
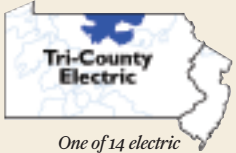


# Tri-County Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



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  
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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 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

## A cooperative call to action



by Craig Eccher

**WHAT** A great day Tri-County had for its annual meeting in July. The weather was picture perfect, the barbecued chickens were grilled to perfection, and we had a pair of terrific guest speakers, comedian Gary “The Mouth of the South” Claxton and Touchstone Energy executive Jim Bausell, who entertained and informed the

400 members and guests in attendance.

I would like to thank the more than 40 volunteers from the Oswayo Valley Booster Club — including the school’s principal and superintendent — for making the long, early morning drive to Williamson High School to prepare those delicious chickens over hardwood fires.

Special thanks also to Laurel Health System for providing health screenings and nutrition information to our members on hand for the event. We also welcomed a new vendor to this year’s event, Quad-K Energy Conservation Consulting from Towanda, and we appreciate their participation.

As always, my hat goes off to the Tri-County employees who keep this meeting running smoothly each year. From directing parking and registering members to offering bucket truck rides and making child identification cards for the kids in attendance, our employees did a terrific job.

Most of all, I would like to thank the members who turn out and help make the annual meeting a success each year. I particularly like the fact that our members have been taking an increasingly active part in annual meetings in recent years by asking questions during the business meeting.

This year, members of the audience asked some excellent questions, many concerning electric generation, alternative energy and climate issues. I am pleased to see

our members have taken in interest in these pressing issues, which all electric providers are facing today, and I truly value your input and opinions on these matters.


I encouraged those at the meeting to share their comments about these issues with their elected officials. For those of you who missed the meeting, I invite you to write your congressmen and senators with your concerns.

Through an awareness campaign initiated by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the national organization that serves the nation’s rural electric cooperatives, we even have some specific questions you may wish to ask your legislative representatives when writing to them.

Called “Our Energy, Our Future: A Dialogue with America,” the campaign urges Congress to tackle our nation’s difficult energy challenges by answering these questions:

- ▶ What is your plan to make sure we have the electricity we’ll need in the future?
- ▶ What are you doing to speed the development of new technology that will allow us to have the electric power we need while meeting our national climate policy goals?
- ▶ Balancing electricity needs and environmental goals will be difficult. How much is all this going to increase my electric bill and what will you do to make it affordable?

Now it’s time to spread the word. During my message at the annual meeting, I stated that it will take a focus like that of the Apollo space mission to ensure an affordable, sufficient supply of power to meet the nation’s future energy needs. I truly believe that American ingenuity will be the key to keeping the lights on and rates affordable while meeting environmental goals.

We all need to take an active role in getting that message to the decision makers on Capitol Hill. Please let your voices be heard. 

# Generation, legislation, conservation share spotlight

BY JEFF FETZER

**AT A TIME** when economic uncertainty and rising energy costs dominate the headlines, Tri-County officials delivered some positive news to co-op members on hand for the cooperative's 72nd annual meeting July 12 at Williamson High School in Tioga.

James R. Davis, chairman of the cooperative's board of directors, told the approximately 400 members and guests at the gathering that while the co-op is "feeling the pinch" of rising costs for fuel and materials, the price the co-op pays for power is expected to

remain stable for the next two to three years.

## Generation

"Our good fortune is due to the fact that our energy supplier, Allegheny Electric Cooperative, produces about 70 percent of its own needs through the ownership of the Raystown hydroelectric generation facility and its share of the Susquehanna steam nuclear plant," Davis reported. The remaining 30 percent is purchased through a long-term contract set to expire at the end of this year.

Davis cautioned that the co-op's generation costs are expected to increase around 2011 as rising fuel costs and climate-change legislative initiatives impact the 30 percent block of power that Allegheny must purchase on the wholesale market beginning next year.

