
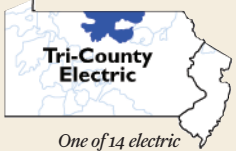


**Tri-County
Rural Electric
Cooperative, Inc.**

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



Tri-County
Electric
*One of 14 electric
cooperatives serving
Pennsylvania and
New Jersey*

Tri-County REC
22 North Main Street • P.O. Box 526
Mansfield, PA 16933
Mansfield — 570/662-2175
Coudersport — 814/274-8740
Website:
www.tri-countyrec.com
Email:
trico@tri-countyrec.com
For emergencies call:
1-800-343-2559

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

Craig Echer
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.

GUEST COLUMN

At Tri-County, we have Connections



by **Bryan Berguson**
Director of Member
Services

I LIKE TO think of myself as an easy-going guy who doesn't get too excited about anything — then again, I've never had a hole-in-one...

But I am really excited about a benefit we will be delivering to all of our Tri-County members: the Co-op Connections discount card.

The Co-op Connections program provides discounts to members who purchase products or use the services

of participating businesses. Tri-County will be giving Co-op Connections cards to all members for free beginning next month. It's one more way for us to bring additional value to our members and the communities we serve.

Tri-County will launch the Co-op Connections program at our annual meeting in Coudersport next month. All members in attendance will receive the discount card with their registration packet. Members who do not attend the meeting will receive their Connections cards in the mail in July and August.

Once a member signs the back of the card, it's ready for use at hundreds of participating businesses locally and nationwide. That's right. Take the card with you when you travel and use it anywhere you see the Co-op Connections logo on a business' window, door or cash register.

Along with discounts offered by participating local merchants and service providers, the Co-op Connections card program provides savings from a number of national chains, including Sherwin Williams, Days Inn, Barnes and Noble, and Liz Claiborne, to name a few.

One of the most popular aspects of the program is the card's pharmacy discounts, according to my colleagues at other Touchstone Energy cooperatives around


the country that have already launched the program. The discount card can be used at over 56,000 pharmacy chains, including CVS, Walgreens, Wal-Mart and Target. Members can achieve savings on prescriptions ranging from 10 to 60 percent by simply showing the card at participating pharmacies.

Co-op Connections is not just a great benefit for our members, it's also a terrific way for businesses to bring in new customers and ring up additional sales.

We don't charge businesses a fee to participate. All we ask for is a one-year participation commitment. In exchange, the business receives free local and national recognition.

Tri-County will list the names of all participating businesses on the Co-op Connections card website, which is searchable by zip code. That means participating local businesses can be found by Co-op Connections card holders from anywhere in the country, as this member-benefit program is offered at Touchstone Energy cooperatives nationwide. A link to the Connections Card website, www.connections.coop, will be included on Tri-County's homepage. Tri-County will also list participating local businesses in future issues of *Penn Lines*.

The Co-op Connections card will be released to all 18,000 Tri-County members. We want to make the card as valuable as possible to our members, so we encourage all area business owners to participate. If you manage or own a business or service and would like to be included in this great discount program, contact me at 1-800-343-2559.

At Tri-County, our No. 1 priority is to deliver safe, reliable power to our members. But we are also committed to bringing additional value to our members and the communities we serve. The Co-op Connections program is another way to accomplish that goal. 

Director elections slated for districts 1, 4 and 7

DEMOCRACY WILL take center stage at Tri-County's 2009 annual meeting, with director elections highlighting the agenda.

This year, board seats are up for election in Districts 1, 4 and 7. Only members of 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 find a mail-in ballot included with the annual meeting notification that Tri-County mails members in June.

Please review the ballot, cast your vote and mail it back to Tri-County.

Election results will be announced at Tri-County's 2009 annual meeting on Saturday, July 11, 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 candidates running for election this year are incumbents, and all are running unopposed. A profile of each candidate follows:

District 1

District 1 serves members in East Fork District, Homer, Keating, Portage, Summit, Sylvania, and Wharton townships in Potter County; Liberty and Norwich townships in McKean County; Grove and Lumber townships in Cameron County.



Gerald A. Kite

Gerald A. Kite

Incumbent Gerald A. Kite is seeking his seventh consecutive term as District 1 director.

Kite, a resident of Keating Township, Potter County, also serves on the Valley

Energy and Citizens' Electric Co. boards of directors.

