



# CTEC Discusses Growth, Lowest Rates, Community Involvement at Annual Meeting

**MORE THAN 200 CENTRAL TEXAS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE** members gathered August 16 in the Fredericksburg High School auditorium for the co-op's 68th annual members' meeting.

Board President Riley Kothmann welcomed everyone and introduced the 11 members of the board of directors. Director Jack Asbill from Mason County provided an invocation.

The business of the meeting included the election of four directors to represent members' respective districts on the board. They were: Rex Brand, District 2 (Kerr and Real counties, and southern Kimble County; fourth term); Jack Asbill, District 3 (Mason, McCullough and Menard counties, and northern Kimble County; fourth term); Stanley Keese, District 4 (Llano County; fourth term); and Tim Lehmborg, Dis-

trict 5 (Gillespie and Blanco county areas; first term). As the cooperative's bylaws stipulate, a CTEC director's time on the board is limited to four three-year terms.

In a video presentation featuring the four board officers, Allen Goodwin, board treasurer and finance committee chairman from Kendall County, gave a brief summary of the financial condition of CTEC. He reported positive and manageable growth for the past year, bringing meter totals to just over 38,700. He said that with construction of new lines and system improvement, the total utility plant in service is now \$207 million.

"At year end, the equity ratio for the cooperative was over 40 percent—the highest it has ever been," Goodwin said. "This



means that you, the members, own more of the co-op's assets than ever before."

He also announced a CTEC board decision to repay the federal government's Rural Utilities Service note on the co-op's more than \$54 million in outstanding debt with funds borrowed from National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation, or CFC. The decision to become 100 percent funded by CFC will save the co-op about \$2 million-\$3 million over the next several years. It also allows CTEC to conduct everyday business promptly and efficiently, with less government red tape.

"Central Texas Electric Cooperative is in excellent financial condition," Goodwin said. "Looking forward, your co-op's equity should remain strong, with rates that are competitive and stable."

Kothmann updated members with good news about power supply for the co-op. "The mission of your co-op is pretty simple: Keep the lights on at prices members can afford to pay," he said. "And here is the reason I believe we are achieving that goal: You are now paying less for your electric service than you were five years ago!"

In 2016, the average co-op-served household using 1,000 kilowatt-hours pays less for its electricity than it did 10 years ago. As a result, CTEC and its members are well-positioned for today and the future.

James Low, board vice president, gave members an operations report for the past year. Crews rebuilt 83 miles of existing line and replaced 1,100 of more than 120,000 poles after the annual inspection maintenance program. "We have substations, transformers and thousands of miles of electric lines that cross some of the roughest terrain in the state," Low said. "These investments are exposed to the sometimes



## 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

983 N. U.S. Hwy. 87, 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*  
Doyle Bode, Secretary, *Gillespie County*  
Stanley Keese, Treasurer, *Llano County*  
Rex Brand, *Kerr County*  
Tommy Duncan, *Llano County*  
Allen Goodwin, *Kendall County*  
Riley Kothmann, *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



wild and destructive weather patterns of Texas, [and] maintenance and repairs are ongoing efforts. All of these efforts improve safe working conditions for our linemen and help provide reliable power to you, our member-owners.

“One of the biggest highlights of this report is that, through June of this year, we worked two and a half years without a lost-time accident. This streak of over 1,000 days and more than 716,000 hours recently came to an end when an employee had a minor leg injury,” Low said. “Our streak has since restarted, and we hope to be able to add another 365 days to that record by our annual meeting in 2017.”

Updates were given on the progress made by construction crews working on facility upgrades at CTEC’s Fredericksburg and Mason branches. The Mason office has been at its location for more than 40 years and does not meet many requirements for public buildings that are in effect today. The Fredericksburg operations group has also been in its facility for more than 40 years, and it has simply been outgrown. The vehicle maintenance area is outdated and inefficient, and it presents

many safety concerns for employees.

The upgrade projects were approved by the board of directors last fall at a total estimated cost of \$13.2 million. “This certainly sounds like a good deal of money—and it is—but when you look at the size of this operation and the number of employees that work out of these centers, it is obvious that something needs to be done, and that now is the time to do it,” Low said.

“The new facilities we are currently constructing will give your employees the technical and working conditions to operate a more complicated, robust electric system,” Low said. “Your employees are excited about the opportunity to become a more efficient organization that will better serve our members.”

Asbill, board secretary, reminded members of CTEC’s communication and community involvement practices. Using tools such as *Texas Co-op Power*, an updated website and Facebook page, members always can be aware of what is happening at their co-op.

Citing support of youths in the area, Asbill reported that more than \$500,000 in unclaimed capital credits funds had



been used for area scholarships over the program’s 19-year history, and three area youth represented CTEC on the Government-in-Action Youth Tour to Washington, D.C., this June. Asbill also reported that, to date, CTEC’s voluntary Operation Round-Up program has approved grants totaling \$118,000 to individuals and nonprofits in the area.

Asbill also announced results of a recent American Customer Satisfaction Index survey: CTEC ranks in the top 5 percent of electric co-ops nationwide, with a score of 87. Municipally owned electric utilities had an average score of 68. Investor-owned utilities had an average score of 72. Among all electric cooperatives who participated in this survey, the average score was 77.

