

Tri-County Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



One of 14 electric cooperatives serving Pennsylvania and New Jersey

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1-800-343-2559

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

Craig Eccher
President & CEO

STAFF

- Annette Bender, Executive Assistant**
- John Lykens, Director, Engineering & Operations**
- Barbara Johnson, Director, Financial Services**
- Bryan Berguson, Director, Member Services**

OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Friday
7:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.

FROM THE PRESIDENT/CEO

You're invited



by Craig Eccher

DO YOU HAVE questions about the services we provide, your electric bill or the cooperative business model? Maybe you have some suggestions about ways we could better serve you, as a member-owner of Tri-County Rural Electric Cooperative. Perhaps you'd like to learn more about

geothermal heating, compact fluorescent lighting and other energy conservation opportunities.

If so, be sure to mark your calendar for Saturday, July 14. That's when the 2007 Tri-County Annual Meeting will take place, and I cordially invite you to attend.

The annual meeting, to be held at the Consistory in Coudersport, provides you with the chance to exercise your rights as a cooperative member. You'll have the opportunity to share your thoughts about the operations of your electric cooperative with Tri-County employees, management and directors, who will be on hand for the event. If you've never attended a Tri-County annual meeting, think of it as a one-stop shopping place for all of your cooperative questions.

The dialogue with members at these annual events is very valuable to those of us who manage and govern the cooperative. By gaining insight into your wants and concerns, we are better able to serve your needs in the future. We also hope to provide you with a better understanding of Tri-County and its operations by addressing questions that you may have.

The conversation that takes place on annual meeting day between the Tri-County staff and the members they serve always has the potential to lead to

positive change for the cooperative. That's why it is so important for members to join us at the annual meeting. It's your cooperative, after all, so please be sure to offer your input.

There are other reasons to attend the annual meeting. In addition to being able to talk directly with your elected directors and Tri-County personnel, you can also:

- ▶ Learn about what's new at the cooperative
- ▶ Hear director election results
- ▶ Obtain information about products and services Tri-County offers to members
- ▶ Win one of the great door prizes that will be awarded to those in attendance
- ▶ Take part in a mini health fair hosted by Cole Memorial Hospital
- ▶ Enjoy a terrific chicken dinner

We've also lined up a top-notch speaker for the meeting in Bob Farmer, humorist, motivator and publicist for *The Farmers' Almanac*.

A native of Louisville, Ky., Farmer entertains and educates audiences with his down-home anecdotes and facts about *The Farmers' Almanac*, copies of which will be distributed for free to all members who attend the meeting.

In addition, our line crews will again offer high-voltage safety demonstrations, which show the hazards associated with energized lines. We have also invited local band Endless Mountain Green to perform prior to the meeting, which gets under way at 10:30 a.m.

Remember, the kids and grandkids are invited too. We've got a number of special activities, including bucket truck rides, planned just for them, and will be giving away children's bicycles to three lucky kids in attendance.

I look forward to seeing you in July. ☀

Director elections slated for Districts 2, 6 and 8

DEMOCRACY WILL take center stage at Tri-County's 2007 annual meeting next month, with director elections highlighting the agenda.

This year, board seats are up for election in Districts 2, 6 and 8. Only members with accounts in those three districts may vote in this year's election.

In accordance with Tri-County's bylaws, director elections take place on a rotating basis, with three of the cooperative's nine districts electing directors each year.

If your account is located in one of this year's voting districts, you will be receiving a mail-in ballot a few days after you receive the annual meeting notification that Tri-County mails to members in June.

Election results will be announced at Tri-County's 2007 annual meeting on Saturday, July 14, at the Consistory in Couderport, Pa.

Elected candidates serve three-year terms. Tri-County directors are responsible for representing the needs and concerns of members in their districts. They also establish co-op policies and oversee business operations.

All three director candidates running for election this year are incumbents, and all are running unopposed. A profile of each candidate follows:

District 2

District 2 serves members in the Potter County townships of Allegany, Clara, Eulalia, Hebron, Hector, Pike, Pleasant Valley, Roulette and Ulysses.



Ferd W. Irish

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Ferd W. Irish is seeking his sixth term as District 2 director.

Now retired, Irish had operated a potato farm in Potter County for over 46 years. He also produced strawberries and raspberries at his Couderport-area farm.

