



MESSAGE
FROM
GENERAL
MANAGER/
CEO

**DARRYL
SCHRIVER**

Power On: October is National Co-op Month

A time to celebrate the community we call home

AS AN ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, our top priority is always to provide reliable, affordable energy to you, the member-owners we serve. But our mission extends beyond that. As a co-op, we strive to enrich the lives of our members and serve the long-term interests of our community—a charge that has been more critical in recent months than ever before.

One of the seven principles that guides all co-ops is Concern for Community. To me this principle is central to the DNA of Tri-County Electric Cooperative, and it sets us apart from other utilities.

October is National Co-op Month, and as part of this year's celebration, electric cooperatives across the country are highlighting the many ways we "Power On." 2866001

Who could have fathomed at the beginning of the year that COVID-19 would test our community and nation? The rapidly changing circumstances caused by the pandemic have created difficulties and opportunities for your co-op. Over the past several months, we've been challenged to operate differently, and Tri-County Electric Co-op has stepped up to help our members and strengthen the safety net for our more vulnerable neighbors.

To ensure the reliability of your power supply, we modified our operations to safeguard business continuity. Our line crews and other employees came to work each day and worked in isolation to maintain physical separation. We also adjusted our walk-in office availability and in-person service calls to ensure the health and safety of our employees and valued members. We believe these measures were necessary to protect our community. For our members who needed help with their electric bills, we applied deposits and worked to make special payment arrangements.

I tell you about all of these efforts to explain how much we care about this community—because we live here, too.

While the difficulties caused by COVID-19 have been daunting, I'm heartened to see how our community has pulled together.

More than 81 years ago, Tri-County Electric Co-op was built by the community to serve the community, and that's what we'll continue to do—power on. ■

VIRTUAL ANNUAL MEETING REGISTRATION

Members who register will receive a phone call on October 6, before 7 pm that will connect you to the Annual Meeting.

If you do not have access to the Internet, please call our offices at 817-444-3201 to register.

**Register by
October 5**

**Register for the
Virtual Annual
Meeting online at**

**[tcectexas.com/
annual-meeting](https://tcectexas.com/annual-meeting)**

2020 *Virtual* Annual Meeting

Join us *virtually* on Tuesday, October 6 at 7 pm!

The Meeting

For the health and safety of our member-owners and employees, we will hold this year's annual meeting *virtually* in lieu of the usual in-person meeting held in Weatherford. The meeting will be conducted from our Aledo office, and members can watch or listen from the safety of their home or office. Cooperative leadership feels this is the best decision as we all power through the COVID-19 pandemic together.

The Annual Meetings is scheduled for 7 pm on October 6. Members can participate by listening by phone or streaming online. 800801628

To participate by phone:

Register online at tcectexas.com/annual-meeting

Members who register will receive a phone call on October 6, before 7 pm that will connect you to the Annual Meeting.

If you do not have access to the Internet, please call our offices at 817-444-3201.

To participate by streaming online:

On October 6, go to tcectexas.com/annual-meeting and watch the Annual Meeting online. 800687867

The Election

Ballots were due to Survey and Ballot Systems, our third-party election partner, on September 30. Election results will be announced during the *virtual* Annual Meeting on October 6. Members who voted by the deadline will receive a \$12 credit on their electric account later this month.

Door Prizes

Member-owners who participated in this year's election and vote by the deadline were entered into this year's door prize drawing. Winners will be selected at random by Survey and Ballot Systems and will be announced during the *virtual* Annual Meeting.

**If you forget to register or get disconnected from the call, dial
855-710-6229
to listen to the Annual Meeting.**

MEETING AGENDA

Welcome

Gloria Barron

Director of Marketing and Business Development

Business Meeting Reading of the Notice & Proof of Mailing

Jorden Wood

Board President

Treasurer's Report

John Killough

Board Secretary/Treasurer

Report on District Meetings & Director Nominations

Darryl Schriver

General Manager/CEO

Election of Board Members

Darryl Schriver

General Manager/CEO

State of the Cooperative

Darryl Schriver

General Manager/CEO

Door Prize Drawings

Question and Answer



Parker County's Red Steagall helped put cowboy poetry on the map.

