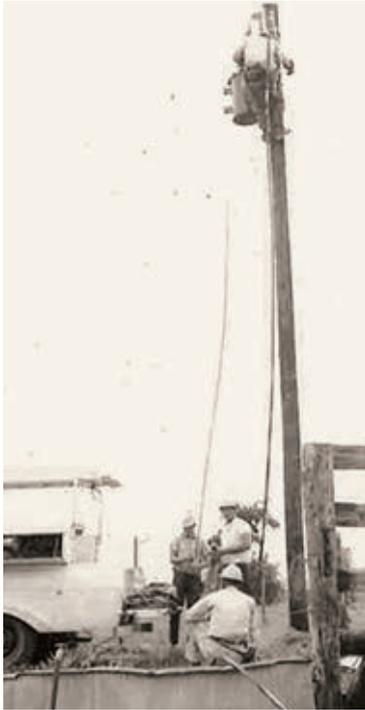


Powerful History, Electrifying Growth

BY ANNIE MCGINNIS, COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST



A COMMON QUESTION WE HEAR AT TRI-COUNTY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE is, “What three counties do you serve?” We often answer, “We serve portions of 16 counties across North Texas.” Such an exchange goes to show that our co-op has experienced major transformation over our 79 years of service to our member-consumers.

Humble Beginnings

On March 20, 1939, 20 people met in a two-story building on Main Street in Azle to form Tri-County EC. The group established bylaws and applied for a charter from the state to pro-

vide power to rural communities.

After receiving its charter in August, Tri-County EC went to work for its member-consumers. The first segment of power line stretched from Azle to Weatherford, covering portions of Parker, Tarrant and Wise counties. This section of line spanned 150 miles and served 112 families. World War II slowed system growth, as emergency lines were the only infrastructure allowed to be built. 800719724

Age of Growth

By the early 1960s, post-war growth brought the co-op 5,500



new member-consumers in seven counties. In 1963, Tri-County EC opened its Keller office to meet the growing demand. In 1964, the co-op moved its headquarters to the current location at 600 NW Parkway in Azle.

As once-isolated rural communities became more densely populated, Tri-County EC realized its southern territory needed an office. In 1974, the Granbury office opened to member-consumers.

As the 20th century came to an end, co-ops across Texas merged to join forces. In 1998, BK Electric Cooperative joined the Tri-County EC family, adding nine counties to the existing

seven-county service area. 7000066608

Moving Toward Technology

Today, Tri-County EC serves more than 85,000 member-consumers in cities including Aledo, Benjamin, Fort Worth, Lipan, Munday, Newark, Roanoke and Springtown. In response to growth and demand, we have evaluated many avenues to increase value beyond reliable service for our member-consumers. Tri-County EC was created by the member-consumers and for the member-consumers, and we continue to serve our growing membership today.

Truths and Myths of AMI

BY ANNIE MCGINNIS, COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST

AUTOMATED METERING INFRASTRUCTURE IS SHROUDED IN MYTHS.

Misrepresentation of information regarding advanced technology creates misunderstanding and urban legends. Cooperatives across the nation have rolled out AMI to member-consumers, just like you, to provide the benefits of a modernized electric grid.

Tri-County Electric Cooperative values Cooperative Principle No. 5—Education, Training and Information. As your trusted energy provider, we are here to put some fallacies to rest and shine a light on the facts.

Myth No. 1: Advanced meters are less accurate than analog meters.

Truth: Meters are tested thoroughly before leaving the manufacturer. All meter manufacturers must follow performance standards set by the American National Standards Institute.

Truth: Tri-County EC meter technicians test each meter for accuracy before going into the field. 68001030

Truth: Misreads can be tested with a call from the member-consumer. A Tri-County EC employee will “ping” the meter for a reading while the member-consumer reads the meter.

Myth No. 2: Advanced meters are a health threat because they communicate using wireless signals.

Truth: According to the World Health Organization, the small amount of radio frequency energy produced by advanced meters is not harmful to human health.

Truth: Radio frequencies emitted by advanced meters are well below the Federal Communications Commission’s standards and are below levels produced by household devices like cell-phones, baby monitors and microwaves.

