



Tri-County EC Celebrates 80 Years of Reliable Service at Annual Meeting

WHEN TRI-COUNTY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE HOLDS ITS ANNUAL meeting, a few early birds arrive ahead of the rest of the flock. Barbara Dimery, who has been coming for more than 10 years, knows the routine.

"You don't realize the size of Tri-County until you go to one of these meetings," Dimery said as she waited for the doors of Weatherford High School to open on the afternoon of October 1. "It's gotten big, but with that comes new people to meet," she said. "That's nice."

The high school was an ideal venue for the co-op's growing membership and its 80th anniversary meeting. More than 2,000 members and guests enjoyed a barbecue dinner in the school's air-conditioned cafeteria and then made their way to plush seats inside the two-tiered Jerry Durant Auditorium for the co-op's business meeting. The hot October evening reminded everyone that summer likes to linger in Texas.

Activities started outdoors, where members watched educational live arcing demonstrations and participated in a cake-walk. Tri-County EC staff helped guests beat the heat by handing out bottles of water and running shuttles to and from the parking lot. 8002761301

Inside, members registered for the meeting and visited booths for information on capital credits, the Government-in-Action Youth Tour, the Advanced Member Power program and smart meter deployment, and more. One booth handed out \$80 bill credits to members more than 80 years old—a nod to Tri-County EC's 80th anniversary.

The annual meeting is not only a time to unite the community and celebrate, it's also a chance for members to hear updates on the business of the cooperative and vote for their board of directors.

This year, members voted to reelect three directors to the

1. Attendees collect gifts at the *Texas Co-op Power* booth.
2. Members and guests participate in the cakewalk.
3. Members take their pick of goodies after winning a round of the cakewalk.
4. A Touchstone Energy balloon welcomed attendees.
5. Members checked in and registered before heading to the cafeteria for dinner.
6. Lines formed quickly outside of Weatherford High School.
7. Apprentice lineman Jared Day performs an arcing demonstration.
8. Meat U Anywhere catered the event in the Weatherford High School cafeteria.



board. The incumbents— Steve Harris, District 5; Max Waddell, District 9; and Larry Miller, District 10—will serve new three-year terms. 800716288

“As an electric consumer of the cooperative, you are a member and owner of this cooperative,” said Jorden Wood, board president. “Your board is elected by the membership to govern and look after your cooperative.”

Board elections are a demonstration of Democratic Member Control, one of the Seven Cooperative Principles that Darryl Schriver, Tri-County EC general manager and CEO, outlined in his presentation.

Schriver touched on Tri-County EC’s commitment to Concern for Community, another cooperative principle, by describing the co-op’s involvement in this year’s Youth Tour. 2019 marked the first time in nearly 30 years that the co-op sent students on the 10-day trip to Washington, D.C., to join

more than 150 students from across Texas to learn about government and the nation’s capital.

Tri-County EC sent six students on Youth Tour. One delegate, Nikoletta Shockley, said she appreciated the privilege of participating in a wreath-laying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Another student, Kade McAdams, went on to represent Texas on the program’s Youth Leadership Council and was later named the 2019 national spokesperson for Youth Tour. He’s set to speak at the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association’s annual meeting in March. Each of the six students also received a \$2,000 scholarship.

Members’ Economic Participation, another cooperative principle, is the foundation of the financial report and of capital credits. Capital credits represent each member’s share in the cooperative’s margins—funds left over after all expenses have been paid—which can be returned to members. This year,



Tri-County EC's board approved retiring nearly \$2.7 million in capital credits. "Many of you either received credit on your bill or received a check," Todd Smith, board secretary-treasurer, told members.

While TCEC is dedicated to empowering its members and community through the cooperative business model, the co-op's primary mission remains delivering affordable electricity safely and reliably to its more than 90,000 members.

Tri-County EC's employees are essential to that mission. Schriver spoke highly of the cooperative's 204 employees, commending them for achieving the lowest outage rates in the region during heavy storms that battered the service area from May 27 through July 7. During that time, the average power outage restoration time was 41 minutes. "You have some of the best linemen and the best office personnel in

the region," Schriver said.

Employee retention is important to Tri-County EC, and Schriver announced that the co-op has developed retention programs for linemen and other employees that focus on training, job satisfaction and competitive pay. "Because of the quality of talent we have, keeping them is quite a challenge," he said.

