



Pictured left to right: Hunter Bowen, Jimi Wilson, Matt Johnson, Lee Witcher, and Luke Hembree



CURRENT LINES

APRIL 2025

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Lineman Appreciation, [page 1](#)

ROW Maintenance, [page 2](#)

Nominating Committee, [page 2](#)

Youth Tour Delegates Selected, [page 3](#)

Safe Digging Month, [page 4](#)

Statement of Non-discrimination, [page 4](#)

LINEMEN ARE WIRED FOR SERVICE

April 14, 2025 is just another ordinary day for most, but for Tri-County EMC and its 40 sister cooperatives across the state, it's Lineman Appreciation Day!

Tri-County EMC crews travel across the cooperative's eight-county service territory, building, maintaining, and repairing parts of the local system. Their extraordinary skills ensure our homes remain connected to the grid, businesses stay operational, and emergency services remain accessible—a lifeline that connects us all.

In moments of crisis, when the lights go out and we find ourselves in the dark, linemen emerge as beacons of hope. Their swift response restores normalcy, offering reassurance in times of uncertainty. Whether repairing storm-ravaged power lines or ensuring continuity during emergencies, their unwavering commitment illuminates life when we need it most.

Tri-County EMC linemen also answer calls beyond the boundaries of home. Our crews travel to fellow co-ops, near or far, when widespread outages occur and additional support is needed. Cooperation among cooperatives is one of our seven guiding principles; no one embodies this core commitment better than linemen. Pictured above is a crew of Tri-County linemen providing power restoration assistance to Clark Energy in Winchester, Kentucky, back in January. (104412001)

This month, as we celebrate the remarkable men and women who ensure reliable power, let's recognize their unwavering dedication to the local communities they serve. The next time you flip a switch, please take a moment to remember those who make it possible.



RIGHT-OF-WAY MAINTENANCE

Beginning this spring, Tri-County will begin its 2025 herbicide application. Palmetto Right-of-Way will apply herbicide to keep trees, brush, and foliage from interfering with the delivery of your electric service. Overgrown trees and other vegetation within 15 feet of overhead power lines are trimmed year-round. Herbicide is applied in five-year cycles. This year's herbicide application will occur in portions of Putnam, Jasper, Jones, Twiggs, and Bibb Counties.

Palmetto Right-of-Way only uses approved, non-residual chemicals. Landscaped areas such as lawns, streams, or ponds will not be sprayed. As indicated in orange, the map below shows the general area where the maintenance will occur. For a full list of streets that will be affected and more information on Tri-County EMC's right-of-way program, visit www.tri-countyemc.com/rightofway.cms.



NOMINATING COMMITTEE SELECTED FOR 2025 ELECTION

The Nominating Committee meets annually to consider and nominate candidates for the board posts up for election each year. Three Post 3 director seats will be on this year's ballot. Those candidates nominated by the committee will be placed on the ballot sent to and voted on by Tri-County EMC's membership. The 2025 Nominating Committee includes the members below.

DISTRICT 1

Jones & Bibb Counties

Wendy Vaughn
Shawn Herndon
Darryl Grant

DISTRICT 2

*Putnam, Jasper &
Morgan Counties*

Holt Spivey
David Hill
Paul Gardner

DISTRICT 3

*Baldwin, Wilkinson,
& Twiggs Counties*

Jay Harrington
Kevin Pope
Charles D. Ford

Tri-County EMC Members have an important role in the annual meeting process. Below are the answers to several frequently asked questions about the directors' election. (76010002)

HOW ARE DIRECTORS ELECTED?

A directors' election is held annually, rotating each year by post. Ballots are sent to all members via mail or email. Ballots can be returned by mail, electronically, or in person at either office location. To be elected, the candidate must obtain a majority vote. Election results are announced at each year's annual meeting. (Bylaws, Section 4.03, Election)

WHO IS QUALIFIED TO RUN?

- A candidate must be a Tri-County EMC Member.
- A candidate cannot be a Close Relative of an incumbent director or an employee of Tri-County EMC.
- A candidate must have been a member for at least two years prior to the election.
- A candidate must have the legal capacity to enter into contracts in Georgia.
- Former Tri-County EMC employees must wait two years before being eligible to serve as a director.
- A candidate cannot be employed by or have financial interest in a competing business. (Bylaws, Section 4.02. Qualifications)

HOW CAN I BECOME A CANDIDATE?

There are two ways to become a candidate.

1. Be nominated by the Nominating Committee. You may email the committee at nominate@tri-countyemc.com expressing your interest in being nominated. The committee will meet in June.
2. Submit a petition to Tri-County EMC no less than 90 days prior to the annual meeting. The petition must be signed by at least 50 members of the cooperative. (Bylaws, Section 4.06. Nominations.) Contact Tri-County EMC to obtain a petition form.

Save the Date!

Tri-County EMC's 86th Annual Meeting is set for Thursday, October 16, 2025.

FOUR LOCAL STUDENTS TO ATTEND THE 2025 WASHINGTON YOUTH TOUR

For the first time in the program's history, four outstanding students have been selected by Tri-County EMC to represent the cooperative on this year's Washington Youth Tour. "We had a lot of great applicants this year," said panelist judge Christopher Jackson. "It was so difficult to narrow down that we decided to send an additional delegate!" Griffin Moore of Jones County, Samuel Brimberry of Jasper County, and Addison Usry and Presley Moss of Putnam County will travel to D.C. in June for a week-long leadership adventure sponsored by Georgia's electric membership cooperatives. Read more about each delegate below.



