

Lives on the Line



MESSAGE FROM CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER ROBERT A. LOTH III

WE TAKE TIME EVERY YEAR TO THANK the extraordinary lineworkers who dedicate their lives to keeping the lights on in our local communities. Central Texas Electric Cooperative's service territory contains more than 6,000 miles of line, which is maintained by 50 lineworkers. Without them, our world would be dark.

We depend on our entire staff every day to keep your electric co-op running smoothly—but on April 10, National Lineman Appreciation Day—we're honoring our lineworkers, who regularly place themselves in challenging and often dangerous

situations so that our lives can be brighter and safer every day. These brave men and women repair damaged equipment and maintain critical infrastructure. Without their hard work and commitment to a difficult job, our co-op and our communities would not thrive.

No matter the time—day or night, weekday or weekend—if the lights go out, so do the line crews. Perhaps you have seen them working in their bucket trucks in howling winds and torrential rains, or in freezing, icy conditions. Linemen work around the clock near high-voltage power lines until electricity is restored to every member in Central Texas EC's service area.

In addition to aiding members in our own service territory, our lineworkers

are willing and eager to volunteer when a neighboring community, county or state is in need after a major outage occurs. Several Texas co-ops came to the aid of others who suffered severe outages due to winter storms over the past few months.

Our lineworkers are brave, committed, selfless and critical to our success. We hope you will join us in thanking the many lineworkers—both locally and around the world—who light our lives.

Use #thankalineman on social media to show your support.
Remember: Your power works because they do!



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Plant a Tree on Earth Day

ON EARTH DAY—APRIL 22—organizers encourage everyone to plant trees wherever they can, in their neighborhoods or in their own yards.

Although the Texas heat makes autumn the optimal time to plant trees in the state, many varieties of trees still can establish solid root systems in spring before the summer rolls around to tax them.

If you plant a tree in your yard, choose a strategic location—one that will let the full-grown tree avoid contact with power lines or electrical equipment while shading your home from the hot summer sun. As it grows, a well-placed tree can help reduce your air conditioning bills and keep your home more comfortable.

Tips from the Arbor Day Foundation:

- ▶ Trees on the west and northwest sides of your home will shade the building during mid to late afternoons.
- ▶ Keep branches pruned enough that they don't block your view when you look out of west-facing windows.
- ▶ Shade trees along driveways and patios will protect you from the sun while you're outside. The shade keeps the concrete and your yard cooler.
- ▶ Protect your outdoor air conditioner from weather-related wear and tear by planting a shade tree nearby. The less direct sunlight that hits the unit, the more efficiently it will run all summer.

Save the Date: 2017 District Meetings

AT THE JANUARY BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, members of the Central Texas Electric Cooperative board approved the schedule for this year’s district membership meetings.

See below for the meeting schedule.

Meetings will be held in each district, but only districts 4, 5 and 6 will elect candidates for the board of directors. Districts 1, 2 and 3 will still meet to exchange information between co-op management and members.

Official meeting announcements will be included in the May issue of *Texas Co-op Power*.

The names of all candidates whose applications were approved in March by the Credentials and Election Committee will be listed on the district meeting notice that is mailed to all cooperative members. The issue also will contain each member’s official registration information. Watch for it, and save it to bring with you to your June district meeting.

2017 DISTRICT MEETING SCHEDULE

MONDAY, JUNE 5

District 6 (San Saba County Area)

Cherokee High School Cafeteria

DIRECTOR NOMINEE ELECTION

TUESDAY, JUNE 6

District 3 (Mason/McCulloch/Menard/

Northern Kimble Counties Area)

New CTEC Mason Branch Office

THURSDAY, JUNE 8

District 2 (Kerr/Real/

Southern Kimble Counties Area)

Ingram Elementary Cafeteria

MONDAY, JUNE 12

District 4 (Llano County Area)

Llano High School Auditorium

DIRECTOR NOMINEE ELECTION

TUESDAY, JUNE 13

District 1 (Kendall County Area)

Comfort High School Auditorium

THURSDAY, JUNE 15

District 5 (Gillespie/Blanco Counties Area)

Fredericksburg High School Auditorium

DIRECTOR NOMINEE ELECTION

Regular Board Meeting Recap

Central Texas Electric Cooperative, February 14, 2017

Meeting called to order by Board President James Low, and prayer offered.

