
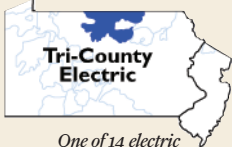


Tri-County Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc.

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

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

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.

All Tri-County Rural Electric Cooperative offices will be closed on Columbus Day, Monday, Oct. 10.

FROM THE PRESIDENT/CEO

Questions and comments from our members



by Craig Eccher

I WOULD like to thank all of our members who helped celebrate Tri-County's 75th anniversary by joining us at our annual meeting in July. We had a great day, with more than 300 members and guests on hand to mark our diamond anniversary celebration and learn about the history and current activities of the cooperative.

While the highlights of the day appear on the following pages of *Penn Lines*, I'd like to recap some of the questions and comments members brought up during the course of the meeting.

In California, communities are demanding the removal of smart meters. Why?

Pacific Gas and Electric Co. deployed over 5.5 million smart meters, and experienced problems with about 5 percent of them. The majority of the issues had to do with improper installation, followed by communication problems, and faulty and improper programming. A handful of meters had true accuracy issues. Also, the meters were installed at about the same time PG&E implemented a rate increase, and California was experiencing an unusually hot summer, which resulted in higher-than-normal electric bills for many customers. This perfect storm, so to speak, caused a public relations nightmare for the California utility, with the smart meter deployment taking much of the blame, undeservedly in most instances, for the high bills. In Pennsylvania, there has been a considerable roll out of automated meters over the past several years, with very few complaints or problems.

How does the new meter reading reach the office? What time of the day are the new meters read?


Our automated meters submit readings to the office via our power lines. The meters are read daily at midnight.

How will load management affect geothermal systems?

We currently use our load management system for direct control of water heaters and also to provide notification to industries when the regional electric grid is experiencing a peak condition. In the not-too-distant future, the load management system will be able to work hand-in-hand with members' electric-based heating and cooling systems. The load management system, which is currently being upgraded, will be able to communicate with a members' programmable thermostat and control the temperature setting up or down a few degrees during times of peak energy demand. Members' participation in the co-op's voluntary load management program helps Tri-County reduce its demand for power when the cost of buying generation is at its highest.

I would like to commend the *Penn Lines* editor and the men working the lines at all hours of the day and in all kinds of weather.

Thank you for the kind words. We, too, feel that *Penn Lines* is an valuable tool for relaying important information to our members on issues that affect them and the quality of life in their communities. And we are likewise appreciative of the efforts of our dedicated line workers and enjoy the opportunity to publicly thank them for their commitment to keeping the lights on in your homes and businesses.

Another member asked what people could do if they possessed historical information about the cooperative. We would be happy to take a look at old photographs, documents or other items of historical significance to Tri-County. If you have such materials, please contact our member services department. Who knows? Your old photograph just might show up on our website or in a future issue of *Penn Lines*. 



Tri-County shines during diamond anniversary celebration

BY JEFF FETZER

TRI-COUNTY paid homage to its past and cast an optimistic eye to the future during its 75th annual meeting July 9 at the Coudersport Consistory.

While the nation remains mired in an economic slowdown, Tri-County's board chairperson, Barbara Seeley, told those gathered for the annual meeting that the cooperative experienced another solid financial year in 2010.

"We all know what a challenging period the past several years have been for the country as whole and for many of our co-op members," Seeley said. "In the midst of one of the worst economic recessions in our nation's history, your electric cooperative has sought creative ways to keep a lid on expenses to counter the rising cost of doing business."

Those efforts, coupled with ongoing growth in commercial and industrial electric sales, enabled the cooperative to retire \$350,000 in capital credits in November and provide a one-time rate reduction of



GATOR AIDE: Tri-County lineman Joe Mickey holds a baby alligator for a group of youngsters interested in touching the reptile. The alligator, a hawk, barred owl, armadillo, opossum and other creatures were part of Bwana Jim's Wildlife Show presented to children on hand for the co-op's annual meeting.



PORCH PERFORMANCE: Tri-County member Goldie Jack of Ford City and her granddaughters enjoy the music of Brian Hughes while relaxing on the porch of the Coudersport Consistory.