“This particular survey allows companies to compare themselves to other industries,” Asbill said. “Here is how your co-op compares to a few business names you will recognize: Walmart scored a 68. Coca-Cola scored a 79. H-E-B scored an 83. Amazon scored an 83. And Southwest Airlines scored an 80. On behalf of your co-op team, we would like to thank our members for

their feedback and support.”

Kothmann wrapped up the meeting, saying, “I hope you enjoyed tonight’s report and concluded that your board is working hard for you. Above all else, we are member-focused because being a member-controlled business means we are accountable to those we serve. It has been my pleasure and honor to lead Central Texas Electric Cooperative for the past two years. I hope that you are proud of our accomplishments, and I believe that we own one of the very best electric cooperatives in the state of Texas.”

After the video report, Loth gave special recognition to 10 employees with extended tenure at the cooperative, combining for a total of 320 years of dedicated service.

As at all CTEC member meetings, a brief question-and-answer session for members was included, providing members an opportunity to voice questions and comments.

The meeting concluded with a drawing for more than \$3,000 in door prizes, all donated by Central Texas Electric Cooperative’s generous suppliers.

# Annual Meeting Prizewinners

<b>Gary B. Tabor</b>	\$50 Walmart gift card
<b>Robert Heinen</b>	\$50 Walmart gift card
<b>H. James Bronson</b>	\$50 Walmart gift card
<b>Clifton L. and Mary E. Carroll</b>	\$50 Walmart gift card
<b>Alton C. and Marlene R. Ernst</b>	\$75 Bass Pro Shops gift card
<b>Kenneth Swanson</b>	\$75 Bass Pro Shops gift card
<b>Patricia L. Weeden</b>	\$75 Lowe's gift card
<b>Garrett and Janice Durst</b>	\$75 Lowe's gift card
<b>Larry and Kris Woodrum</b>	Char-Broil electric grill
<b>Angela J. Koch</b>	\$100 Sutherlands gift card
<b>Wayne and Sherry Rode</b>	\$100 Sutherlands gift card
<b>Gerald Williams</b>	\$100 Tractor Supply gift card
<b>Betty Sagebiel</b>	\$100 Tractor Supply gift card
<b>Alvin A. Sunday</b>	\$100 assorted tools
<b>Douglas R. Sandidge</b>	\$100 Walmart gift card
<b>Jeanie Bel Crenwelge</b>	\$100 Cabela's gift card
<b>John M. and Pauline G. Holmes</b>	HP Officejet printer
<b>Kathleen Meurer</b>	\$50 Visa gift card
<b>Ronald Ersch</b>	\$50 Visa gift card
<b>Cecil Crenwelge</b>	35-qt. Icehole cooler
<b>Louis Rech</b>	LED flashlight set and grill steam-cleaning tool
<b>Stanley J. Jenschke</b>	Yeti 30-oz. rambler tumbler and \$25 Visa gift card
<b>Hans J. Schneider</b>	Yeti 30-oz. rambler tumbler and \$25 Visa gift card
<b>Harvey and Vernell Ellebracht</b>	\$100 Academy gift card
<b>Michael and Jan Nebgen</b>	\$100 Academy gift card
<b>Herbert Schmidt</b>	\$100 Academy gift card
<b>Kent T. Fields</b>	Yeti 10-oz. rambler lowball and \$25 Visa gift card
<b>Roger Lampman</b>	Yeti 20-oz. rambler tumbler and \$25 Visa gift card
<b>Ricky Neffendorf</b>	\$50 Visa gift card
<b>Violet Stafford</b>	\$50 Visa gift card
<b>Anastasia A. Sikkema</b>	\$50 American Express gift card
<b>Bonnie Ransleben</b>	\$50 American Express gift card
<b>Emma K. Doerr</b>	\$50 American Express gift card
<b>Richard Ramsey</b>	\$50 American Express gift card
<b>Linville and Connie Crenwelge</b>	\$50 iTunes gift card
<b>Kenneth Biedermann</b>	\$50 iTunes gift card
<b>Bruce Atkins</b>	Stadium blanket and soft-sided cooler
<b>Paul E. Hewitt</b>	Set of 3 travel bags (boot bag, toiletry bag, tool bag)

# Names Drawn in Proxy Contest

**AFTER THE ANNUAL MEETING**, a drawing was held among the 1,127 members who submitted their proxy cards to the auditor's office by the deadline.

The 10 members whose names were drawn to each receive a \$50 electric bill credit were:

- Charles A. Steinweg**, Fredericksburg
- David and Carol Durst**, Fredericksburg
- John Naylor**, Sunrise Beach
- Charles W. and Diane Cole**, Fredericksburg
- Roy L. Kasper**, Harper
- Jay D. and Vicky P. Parr**, Cherokee
- Leon Kothmann**, Arlington
- John and Jane Crone**, Fredericksburg
- James W. and Francisca L. Bend**, Kingsland
- Shirley A. Jones**, Fredericksburg

CTEC appreciates the cooperation of all members who participated in the voting process of the annual membership meeting, making it a success once again. Congratulations to these lucky members!