Discussed: Operations Report for January 2017

Approved: Corrected Minutes of the Regular Board meeting held January 6

Approved: January Membership List and Membership Conversions

Approved: Safety Report for 12 months ended December 31, 2016

Discussed: Suggested property and liability insurance renewal approach for June 1 renewal date—Don Gray with Gray and Company, LLC

Reviewed: Preliminary Financial and Statistical Reports for year ended December 31, 2016, and Close Forecast for 2016

Approved: Outcome of power purchase agreements be passed through the Power Cost Pass-Through clause included in the tariffs of CTEC

Approved: Perpetual Line of Credit, As-Offered Line of Credit, and Certificate of Resolutions and Incumbency—CFC

Discussed: Status of current and future power procurement agreements

Approved: NRECA 2017 Membership Dues

Reviewed: Board Policy No. 3.0, Director Duties and Standards of Conduct

Discussed: Rescheduling April and September board meeting dates due to director training (New board meeting dates: April 18 and September 19)

Discussed: Fredericksburg building project scheduled completion date in March 2017

Discussed: Communications team members, goals, and ideas and district meeting video topics

Discussed: Youth Tour Essay Contest update

Meeting adjourned

Voting at District Meetings

CENTRAL TEXAS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE'S district meetings are scheduled to take place in each of the co-op's six districts this June. Elections will be held in Cherokee, Llano and Fredericksburg as part of the process for selecting nominees for directors from those districts.

Voting Is "In Person" Only

Under the co-op's bylaws, voting by proxy is not allowed at district meetings. "This rule was implemented about 21 years ago with the input of a member advisory committee," CEO Bob Loth said, "because our members and our directors wanted to make sure that the voice of members attending district meetings was given appropriate weight and to ensure the 'local' nature of the selection of nominees." Because of the prohibition on proxy voting, a person holding power of attorney for a member cannot use that instrument to vote at a district meeting.



Joint Memberships

CTEC bylaws provide that married individuals may establish a joint membership, and when they do so, either the individual may vote for the membership. This includes the right to vote at district meetings. However, it is important to note that not all memberships established for married couples are set up as joint memberships. The option belongs to the person or persons filling out the application for service with the co-op. In addition to its effect on voting, joint membership creates specific legal rights with regard to the membership account. Members can determine whether they hold a joint membership by calling their local co-op office. If a membership is not a joint membership, the spouse of a member will be allowed to vote for the membership (with approved identification) unless the owner of a single membership has indicated in writing that such a privilege is not to be allowed.

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Converting a Membership to a Joint Membership

A membership can be converted to a joint membership by written request of the member and execution of a membership agreement by the member and his or her spouse. These converted memberships must be approved by the co-op's board of directors. In accordance with the bylaws, for a joint membership to be voted as such at a district meeting, the converted membership must be approved on or before the second Tuesday in May preceding the district meeting. To meet this deadline for 2017 district meetings, requests to convert memberships to joint memberships must be submitted so they are received in the co-op headquarters office no later than 5 p.m., Monday, May 8.

Firms, Associations and Corporations

Authorized representatives of businesses, community clubs, churches, trusts and similar organizations that hold co-op memberships are permitted to vote at district meetings.

Call Now To Clarify Your Voting Status

Questions about the status of a membership account as a joint or individual account can be directed to the CTEC Member Services Department at 1-800-900-2832. In Fredericksburg, the local number is (830) 997-2126. As noted above, a member does have the right to convert an individual membership to a joint membership by completing a new membership application, but because the application must be approved, strict deadlines must be observed. In other circumstances, it may be appropriate to set up a membership as a business or trust account, enabling an authorized representative of the business or trust to cast the member's vote.

Questions about these arrangements can also be answered by calling the telephone numbers shown above.