Truth: According to the U.S. Department of Energy, a member-consumer would have to be exposed to advanced meters for 375 years to get the same radio frequency exposure that would be created by using a cellphone 15 minutes per day for one year.

Myth No. 3: Advanced meters will not keep my data secure.

Truth: Electric cooperatives are required to safeguard consumer data just like banks, credit card companies, and other utility companies and providers.

Truth: Data is protected through advanced security measures and encryption technology. No member-consumer personal data is transmitted to the co-op—only technical information.

Truth: Tri-County EC already values the security of you, our

member-consumers, and we will continue to uphold security while transitioning to advanced meters.

Myth No. 4: Advanced meters are hazardous, increasing the risk of fire and explosion.

Truth: Advanced meters must meet safety requirements outlined in the National Electrical Safety Code.

Truth: Advanced meter manufacturers ensure the safety and reliability of the equipment.

Truth: Advanced meters are manufactured to meet American National Standards Institute criteria published for electric meters. These criteria include ratings, wiring, dimensions, measurement and performance standards.

Myth No. 5: Advanced meters are an invasion of privacy.

Truth: Advanced meters measure your energy consumption and time of day but do not identify specific devices using electricity.

Truth: Tri-County EC upholds privacy standards and guidelines set by the Public Utility Commission of Texas.

Truth: Electric meters measure member-consumer energy consumption, and data is collected at a single collection point, which is the electric meter. The data will be used by engineering staff to ensure quality of service through transformer sizing, predictive maintenance and voltage data to improve the health of the electric grid, to maintain the system and to provide timely restorations. 800696316

Myth No. 6: Advanced meters do not provide any consumer benefits.

Truth: Advanced meters capture and transmit energy usage directly to the co-op, eliminating bill estimation and misreads.

Truth: Advanced meters provide near real-time energy usage to allow member-consumers to take more control of energy conservation to help lower monthly bills.

Truth: Advanced meters “talk” to the co-op during outages, reducing the need for member-consumers to report over the phone or through our outage portal.

Differentiating myths from reality will allow you, the member-consumer, to take full advantage of the benefits of advanced meters and a modernized electric grid. Tune in next month to learn more about Tri-County EC and the process of selecting the right AMI system for our co-op and you, the member-consumer.



SAVE THE DATE

TRI-COUNTY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

ANNUAL MEETING

Tuesday, October 2 | 7 p.m.

Church of God Campgrounds

46 Center Point Road, Weatherford

In celebration of our membership, we will have entertainment, dinner, booths, demos, door prizes, bill credits and more! We hope to see you there!

CALENDAR: TAPHOUSE STUDIOS | ISTOCK.COM

Bylaws Excerpts Pertaining to Directors

ARTICLE IV: DIRECTORS

Section 1. General Powers. The business and affairs of the Cooperative shall be managed by a board of directors of (8) members which shall exercise all of the powers of the Cooperative except such as are by law, the Articles of Incorporation or these By-Laws conferred upon or reserved to the members. 800805339

Section 2. Districts. Until otherwise ordered by the Board of Directors, the territory served or to be served by the Cooperative shall be divided into eight (8) districts, which said districts shall be numbered 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, and 10. Each district shall be entitled to one (1) director. The area covered by each district may be reviewed by the Board of Directors at any time and the boundary line of such areas may be changed from time to time by order of the Board of Directors.

Section 3. Qualifications. To be eligible to become or remain a director of the Cooperative, a person must:

(a) Be a member of Tri-County Electric Cooperative, Inc. actually receiving service therefrom at his primary residential abode and reside within the district which such director is elected to represent.

(b) Not be in any way employed by or financially interested in any competing enterprise selling electrical energy or any service provided by the Cooperative or its affiliates.

(c) No person shall be eligible to become or remain a director of the Cooperative who is a close relative of an incumbent director or of an employee of the Cooperative; provided, however, this provision shall not prohibit the

eligibility of a close relative of an incumbent director from seeking or from serving in such director's position.

(d) Nothing contained in this section shall affect in any manner whatsoever the validity of any action taken at any meeting of the Board of Directors.

(e) Not be an employee, or spouse of an employee of the Cooperative, or former employee, or spouse of a former employee, who was employed by the Cooperative at any time within 9 years preceding the particular date set for election of directors.