A retired innkeeper, he formerly owned and managed the Forest House Inn near Austin. Before purchasing the Forest House in 1988, Kite worked in the retail division of Exxon Corporation. Among other duties, he was manager of the petroleum company's Pennsylvania Turnpike plazas.

"District 1 has a large percentage of seasonal accounts," Kite said. "I understand their concerns as well as those of residential members. Balancing the views of both groups helps me make fair decisions for all members."

District 4

District 4 serves members in the Tioga County townships of Chatham, Clymer, Deerfield, Elkland, Farmington, Gaines, Middlebury, Nelson, Osceola and Shippen.



James R. Davis

James R. Davis

James R. Davis of Farmington Township is seeking election to his fourth term on the Tri-County board of directors. He currently serves as the cooperative's chairman of the board, a post he has

held since 2005.

Davis also serves on the boards of directors of Allegheny Electric Cooperative, Tri-County's wholesale power supplier, and National Cooperative Services Corporation, a national cooperative banking operation.

A managing partner of James Daniel Associates, an educational consulting firm, Davis is retired from the Northern Tioga School District, where he was assistant superintendent. During his career as a professional educator, Davis served as a mathematics teacher, coach, counselor, principal and college professor. He serves as Farmington Township auditor and is a member of the River Valley Country Club Board of Directors.

Davis and his wife, Elaine, reside in Farmington Township. They have three grown sons.

"I have served on the board for eight years and have learned a lot about the role

of board members," Davis said. "I would like to use what I have learned for the good of Tri-County and its members over the next few years."

District 7

District 7 serves members in Athens, Ridgebury, Smithfield, South Creek and Ulster townships in Bradford County.



Alston A. Teeter


Alston A. Teeter

Alston A. Teeter, incumbent director from District 7, is seeking re-election for an 11th term on the board of directors.

Teeter currently serves as secretary/treasurer of the Tri-

County board. He served as Tri-County's chairman of the board from 1989 to 1993. He is also a past chairman of the board of directors for Allegheny Electric Cooperative, Tri-County's wholesale power supplier. He serves on the boards of directors of C&T Enterprises and Citizens' Electric Co.

Active in his church, Teeter is a member of the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau and a director of the Northern Tier Solid Waste Authority. He and his wife, Jenny, own and operate a heifer replacement farm near Milan in Bradford County. They have three grown children.

"I own and operate my own business," said Teeter. "That gives me a little better understanding of the members' needs." 



Office Closing
All Tri-County offices
will be closed
Friday, July 3, in
observance of
Independence Day.

Tri-County commissions new substation

Tri-County energized its rebuilt Sullivan Substation in May following months of site preparation and construction work.

The substation, located along Robbins Road east of Mainesburg in Tioga Coun-



POWERING UP: Members of Tri-County's operations and engineering departments stand in front of the new 5-megavolt-ampere transformer at the Sullivan Substation near Mainesburg after the rebuilt substation was energized and put into service April 30. Pictured are Mark Whitney, Joe Mickey, Ron Hager, Chris Payne, Bob Mathers, Dave Gibson, Eric McRoberts, Ron Sawyer, John DeWitt, Brian White and Steve Brewster.

ty, serves about 750 members in eastern Tioga and western Bradford counties.

The construction project, which cost over \$500,000, was initiated in 2008 to improve clearance heights inside the aging substation to meet current safety standards, and to replace deteriorating wooden poles and crossarms within the facility with steel structure. The substation was originally constructed and put into service in 1957.

Tri-County line crews from Mainesburg and Liberty were utilized to rebuild the new substation, which included the addition of a new 5-mega-volt-ampere transformer.

"The Tri-County employees involved in this project should be commended for a job well done," says John Lykens, director of engineering and operations. "Everyone took ownership in this project, and the completed substation shows the pride our employees have in their work. I wouldn't hesitate to have our employees tackle additional con-



SUBSTATION TRANSFORMATION: Tri-County line crews work to tie in the rebuilt Sullivan Substation with the cooperative's distribution system on Thursday, April 30. The changeover from the old portion of the substation to the new (steel structure on right side of photo) required a 3.5-hour planned outage and a well-coordinated effort involving about dozen co-op lineworkers and technicians.

struction projects of this magnitude."

One of 18 substations on the cooperative's distribution system, the Sullivan Substation is fed by a 34,500-volt Penelec transmission line. The substation reduces voltage to 7,200 volts, which is standard for the cooperative's distribution lines. ☀

Former NFL player to speak at Tri-County's 72nd annual meeting

Tri-County invites members to attend the cooperative's 73rd annual meeting Saturday, July 11, at the Coudersport Consistory.

