

Caring About Youths Is the Cooperative Way



MESSAGE FROM CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER ROBERT A. LOTH III

THIS SUMMER, Central Texas Electric Cooperative sent students from its service area to Washington, D.C., for the annual Government-in-Action Youth Tour. Young people who experience Youth Tour have the opportunity to explore our nation's capital, visit historic sites, make lasting friendships, learn a bit about how our government operates and see the impact that electric cooperatives have on the legislative process.

Youth Tour is one of the programs for which electric cooperatives across the country are best known. You may have par-

ticipated when you were a kid, or perhaps your child applied to be a part of the program. But electric cooperatives go far beyond Youth Tour when it comes to making a difference in our young members' lives.

demonstrations and community events such as Stonewall Trunk or Treat at Halloween, in addition to presenting various programs on energy efficiency and conservation. We're not the only ones getting involved. We are happy to be a part of the broader co-op community, which strives to provide young Americans with safety and educational programs during the summer and throughout the year. Here's how some of them are getting young people involved.

Electric co-ops in several states run summer camps that teach kids about the cooperative business model. The kids get to create and run a co-op for the summer!

They pay their dues (50 cents) to become a part of the co-op and then proceed to handle co-op business—from voting for board members and choosing a general manager to setting prices and determining inventory for their chosen business.

In Missouri, some co-ops take students to the state capital so they can see their state government at work. These programs allow students to create a mock state Senate, where they can write and pass laws. They leave the program having learned how a bill becomes a law while gaining practical experience, leadership skills and a desire to work hard for their future.

In Virginia, an electric co-op hosts "A Day in the Life of a Lineman," which educates kids on the technical skills and proper safety techniques needed

for this complex profession.

Many great co-op programs out there focus on youth education and engagement. What all of these programs have in common, no matter how big or small, is that electric cooperatives come together for a common cause—not only to teach our youths about the cooperative difference, but also to give them the opportunity to see and reach their potential.

At Central Texas EC, we want to make sure that we are working for our members. Do you know of youth programs that you would like to see the co-op get involved in? Let us know at (830) 997-2126.



Educating young people has been a part of electric co-op culture for more than 50 years.

We have given almost \$500,000 in unclaimed capital credit funds to area students for scholarships. We donate 15,000 book covers annually to schools within our service area, and this year's Youth Tour celebrated the 50th anniversary of participation by Texas co-ops. We participate in Farm Safety Day

and engagement programs throughout our local community.

At Central Texas EC, we are invested in youth education and engagement programs throughout our local community. We have given almost \$500,000 in unclaimed capital credit funds to area students for scholarships. We donate 15,000 book covers annually to schools within our service area, and this year's Youth Tour celebrated the 50th anniversary of participation by Texas co-ops. We participate in Farm Safety Day

Staudt Says Farewell After 28-Year Career

AUGUST 28 WAS OFFICIALLY MY LAST DAY at Central Texas Electric Cooperative after 28 years of service. Looking back, it seems that the time passed very quickly. I want to express thanks to the people who have made my service possible as CTEC’s manager of member services and editor of the co-op’s “local pages” in Texas Co-op Power magazine.



Retiring after nearly three decades with CTEC, Carlos Staudt looks forward to spending more time with his grandchildren and golf clubs.

Management: Thank you to CTEC management for allowing the cooperative to use Texas Co-op Power as a means to communicate with our members. The magazine staff was wonderful to work with, and I appreciate all that I learned about their business. It was a unique opportunity that took me into surrounding communities to meet local business owners and promote the businesses in our service area.

Board: Thank you to the board for making recent power contract decisions that will keep CTEC electricity prices affordable—and among the lowest—for our members.

Media: Thank you to the local newspapers and radio stations for supporting

Central Texas EC. As a nonprofit, our advertising allotment is limited, but these media outlets were all very helpful in sharing news and information affecting CTEC and its members.

Employees: Thank you for being real, dedicated people. Even though most were camera-shy when it came time to film footage for the annual member meeting videos, I realized that’s just the nature of co-op employees: They want to do their jobs and provide members the very best service they can—without looking for individual recognition. They all share a passion for service and a commitment to our members.