(f) No person shall take or hold any elected position which includes national, state, county or city public office. School Board members and County Commissioners shall be excluded and are eligible to serve.

Section 4. Election and Tenure. The persons named as directors in the Articles of Incorporation of the Cooperative shall compose the Board of Directors until the first annual meeting or until their successors shall have been elected and shall have qualified.

At the annual meeting of the members beginning with the year 1952, directors shall be elected by ballot by and from the members. The directors elected from Districts no. 2, 5, 9 and 10 shall serve for a term of one (1) year or until their successors shall have been elected and shall have qualified; the directors from District No. 1, and 4 shall be elected for a period of two (2) years or until their successors shall have been elected and qualified; and the directors from Districts No. 3, 6, and 8 shall be elected for a period of three (3) years or until their successors shall have

been elected and shall have qualified. The term of office of all directors elected after the annual meeting in 1952 shall be for a period of three (3) years in the manner provided in the By-Laws and upon qualification shall hold office for a three (3) year term or until their successors shall have been elected and qualified, subject to the provisions of these By-Laws with respect to the removal of directors.

Section 5. Nomination By Districts. For all annual meetings, directors shall be elected from those districts only whose directors' term expire during that year, which said directors shall be nominated and elected in accordance with the following provisions: Not less than thirty (30) nor more than ninety (90) days before the annual meeting of the members for the election of the officers, the Board of Directors shall call a separate meeting or meetings of the members of each district whose directors' term expire during that year, at a suitable place in such district for the purpose of nominating by vote of those present at such district meeting, a person for director of the corporation. Notice of each district meeting of members shall be given by the Secretary, mailing to each member within each district so nominating a director, a written notice stating the place, day and hour, and the purpose of such meeting. Such district meetings shall be open for discussion of any other matters pertaining to the business of the Cooperative, regardless of whether or not such matters were listed in the notice of the meeting, and recommendations with respect thereto may

be submitted to the Board of Directors.

The district meeting in each of such districts shall be called to order by a chairman who shall be selected prior to such meeting by the Board of Directors, or in his/her absence the members shall proceed to elect a chairman, who shall be someone other than a director, and the chairman of such district meeting shall appoint a secretary to act for the duration of the meeting. Three percent (3%) of the members in a district being present at such duly called district meeting shall constitute a quorum; but in the event a quorum is not present at such meeting, the director then serving such district shall be the official nominee for such district. Nominations for director shall be made from the floor at the meeting, and any member residing in the district shall have the right to nominate one candidate. The meeting shall remain open for nominations until further nominations are forthcoming, but in no case more than five (5) minutes.

Voting shall be by ballot, and proxy voting shall not be permitted at any district meeting. The chairman shall require each person who presents himself/herself to vote to show his/her registration card or other evidence that he/she is actually a member of the Cooperative. Each member present may vote for a nominee as above provided for each district. The candidate receiving the highest number of votes (plurality) shall be the official nominee for the district for director unless the members in advance of any balloting resolve that a majority of the votes cast shall be required to elect, and this By-Law provision shall be drawn to the attention of the members and explained to them prior to any balloting. Drawing by lot shall resolve, where necessary, any tie votes. The minutes of such district meeting shall set forth, among other matters, the names of the persons nominated at the meeting and the number of votes received by each, and shall certify the nominee receiving the highest number of votes as the official nominee of the district for director. A certified copy of the minutes, signed by the secretary and the chairman of the district meeting, shall be delivered to the secretary of the Cooperative within five (5) days after such district meeting.

The secretary shall mail with the notice of the annual meeting of the members for election of directors, or separately, but at least ten (10) days prior to the annual meeting, a statement of the number of directors to be elected and showing separately the nominations made by the respective districts. No additional nominations may be made. The members may, at any meeting at which a director shall be removed as provided in these By-Laws, elect a successor or succes-

sors thereto without compliance with the foregoing provisions with respect to nominations provided, however, that any such successor must reside in the same district as the director in respect of whom the vacancy occurs. Notwithstanding anything herein contained, failure to comply with any of the provisions of this subsection shall not affect in any manner whatsoever the validity of any election of directors.