## Legislation

Davis said proposed legislation aimed at reducing carbon dioxide emissions from power plants will eventually drive

up costs for power supply. Carbon dioxide is one of the primary "greenhouse gases" produced by the combustion of coal and other fossil fuels used to fire many of the nation's electric generation plants.

"No one is sure about the causes of climate change or whether or not there really is a climate change caused by greenhouse gases," he

said. "But as long as the perception exists that there is climate change and it is caused by these emissions, we will see increased legislation and, consequently, higher costs of generation."

Davis noted that some experts predict the cost of proposed carbon dioxide control measures could cause consumers' electric bills to double or triple in coming years.

"My comments are not meant to scare you," he said. "Rather they are meant to encourage you to become involved in the political process by keeping aware of what is happening and to stay in contact with your legislators to make sure they have our best interest in mind when addressing this issue."

Tri-County's chief executive officer, Craig Eccher, expanded on Davis' comments during his annual address to the membership. He said he doesn't expect the cooperative's rates will spike anytime soon, although he added the cooperative will likely see rates increase by 10 to 15 percent around 2011.



**HEALTHY HABITS:** Dietician Lisa Pietropola, right, offers a snack to Tri-County member Shirley Taft of Westfield while providing information on healthy snacks and portion control as part of Laurel Health System's mini-health fair at the annual meeting.



**UNDER PRESSURE:** Carol Long, a registered nurse with Laurel Health System's community support program, checks the blood pressure of Tri-County member Dick Schonher of Gillette as part of the mini-health screening Laurel Health conducted at the annual meeting.



**BACK ON BOARD:** Tri-County Rural Electric Cooperative President and CEO Craig Eccher, at right, congratulates (from left) Barbara J. Seeley of Roseville, Nicholas Reitter of Genesee and Lowell W. Geiser of Germania on their election to the Tri-County board of directors following the co-op's 72nd annual meeting.

## at annual meeting

Eccher stated that the demand for electricity in the United States is expected to grow substantially in the coming years, resulting in the need for additional power plants and transmission lines. But with legislation restricting the construction of new coal-fired plants, new nuclear facilities at least a decade away from being put into service, and renewable energy generation like wind and solar still in its infancy, he said it will take an "Apollo-like" focus to ensure energy production meets the nation's future needs.

Eccher urged members to contact their elected officials and ask them to detail their plans to ensure a sufficient supply of affordable power in the future.

"Let our elected officials hear your voice," he said. "If these issues get the attention and funding like that of the Apollo space program, we will find solutions."

### Conservation

Eccher said the cooperative has begun taking steps to enable members to save on their electric bills through energy and conservation efforts.

He said Tri-County is in the process of expanding and updating its load management system and plans to aggressive-



**READY FOR LIFTOFF:** Liberty line crew chief Ron Sawyer offers words of encouragement to 7-year-old Derek Dreps as he prepares for a ride in the co-op bucket truck operated by lineman Ron Scott. Derek attended the meeting with his parents, Tri-County members Michael and Kendra Dreps of Liberty.

ly promote efforts aimed at encouraging members to voluntarily allow the cooperative to install load control devices on their electric water heaters. These remotely controlled devices enable the cooperative to interrupt power to participating members' water heaters at times of peak energy demand, when generation costs are at their highest.

The cooperative has also been expanding the resources available on its website, [www.tri-countyrec.com](http://www.tri-countyrec.com), to guide members interested in saving on their electric bills through conservation and efficiency measures. In addition, the

co-op has been actively educating employees about efficiency and conservation measures and providing them with new technologies and tools to assist members in making wise energy-related decisions.

Guest speakers for the annual meeting were hill-billy humorist Gary "The Mouth of the South" Claxton and Jim Bausell, chief operating officer of Touchstone

Energy Cooperatives, the national branding alliance for America's electric cooperatives.

Bausell called on those in attendance to do their part to reduce the demand for energy — and their energy costs — through conservation and efficiency measures, including installation of energy-saving appliances and use of energy-efficient compact fluorescent lighting.

