

Co-ops Keep the Lights on in Difficult Times



MESSAGE FROM
**GENERAL MANAGER AND
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER DARRYL SCHRIVER**

ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES HAVE A LONG history of weathering adversity. In fact, they were born out of challenging times.

This resilience will help Tri-County Electric Cooperative and our member-owners overcome the hardships resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic that have affected our area this year.

Electric co-ops formed after 1935 to relieve the hardship rural areas faced while their urban neighbors enjoyed the conveniences of electricity. The Rural Electrification Act made low-cost loans available to farmers and ranchers, who banded together to create nonprofit co-ops to deliver electricity to rural America, including Texas. Lawmakers of the time thought that electricity would revolutionize the rural way of life.

Soon after, electric co-ops weathered World War II. Construction of rural distribution systems slowed during that

period, but the model prevailed. Within four years after the war, the number of co-ops in the U.S. doubled and connections tripled, according to the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

When many of our family members and neighbors were called to serve in other wars, including the Vietnam War, Korean War, and wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, co-ops endured. We kept the lights on for them while they were away.

The economic recession of 2008 didn't faze electric cooperatives. While many long-standing businesses thought to be too great to fail actually failed, electric co-ops persevered. We looked to our values—the Seven Cooperative Principles, which put members' needs first—as a guiding light during the downturn. 800593110

Electric cooperatives have continually weathered storms at home. Forces of nature such as tornadoes, thunderstorms and ice storms threaten and sometimes damage our infrastructure, but our brave lineworkers battle the elements to keep the electricity flowing.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, co-ops everywhere have taken extra precautions to keep employees and members safe. We aim not just to survive as an organization but to help our members make it through the hard time and recover, too.

Some ways that electric cooperatives have put members' needs first during the pandemic include providing flexible bill payment options, bill payment options and distributing funds to area organizations to help community members who are struggling.

Even though the world is grappling with uncertainty and difficulties because of the pandemic and its economic effects, you can rest assured that Tri-County EC will make it through—and your lights will stay on.





Have a Safe Fourth of July

FIREWORKS ARE A MUCH-ANTICIPATED HIGHLIGHT OF THE FOURTH OF JULY BUT ALSO present a significant danger.

The best option is to attend a public fireworks display and leave it to the professionals, but if your holiday isn't complete without setting off a few of your own, **please take these precautions:**

- ▶ Follow all local laws, and read and follow product directions.
- ▶ Do not allow children to handle fireworks.
- ▶ Make sure fireworks are used on a hard, stable surface in an open, clear area, and never attempt to relight a "dud."
 - ▶ Make sure there is water nearby in case of an emergency.
 - ▶ Wear ear protection.
 - ▶ Never light fireworks in a container.
 - ▶ If swimming is part of your plan, make sure children are always supervised in or around the water. Take responsibility for your children even in the company of other adults. Consider hiring or nominating a lifeguard.
- ▶ Many people travel over the holiday, and congestion, accidents, road rage and impaired driving can quickly turn the holiday into a tragedy. Make sure your car is in excellent condition and that you are rested, alert and sober if you are driving. Plan ahead for a designated driver if appropriate. 800831418
- ▶ If barbecue is on the menu, be careful when lighting the grill, and make sure an adult is always present around a heated grill. Be sure to put away perishables to avoid eating spoiled food. Make sure to cook meats thoroughly on the grill.
- ▶ Watch out for signs of heatstroke, such as hot, red skin; changes in consciousness; a rapid or weak pulse; and rapid or shallow breathing. If you suspect someone is suffering from heatstroke, call 911.
- ▶ And don't forget to take special precautions with your pets. Fireworks can be terrifying for them, so keep them indoors or in another safe place.
- ▶ Drink plenty of water, wear sunscreen and have a wonderful Independence Day.



JULY HOLIDAYS

Independence Day

Saturday, July 4

Our offices will be closed Friday, July 3, in observance of the holiday.

Pecan Pie Day

Sunday, July 12

Ice Cream Day

Sunday, July 19

2020 ANNUAL MEETING



Tri-County Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting of the Members

AS A MEMBER-OWNER OF TRI-COUNTY ELECTRIC Cooperative, you have the opportunity to participate in the annual meeting of the members—when you can take part in the democratic process and learn about your co-op. To celebrate our membership, the meeting includes entertainment, dinner, booths, demos, door prizes and bill credits!
800795003

Historically, the annual meeting has been held the first Tuesday in October. But as our membership continues to grow, it has become more difficult to bring everyone together on one night. Therefore this year we are planning a three-day annual meeting to give our members an opportunity to choose the date and location that best works for them.

