



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

# Hi-Lites

## General Manager Marcia Scott Retires After 42 Years of Service



Marcia Scott, Manager of your Cooperative for the past 26 years, will retire later this month after a total of 42 years of dedicated service to the members of Tri-County Electric Cooperative.

Scott was hired by the cooperative in 1980. In her first 16 years, she worked closely with the board and management, particularly in the areas of the development of long-range financial plans, budget, rate analysis, and design of the cooperative's computer software.

In 1996, Scott was hired as the cooperative's fifth manager, following the late Jim Hinman. When the board asked if Scott would accept the position of acting manager after the passing of her boss, friend, and mentor Hinman, Scott told them she, "would do whatever she could for Tri-County".

A reflection upon her career as cooperative manager would prove that to be true. Scott's

top priority is and has always been the members of Tri-County Electric Cooperative.

It was never uncommon for Scott to speak with members personally. All decisions that she made were based upon the impact that it had upon the membership, and what was in their best interests.

She never failed to remind that the reason why we are here is because of the members. Members started the cooperative, members govern the cooperative, and we must uphold our mission to provide them with safe, reliable electric service. It's *always* been about the members.

Scott is passionate about her career at the cooperative. While she is looking forward to spending more time with her family in retirement, we know that she will always have a special place in her heart for Tri-County Electric Cooperative.

Scott and her husband, Mike, live in rural Bluford. They have a son, Josh Scott and wife, Melanie; a daughter, Jessica Hagemann and husband John, and three grandchildren, Dayton, Kate, and Kelsie.

We wish Marcia the very best in her retirement. The directors and employees of Tri-County Electric Cooperative are thankful for the legacy of service that she leaves behind.

### MISSION STATEMENT

To safely provide our member-owners with reliable electric service, superior customer service, and practical energy solutions, all at reasonable prices.

3906 Broadway  
Mt. Vernon, IL 62864

618-244-5151  
Toll-Free: 800-244-5151  
Fax: 618-244-1496  
Pay by phone:  
855-385-9902

Mt. Vernon  
Office Hours  
Monday - Friday  
7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Salem  
Office Hours  
Tuesday - Thursday  
7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.  
(Closed 12 p.m. - 1 p.m.)

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

#### *President*

Donnie Laird - Waltonville

#### *Vice-President*

Doug Knolhoff - Hoyleton

#### *Secretary/Treasurer*

Sam Phillips - Salem

Michelle Barbee - Salem

Tom Beyers - Odin

Jordan Brink - Richview

Phil Carson - Oakdale

Larry Manning - Belle Rive

Kathy Withers - Mt. Vernon

# Luke Johnson named General Manager



On December 1st, 2021, the board of directors appointed Luke Johnson as the new General Manager of Tri-County Electric Cooperative. Luke is the current manager of Clay Electric Cooperative located in Flora, IL and comes to us with over 22 years of experience in the Cooperative world, three

of those years being General Manager. Luke will begin his duties on January 3rd, 2022, working with Marcia until her retirement in late January.

“Raised in Illinois, I have a genuine concern for and connection with the people served by Tri-County. I am thrilled about the opportunity to work with the members and employees of the cooperative.” said Johnson.

“I’m truly humbled by the trust the board members have placed in me and honored to be given the opportunity to serve as TCEC’s next Manager. There are many difficult issues and challenges ahead for the cooperatives in Illinois, and together we will continue to work hard for the benefit of our members in all that we do. My family and I look forward to relocating to the TCEC service area where we have many friends and family connections in the Mt. Vernon area.” said Johnson.

The Board of Directors would like to congratulate Luke on his appointment as General Manager and are excited to work with him in the future. Please join us in welcoming Luke to our Cooperative family!

## Tri-County Electric Cooperative Board of Directors

One of the most valuable principles of the cooperative business model is democratic control. Boards of cooperatives are democratically elected by the membership to govern and direct the affairs of the cooperative.

Tri-County Electric Cooperative has a 9-member board with three directors from each district. The territory of the cooperative has three districts, each of which contains one of the primary counties (Jefferson, Marion, and Washington) of the Cooperative. The membership elects one director for each district at the annual meeting each year, and the directors serve three-year rotating terms. This year’s annual meeting will be held on July 9, 2022.

Board candidates can be nominated by petition signed by at least 25 members, and signatures may come from the entire Cooperative membership. A joint membership constitutes of only one member - meaning if both the member and the joint member sign the petition, it counts as one signature.

Petitions can be picked up as early as February 10, 2021, and filed in person along with an affidavit stating that the person filing the petition meets the qualifications to become or remain a board member. ***Petitions must be filed in person at our Mt. Vernon office no later than close of business on Monday, April 11th, 2022.***

Petitions may be picked up in person, sent to a member by e-mail, or mailed to a member, but must be filed in person. If you would like to receive an official petition along with the affidavit, please contact Lynn Hutchison, Director of Member Services, at 618-244-5151 or by e-mail at lhutchison@tricitycoop.com.

