



**DARRYL  
SCHRIVER**

PRESIDENT/  
CHIEF  
EXECUTIVE  
OFFICER

# Spring Time is Here

**THE START OF MARCH** means spring is just around the corner, and many people have a new-found energy for being outdoors and working in the yard. The sun is shining, birds are singing, the grass is starting to green up and trees are budding leaves.

Perhaps you're making plans for a new garden or a lawn makeover. However you're planning to revamp your backyard escape, remember to keep safety in mind for all projects—especially those that require digging near underground utility lines.

Most of us never think about the electric, gas, water and other utility lines below ground, but hitting any of those while digging is not the reminder you'll want—trust us! We want to remind all members who plan a digging project to call 811 at least three business days before starting. Or you can submit a request online by visiting [texas811.org](https://texas811.org). 800835392

If you plan to plant a new tree, it is also important to look up and not plant near an overhead electric line. Do some homework before selecting a tree to know how tall it will grow to ensure that when it is fully grown it will not touch the lines. Following these tips will help you and your family stay safe around electricity.

## Governance

The Tri-County Electric Co-op Board of Directors is the governing and regulatory body of the co-op. The board is comprised of nine excellent directors who are members just like you and live throughout our service territory. They work tirelessly to make decisions in your best interests. Over the past few years, the board has approved numerous items for your benefit, including:

- ▶ **New director nomination process.** Eligible members interested in serving on the board of directors have two easy paths to the ballot. You can learn more about the director nomination process and this year's nomination cycle on the next page.
- ▶ **Scholarship and Youth Tour programs.** Starting with the class of 2019, we are helping graduating seniors pay for college or trade school with \$4,000 and \$2,000 scholarships. Additionally, we send high school sophomores and juniors to Washington, D.C. on a history-enriched tour and provide a \$2,000 scholarship for college or trade school.
- ▶ **Putting Power in your Hands.** Members can now sign up for a low-cost energy audit to understand electric use and learn where you can make home improvements to help you save. Learn more about the Home Audit Program on page 20.
- ▶ **Online Elections.** We partnered with Survey and Ballot Systems to conduct our elections starting in 2020. The partnership allows members to vote online or by mail, which many of you have requested in prior years.

You may have noticed a new addition to the *Texas Co-op Power* magazine called a *Seat at the Board Table*. This feature is published periodically as a letter from the board to you, the members, to transparently communicate co-op updates and issues. Tri-County Electric Co-op is your co-op, and the board wants to keep you engaged. 4450500001

I am honored to work with the board and carry out their strategic direction to serve our co-op. It is an exciting time to be a Tri-County Electric Co-op member thanks to your board of directors.

## Brazos Bankruptcy Update

Brazos Electric Power Cooperative, Inc., (Brazos), our wholesale power supplier, filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection on March 1, 2021. By the time this publication reaches your mailboxes, Brazos will have been in bankruptcy for twelve months. This has been a long and fluid process that is far from over. When I first began communicating Brazos's decision to file for bankruptcy, I pledged transparency to the membership and stated that we would leave no stone unturned as we do our best to protect you, the Tri-County Electric Co-op members – the ratepayers who could ultimately be affected by this bankruptcy.

As of this writing, there are many decisions and important hearings quickly approaching in the bankruptcy court that will have a defining impact on the trajectory of Brazos's exit from bankruptcy. The Tri-County Electric Co-op board and staff are doing everything we can to ensure your voice is heard and your best interests are represented throughout the process. We will provide a full update of the pending hearings in next month's publication. We are in this together. ■