District Meeting Voting Summary

- ▶ Members must be present to vote at the meeting. Proxy votes are not allowed.
- ▶ At all member meetings, the spouse of a member will be allowed to vote the membership, whether single or joint, unless the owner of a single membership has indicated in writing that such voting privilege is not to be allowed.
- ▶ Under the bylaws, requests to convert single memberships to joint memberships must be approved by the board of directors at their meeting on the second Tuesday in May. To meet this deadline for the 2017 district meetings, these requests must be submitted to CTEC headquarters no later than 5 p.m., Monday, May 8.
- ▶ Call CTEC if you have any questions about voting your membership.



GOT POWER?
Thank a lineman.

Celebrate **NATIONAL LINEMAN APPRECIATION DAY**
April 10. #thankalinenman

Central Texas Electric Cooperative

Fredericksburg (headquarters)

386 Friendship Lane
Fredericksburg, TX 78624

Llano

1410 E. St. Hwy. 29, Llano

Kingsland

Nob Hill Subdivision
706 Cottonwood St., Kingsland

Mason

1881 E. State Highway 29, Mason

Office Hours

8 a.m.–5 p.m., Monday–Friday

Website

ctec.coop

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Robert A. Loth III

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

James Low, President, *San Saba County*
Jack Asbill, Vice President, *Mason County*
Doylene Bode, Secretary, *Gillespie County*
Stanley Keese, Treasurer, *Llano County*
Rex Brand, *Kerr County*
Tommy Duncan, *Llano County*
Allen Goodwin, *Kendall County*
Mark Hahn, *Mason County*
Tim Lehmborg, *Gillespie County*
Charles E. Pearson, *Gillespie County*
W.C. "Dub" Stewart, *Llano County*

Emergency Contact

To report electric service interruptions,
please call the Central Texas Electric
Cooperative office in your area at the
numbers listed below:

FREDERICKSBURG AREA

(830) 997-2126

1-800-900-CTEC (2832)

including Gillespie, Kendall, Kerr,
Blanco, Real and Kimble counties

LLANO AND SAN SABA AREAS

(325) 247-4191

THE LAKES AREA

(325) 388-4542

8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

(325) 247-4191

after business hours

MASON AREA

(325) 347-6314

including McCulloch, Menard
and Kimble counties



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Nolan Keller Wins Trip to Washington, DC



***Editor's note:** This essay earned Nolan Keller, a junior at Llano High School, a trip to Washington, D.C., in Central Texas Electric Cooperative's Government-in-Action Youth Tour contest. His essay is the first in a series of winning compositions that will be printed in Texas Co-op Power. The views expressed in this essay are not necessarily those of Central Texas Electric Cooperative.*

The essay was written on this theme: "What would be the biggest challenge you would face without electricity?"

IN 1937, TEXAN CONGRESSMAN Lyndon B. Johnson lobbied the Roosevelt administration for funding to bring electricity to the Hill Country farmers and ranchers of Blanco, Burnet, Gillespie, Hays and Llano counties.

In fact, on one cold evening in November of 1939, a local family, the Smiths, returned to their farm from Johnson City to find that their house was on fire, but when they got close enough to the house to see what was happening, they realized that the electrical equipment which had been installed in their house years before was finally powering their whole house. The entirety of the Hill Country was being powered by electricity, and it was a miracle. In fact, many local babies were even named Lyndon B. Johnson in those days.

The world before 1939 was hard; the Hill Country was a tough place to live, which is one of the reasons why it was so sparsely populated. Without electricity, I would be living in pre-1939 Hill Country—and I'd like to think that I would be

able to do pretty well, but now I'm not so sure. My biggest obstacle would be having the mental and physical toughness to be able to adapt to a lifestyle without electricity and to give up the comforts and luxuries that I enjoy today. Without electricity, I would have to be able to revert to life before the lights came on in Mr. and Mrs. Smith's house.

Without electricity, I would have to trade my calculus textbook and my laptop in for a plow and tractor and farm the land in the 110-degree Texas heat. Adapting this much of my lifestyle just to be able to survive, would be challenging. I very much enjoy the comforts that electricity brings, such as a refrigerator and a cellphone, not to mention running hot water. These are all just little obstacles; the biggest obstacle would be how I would adapt my life to live without those things.