# Thank You to the Prize Donors

- Anixter Power Solutions
- Creative Awards
- Dealers Electric Supply
- FAPCo
- Insurance Network of Texas
- James Power Line Construction
- KBS Electrical Distributors
- National Tree Expert Co.
- Nolan's Office Supply
- RJ Trading Group
- Schneider Engineering
- Techline
- Texas Electric Cooperatives
- Texas Utility Inspection Services



## Happy Halloween

Central Texas EC wishes you a safe and spooky Halloween.

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**REX BRAND**  
District 2



**JACK ASBILL**  
District 3



**STANLEY KEESE**  
District 4



**TIM LEHMBERG**  
District 5

## Four Members Elected to Board of Directors

**FOUR CENTRAL TEXAS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE MEMBERS** were elected to director seats at this year's annual meeting. They were: Rex C. Brand to represent District 2, Kerr, Real and southern Kimble counties; Jack Asbill to represent District 3, Mason, McCullough, Menard and northern Kimble counties; Stanley Keese to represent District 4, Llano County; and Tim Lehmborg to represent District 5, Gillespie and Blanco counties.

**Rex C. Brand**, representing Kerr and Real counties, and southern Kimble County, will serve a fourth term.

**Jack Asbill**, representing Mason, McCullough and Menard, and northern Kimble County, will serve a fourth term.

**Stanley Keese**, representing Llano County, will serve a fourth term.

**Tim Lehmborg**, representing Gillespie and Blanco counties, is entering his first term.

## Board Officers Named

**THE CENTRAL TEXAS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE BOARD OF DIRECTORS** convened an organizational meeting after adjournment of the annual member meeting in Fredericksburg. Board officers elected for 2016 were: James Low from San Saba County as board president, Jack Asbill from Mason County as vice president, Doyle Bode from Gillespie County as secretary and Stanley Keese from Llano County as treasurer.

## RECIPE OF THE MONTH



RICK PATRICK

## White Chili

- 1 pound lean ground turkey
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 2 cans (15 ounces each) navy beans
- 1 can (4 ounces) green chiles
- 1 teaspoon cumin
- 1 teaspoon oregano
- 1 teaspoon white pepper
- 3 cups low-sodium chicken broth
- 1 tablespoon cornstarch

- 1.** In a small pot, brown turkey in olive oil. Add beans, chiles, spices and broth. Bring to a boil, then remove from heat.
- 2.** Remove 1/2 cup broth and add cornstarch, stirring until lumps dissolve. Pour back into chili and stir well.
- 3.** Serve with chopped tomatoes, avocado, corn, jalapeños and cilantro, as desired.

Find this and more delicious recipes online at  
**TEXASCOOPPOWER.COM**



**JAMES TINSLEY**



**ROSIE MEURER**



**KEVIN WOOD**



**ADOLF GOLD**



**MAX MORENO**



**KENNY PETERSON**



**RANDY STAHL**



**ARTHUR WUNDERLICH**



**TAMMY FELLER**



**JANET HERBER**

## Employees Recognized at Annual Meeting

**YEARS OF FAITHFUL SERVICE** to Central Texas Electric Cooperative by 27 tenured employees were recognized at the annual meeting in Fredericksburg. These employees work hard to make your co-op run smoothly, and when you happen to run into them at the store, at church or on Main Street, you may want to give them a well-deserved pat on the back!

### CTEC EMPLOYEES REACHING A FIVE-YEAR INCREMENT OF EMPLOYMENT THIS YEAR

#### 40 YEARS

**James Tinsley**, Meter Tech II

**Rosie Meurer**, Receptionist

#### 35 YEARS

**Kevin Wood**, Meter Tech II

#### 30 YEARS

**Adolf Gold**, Equipment Operator/Groundman II

**Max Moreno**, CAD Tech II

**Kenny Peterson**, Staking Tech I

**Randy Stahl**, Equipment Operator/Groundman II

**Arthur Wunderlich**, Foreman

#### 25 YEARS

**Tammy Feller**, Member Services Supervisor

**Janet Herber**, Chief Financial Officer

#### 20 YEARS

**Dave Oestreich Jr.**, District Foreman

#### 15 YEARS

**Ricky Baker**, First-Class Lineman

**Janice Durst**, Human Resources Assistant

**Chad Eckhardt**, First-Class Lineman

**Samuel Martinez**, First-Class Lineman

**Paul Raleigh**, Manager of Human Resources and Safety

**Stephen Ransleben**, Meter and Apparatus Technician

**Bobby Tatsch**, First-Class Lineman

**Gary Wehmeyer**, Mechanic

#### 10 YEARS

**Raul Carion**, Underground Specialist

**Linda Eckhardt**, Capital Credits Representative

**Donna Lingnau**, Consumer Accounts Representative

**Donna North**, Engineering Services Representative

#### 5 YEARS

**Scott Durst**, Building and Grounds Maintenance

**Jordan Kothmann**, Branch Office Representative

**Brandon Krauskopf**, ROW Specialist II

**Audri L. Nelson**, Executive Assistant to the CEO



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