Irish is past president and current vice

president of Farm Services and a member of the Masonic fraternity. He enjoys wood-working, fishing and traveling.

Irish and his wife, Lee, have one son, Wayne, an agriculture teacher in the Northern Potter School District.

"I have the time and determination to be an effective director for the members of Tri-County, along with the desire to make Tri-County Rural Electric a successful cooperative," Irish says. "My experience as a director of the Pennsylvania Rural Electric Association and chairman of the legislative committee has given me great experience in dealing with present and future issues."

District 6

District 6 serves Armenia, Columbia, Granville, Springfield, Troy and West Burlington townships in Bradford County; and Sullivan and Ward townships in Tioga County.



Alfred G. Calkins

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Alfred G. Calkins of Troy RR 2 is seeking re-election as District 6 director, a post he has held since 1980.

Calkins is a full-time dairy farmer who has been active in the local, state and national Hol-

stein organizations over the years. He is a past director and past president of the Bradford County Holstein Club.

An avid hunter and shooting sports enthusiast, Calkins is a life member of the Troy Rod and Gun Club. He is also past director and past secretary of the Trojan Booster Club.

Calkins and his wife, Sharon, have two sons, Ryan and Randy, and one granddaughter.

He says he is qualified to serve on the board because of his "ability to work with people to keep electricity reliable and affordable, even with rising fuel costs," and "to challenge management to maintain our competitive position."

District 8

District 8 serves members in Brown, Cogan House, Cummings, Jackson, Lewis, McIntire, McHenry and Pine townships in Lycoming County; Liberty, Morris and Union townships in Tioga County.



Donald H. Blackwell

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Donald H. Blackwell has been a Tri-County member for 50 years and has served as District 8 director since 1977.

A lifelong resident of the village of Blackwell in Tioga

County, Donald Blackwell is a retired Tioga County Chief Clerk.

He and his wife, Martha, have three grown sons. Blackwell is active in his community and an avid golfer.

Blackwell states, "Excellent service and stable rates are what members expect. I continue to make and support decisions to maintain Tri-County's ability to maintain the service requirements and keep rates stable for all members." ☀



**Tri-County's offices
will be closed
Wednesday, July 4,
in observance of
Independence Day**

Tri-County names Youth Tour delegates

Tri-County has selected six area high school juniors to participate in the annual Rural Electric Youth Tour, which takes place in Washington, D.C., June 10-15.

Chosen on the basis of an application, essay and extracurricular activities, the following students will represent Tri-County on the 2007 Youth Tour: Travis Baker, son of Damon and Kenda Baker, Cowanesque Valley High School; Sarah

Bunch, daughter of Lonnie and Rose Bunch, Coudersport High School; Rebecca Ostrom, daughter of John and Dianne Ostrom, Liberty High School; Carrie Dinger, daughter of Bob and Kathy Dinger, Mansfield High School; Katherine Kasper, daughter of Bryan and Laurie Kasper, Mansfield High School; and Rachel Spencer, daughter of Robert and Ruth Spencer, Liberty High School.



GOING ON TOUR: Students who will represent Tri-County on the 2007 Rural Electric Youth Tour this month include, from left, Travis Baker, Katherine Kasper, Carrie Dinger, Rachel Spencer, Sarah Bunch and Rebecca Ostrom.

Tri-County debuts online billing program

Tri-County members can now view their account information 24 hours a day, seven days a week, as well as report meter readings and pay their electric bills online through E-Bill, our new Internet bill presentment and payment program.

E-Bill gives members the ability to:

- ▶ Pay your bill online using your checking account, MasterCard, Visa or debit card
- ▶ View your current bill online
- ▶ View your bill history
- ▶ Change your account information
- ▶ Submit meter readings
- ▶ Receive your bill online



To explore the features of E-Bill, visit the Tri-County Web site, www.tri-countyrec.com, and click on the E-Bill option on our home page. You will be prompted to register using your account number and type in a password. Once registered, you will be able to view your account information and may choose to pay your electric bill online.

You will also have the option of receiving an e-mail notification when a new bill is generated.

E-Bill offers you more choices and control over how and when you pay your bill. For more information about E-Bill, contact the Tri-County office at 1-800-343-2559

Join Us at the 2007 Tri-County REC Annual Meeting

Saturday, July 14, 2007

Coudersport Consistory,
Coudersport, Pa.

