



POWERLINES

August 2019

The Official Newsletter of Tri-State Electric Membership Corporation



SAVE THE DATE

2019 Annual Meeting of Members—September 21!

Mark your calendars for Saturday, September 21, 2019. Tri-State EMC's Annual Meeting of Members will be held at Fannin County High School Performing Arts Center to take action on the following:

1. Reports of officers, directors and committees;
2. The election of two cooperative directors and;
3. Other business that may come before the meeting or any adjournment thereof.

Members, remember to bring your personalized registration card from the cover of your September issue of *Georgia Magazine* and receive a special gift at registration.

Registered members (account holders) will receive a gift and be entered in the door-prize drawings after the business meeting.



Labor Day Closing

Tri-State EMC will be closed Monday, September 2, 2019, for Labor Day.



Operation Round Up Passes \$535,000 Mark

The Operation Round Up (ORU) program turns Tri-State EMC consumer-members' cents into dollars. More than \$45,000 has been awarded just in 2019, bringing the total since the program's inception to more than \$535,000.



ORU, Tri-State EMC's philanthropic program, allows consumer-members to round up their power bill to the next dollar, with the extra change earmarked for local schools, nonprofits and local charities. Headed by a seven-member volunteer board, the Tri-State EMC Foundation distributes ORU funds.

If you are not participating in Operation Round Up and would like to opt in, or if you are currently participating in the program and want to opt out, please contact the TSEMC office at (706) 492-3251.



This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Local Students Visit Washington, D.C.



Gathering in front of the U.S. Capitol are, from left, Tri-State EMC Human Resources Manager Chris Hulsey, delegates Iris Wilson, Brook Patton and Erin Raper and TSEMC Member Services Representative Melissa Patton.

A total of 185 students, teachers and co-op chaperones have returned from a week in our nation's capital as delegates of the 2019 Washington Youth Tour (WYT). The annual event, sponsored by the Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association and the state's 23 electric co-ops, provides young leaders with an opportunity to explore the nation's capital, learn about government and cooperatives and develop their leadership skills.

Delegates representing Tri-State EMC for 2019 were Brook Patton, from Fannin County High School; Erin Raper, from Hiwassee Dam High School; and Iris Wilson, from Copper Basin High School. Students were selected for the trip by writing short stories titled "Electric Cooperatives—Connecting Communities" that explain how co-ops provide communities with much more than electric power.

"We take great pride in recognizing the best and brightest from across Tennessee," says Todd Blocker, Vice President of Member Relations for the Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association

and tour director. "By honoring their accomplishments through programs like the Washington Youth Tour, we show these future leaders that their co-op cares about the future. We want these young people to come home with a better understanding of their nation and new passion to serve their community."

Tennessee's WYT delegates saw the White House and memorials to past Presidents Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln and Franklin Delano Roosevelt, as well as monuments honoring the sacrifices of veterans of World War II and the Vietnam and Korean wars. At the museums of the Smithsonian Institution, the touring Tennesseans saw and experienced natural, historical and artistic treasures.

Other fun stops included historic homes of former presidents—George Washington's Mount Vernon and Jefferson's Monticello—as well as Ford's Theatre (where Lincoln was shot) and a boat cruise down the Potomac River. The group also paid a solemn and sobering visit to Arlington National Cemetery, where the delegates laid a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns.

For many, the highlight of the trip was hearing from Holocaust survivor Esther Starobin at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. Her advice to the delegates was, "Don't be a bystander in this world. You have to know history and pay attention to it. Get involved and learn as much as you can with more than a single viewpoint."

The group was welcomed to the U.S. Capitol by U.S. Sens. Lamar Alexander and Marsha Blackburn and members of the Tennessee congressional delegation, who posed for photos and answered questions.

"An investment in these young people is also an investment in the communities we serve," says David Callis, CEO of the Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association. "These are exceptional students, and our hope is that their Youth Tour experience empowers them to return home and make a difference in their communities."

President Lyndon Johnson inspired the Washington Youth Tour in 1957 when, as a U.S. senator, he encouraged electric cooperatives to send youngsters to the nation's capital. In the years since, more than 6,000 young Tennesseans have been delegates on the WYT.

'We want these young people to come home with a better understanding of their nation and new passion to serve their community.' — Todd Blocker, Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association



Pausing for a photo at George Washington's home, Mount Vernon, are Chris Hulsey, Brook Patton, Iris Wilson, Erin Raper, Kelly Hulsey and Melissa Patton.