The annual meeting provides members with the opportunity to learn about the operations and activities of their cooperative and speak directly with Tri-County directors and employees.

Tri-County has tapped a really big speaker to address co-op members during the business portion of the meeting: 6-foot, 7-inch, 280-pound former pro football player Dave Rowe.

Rowe, who played a dozen seasons in the National Football League, was a two-time All Pro defensive tackle and a member of the Oakland Raiders' Super Bowl XI championship team in 1977. He will share stories about his playing days in the NFL, as well as his collegiate career at Penn State University, where he played under a rookie head coach named Joe Paterno.

Following his NFL career, Rowe served for many years as manager of member and public relations for Randolph Electric Membership Corporation, an electric cooperative in central North Carolina. He

retired from the co-op in January.

Prior to the business portion of the annual meeting, which begins in the auditorium at 10:30 a.m., members will have the opportunity to chat with friends and neighbors, view vendor exhibits and enjoy live music by solo musician Brian Hughes of Sayre, who will perform on the porch of the Consistory.

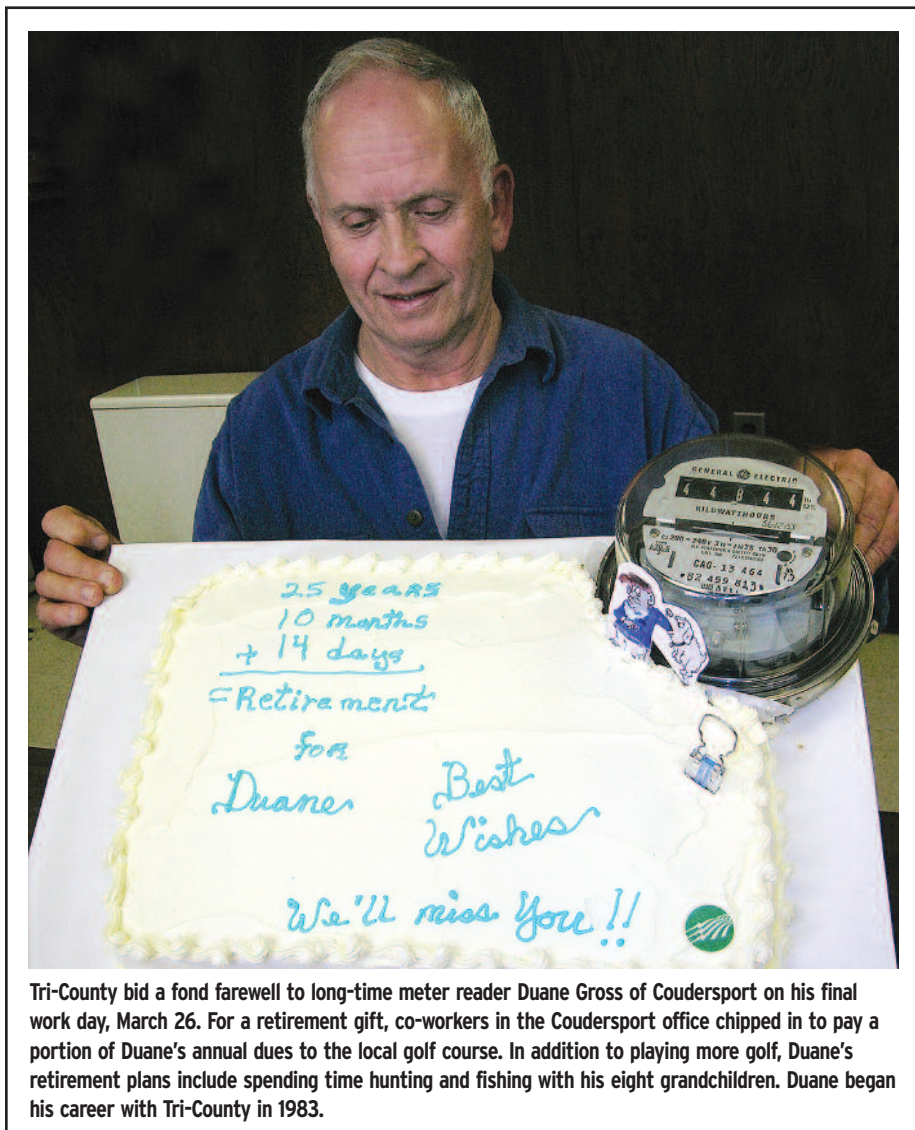
Other activities include bucket truck rides and high-voltage safety demonstrations courtesy of Tri-County's operations department, free health screenings provided by Charles Cole Memorial Hospital, and activities for children in attendance. There will also be vendor displays featuring smoking cessation information, Marathon-brand water heaters, compact fluorescent lighting and geothermal heat pumps.