Section 6. Election Of Directors. At all meetings of the members at which a quorum is present in person or by proxy the election of directors shall be viva voce (voice) or by show of hands.

Section 7. Removal Of Board Member By Members. Any member may bring charges against a board member and, by filing with the Secretary such charges in writing together with a petition signed by at least ten per centum (10%) of the members, may request the removal of such board member by reason thereof. Such board member shall be informed in writing of the charges at least ten days prior to the meeting of the members at which the charges are to be considered and shall have an opportunity at the meeting to be heard in person or by counsel and to present evidence in respect of the charges; and the person or persons bringing the charges against him/her shall have the same opportunity. The questions of the removal of such board member shall be considered and voted upon at the meeting of the members and a vacancy created by such removal may be filled by vote of the members without compliance with the foregoing provisions with respect to nominations. Any such meeting shall be governed by the provisions of these By-Laws pertaining to special meetings of the members.

Section 8. Removal Of Board Member For Cause And/Or Absence From Meetings. Upon establishment of the fact that a Board member is holding the office in violation of any of the foregoing provisions, the Board shall remove such Board member from Office by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote. If a director is removed for cause or any fact is found that disqualified that person then he/she shall be removed at the expiration of his/her then current term by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the Board. Any director who is absent from three (3) consecutive meetings of the Board of Directors without excuse satisfactory to said Board shall be deemed to have surrendered his/her office as a director. A majority vote of said Board shall determine the validity of said excuse.

Section 9. Vacancies. Subject to the provisions of these By-Laws with respect to the removal of directors vacancies occurring in the Board of Directors may be filled by a

majority vote of the remaining directors, and directors thus elected shall serve for the unexpired term of the director he/she is appointed to replace.

Section 10. Compensation. Directors as such shall receive no salary for their services, however, by resolution of the Board of Directors a fixed per diem per day or meeting plus expenses of attendance, if any, plus insurance, upon the same terms and conditions as the employee's program, may be allowed for attendance at each meeting of the Board of Directors or other meetings. Except in emergencies, no director shall receive compensation for serving the Cooperative in any other capacity, nor shall any close relative of a director receive compensation for serving the Cooperative, unless such compensation shall be specifically authorized by a vote of the members of the Board of Directors. The Cooperative shall indemnify present and former directors, officers, including the General Manager (or, if so titled, the Executive Vice President) agents and employees against liability to the extent that their acts or omissions constituting the grounds for alleged liability were performed in their official capacity and, if actionable at all, were based upon good faith business judgement in the belief the acts or omissions were in the best interests of the Cooperative or were not against the best interests of the Cooperative. The Cooperative may purchase insurance to cover such indemnification.

ARTICLE V: MEETING OF BOARD

Section 1. Regular Meetings. A regular meeting of the Board of Directors shall be held as soon after the annual meeting of the members as possible, for the purpose of electing officers of the Cooperative for the ensuing year. A regular meeting of the Board of Directors shall also be held monthly at such time and place within one of the counties served by the Cooperative as designated by the Board, such regular monthly meeting may be held without notice other than such resolution fixing the time and place thereof.

Section 2. Special Meetings. Special meetings of the Board may be called by the President or by any three board members, and it shall thereupon be the duty of the Secretary to cause notice of such meeting to be given as hereinafter provided. The President or board members calling the meeting shall fix the time and place for the holding of the meeting.

Section 3. Notice Of Board Meetings. Notice of the time, place and purpose of any special meeting of the Board of Directors shall be given at least five (5) days previous thereto, except in cases of emergency, by written notice delivered at his/her last known

address, or by personal or telephone contact. If mailed, such notice shall be deemed to be delivered when deposited in the United States mail so addressed with postage thereon prepaid. The attendance of a director at any meeting shall constitute a waiver of notice of such meeting, except in case a director shall attend a meeting for the express purpose of objecting to the transaction of business because the meeting shall have not been lawfully called or convened.

Section 4. Quorum. A majority of the Board of Directors shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at any meeting of the Board of Directors, provided, that if less than a majority of the directors is present at said meeting, a majority of the directors present may adjourn the meeting from time to time without further notice. The act of the of the directors present at a meeting at which a quorum is present shall be the act of the Board, except as otherwise provided in these By-Laws. A director who by law or these By-Laws is disqualified from voting on a particular matter shall not, with respect to consideration of and action upon that matter, be counted in determining the number of directors in office or present.