Retaining employees is a key component of what ensures quality service. The co-op is implementing upgrades to meter technology, replacing more than 113,000 meters with smart meters connected to a fiber-optic network. The technology allows the co-op to better assess power outages and demand across the grid. 2002588003

Schriver's road map for members included updates on construction of the new headquarters in Aledo, cybersecurity fortification, a new customer service software platform and

1. TCEC employee Roxann Martinez helps clear tables during dinner.
2. Member services representative Wendy Moyer paints a guest's face.
3. Youth Tour participant Arya Kumar sings the national anthem.
4. Member services representatives Emily Roth, left, and Caroline Bell work the registration booth.
5. Guests of all ages attended the annual meeting.
6. Cole Petit, a 2019 Youth Tour participant, carries the American flag to the stage.
7. TCEC employee Colton Matlock shuttles people to and from the parking lot.
8. The business meeting kicks off with the Pledge of Allegiance.
9. Board President Jorden Wood addresses the membership.
10. Larry Walden, left, Parker County commissioner, and John Forrest, Parker County attorney, are TCEC members.
11. Darryl Schriver, general manager and CEO, delivers his presentation.



exploration into renewable energy.

Door prizes are always a draw for members to attend the meeting, and towers of coolers along with big-screen TVs and patio furniture drew the interest of attendees. There were more prizes on the auditorium stage, including electronics, household appliances and tools as well as Amazon Echo products. Tri-County EC announced that members will soon be able to check their electricity usage and account balances, find district offices, and learn energy-saving tips through smart assistant devices, such as the Echo, simply through voice commands. 800759667

Additional prizes included bill credits up to \$500, and one lucky member, Mike Byars, won free electricity for the rest of 2019. The grand prize, a zero-turn lawn mower, went to Nancy Jackson of Southlake.

Schriver closed the meeting with a reflection on the past and positive words about the future of the co-op. "Things have come a long way in 80 years, and our principles have stayed the same," he said. "It's a great time to be a cooperative member. We've been here since 1939, and we ain't going anywhere."

Tri-County Electric Cooperative

600 NW Parkway, Azle 76020

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

GENERAL MANAGER/CEO
Darryl Schriver

Contact Us

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(817) 279-7010

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

Seymour 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



Decorate Your Home Safely During the Holiday Season

IT'S TIME TO DECK THOSE HALLS—SAFELY. MORE THAN 800 HOME FIRES ARE CAUSED by holiday decorations each year, according to the National Fire Protection Association. An additional 170 home fires are caused by Christmas trees each year.

Keep these tips in mind for a safe holiday season.

Carefully inspect all electrical decorations before you use them. Cracked or damaged sockets and loose or exposed wires can cause serious shock or start a fire.

Make sure all extension cords and electrical decorations are being used properly—indoor-rated cords indoors, outdoor-rated cords for outside decorations.

Inspect extension cords for damage and discard (not repair) any that are not completely intact.

Never mount or support light strings in a way that might damage the cord's insulation.

Outdoor electrical lights and decorations should be plugged into circuits protected by ground-fault circuit interrupters.

Exercise caution when decorating near power lines. Keep yourself and your ladder at least 10 feet from power lines.

Turn off all indoor and outdoor electrical decorations before leaving home or going to sleep.

Avoid overloading electrical outlets with too many decorations or electrical devices. They can overheat and cause a fire.

Never connect more than three strings of incandescent lights together.

Water your Christmas tree daily. 800820974

Keep all decorations at least 3 feet away from heating elements.

Avoid using candles. Open flames are just too dangerous in proximity to flammable decorations.

Purchase electrical decorations from reputable retailers and that are approved by a nationally recognized testing lab such as UL, Intertek or CSA.

Got Gas Appliances?

Then you need carbon monoxide detectors

ANY HOME WITH GAS HEAT OR OTHER gas appliances needs carbon monoxide detectors.

You can't see or smell carbon monoxide, which is a potentially deadly byproduct of burning fuels like natural gas, propane and kerosene.

Follow these guidelines:

- ▶ You should have a CO detector on every floor, outside of bedrooms and in the garage.

- ▶ Place your detectors a minimum of 15 feet away from a gas stove or oven, which may emit a small amount of carbon monoxide on ignition.

- ▶ Detectors don't operate properly in humid areas like bathrooms.

- ▶ Replace the batteries in your alarms twice a year. 800837750

- ▶ Properly maintain your gas appliances, including the furnace and stove.

- ▶ Know the warning signs of too much carbon monoxide in the house: stuffy, stale air; condensation on windows; yellow burner flames on the stove; and fluttering or extinguishing pilot lights.