"The greenest dollar is not a dollar derived from wind energy or methane or solar energy," Bausell said. "The greenest dollar is the dollar you don't spend on energy."

### Directors re-elected

In other business during the meeting, Tri-County members returned three incumbents to the cooperative board of directors.

Tri-County members unanimously elected Nicholas Reitter of Genesee, Bar-



**MARATHON DISCUSSION:** Tri-County staking engineer John Rotello discusses the merits of Marathon-brand water heaters with co-op members Claude and Nancy Seely of Ulysses.

bara J. Seeley of Roseville and Lowell W. Geiser of Germania to represent Districts 3, 5 and 9, respectively, on the co-op board. All three directors ran unopposed in the election.

Three of Tri-County's nine board seats were up for election this year. Directors are elected to three-year terms.

During a reorganizational meeting that immediately followed the annual meeting, James R. Davis of Elkland was re-elected board chairman. Seeley was elected as board vice-chairman and Alston A. Teeter of Milan was re-elected secretary-treasurer. 



**BIG WINNERS:** Emma Coolidge, 4, daughter of Lance and Stacy Coolidge of Wellsboro, and Logan Tokarz, 6, son of Tina and Doug Tokarz of Mansfield, show off the bicycles they won in the children's drawing.

## Even out your payments with budget billing

You can avoid fluctuations in your electric bill from month to month by participating in Tri-County's budget billing plan.

The program allows you to level out your monthly payments throughout the year, eliminating seasonal spikes in your electric bill, as well as billing fluctuations caused by estimated meter readings or changes in your electric use.

Participants in budget billing pay the same amount each month for 11 months. The budget amount is based on the average of your electric bills for the previous year. In the 12th month of your budget billing cycle, we perform a "true-up," comparing your budgeted amount with your actual cost for the year. Your bill total in the settlement month will reflect the difference between the actual and budget amounts.

After the true-up, Tri-County reviews and adjusts your budgeted amount for the next year based on your electric use from the previous 12 months, taking into account any rate adjustments that may have been implemented.

If you are interested in setting up a budget billing plan for your account, please call the financial services department at 1-800-343-2559.

We will calculate your monthly payment amount and mail it to you, along with a sign-up form and further budget information.

## Avoiding dryer fires

According to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, clothes dryers are associated with thousands of fires every year, some of which result in injury or death. Fires typically occur when lint builds up in the dryer or in the exhaust duct. Lint can block the flow of air, cause excessive heat buildup and result in fire. To help prevent dryer fires:

- ▶ Clean the lint screen/filter before or after drying each load of clothes. If clothing is still damp at the end of a typical drying cycle or drying requires longer times than normal, this may be a sign that the lint screen or the exhaust duct is blocked.
- ▶ Clean the dryer vent and exhaust duct periodically. Check the outside dryer vent while the dryer is operating to make sure exhaust air is escaping. If it is not, the vent or the exhaust duct may be blocked. To remove a blockage in the exhaust path, it may be necessary to disconnect the exhaust duct from the dryer. Remember to reconnect the ducting to the dryer and outside vent before using the dryer again.
- ▶ Clean behind the dryer, where lint can build up. Have a qualified service person clean the interior of the dryer chassis periodically to minimize the amount of lint accumulation. Keep the area around the dryer clean and free of clutter.
- ▶ Replace plastic or foil, accordion-type ducting material with rigid or corrugated, semirigid metal duct. Most manufacturers specify the use of a rigid or corrugated, semirigid metal duct, which provides maximum airflow. The flexible plastic or foil type duct can more easily trap lint and is more susceptible to kinks or crushing, which can greatly reduce the air flow.

**Marathon**  
WATER HEATERS



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

*Buy a new Marathon water heater from Tri-County and rest easy knowing it's guaranteed to last as long as you own your home.*

*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

You can also lease a Marathon water heater from Tri-County. We'll install it and maintain it for the life of the lease.

Call for more information  
**1-800-343-2559**