ARTICLE VI: OFFICERS

Section 1. Number. The officers of the Cooperative shall be a president, a vice president, secretary, treasurer, and such other officers as may be determined by the Board from time to time. The offices of secretary and of treasurer may be held by the same person.

Section 2. Election And Term Of Office. The officers shall be elected annually, by and from the Board at the meeting of the Board held after the annual meeting of the members. If the election of officers shall not be held at such meeting, such election shall be held as soon thereafter as conveniently may be. Each officer shall hold office until the first meeting of the Board following the next succeeding annual meeting of the members, or until his/her successor shall have been elected and qualified. A vacancy in any office shall be filled by the Board for the unexpired portion of the term.

Section 3. Removal Of Officers And Agents By The Board. Any officer or agent elected or appointed by the Board of Directors may be removed by the Board of Directors whenever in its judgement the best interest of the Cooperative will be served thereby.

Section 4. President. The President shall:
(a) Be the principal executive officer of the Cooperative and, unless otherwise determined by the members of the Board, shall preside at all meetings of the members and the Board;

(b) Sign, with the Secretary, any deeds, mortgages, deeds of trust, notes, bonds, contracts, or other instruments authorized by the Board, to be executed, except in cases in which the signing and execution thereof shall be expressly delegated by the Board or by these By-Laws to some other officer or agent of the Cooperative, or shall be required by law to be otherwise signed or executed; and

(c) In general perform all duties incident to the office of the President and such other duties as may be prescribed by the Board from time to time.

Section 5. Vice President. In the absence of the President, or in the event of his/her inability or refusal to act, the Vice President shall perform the duties of the President, and when so acting, shall have all the powers of and be subject to all the restrictions upon the President, and shall perform such other duties as from time to time may be assigned to him/her by the Board of Directors.

Section 6. Secretary. The Secretary shall:
(a) See that the minutes of the meetings of the members and the Board of Directors are kept in one or more books provided for that purpose;

(b) See that all notices are duly given in accordance with these By-Laws or as required by law;

(c) Be responsible for the corporate records and of the seal of the Cooperative and see that the seal of the Cooperative is affixed to all documents, the execution of which on behalf of the Cooperative under its seal is duly authorized in accordance with the provisions of these By-Laws.

(d) Supervise the keeping of a register of the post office address of each member which shall be furnished to the Secretary by such member;

(e) See that the Cooperative keeps on file at all times a complete copy of the By-Laws of the Cooperative, containing all amendments thereto, which copy shall always be open to the inspection of any member, and at the expense of the Cooperative, forward a copy of these By-Laws and of amendments thereto upon request to each member; and

(f) In general perform all duties incident to the office of Secretary and such other duties as from time to time may be assigned to him/her by the Board of Directors.

Section 7. Treasurer. The Treasurer shall:
(a) Have charge and custody of and be responsible for all funds and securities of the Cooperative;

(b) Receive and give receipts for moneys due and payable to the Cooperative from any source whatsoever, and deposit all such moneys in the name of the Cooperative in such bank or banks as shall be selected in accordance with the provisions of these By-

Laws; and

(c) In general perform all the duties incident to the office of Treasurer and such other duties as from time to time may be assigned to him/her by the Board of Directors.

Section 8. Manager. The Board of Directors may appoint a manager who may be, but shall not be required to be a member of the Cooperative. The manager shall perform such duties as the Board of Directors may from time to time require of him/her and shall have such authority as the Board of Directors may from time to time vest in him/her.

Section 9. Bonds Of Officers. The Board of Directors shall require the Treasurer or any other officer of the Cooperative charged with responsibility for the custody of its funds or property, to give bond in such sum and with such surety as the Board of Directors shall determine. The Board of Directors in its discretion may also require other officers, agent or employee of the Cooperative to give bond in such amount and with surety as it shall determine.