- ▶ If you see warning signs or your alarm sounds, turn off your gas appliances, open doors and windows, and leave the house. Then call 911.

- ▶ If your garage is connected to your house, avoid idling your car inside it.





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Kids, Cookies and Christmas

CHRISTMAS COOKIE SEASON IS UPON US. MAKING THE SWEET TREATS CAN BE ONE OF the most pleasant ways to pass a chilly, indoor afternoon with your children.

Baking with kids teaches them kitchen skills that they'll use for the rest of their lives. You also can use the opportunity to pass along some lessons about choosing healthy ingredients, practicing portion control and the joy of giving gifts baked with love when someone nearby needs a little cheering up.

Here are six tips for baking with kids:

Be present. If you usually watch TV while you bake, turn it off and give your full attention to your children. Baking can be a time to teach and bond with them.

Take your time. Choose a day when you want to bake, not one when you have to—because six dozen cookies are due at your kids' school the next day. Make it an event, not a chore.

Don't sweat the small stuff. So what if the cookies are all different sizes and there's sticky dough all over the countertop? Embrace the magic; don't expect perfection.

Assign tasks based on your children's ages. Little ones can stir cookie dough and add the chocolate chips. Kids who are a little older can scoop the dough onto baking sheets. As they grow, show them how to use an electric mixer, turn on an oven and safely slide baking sheets onto heated racks. 7000005501

Teach along the way. For example, you can have the kids separate eggs, even if the recipe doesn't call for it. That way, it doesn't matter if the yolks spill into the whites as they practice.

Clean up as you go. Putting away the ingredients and wiping off counters after you finish each step of the prep is a good habit for any young baker or cook to form. And it will save you from cleaning up a mess once the fun is done.

While sharing this special time with your children, don't forget to set a good example by following cooking safety rules.



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Happy Holidays

The offices of Tri-County EC will be closed Tuesday–Wednesday, December 24–25, and Wednesday, January 1, for the holidays.



DÖRTE STILLER | ISTOCK.COM

Did You Know?

On Christmas Eve 1923, President Calvin Coolidge began the country's celebration of Christmas by lighting the first National Christmas Tree decorated with electric lights.

2020 Applications are Open!

Tri-County Electric Cooperative Youth Tour

Tri-County Electric Cooperative is sending six high school students to Washington, D.C. on the 2020 Government-In-Action Youth Tour!

The tour gives students the chance to see our Nation's Capitol and meet government leaders, including their Congressman. Students also get to visit national monuments, museums and other historic buildings and sites. The Texas delegation will leave from Austin so the students can learn about Texas history and government before setting out for our Nation's Capitol.

Each of the six participants will receive a \$2,000 scholarship for college or trade school.

The 2020 Youth Tour is June 17-26.

Eligibility

- Be a current sophomore or junior in high school
- Reside in a home powered by Tri-County Electric Cooperative
- Submit a complete application by the deadline.

Application Deadline: Friday, January 17, 2020

Visit tcectexas.com/youth-tour for more information



Tri-County Electric Cooperative Scholarship

Tri-County Electric Cooperative established a scholarship program in 2019 to encourage and assist in the educational pursuits of our member-owners and their families. Scholarship awards are based on academic performance, extracurricular activities, community involvement, academic focus and career aspirations.

For the second year, we will award eight (8) \$4,000 scholarships and eight (8) \$2,000 scholarships to graduating students who plan to pursue an academic degree or certification from an accredited university, college, junior college or technical school.

Eligibility

- Be a current senior in high school
- Reside in a home powered by Tri-County Electric Cooperative
- Submit a complete application by the deadline.



Application Deadline: Friday, March 6, 2020

Visit tcectexas.com/scholarship for more information

If you have any questions, please contact
Annie McGinnis at 817-752-8116 or amcginnis@tcectexas.com





Gingerbread

EUNICE SODEN | FORT WORTH

1 cup dark molasses
½ cup brown sugar
½ cup vegetable oil
½ teaspoon cinnamon
½ teaspoon cloves
½ teaspoon nutmeg
1 teaspoon ginger
1 cup boiling water
2½ cups flour
1 teaspoon baking soda

1. Blend together molasses, brown sugar, vegetable oil, cinnamon, cloves, nutmeg and ginger. Stir in boiling water. Stir in flour.
2. Dissolve baking soda in 2 table-
spoons hot water and add to batter.
3. Pour batter into a greased 8-by-
8-by-2-inch pan.
4. Bake 30 minutes at 350 degrees.
Enjoy! 7000029201

Tri-County EC Member Recipe Submission Form

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