\$15.25 to all members in December.

During his annual meeting address, Tri-County President & Chief Executive Officer Craig Eccher noted that in 2010 the cooperative connected the new CVS distribution center in Chemung, N.Y., to the co-op system through an interconnection agreement with New York State Electric and Gas. The facility, still not up to full capacity, consumes over 500,000 kilowatt-hours of electricity each month and has created approximately 600 jobs in the region.

Gas growth

Eccher said the developing Marcellus shale natural gas play is also creating growth in electrical sales for the co-op, a trend he expects to see continue for the foreseeable future.

He said Tri-County has been busy upgrading and building new power lines to serve natural gas pump stations, compression plants and corporate facilities including Chesapeake Energy's "man camp," which is located in Athens and serves as a training center and residential

facility for 280 gas industry workers.

Later this year, Eccher said, the cooperative will complete construction of a 115,000-volt circuit to serve a natural gas



SPECIAL GUESTS: Tri-County member Earl Heyler of Navoo, Tri-County's 75th annual meeting in the Coudersport Consistory alongside Brian Heyd, also of Navoo. Heyd, son of Tri-County members Jim and Lona Heyd, represented Tri-County on the 2010 Youth Tour. Heyler, who worked as a laborer for Tri-County, was recognized during the annual meeting for helping to provide service to the rural areas of Tioga and Lycoming counties.



ON BOARD: Tri-County President & CEO Craig Eccher, far right, congratulates members elected to the co-op board of directors at the utility's 75th annual meeting held July 9 in Coudersport. Pictured with Eccher are, from left, Nicholas Reitter of Genesee, Lowell Geiser of Germania, and Barbara Seeley of Roseville.

compression plant in Hebron, Potter County. The compression plant, owned by Tennessee Gas Transmission, is expected use about 2 million kilowatt-hours of electricity each month.

The growth in energy sales has helped the cooperative offset the rising costs of commodities such as aluminum, copper, plastics and treated poles needed to maintain and expand the co-op's distribution system.

"As our cooperative grows, we continue to evaluate our business processes and utilize technology to become more efficient, provide better member service, and control costs," he said. "We also keep in mind why the cooperative began 75 years ago and its mission."

Celebrating 75th

The cooperative marked its diamond anniversary celebration by giving away energy credits ranging from \$5 to \$100 to all 188 registered members in attendance at the meeting.

Tri-County also showed

two videos before and during the annual meeting to commemorate the

75th anniversary milestone. One video featured a recent interview with Earl Heyler of Nauvoo, a Tri-County member who worked for the co-op as it built its way across the northern tier in the late 1930s. The other video paired the reading of excerpts from the Steadman Manuscript, a document detailing Tri-County's difficult formative years, with photographs from the early days of rural electrification.

"Over the last 75 years, technology has surely changed our industry, from the way we pay our bills and the way meters are read to the way we build our power lines," Eccher said. "But we still remain grounded on our business model: an electric cooperative owned by those we serve."



A BRIGHT FUTURE: "CFL Charlie," the energy efficiency mascot of Touchstone Energy, greets the Barshinger children, from left, baby Brooke, Luke, Emily and Wade, at the entrance to the Coudersport Consistory. They are the children of Tri-County members David and Tanya Barshinger of Coudersport.



HIGH FLYERS: Tri-County lineman Jim Succowich takes co-op members Bob and Pat Gilbaugh of the Black Forest area for a bucket ride during the co-op's annual meeting on July 9.



ALL IN THE FAMILY: Siblings Dakota Colley, 10, and Alivia Colley, 4, were the lucky winners of bicycles in the children's drawing held at the conclusion of the co-op's 75th annual meeting. The children attended the event with their grandmother, Tri-County member Patricia Lepley of Liberty.

Directors re-elected

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

Nicholas Reitter of Genesee, Barbara Seeley of Roseville, and Lowell Geiser of Germania were re-elected to represent Districts 3, 5, and 9, respectively, on the co-op board. All three candidates ran unopposed. Directors are elected to three-year terms.

