents of any kind, and all employees receive ongoing training to do just that.

I touched on four of our major areas of focus for 2006. I must stress that ground could not be gained in these areas if not for our talented and dedicated employees. You have a wonderful team of employees working for your cooperative, and I hope that we can meet your expectations in the coming year.

### 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](http://www.tri-countyrec.com)  
E-mail: [trico@epix.net](mailto:trico@epix.net)

**For Emergencies call**  
1-800-343-2559

### Craig Eccher President & CEO

#### Staff

Annette Bender  
*Executive Assistant*  
Bryan Berguson  
*Director,  
Member Services*

Barbara Johnson  
*Director,  
Financial Services*  
John Lykens  
*Director,  
Engineering & Operations*

### Board of Directors

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

### Office Hours

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

# Cooperative completes reorganizational efforts, announces appointments

**T**ri-County has completed a corporate restructuring initiative that began last fall when its engineering and operations departments were combined. The reorganization effort, designed to yield greater operating efficiencies at Tri-County and to achieve additional synergies with our partner cooperative, Claverack REC, concluded in February with the hiring of a manager of purchasing and facilities.

The reorganization, coupled with the retirement of seven long-time cooperative employees in December, resulted in a number of promotions and appointments over the last several months. Following are those management changes:



**John Lykens**

**John Lykens** has been appointed to the position of director of engineering and operations for Tri-County and its partner cooperative, Claverack REC.

Lykens had previously served as senior

director of operations for both cooperatives, a post he held since 2004.

Prior to joining the cooperative, Lykens had served as an electrical equipment supervisor for the Towanda division of private power company FirstEnergy/Penelec. Before that he was a distribution design engineer for Quad Three Group in Wilkes-Barre.

A graduate of Rochester Institute of Technology with a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering, Lykens oversees all engineering and construction activities for the two cooperatives.

A native of Berks County, Lykens and his wife, Stacy, reside in Wyalusing with their daughters Emily, Alicia, and Olivia.

**Bryan Berguson** has assumed the position of director of member services for Tri-County.

Prior to his promotion, Berguson had worked for C&T Enterprises as vice president of information systems since 2000.



**Bryan Berguson**

C&T Enterprises is a support services company jointly owned by Tri-County and its partner cooperative to the east, Claverack REC. Before that, he had served as supervisor of computer services for Wells-

boro Electric Company.

A lifelong resident of Wellsboro, Berguson holds an associate's degree in computer science from Williamsport Area Community College.

As director of member services, he will be working to expand services Tri-County offers to its members, with a special focus on promoting geothermal heat pumps, efficiency lighting, and other energy-saving devices and technologies.

**Gary Dunn** has been promoted as Tri-County's manager of field operations. His duties include overseeing the engineering, construction, and maintenance of electric lines.

Dunn, a cooperative employee for 32 years, had served as

Tri-County's manager of field services prior to the promotion. Other positions he has held with Tri-County during his career include brush cutter, meter reader, lineman, truck driver, and staking engineer.

A native of Coudersport, Dunn holds associate's degrees in industrial engineering and civil engineering from the International Correspondence School in Scranton.

Dunn and his wife, Brenda, reside in Coudersport.

**Steve Allabaugh** has been hired as manager of technical services for both Tri-County and Claverack.

A registered professional engineer, Allabaugh has more than 12 years of experience

in the power industry, most recently serving as substation supervisor for FirstEnergy/Penelec in Towanda. He holds a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering technology from Penn State University.

In this new position, Allabaugh will be responsible for undertaking engineering services that had previously been provided



**Steve Allabaugh**

by outside consultants. Those services include devising a four-year work plan, long-range planning, protective device coordination studies, and implementation of new technologies.

A native of Sweet Valley in Luzerne County, Allabaugh and his wife, Angie, reside in Wyalusing with their children, Derek and Megan.

**Rick Tavares** of Gillett began duties in February as manager of purchasing and facilities for Tri-County and Claverack. Tavares has more than 20 years of experience in facilities and fleet management, most recently serving as maintenance manager for Gough Holdings, based in Horseheads, N.Y., a property



**Rick Tavares**

management firm that handles 750 housing units. He had previously worked as facilities manager for Ocean Spray Cranberries at their corporate headquarters in Massachusetts for

nearly a decade. Ocean Spray is one of the nation's best-known agricultural cooperatives.

In his new position, Tavares will be working to improve efficiencies in purchasing and inventory control for Tri-County and Claverack.