Members: Thank you for your support of Central Texas EC and the invaluable input that helps shape our co-op. I enjoyed traveling throughout our beautiful 11-county service area in the Texas Hill Country. It was a pleasure to meet and work with the members, whether they grew up here or chose to move here. Our members are an invaluable resource who will continue to support CTEC’s growth and progress in the future.

CTEC has been a vital part of life in this area for the past 68 years. We all take for granted that the lights will come on when we flip the switch. That is an example of how well the people of our co-op work together and how big a part Central Texas Electric Cooperative plays in the everyday life of its members.

But just in case the lights don’t come on when you flip that switch, rest assured that an entire co-op will work to get your life back to normal. With the board, management, employees and members all working together, the future looks bright for many more years.

—Carlos Staudt

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Website

ctec.coop

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Robert A. Loth III

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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

A Change for the Better

WHEN IT COMES TO ENERGY EFFICIENCY in the home, sometimes small changes can make a big impact. A small, unglamorous task like changing the filters on your HVAC system makes your unit run more efficiently, keeping your house cooler in the summer and warmer in the winter. It also saves money. The savings gained from having your system run efficiently can be applied to fun for your family.

The Lowdown on Dirt

As you move around your home, you drive dust into the air from carpets, furniture and drapes. Dust and dirt trapped in a system's air filter leads to several problems, including reduced airflow in the home and up to 15 percent higher operating costs; potentially costly duct cleaning or replacement; and lowered system efficiency.

Making the Switch

Get busy changing or cleaning the air filter in your heating/cooling system. Many HVAC professionals recommend that you clean or change the filter on your air conditioner or furnace monthly. It's simple and easy, and in many cases, it only takes a few minutes.

Filters are available in a variety of types and efficiencies, rated by a Minimum Efficiency Reporting Value. MERV tests filter effectiveness and was developed by the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers. The higher the MERV number, the higher the filter's effectiveness at keeping dust out of your system.

Although most types of filters must be replaced, some filters are reusable.

Don't forget about the winter months: Your heating system needs to work as efficiently as possible to keep you warm, and a clean air filter helps it do just that.

Heating and cooling professionals recommend turning your system off before changing the air filter. Make sure that the arrow on the filter—which indicates the direction of the airflow—is pointing toward the blower motor. When you've made the change, turn your system back on.

A dirty HVAC filter can rob your system of performance, leading to higher bills in both summer and winter.

A Teachable Moment

Beyond saving money and improving the air quality in your home, changing your air filter is a great opportunity to teach your family more about energy efficiency. Consider getting everyone involved, and the entire family will learn how simple changes can make a big difference.

For other tips on how to save, visit ctec.coop or call our efficiency experts at Central Texas Electric Cooperative.



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Exede Satellite from Central Texas Electric Co-op offers super-fast download speeds so you can use the Internet the way you want! Plus you get a great price with no hidden fees or "introductory" pricing that jumps higher at a later time.

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THERE'S SOMETHING TO BE SAID ABOUT STAYING IN THE SAME NEIGHBORHOOD.



Over the past 75 years, the price of a home has increased dramatically. But we've helped to ensure that the price of electricity has barely moved. Learn more about the power of your co-op membership at TogetherWeSave.com.



MONKEY BUSINESS | DOLLAR PHOTO CLUB

Keep your kids safe as they return to school.

Back-to-School Safety Checklist

AS CHILDREN HEAD BACK to school, here are some tips to make sure your child safely travels to and from school.

Walking to School

- ▶ Walk on the sidewalk. When there is no sidewalk, walk facing the traffic.
- ▶ Avoid electrical equipment, including underground transformers, guy wires stabilizing power poles and any downed power lines.
- ▶ Before crossing the street—at crosswalks whenever available—stop and look left, right and left again for oncoming cars.

Riding a Bicycle to School

- ▶ Wear a properly fitted and secure helmet whenever riding a bike.
- ▶ Ride on the right side, in the direction of traffic.

Riding the Bus to School

- ▶ Stand 6 feet away (three giant steps) from the curb while waiting for the bus.
- ▶ Wait until the bus has stopped and the door opens before getting on or off the bus.
- ▶ When crossing the street in front of the bus, always make sure you can see the bus driver and the bus driver can see you.

—National Safety Council



Happy Labor Day

Central Texas EC will be closed Monday, September 7, in observance of Labor Day. We wish you a safe and happy holiday.

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