During the re-organizational meeting that followed the annual meeting, Barbara Seeley was re-elected as the cooperative's board chairperson. Nicholas Reitter was re-elected vice-chairman, and Alston Teeter of Milan was re-elected secretary-treasurer. ☀



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Look for 'suite' energy savings on Tri-County's website

If you are looking for ways to save on your energy bills, be sure to explore the Tri-County HomeEnergySuite on our website, www.tri-countyrec.com.

The HomeEnergySuite contains a wealth of energy conservation and efficiency tips, but its centerpiece is an interactive online energy audit that evaluates your home's energy use based on inputs you provide and recommends ways to reduce your energy expenditures. Unlike most web-based home energy audits, the HomeEnergySuite's Home Energy Calculator is simple to use and can be completed in less than two minutes.

The calculator will determine your home energy consumption and costs based on your local weather, as well as local utility and fuel rates. This intuitive interface allows you to view charts that break down energy use system by system throughout your home, and also provides you with an idea of how much you could save on energy costs by implementing a variety of conservation and efficiency measures.

HomeEnergySuite™

In addition to the Home Energy Calculator, the HomeEnergySuite also features: **Interactive House.** Click on the various components of the Interactive House to gain a better understanding of where and how energy is used within your home, as well as suggestions and tips for using energy wisely.

Energy Library. Contains information about just about every component of your home as it relates to energy use and provides hundreds of tips and strategies aimed at helping you save on your energy bills through conservation and efficiency measures.

Appliance Calculator. Determines costs for operating appliances, lighting and other electronic devices in your home based on Tri-County's current rates.

Lighting Calculator. Calculates savings that you can achieve by replacing the incandescent lightbulbs in your home with compact fluorescent lights.

TV Calculator. Provides the annual cost to run your television set based on size and type of the set and the number of hours it is used each day.

Space Heater Calculator. Calculates cost for operating space heaters in your home based on wattage, hours of use and current rates.

Fundamentals of Electricity. Learn about the fundamentals of electricity, as well as how electricity is generated and distributed to your home and how rates are calculated. Also contains a wealth of electrical safety information.

Kid's Corner. Children can learn fun facts about electricity and electrical safety through games, quizzes and animated features.



Chase off the chill with a Convectair electric heater

Do you have a cold spot in your home? Maybe you have a bathroom or bedroom that never seems to get as warm as the rest of your house. Your cooperative may be able to help.

Tri-County is pleased to offer members small, quality electric-heating products from Convectair for the home.

Convectair heaters are designed to help with your heating needs and work especially well in small, cold rooms.

These heaters are a handsome addition to any home and, because of their size, require no additional wiring. They simply plug into your home's 110-volt receptacles.

Tri-County currently carries the following models at the prices listed below:

500-watt APERO (flat convection unit) — \$192.80

1,250-watt APERO (flat convection unit) — \$218.03

1,000/2,000-watt CALYPSO (fan coil unit) — \$373.70

750/1,500-watt JAZZ (towel bar heater) — \$663.95

To learn more about Convectair heating products, please visit the Convectair website at www.convectair.com or call Tri-County's member services department at 1-800-343-2559. Members are also invited to visit the co-op's Mansfield office to view the Convectair heaters that we have in stock.



Tri-County carries the Convectair Apero flat convection unit, show above, in both 500-watt and 1,250-watt models. The attractive units mount to the wall and plug into a 110-volt receptacle.

Join Tri-County on Facebook

Looking to keep up with the latest news involving your local electric cooperative? Join us on Facebook, the popular social networking site.

By "liking" Tri-County, you will receive alerts about Co-op Connections card discounts and special offers and receive updates about current events and activities involving the cooperative, as well as information about power outages, system projects, photos and other items of interest.

To like Tri-County on Facebook, you will first have to sign up for a free Facebook account at www.facebook.com. After you've registered, you can link to Tri-County's Facebook page from our homepage at www.tri-countyrec.com.

All updates to the co-op's Facebook page automatically link to the co-op's Twitter account, so members can follow Tri-County in multiple ways. To follow the cooperative on Twitter, visit www.twitter.com/TricoConnection.