What To Expect This Year

► **RSVP card.** Members will receive an RSVP card with the August issue of *Texas Co-op Power*. We ask that you take the time to let us know which day and location you plan to attend and drop the card in the mail. This will help us prepare for each day, which includes having the right amount of food on hand.

► **Election ballot.** Members will receive an

election ballot and registration card with their September issue of *Texas Co-op Power*. Members who plan to attend the annual meeting are asked to bring their ballot and registration card to the meeting. Members who are unable to attend the meeting may complete the ballot and drop it in the mail as an absentee ballot.

► **Election.** This year's election will be conducted by a third party. Tri-County EC has partnered with Survey and Ballot Systems to conduct this year's annual meeting election and process all RSVP cards.

Save the Date!

This year's annual meeting locations and dates:

Keller, **Monday, October 5**

Weatherford, **Tuesday, October 6**

Seymour, **Wednesday, October 7**

Mark your calendars and plan to attend the annual meeting at one of the locations above. Remember: You do not need to attend all three days to participate. Simply choose the one that best fits your schedule or participate as an absentee voter.

We hope to see you there!

Districts 1 and 4 To Meet



DISTRICT 1 MEETING

Wednesday, July 8 | 404 Main St., Azle

Registration opens at 6 p.m.

with the meeting to follow at 6:30 p.m.

Member-owners who reside in District 1, as designated by the board of directors, will receive an invitation in the mail in early June to attend this meeting. The purpose of this district meeting is to nominate a director to the board to represent the member-owners of District 1. The current director, Todd Smith of Azle, is not seeking reelection. 800621868



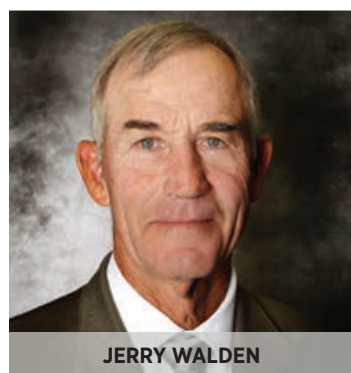
DISTRICT 4 MEETING

Thursday, July 9 | Garner Elementary School

Registration opens at 6 p.m.

with the meeting to follow at 6:30 p.m.

Member-owners who reside in District 4, as designated by the board of directors, will receive an invitation in the mail in early June to attend this meeting. The purpose of this district meeting is to nominate a director to the board to represent the member-owners of District 4. Director Jerry Walden has indicated his intention to seek reelection to the Tri-County Electric Cooperative Board of Directors.



JERRY WALDEN

JERRY WALDEN, DISTRICT 4

Walden represents the member-owners of District 4 and has served on the Tri-County EC Board of Directors since September 1999. He is a lifelong resident of Parker County and enjoys farming and ranching with his family in the Garner and Millsap communities. He has built custom homes for many years and shares ownership of Walden Farm and Ranch Supply with his family. He served on the Garner Independent School District board for 10 years, including as board president.

2020 DISTRICT MEETINGS

The Challenges of Trees and Power Lines

RIGHT-OF-WAY MAINTENANCE ENSURES TRI-COUNTY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE DELIVERS safe and reliable electric service. Clearing limbs and trees away from power lines not only helps prevent outages and blinking lights, it also reduces many potential hazards.

Vegetation, trees, shrubs and brush growing too close to power lines and distribution equipment lead to about 15% of power interruptions. That's why Tri-County EC uses a systemwide right-of-way management program that includes various mechanical clearing methods and low-volume herbicide applications.

Why We Trim Trees

Safety. A very important reason for keeping rights-of-way clear is safety. Kids climbing trees can be a tragedy waiting to happen if they touch a limb in contact with an energized line or touch the line itself. The result can be severe injury or even death.

Adults also are at risk if working around lines in trees. Never touch an electrical wire or anything it is in contact with; always assume it is conducting electricity and is dangerous.

