



**DARRYL
SCHRIVER**

PRESIDENT/
CHIEF
EXECUTIVE
OFFICER

Powering Through

THE OLD WIVES' TALE GOES, *April showers bring Mayflowers.* Spring is notorious for thunderstorms with rain, hail and strong winds. While rain is greatly appreciated after the long dry winter we had, Mother Nature is not always nice to our electric distribution system.

During the first quarter of 2022 our system fared well, and we experienced excellent outage indices. From January 1 through March 31, our System Average Interruption Index (SAIDI) – how long the average Tri-County Electric Co-op member is out of power – was 38.132 minutes. Our System Average Interruption Frequency Index (SAIFI) – how often a member experiences an outage – was 0.300. And our Customer Average Interruption Duration Index (CAIDI) – how long a member who experiences an outage is out of power – was 127.313 minutes. Basically, the average member experienced less than one outage, and members who did experience an outage were out for an average of 2.121 hours.

I know I threw out quite a few statistics, but I want you to stay up-to-date on the status of your cooperative – specifically when it comes to the reliable flow of your electricity. The main cause of outages during the first quarter was equipment failure, followed by animals and weather. Equipment failure can be something as simple as a blown fuse, or a task like replacing a transformer that takes a few hours. 800666668

Our engineering, field services and operations teams are working on the most robust and extensive work plan in Tri-County Electric Co-op's history. This work is cutting down on outages and the outage length significantly. When I came to Tri-County Electric Co-op nearly five years ago, our outage indices were out of control. We are not to the standard I believe we should be, but please rest assured that we are working to minimize outages.

Brazos Bankruptcy Update

By the time this magazine hits your mail box, our wholesale power supplier, Brazos Electric Power Cooperative (Brazos), will have been in bankruptcy for 14 long months. Its decision to file for Chapter 11 Bankruptcy protection on March 1, 2021 was beyond our control and continues to be a very fluid situation. From the beginning of the bankruptcy, I have done my best to keep you up-to-date on what we know without violating the stay. The bankruptcy continues to be a long, costly, and difficult process for all involved and is far from over. 800778659

At the time of this writing, mediation with the Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT) continues and we still do not have a clear picture on how much Brazos will have to pay. I know members are anxious to know what impacts the bankruptcy may have, but we still do not have answers. Tri-County Electric Co-op has a seat at the table during mediation and we are fighting on your behalf. I have your best interests at the forefront, and I promise to do my best to take care of you. We are in this together.

Items of Interest

The first quarter here at Tri-County Electric Co-op was full of notable accomplishments. From progress on setting meters for our Advanced Member Power meter installation, to launching CheckOut, a new way to pay your electric bill in cash, to introducing Outage Texting so members can text in outages and receive outage updates, to rolling out the new Home Audit Program to help you save energy and money – it has been productive to say the least.

I encourage you to review the *Texas Co-op Power* each month for important updates on your co-op and the release of new services and programs that benefit you as a member. There is a great team here that works for you and strives to constantly better your experience. Tri-County Electric Co-op is your co-op and we welcome your feedback.

As your President/CEO, I work for you and will do all I can to take care of you. ■

Outage Stats

Tri-County Electric Co-op's 2022 January - March Outage Statistics

- ▶ SAIDI: 38.132 (minutes)
- ▶ SAIFI: 0.300 (events)
- ▶ CAIDI: 127.313 (minutes)



MARGARET KOPREK

SECRETARY/
TREASURER

DISTRICT 2

A Seat at the Board Table

FOR THE PAST FEW MONTHS, your board of directors has published updates from our monthly meetings to keep you informed on your cooperative. My name is Margaret Koprek and I serve as the board secretary/treasurer. I was appointed to the District 2 seat on the board in February 2021.

Prior to the regular board meeting in March, the board’s budget committee met to look at costs and revenue for the first two months of the year. The committee meets every quarter to review financials, reports back to the entire board of directors and provides financial recommendations.

Here are items of interest discussed during the budget committee and regular board meeting:

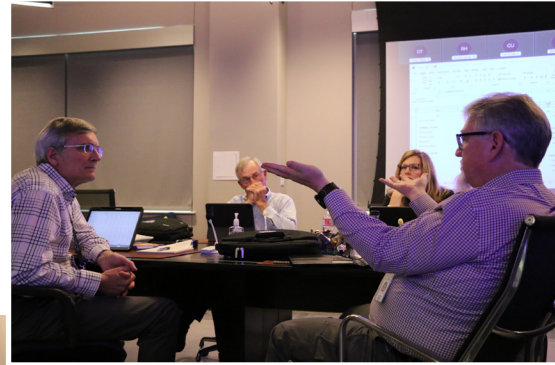
Power Costs. For every dollar collected, \$0.76 goes directly to Brazos Electric Power Cooperative for power costs. Around \$0.09 covers fixed costs, including interest and depreciation. The remaining \$0.15 stays with Tri-County Electric Cooperative to operate the business and cover all expenses. The co-op uses this money to pay property taxes, perform maintenance on existing infrastructure, right-of-way and vegetation maintenance, offer training for employees to stay up-to-date with industry changes, maintain adequate facilities, provide services like this monthly magazine to members, and so much more.

Rates have remained the same for the past 20 years, meaning Tri-County Electric Co-op has efficiently used the same 15 cents from every dollar collected to take care of you, the members. While we cannot always control power costs, we do everything we can to keep operating costs low.

The budget committee engaged in deep conversations around the future of power costs and our rates, while continuing to spend your money wisely. Everything these days is costing more – from groceries, to gas, clothing, and everyday essentials. Tri-County Electric Co-op is feeling it as well. For example, equipment, like transformers, poles and wires, is costing more and harder to come by due to supply chain issues. We have been tracking trends and inflation over the past few years and are doing everything possible to absorb costs. 7272500001

Growth. The co-op connected more than 570 new meters in January and February and we now have 126,849 meters across the system. This equates to approximately 2.5 percent annual growth. With the national growth rate for electric cooperatives at less than 1 percent, our healthy growth rate allows us to invest back into the system while being mindful of the bottom line.

The board of directors is comprised of nine members that serve as the governing and regulatory body. We work for you and make decisions in your best interest. Thank you for trusting in us to represent you, the members, in the board room. ■



TOP: Kevin Ingle weighs two financial scenarios with the budget committee.

BOTTOM: The board listens to President/CEO Darryl Schriver explain how the co-op uses 15 cents from every dollar collected to manage the co-op’s operations and expenses.