HIGHLIGHTS

- ▶ Humorist Bob Farmer to speak
- ▶ Free copy of *Farmers' Almanac*
- ▶ Free compact fluorescent light bulb
- ▶ Door prizes
- ▶ Lunch
- ▶ Director elections
- ▶ Children's activities
- ▶ High-voltage safety demonstration
- ▶ Bucket truck rides
- ▶ Mini-health Fair

Weathering summer storms

As anyone who lives in northern Pennsylvania knows, summer lightning storms can strike quickly with devastating power.

To keep you and your family safe from electrical hazards during and after severe summer weather, the Electrical Safety Foundation International offers the following precautions:

- ▶ Stay away from downed power lines and anything touching them.
- ▶ Do not drive over downed power lines.
- ▶ To avoid lightning strikes, go indoors during electrical storms and stay away from windows.
- ▶ If outdoors during electrical storms, move to a low point. Stay away from metal items, including sports equipment, buildings, clotheslines, poles and fences. Avoid trees.
- ▶ During electrical storms, do not use corded telephones except for emergencies.
- ▶ Avoid contact with water and plumbing during electrical storms.
- ▶ Don't forget pets during thunderstorms. Doghouses are not safe from lightning. Chained animals can easily become victims of lightning.

An easy way to get yourself in hot water

Next to your home heating system, your water heater is probably the largest energy user in your home, accounting for about 13 to 20 percent of residential energy consumption. That's why it's important your water heater is properly maintained and that you carefully weigh the selection of a new heater when you need one.

If your water heater is more than 10 years old, you may soon want to consider buying a new one. Don't wait until it leaks. If you do wait and you're lucky, the leaks will start out small. If you're unlucky, a major leak will damage your home.

There are several things to remember when selecting a water heater:

► Electric water heaters cost about the same as comparable gas heaters, and both are typically less than oil water heaters. Electric water heaters are quiet, clean and need very little maintenance to keep at peak efficiency.

You can purchase water heaters directly from Tri-County. Or you can take advan-

tage of our convenient lease program, which offers low monthly payments on a new, quality water heater; a \$150 installation credit, and free maintenance of the unit for the duration of the lease.

► The energy factor — measuring the overall efficiency of a water heater based on the model's recovery efficiency, standby losses and energy input — is another important consideration.

Most fossil fuel water heaters (propane, oil and natural gas) have energy factors of approximately 50 percent. Most electric water heaters have energy factors of at least 85 percent (the higher the energy factor, the more efficient the water heater).

► You can save yourself and your co-op money by allowing a load management switch to be installed on your water heater. With load management in place, a timer shuts off power to your water heater during times of peak energy demand. This helps the cooperative avoid purchasing costly "peak" generation.

Tri-County offers a \$25 rebate to members who are new participants in our load management program. In addition, load management participants receive a \$5 monthly credit on their electric bills. Members must use at least 100 kilo-watt hours of electricity per month to be eligible for the monthly credit.

► Be sure your new water heater is large enough to suit your family's needs. Moving from a 50-gallon heater to an 80-gallon heater doesn't cost that much, and is certainly worth it so you don't run out of hot water.

Tri-County leases and sells two brands of water heaters — American and Marathon — in a variety of sizes and styles. If you would like additional information about purchasing or leasing a water heater from your electric cooperative, please visit our Web site at www.tri-countyrec.com or call our member services department at 1-800-343-2559.

A hot water tank you can count on from the People You Can Count On

Marathon
WATER HEATERS



Tri-County Rural Electric Cooperative is an authorized distributor of Marathon water heaters. A Marathon water heater is guaranteed not to leak...for a lifetime!

Marathon water heaters feature:

- **Plastic tanks**
Won't rust or corrode
Stronger than steel
- **Lifetime Warranty**
A warranty not to leak "for as long as you own your home"
- **Envirofoam Insulation**
The most energy efficient and environmentally friendly insulation on the market
- **Reliability**
Six years parts and labor

If your water heater is more than 10 years old, consider replacing it with a Marathon water heater from Tri-County. You can buy or lease a Marathon water heater from your electric cooperative. For additional details about our water heater leasing program, special rebates and pricing information, visit our Web site at www.tri-countyrec.com or call our member services department at 1-800-343-2559.