On Highway 2323, about 15 miles outside of Llano, my family owns an antique house in the middle of an old ranch. Built in the 1920s, it is an untouched example of life without electricity. The house has a fireplace, a carbide lighting system, a windmill and even an outhouse. No electricity also meant that the bath-water was as warm as the weather outside, which probably wasn't very enjoyable in the winter. The only thing that could remotely be considered a comfort was a deck of cards.

Living without electricity would be extremely difficult for me, because it would require a drastic lifestyle change from how I live now to only having the bare necessities. For me to even write this paper, I would have to go to the library and check out books related to electricity and the Hill Country in the 1930s instead of just Googling it in my house. Giving up these comforts, luxuries and conveniences would definitely be my biggest challenge without electricity.

CTEC Operation Round-Up Awards Grant



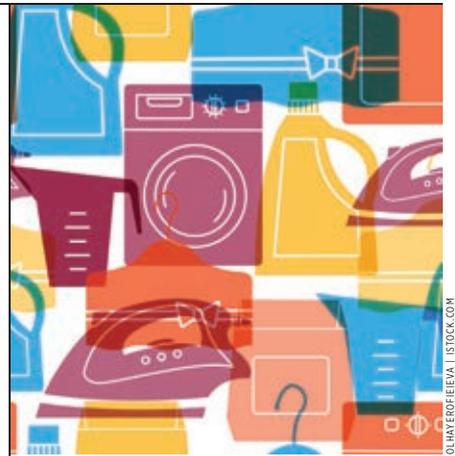
RECENTLY, THE OPERATION ROUND-UP Board of Directors at Central Texas Electric Cooperative approved another grant to help a family in need within the co-op's service territory.

Benjamin Martinez and his family, who reside in Llano, lost their home in a fire. Although the family was home at the time of the fire, no one was injured; however, the flames claimed everything inside, along with the home. The Operation Round-Up Board of Directors authorized a grant for \$2,500 to help the family get back on its feet.

By voluntarily having their monthly electric bills rounded up to the next whole dollar each month, CTEC members make a difference in the lives of those in their communities like the Martinez family.

CTEC members who are not enrolled in Operation Round-Up can sign up one or all of their accounts online at ctec.coop or by calling their local office. The average monthly contribution is just 50 cents a month. One-time monetary donations are also welcomed, and all contributions are tax deductible.

Operation Round-Up is an easy and inexpensive way to become part of a great community program through your co-op membership.



Why Appliances Need Surge Protection

YOU'VE INVESTED PLENTY in the appliances in your home: computers, TVs, stereos, refrigerators and more. None of this equipment is cheap, and you take good care of it. Are you also protecting your equipment from power surges?

If your home does not have surge protection, consider getting it.

Today's electronic equipment and appliances are very sensitive. Anything you plug in can be damaged or even destroyed by a power surge. These anomalies are brief, unpredictable increases in voltage that can enter your home through the power, telephone or cable TV lines.

Several things can cause power surges. The most common cause is lightning, but other causes can include an object coming in contact with a power line, or electric-powered equipment suddenly starting up or drawing extra power.

Power surge protection puts up guards in two places: 1) where electricity enters your home, and 2) inside your home where equipment is connected to electricity through outlets. A meter-based surge protector protects your home at the power entry point, which is where your home and equipment are most vulnerable. Plug-in devices for surge protection inside the home protect your equipment at the outlet point.

Spring Safety Coloring Sheet



Spring Safety Tip:
Never climb a tree
that has power lines
running through it!
Always avoid playing
near electrical utility
equipment.



Central Texas Electric Co-op

IS YOUR LOCAL PROVIDER FOR HIGH SPEED SATELLITE INTERNET

LOCAL installers, LOCAL business office, LOCAL technical support

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www.ctesc.net

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MONTH

\$74⁹⁵
MONTH

\$104⁹⁵
MONTH

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One-time setup fee of \$49.00 and \$7.95/month equipment lease fee applies.

Speeds are "up to" and not guaranteed. Actual speeds will vary.

Call Now

Local (830) 992-2240 or Toll Free (888) 297-1340

Service is not available in all Central Texas Electric Co-op areas. Installation requires a clear view of the southern sky and proper electrical ground bonding. Exede is a service mark of ViaSat, Inc.