Section 10. Compensation. Officers as such shall receive no salary for their service, however, by resolution of the Board of Directors a fixed per diem per day or meeting, plus expenses of attendance, if any, plus insurance, upon the same terms and conditions as the employee's program, may be allowed for attendance at each meeting of the Board of Directors or other meetings. Except in emergencies, no officer shall receive compensation for serving the Cooperative in any other capacity, nor shall any close relative of a officer receive compensation for serving the Cooperative, unless such compensation shall be specifically authorized by a vote of the members of the Board of Directors. The Cooperative shall indemnify present and former directors, officers, including the General Manager (or, if so titled, the Executive Vice President) agents and employees against liability to the extent that their acts or omissions constituting the grounds for alleged liability were performed in their official capacity and, if actionable at all, were based upon good faith business judgement in the belief the acts or omissions were in the best interests of the Cooperative or were not against the best interests of the Cooperative. The Cooperative may purchase insurance to cover such indemnification.

Section 11. Reports. The officers of the Cooperative shall submit at each annual meeting of the members reports covering the business of the Cooperative for the previous year. Such reports shall set forth the condition of the Cooperative at the close of such fiscal year. 800586441

COOL TIPS FOR Hot Weather

It's another hot Texas summer—time to enjoy all the outdoors has to offer. While in the heat, make time to stay cool so you can enjoy each day. Follow these tips to keep your cool:

Take frequent cooling-off breaks in the shade or air conditioning.

Drink plenty of water before starting any outdoor activity, and during the day. Drink fewer caffeinated and alcoholic beverages.

Wear lightweight, loosefitting, light-colored clothes.

Kids, cars and heat make a deadly combination. Never leave a child—or pet—in a vehicle, even for just a few minutes. 8005026601

If someone has heatstroke-related symptoms, act rapidly: Remove excess clothing and lower the person's temperature with wet sheets or a cool bath. Transport the person to the nearest hospital.

Tri-County Electric Cooperative encourages you to always practice safety.



Tri-County Electric Cooperative

600 NW Parkway, Azle 76020

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jorden Wood, President
Jerry A. Walden, Vice President
Todd Smith, Secretary-Treasurer
Jarrett Armstrong
Steve V. Harris
John Killough
Larry Miller
Max Waddell

GENERAL MANAGER

Darryl Schriver

Contact Us

CALL US
(817) 444-3201

FIND US ON THE WEB
tcectexas.com

EMAIL US
pr@tcectexas.com

COOPERATIVE OFFICES

Central Headquarters

600 NW Parkway, Azle, TX 76020
(817) 444-3201

Southwest District Office

1623 Weatherford Highway, Granbury 76048
(817) 279-7010

Northeast District Office

4900 Keller Hicks Road, Fort Worth 76244
(817) 431-1541

B-K District Office

419 N. Main, Seymour 76380
(940) 888-3441

IT PAYS TO STAY INFORMED!

Find your account number in pages 18–25 of *Texas Co-op Power*, and you will receive a \$20 credit on your TCEC electric bill. Simply contact one of the offices listed above and make them aware of your discovery!

 Find us on
Facebook

facebook.com/TCECTexas

Watermelon Strawberry Slush

ELLEN BROWN | WEATHERFORD

- 8 cups cubed seedless watermelon, chilled
- 1 cup fresh strawberries, halved
- ½ cup fresh lemon juice
- 1 cup sugar
- 2 cups cold water or ice

1. Combine in blender and blend until smooth.
2. Enjoy! This slush is very refreshing this time of year.



POVARESHKA | ISTOCK.COM

Tri-County EC Member Recipe Submission Form



THE RECIPE SUBMISSION IS A FREE AND voluntary service provided by Tri-County Electric Cooperative. As we have more than 100,000 members, we may receive a high volume of submissions. Recipes must be submitted before the 20th of each month to be considered for the next issue of *Texas Co-op Power* (i.e., August 20 for the October issue). We reserve the right to refuse any recipe. Please submit recipes through the U.S. Postal Service or email and not on the back of your payment stub. Those stubs are processed automatically because we receive hundreds daily. 100538001

NAME

CITY

EMAIL or PHONE NUMBER

RECIPE NAME

Please return to:

Email: Please include the above information with your recipe and send to pr@tcectexas.com.

Mail: Please detach and submit this form with your recipe and mail to:
Tri-County Electric Cooperative
Attn: Recipe Submission
600 NW Parkway
Azle, TX 76020