GRIFFIN MOORE
JONES COUNTY

A Jones County native, Griffin Moore is a Junior at First Presbyterian Day School (FPD) in Macon, where he

participates in a number of extracurriculars, including Varsity Soccer and Cross Country, the FTC Robotics Team, and the Chess and History Clubs. He is heavily involved in his community. As the founder of a non-profit, St. Nick's Necessities, Griffin organizes the distribution of self-care items to teens suffering from hygiene poverty. In December 2024, his organization was awarded an Operation Roundup grant from the Tri-County EMC Foundation. His future goal is to be an entrepreneur and business owner.



ADDISON USRY
PUTNAM COUNTY

Addison Usry is a Junior Advanced Placement student at Putnam County High School in Eatonton.

She is incredibly well-rounded, excelling in multiple sports and clubs, including Varsity Tennis, Varsity Cheer, Student Government, Student Advisory Council, and the Key, Anchor, and Beta Clubs. Outside of her busy school schedule, Addison volunteers at the historic Plaza Arts Center in downtown Eatonton. A talented photographer, she has a passion for art and creativity that she loves sharing with the younger generations in her community. Addison plans to one day have a career in Nuclear Chemistry.



SAMUEL BRIMBERRY
JASPER COUNTY

Samuel Brimberry is a Junior at Jasper County High School in Monticello. As a working student, Samuel is able to

balance a wide array of extracurriculars while having a job. Throughout his high school career, he has participated in several athletics and clubs, including Varsity Wrestling, Soccer, Cross Country, Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA), and Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA). Last summer, Samuel was selected by Tri-County EMC to attend Georgia Cooperative Council's Youth Leadership Conference, where he further developed his leadership skills. His goal is to one day become a pilot.



PRESLEY MOSS
PUTNAM COUNTY

Presley Moss is a Junior honor student at Gatewood Schools in Eatonton. In addition to her athletic ability, she is

a natural-born leader and has a knack for getting involved. She is the Anchor Club President and a member of the Prom Committee, Yearbook Staff, and National Honor Society. Last year, she was chosen by faculty to attend the Hugh O'Brian Leadership Seminar (HOBY). She volunteers with many organizations and events in her community, including Little Food Pantry, Pennington Methodist Church, Putnam County Dairy Festival, and Putnam Toy Drive. She plans to attend college to become a General Practitioner.

RECIPE BOX

SPICY COLLARD GREEN WONTONS

Courtesy of Georgia Grown

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 package wonton wrappers, found in the produce section
- 1 cup cooked drained collard greens, measured after drained
- 8 oz package of cream cheese, room temp
- 1 tsp hot sauce
- ½ tsp Worcestershire sauce
- 8 oz jar of favorite pepper jelly

DIRECTIONS:

Pulse collard greens in a food processor until fine. Add cream cheese, hot sauce, and Worcestershire sauce. Mix until well combined. Place several wonton wrappers on a dry cutting board with the corner facing you. Place about 1 tsp of mixture on the bottom third of the wrapper. Brush the top 2 edges with water. Fold the bottom corner over to meet the top corner and press down to seal. Brush a small amount of water on the center then fold the right side and press to seal. Repeat with the left side. Set aside. Repeat until all wrappers are used. Meanwhile, heat enough oil in the pan to cover the wontons to 350°. Fry wontons in batches. Heat pepper jelly in the microwave until liquid. In a large bowl, toss hot wontons in batches with the melted pepper jelly. Serve immediately.



*Did you know your recipe is worth \$20 if chosen?
Send your best recipes to annas@tri-countyemc.
com or mail to P.O. Box 487, Gray, GA 31032.*

PRACTICE SAFE DIGGING

Spring is in the air...and so are home projects! April marks the beginning of the peak period for outdoor projects in Georgia. In many cases, Tri-County EMC, Tri-CoGo, and other utilities run cable underground to provide service to your home. As your electric cooperative, we maintain a proactive approach to ensure our members practice safe digging when considering their next home project. Whether planting a tree, constructing a backyard fence, or installing a new sprinkler system, always check that you are not digging near any buried electrical or fiber-optic cable. (86648002)

Contact 811 at least three business days before any digging project to ensure you are clear of any buried electrical or fiber-optic cable in your area. You can submit an eRequest online at Georgia811.com, or call 811 to reach the automated system. From there, Georgia 811 transmits the location and description of the project to the affected member utility companies, who will be responsible for sending a location technician to the proposed area. Once underground lines are marked, you will know the approximate location of utility lines and can practice safe digging. Failure to contact 811 can cause expensive damage resulting in the disrupted electric or internet service of an entire neighborhood, and you could potentially incur fines and repair costs. Before you dig, take the necessary precautions.



STATEMENT OF NON-DISCRIMINATION

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer. If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, found online, or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter by US Mail to US Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C., 20250-9410, by fax (202) 690-7442, or email at program.intake@usda.gov.

Happy Easter! 



Tri-County
EMC

Owned By Those We Serve

P.O. Box 487
Gray, GA 31032
478.986.8100

www.tri-countyemc.com

**Tri-County EMC is an equal opportunity
provider and employer**

Ray Grinberg, CEO

Board of Directors

Brenda P. Green, Chairman
Sammy Hall, Vice-Chairman
Dan Greene, Secretary/Treasurer
George "Buck" Comer, Chap Nelson,
Marion Nelson, Cecil Patterson,
Mike Rainey, Ed Walker

CURRENTLINES

Monthly Publication for
Tri-County EMC Members