Tri-County EC, like all utility companies, must comply with National Electrical Safety Code standards to keep trees out of power lines for safety reasons. If you are planning to trim or remove a tree near any power line, please contact us first. Our



trained personnel can identify potential safety or reliability threats and advise you on what can be done. 800878489

Reliability. We also trim trees for service reliability. We all appreciate trees, which beautify our property, cool our homes and provide privacy. But we need electricity. Our member-owners expect reliable electric service.

Trees that fall into power lines due to high wind or storms can knock out power to hundreds of members in a second. Not only do lines come down, but utility poles can snap due to the weight of fallen trees—potentially causing lengthy outages.

Pruning trees is only a stopgap because the trees will grow back. Therefore, trees sometimes must be permanently removed. Not all storm-related outages can be prevented, but we can certainly minimize the damage by keeping rights-of-way clear.

We Need Your Help

In working to keep a safe and reliable supply of power flowing to your home or business, we need your help. Let us know if you notice trees or branches that might pose a risk to our power lines.

Just as important, before planting trees in your own yard, think about how tall they could grow and how wide their branches could spread. As a rule of thumb, 25 feet of ground-to-sky clearance should be available on each side of our utility poles to give power lines plenty of space. Choose tree varieties carefully, and plant with power lines in mind.



Use Daylight to Your Advantage

A HOME FILLED WITH NATURAL LIGHT

can save energy when solar heat is tempered with energy-efficient windows and window treatments.

Using windows to bring sunlight into a house reduces the need for artificial light and can cut down on heating, ventilating and air conditioning costs. Opting for natural light can help save money on your air conditioning bill.

If building a new home, a holistic approach to the design can be applied, and energy-efficient windows can be used in construction. Heat gain and heat loss through windows are responsible for 25%–30% of residential heating and cooling energy use, according to the U.S. Department of Energy.

In summer, south-facing windows offer little illumination but can still cause a room to heat up—and the rest of the home, too. Cover them with curtains, blinds, awnings or solar control films.

North-facing windows let in even light, little glare and not much heat.

Windows that face east and west can provide morning and evening rays but might also cause glares and contribute to heat gain in summer. Window treatments can help reduce the effect of heat gain in warmer months.

Tri-County EC Announces Scholarship Recipients

TRI-COUNTY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE AWARDED EIGHT \$4,000 AND EIGHT \$2,000 scholarships to graduating seniors headed to college and trade school. Congratulations to our 2020 scholarship recipients and to the entire class of 2020. 800876068

\$4,000 Scholarship Recipients

Jackson Finney, Brock High School
Kayla Host, Weatherford High School
Ashley Owens, Keller High School
Emma Ritchmond, Azle High School
Mikayla Roach, North Central Texas Academy
Sydney Thompson, Munday High School
Aidan Tune, Azle High School
Alexandra Weber, Keller High School

\$2,000 Scholarship Recipients

Jilleighan Boivin, Azle High School
Tess Decker, Seymour High School
Julia Halbert, Keller High School
Bronson Housmans, Carroll Senior High School
Carter Moxley, Brock High School
Derek Petrin, home school
Emma Rawley, Aledo High School
Caroline Sexton, home school

2019 Youth Tour Scholarship Recipients

Arya Kumar, Keller High School
Kade McAdams, Seymour High School
Destiny Otparlik, Azle High School
Cole Petit, Seymour High School
Jackson Schriver, Brock High School
Chase Torgesen, Azle High School



Tri-County Electric Cooperative

600 NW Parkway, Azle 76020

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jorden Wood, President
Todd Smith, Vice President
John Killough, Secretary-Treasurer
Jerry A. Walden
Steve V. Harris
Dr. Jarrett Armstrong
Max Waddell
Larry Miller

GENERAL MANAGER/CEO

Darryl Schriver

Contact Us

CALL US

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FIND US ON THE WEB

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pr@tcectexas.com

COOPERATIVE OFFICES

Aledo Office

200 Bailey Ranch Road, Aledo 76008

Azle Office

600 NW Parkway, Azle, TX 76020

Granbury Office

1623 Weatherford Highway, Granbury 76048

Keller Office

4900 Keller Hicks Road, Fort Worth 76244

Seymour Office

419 N. Main, Seymour 76380
(940) 888-3441

IT PAYS TO STAY INFORMED!