A native of Lakeville, Mass., Tavares moved from his home in the Boston area to

Bradford County in 1998 to raise beef cattle. He holds an associate's degree from the Stockbridge (Mass.) School of Agriculture.

He and his wife, Debra, reside on a 145-acre farm near Gillett. They have two daughters, Meghan, a freshman at the University of Massachusetts, and Shauna, a senior at Lock Haven University.

**Gerald Duffee** has been appointed as the cooperative's district operations supervisor. He previously worked as a journeyman lineman out of Tri-County's Couderdport District.



**Gerald Duffee**

Gerald has been with the cooperative for 17 years. As district operations supervisor, he will be responsible for overseeing day-to-day

activities of the cooperative's five district line crews.

A native of Austin, Duffee and his wife, Terri, reside in Couderdport with their two children, Kirk, 17, and Karli, 14.

**Tim McCurdy** has assumed the position of contract services supervisor for Tri-County. Prior to this assignment, McCurdy had worked as a lineman out of the cooperative's Couderdport District since 1990.



**Tim McCurdy**

McCurdy has more than 12 years experience working on right-of-way crews that provided contracted vegetation

management services to private power companies West Penn Power (now Allegheny Energy) and Duquesne Light Company. Prior to joining the cooperative, he had been a foreman for Asplundh Tree Experts for seven years.

In his new position, McCurdy will manage Tri-County's right-of-way maintenance program and oversee contracted services for pole inspections, line construction, and infrared inspections of cooperative facilities.

A native of Pittsburgh, McCurdy and his wife, Carol, reside in the Sweden Hill area near Couderdport with their children Lindsay, 18, Kyle, 16, and Matt, 10.

## It pays to get PAiD... Bank drafting saves time and money

If you are looking for ways to simplify your life, Tri-County's Payment Automatically Deducted (PAiD) program may be for you. By participating, you can avoid the hassle of searching for stamps, licking envelopes, and worrying about whether your payment arrives on time. Best of all, with Tri-County's PAiD program, there are no sign-up charges or transaction fees.

When you use PAiD, payment for your electric bill is automatically drafted from your checking or savings account each month. Even if you are out of town, your bill will be paid on time. You'll never have to worry about paying a late fee again.

Signing up is easy. Simply complete the form that appears below and return it to Tri-County. Make sure to check with your bank for the

bank's Federal Reserve routing number.

Here's what happens after you sign up:

- The first automated payment will be made on the second billing period after we receive your completed form. The first month will be a trial run to verify account numbers, so no money will be moved.
- You will continue to receive a monthly bill statement.
- Your bill statement will alert you to the date that your payment will be automatically withdrawn.

To become a PAiD participant, just complete and return the coupon below — we'll do the rest. For additional information about Tri-County's PAiD program, call 1-800-343-2559.

*I authorize Tri-County Rural Electric Cooperative to instruct my financial institution to make electric payments from the account listed below. I will notify Tri-County if I decide to discontinue this payment service or change banks or account numbers.*

Customer Name (as it appears on your bill)

Address

City

State

Zip Code

Tri-County Account Number

Name of Financial Institution

Address of Financial Institution

Bank Account Number:

Checking

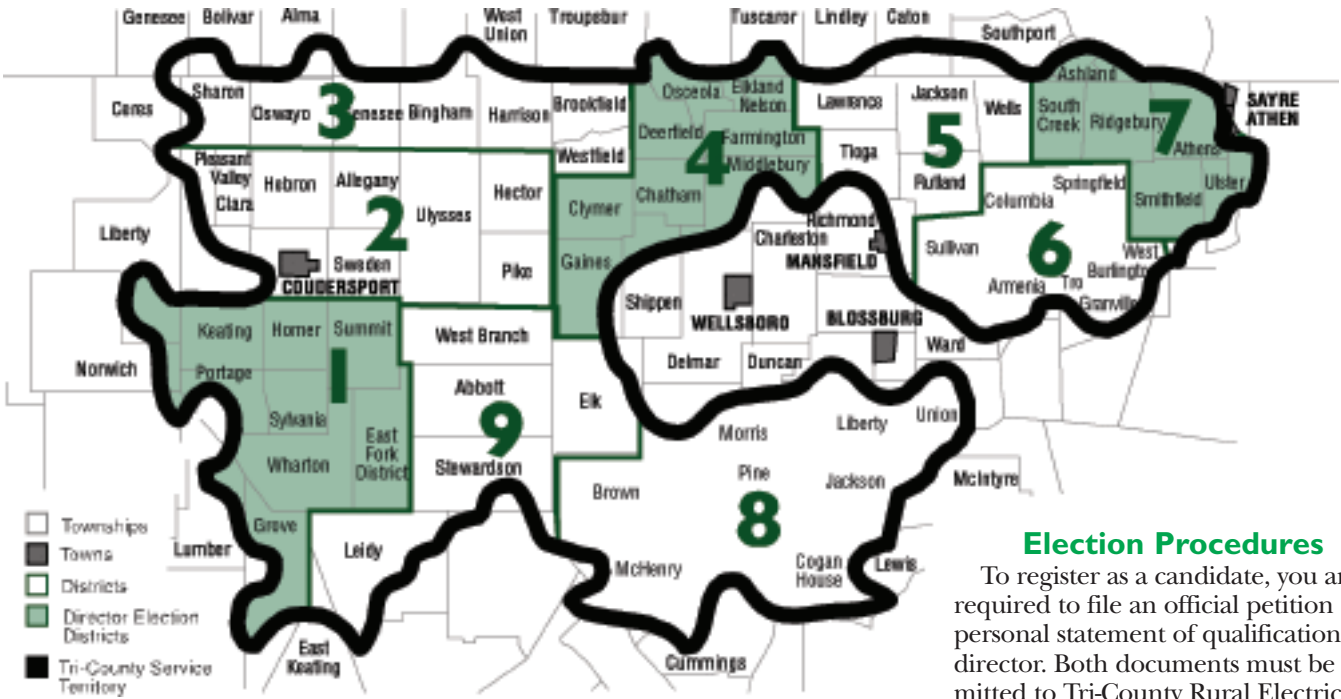
or Savings

Bank's Federal Reserve Routing Number

Account Holder Signature

Date





### Election Procedures

To register as a candidate, you are required to file an official petition and personal statement of qualifications for director. Both documents must be submitted to Tri-County Rural Electric Cooperative, P.O. Box 526, 22 N. Main St., Mansfield, PA 16933. The filing deadline is 4 p.m., Friday, April 14, 2006.

For your name to appear on the official ballot, you must secure at least 15 signatures from members residing in your district. Remember, joint memberships have only one vote; so husband and wife count as a single signature.

If you have any questions regarding director elections, please direct them to Bryan Berguson, Tri-County director of member services. You can contact him at 570/662-2175 or 1-800-343-2559.

**Remember: Director candidate petitions are due by April 14, 2006.**

### Townships Scheduled to Elect Directors in 2006

**District 1:** East Fork District, Homer, Keating, Liberty, Norwich, Portage, Summit, Sylvania, and Wharton in Potter County; Grove and Lumber in Cameron County.

**District 4:** Chatham, Clymer, Deerfield, Elkland, Farmington, Gaines, Middlebury, Nelson, Osceola, and Shippen in Tioga County.

**District 7:** Athens, Ridgebury, Smithfield, South Creek, and Ulster in Bradford County.

## Official Notice of Director Elections Candidates Sought For Districts 1, 4, and 7

Election by majority — it's what makes America a democratic nation. It's also one of the hallmarks of membership in an electric cooperative.

As a member, you can take an active role in democracy at Tri-County Rural Electric Cooperative by running for a seat on the cooperative's board of directors. Or you can exercise your democratic rights by simply voting in your district's election.

During our annual meeting each July, a portion of the membership has the opportunity to vote for directors to represent the district in which they reside. This year, Tri-County will hold director elections for Districts 1, 4, and 7, currently served by directors Gerald Kite, Dr. James Davis, and Alston Teeter, respectively.

If you reside in one of these districts and wish to run for a seat on the board, contact the cooperative's Mansfield office. We will send you a director candidate information packet. It contains the forms and instructions necessary for filing your candidacy.

### Duties of a Director

Directors are responsible for developing cooperative policies and long-

range plans. They voice members' concerns and make recommendations to Tri-County's management staff.

Nine directors comprise Tri-County's board. Each board member represents a specific area within the utility's service territory, as the accompanying map illustrates.

Directors serve three-year terms. Elections take place on a rotating basis, with three of the cooperative's nine districts voting each year. Board members meet regularly at Tri-County's headquarters in Mansfield on the fourth Tuesday of each month.

To be eligible for director candidacy, you must meet the following criteria and all other guidelines listed in the cooperative's bylaws:

- Receive electrical service from the cooperative at your principal residence.
- Be a member and a bona fide resident of the district you seek to represent.
- Not be in any way employed by, or financially interested in a competing enterprise or business selling electrical appliances, fixtures, or supplies to members of the cooperative.