The bylaws of the cooperative require that a meeting of the members be conducted each year. The purpose of the meeting is to provide the membership with updates concerning the governance, finances and operations of the cooperative and to announce the results of director elections. The business meeting will include a report from Chairman of

the Board James R. Davis and a presentation by President and Chief Executive Officer Craig Eccher.

Here are a few additional of items of note:

- ▶ Co-op members will receive annual meeting invitation notices in the mail this month. Members in districts 1, 4 and 7 will also receive director election ballots.
- ▶ Registration begins at 8 a.m.
- ▶ Attendees will receive complimentary Co-op Connections cards, which offers discounts at area merchants, as well as from national chains.
- ▶ Lunch will feature a stuffed chicken breast dinner prepared by Consistory volunteers. Lunch will be served in the cafeteria immediately following the business meeting.
- ▶ Bring the kids and grandkids along. We have some special activities, including a magic show, planned just for youngsters during the business meeting. Three lucky youngsters will also win bicycles in our children's door-prize drawing.
- ▶ Door-prize drawings for members in attendance will be held throughout the business meeting.



Tri-County bid a fond farewell to long-time meter reader Duane Gross of Coudersport on his final work day, March 26. For a retirement gift, co-workers in the Coudersport office chipped in to pay a portion of Duane's annual dues to the local golf course. In addition to playing more golf, Duane's retirement plans include spending time hunting and fishing with his eight grandchildren. Duane began his career with Tri-County in 1983.

Get ready to Beat the Peak

With the arrival of summer, Tri-County members can help the cooperative control its power costs by taking part in Beat the Peak, our new energy conservation program.

Beat the Peak encourages members to voluntarily conserve their electric use for several hours on the hottest weekdays of the summer.

By limiting your electric use during times of peak energy demand, when generation prices are at their highest, you help Tri-County save money on power purchases.

Peak demand periods occur in the afternoon and early evening hours of the hottest weekdays of the summer. Tri-County will alert members about an upcoming peak through radio spots that

will be broadcast on stations throughout our service territory.

The radio spots will ask members to help the cooperative "Beat the Peak" by limiting energy use between 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. on those hottest days of the year.

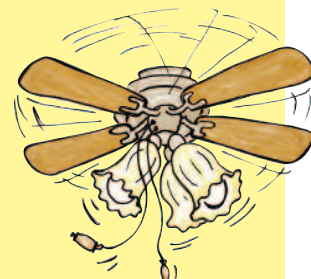
But members don't have to wait to hear an announcement on the radio: If it's a summer scorcher, you can bet it's a Beat the Peak day.

Some easy ways to help us Beat the Peak include turning off all unnecessary lights or appliances, increasing the thermostat setting on air-conditioners, and delaying use of major appliances such as dishwashers, washing machines, clothes dryers and dehumidifiers.

For more information about ways you can help Beat the Peak, contact the member services department at 1-800-343-2559.

Keeping cool with ceiling fans

Ceiling fans produce a cooling effect by moving air across the surface of the skin, making people feel cooler. While operating, the fan motor actually heats the space in which it operates; for that reason, they should only run when someone is in the room to appreciate the cooling effect. When no one is in the room, keep ceiling fans off.



Ceiling fans are usually mounted at the center of the room where the room's light fixture would normally go.

If you are planning to purchase a ceiling fan, be sure to get one sized properly for the room. Do this by measuring your room area (length times width) and looking for a fan with the appropriate fan diameter.

Room Area (sq. ft.)	Minimum Fan Diameter (inches)
100	36
150	42
225	48
375	52
400+	Two fans

Some ceiling fans offer reversible operation. They should direct air downward in summer when the breeze will create a cooling effect, and upward in winter to circulate warm air that has risen to the ceiling. This feature is particularly advantageous in rooms with high ceilings that trap warm air during the heating season.

This article and many more like it can be found in the Home Energy Library of Tri-County's online HomeEnergySuite. To access the suite, visit www.tri-countyrec.com and click on the HomeEnergySuite icon on the left side of our home page.