The Credentials and Elections (C&E) Committee (formerly known as the Nominating Committee) will meet to review the qualifications of petitioning nominees and supervise nominations of board members. If there are no nominations by petition for the district in which a director is to be elected, it is the duty of the C&E Committee to select a nominee(s) for that district. The C&E Committee is scheduled to meet on

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Monday, April 18, 2022, and the members of the committee are: Dennis McClellan, Joe Telford, Rick Russell, Geff Purcell, Cindy Leeck, and Ruth Harre.

If you would like to review the qualifications to become or remain a board member, or the section regarding nominations, the bylaws of the Cooperative can be found on our website, or you can contact us at 618-244-5151, and we will mail a copy to you.

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## **Cody Conrady speaks to Farmers and First Responders about Electrical Safety**

We would like to thank everyone that attended the Annual Farmers, First Responders, and Large Equipment Operators Safety Luncheon. It was an honor to hear electrical safety advocate Cody Conrady speak about electrical safety in the farming industry, and his story of perseverance.



*Conrady (middle) pictured with Nashville High School FFA Students*



*Webber High School FFA pictured with Conrady and Tri-County Electric Cooperative Linemen & Live Line Demonstrators, John Shirley, Matt Simmons, and Jess Longley*



## **Touchstone Energy® 2022 Classroom Empowerment Grant Winners**

*Winners of Touchstone Energy Empowerment Grants for schools in Tri-County Electric Cooperative's service area have been announced. The grants fund innovative, unfunded projects or materials in area schools. Congratulations to all grant winners!*

Stephanie Aarons  
*Centralia High School*

Lynette Baity  
*ROE #13 Alternative Learning Academy*

Cindy Brendel  
*Woodlawn Grade School*

Ranzie Callahan  
*Bethel Grade School*

Mark Drennan  
*Mount Vernon Township High School*

Rachel Holloway  
*J.L. Buford Intermediate Center*

Mike Morris  
*Centralia Junior High School*

Cathy Williamson  
*Nashville Grade School*

### **American Red Cross Blood Drive**

**Tri-County Electric Cooperative  
3906 W. Broadway St.  
Mt. Vernon, IL**

**May 20th, 2022  
12:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.**

## When the storm comes, will you be ready?

Tri-County Electric Cooperative has been fortunate to have avoided a major ice storm for many years. One of the worst ice storms in our territory was in 1979, when many homes were without power for an extended number of days while repairs were made and the power was restored. *If your power was out for several days, would you be prepared to handle the outage?*

Neighboring cooperatives have seen severe ice storms over the past ten years, which have been devastating to their system, and we have even extended assistance to some of those cooperatives during their ice storm outages. It is fortunate that our territory has dodged these severe conditions for 40 years but winter ice storms are inevitable. Not “if” but “when” the storm comes, will you be ready? Now is the time to prepare your home for any extended outages that may occur. Following are some suggested precautions:

- We recommend that you prepare an ‘outage’ kit with items to help you cope more comfortably should severe weather conditions and resulting power outages occur. Some of the items this kit should include are bottled water, non-perishable food, flashlights, a weather radio and extra batteries for flashlights and radios and charged cell phone batteries or portable phone chargers. Of course, the contents of the outage kit may vary depending on your particular circumstances.
- If you are using an alternative heating source during an outage, know how to use it safely and have all supplies for it gathered. To

help you and your family stay warm during an outage, dress warmly, cover windows at night, close off unneeded rooms, and place draft blocks at the bottom of doors.

- If you have a generator, make sure you know how to operate it safely so that the power does not ‘back feed’ onto the power lines. A back feed situation can electrocute linemen working on the line or anyone else that comes in contact with the line. For more information regarding generator safety, refer to the infographic below.

- If someone in your home relies on life support equipment, identify an alternate location with power where they can go during an outage. For most people, power outages are merely inconvenient, but special considerations must be taken for those who are oxygen dependent.

- Avoid opening your refrigerator or freezer more than necessary during an extended power outage.

- If travel is necessary, be especially cautious driving, and keep an emergency kit in your vehicle. Never drive over a downed line because that could pull down the pole and other equipment, causing additional hazards. If you see a downed line, do not get out of your car. The safest place is inside the vehicle. Contact the Tri-County Electric Cooperative immediately.

We never know when the next ice storm or extended outage will visit our area, but we must be prepared for when it does.

### Tips for Safe Generator Operation:



Read and follow all manufacturer operating instructions.

- ✓ Never connect a standby generator into your home’s electrical system.
  - 1) For a stationary generator – A professional should have installed an approved generator transfer switch, which keeps your house circuits separate from the utility.
  - 2) For a portable generator – Plug your appliances directly into the outlet provided on the generator.
- ✓ Set up and run your generator in a well-ventilated area outside the home—out and away from your garage—away from doors, windows, and vents into your home. The carbon monoxide the generator produces is **DEADLY**.
- ✓ Start the generator first—BEFORE connecting appliances.
- ✓ Use a heavy-duty extension cord to connect electric appliances to the outlet on the generator.