Find your account number in pages 18-25 of *Texas Co-op Power*, and you will receive a \$20 credit on your TCEC electric bill. Simply contact one of the offices listed above and make them aware of your discovery!



Find us on
Facebook



Independence Day
JULY 4



Old Settlers Reunion & Rodeo
JULY 11

Your Co-op's Community Calendar

July

3

Tri-County EC offices closed for
Independence Day

4

Independence Day

7-11

Parker County Sheriff's Posse Frontier
Days Rodeo, pcsp.net

8

Tri-County EC District 1 Meeting

9

Tri-County EC District 4 Meeting

11

Old Settlers Reunion & Rodeo,
cityofseymour.org

11-18

Parker County Peach Week,
parkercountypeachfestival.org

18

Home, Lawn and Garden Show,
kellerchamber.com

August

14

Springtown Chamber Sporting Clay
Shoot, springtownchamber.org

NOTE: Events are subject to postponement or cancellation due to COVID-19 guidance.
Please check the event resource for updates.

**Interested in promoting
your event in the next issue
of *Texas Co-op Power*?**

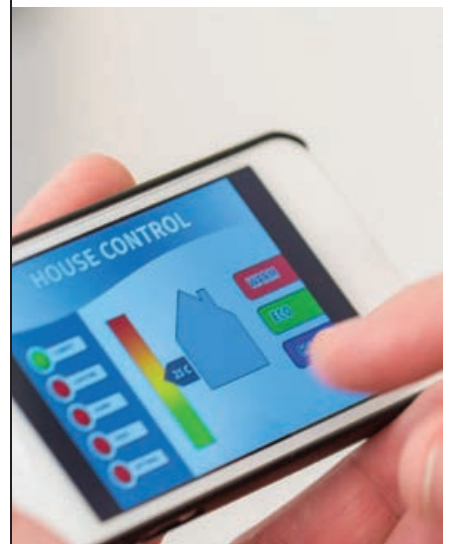
Email pr@tcectexas.com with the
event name, date and where readers
can find more information.



TOMWANG112 | ISTOCK.COM

Did You Know?

There are about 15,000 fireworks displays on Independence Day every year, according to the American Pyrotechnics Association. More than 24 million pounds of display fireworks were blown to bits in 2019.



GREGORBISTER | ISTOCK.COM

Power Tip

Raising the temperature setting on your thermostat just 1 degree could save 6%-8% on energy use. An efficient summer thermostat setting is 78 degrees. 135200102

SKODONELL | ISTOCK.COM, MIENNY | ISTOCK.COM

Texas Peach Preserves

JOHN CHENEY | FORT WORTH

2 pounds ripe peaches
1 orange
3 cups sugar
1½ cups water
⅓ teaspoon sea salt
2 teaspoons lemon juice



1. Cut peaches in half, remove the pits and cut the fruit into 1-inch pieces. Peel orange and cut into ½-inch pieces.
2. Combine peaches, orange, sugar, water and salt in a pan. Over medium-high heat, bring to a boil. Stir while heating.
3. Reduce heat to a simmer. Continue to stir the mixture and scrape the bottom of the pan for about 30 minutes, or until fruit is broken down.
4. Remove pan from heat and stir in lemon juice. Let the mixture cool for 1½ hours.
5. Spoon mixture into canning jars or airtight containers. Keep in refrigerator until you are ready to serve. Enjoy!

COOK'S TIP Preserves will keep for about 2 months.

Tri-County EC Member Recipe Submission Form

NAME

CITY

EMAIL or PHONE NUMBER

RECIPE NAME

Please return to:

Email: Please include the above information with your recipe and send to pr@tcectexas.com.

Mail: Please detach and submit this form with your recipe and mail to:
Tri-County Electric Cooperative
Attn: Recipe Submission
200 Bailey Ranch Road, Aledo, TX 76008



BELOVODCHENKO ANTON | ISTOCK.COM

They Know How To Keep Cool. Do You?

IT'S SUMMER, TEMPERATURES ARE rising and you need to work extra hard to stay cool.

Close the shades on the sunny side of your house. Only use heat-generating appliances, such as ovens, in the evening, when it's cooler. Or better yet, grill outside and have cold side dishes. Use fans to circulate the air, and wear light, loose clothing.

And remember, when plugging in window air conditioners and fans, do not plug too many appliances into one outlet, and use extension cords sparingly. 800838666