Spirit of the American West lives in Parker County's Cowboy Legend

BY BOB BUCKEL, COMMUNICATIONS AND MEDIA REPRESENTATIVE

AFTER SPENDING THE FIRST EIGHT years of his career in Hollywood, Red Steagall has spent more than four decades getting about as far from Hollywood as an entertainer can get.

To say he's been busy is like saying there's an occasional breeze in West Texas.

Steagall has written and recorded hit songs and played to packed houses all over the U.S. and in Europe, Australia, South America, Asia and the Middle East. He has entertained at rodeos and armories on the back roads of Texas, and for various heads of state – including a party at the White House for Ronald Reagan. He is in the Hall of Great Westerners at the National Cowboy Museum in Oklahoma City alongside Will Rogers, Charles Goodnight and Charlie Russell, and in more Halls of Fame than you knew existed – including the Texas Rodeo Cowboy Hall of Fame and the Western Music Hall of Fame. He has published four books of poetry, and in 2006 he was the Poet Laureate of Texas. Last year, in honor of his 80th birthday, a life-size bronze of him on horseback was installed in front of the Coliseum in the Fort Worth Stockyards. For 27 years, he has hosted a nationally syndicated radio show, and a dozen years ago he started his own television show on the RFD Network.

Oh, and for the last 43 years he has been living and ranching, writing and recording in rural Parker County, where he is a

member of Tri-County Electric Cooperative.

"It's been a fun life," Steagall grins. "It still is."

In 1991, at the behest of County Extension Agents John South and Jalynn Burkett, he helped organize and lent his name to Red Steagall's Cowboy Gathering and Western Swing Festival at the Fort Worth Stockyards. Three years later, South and Burkett both moved away, so Steagall recruited partners Jimbo Calhoun, Hub Baker and Steve Murrin, and the event rolled right on, every October.

This year's event was to be the 30th. Due to COVID-19, it won't happen until 2021.

"We postponed it," he said after announcing the news in August. "I hate to disappoint people, but it would be really sad if we got within 30 days, and people had already made their travel plans and paid for their tickets. I had to make a decision." 8002819601

Those who already bought tickets for this year will get a full refund. Also postponed was the annual Trail Ride and Wagon Train that has preceded every Gathering but the first.

The schedule this year called for wagons to assemble at Jacksboro on Saturday, Oct. 17, and go from there to camp at Perrin, Mineral Wells, Weatherford, Azle, then down North Main into the Stockyards – virtually a tour of Tri-County Electric Co-op's original 1939 territory. The wagon train's



Red Steagall and partners roll into the Fort Worth Stockyards National Historic District during a previous Cowboy Gathering.

arrival kicks off a three-day event featuring cowboy music and poetry, a Ranch Rodeo, a huge trade show, a youth fiddling contest and a chuckwagon cookoff, ending on Sunday with cowboy church and a gospel concert.

In 2019, an estimated 25,000 to 30,000 people were in the streets.

“Not all of those buy tickets, thank goodness, because we wouldn’t have any place to put them,” Steagall said. “But they come to see the sights, sounds and smells of the chuckwagon camp.”

The dances, concerts and trade show, as well as the other events, have drawn people to Fort Worth from all over the world. 800775767

“We have people from Italy and England, groups of them come,” Steagall said. “And we have people all over the United States who take part of their vacation and come to Fort Worth for that weekend.”

Loyalty to those folks is what motivated Steagall to go ahead and cancel in August.

“We’ll have the 30th year next year,” he said. “It’s not the end of the world.”

Undoubtedly, the disappointment will make next year’s celebration that much sweeter.

It Starts with the Story

The coronavirus isn’t the first thing to alter Red Steagall’s plans. In fact, he’s had three or four careers, been successful and enjoyed every one of them.

A native of Gainesville, he earned a degree in Animal Science from what is now West Texas A&M University and started out in the agricultural chemical business. He

left that “day job” and went to Hollywood as a producer, and even worked in the film industry for a while – but his major impact came as a singer and songwriter of classic Western swing. He has written more than 200 songs that he or other artists recorded, and he had 26 consecutive singles that tracked on the national charts. He has released 24 albums and written such hits as *Here We Go Again*, *Party Dolls and Wine*, *Freckles Brown*, and *Lone Star Beer and Bob Wills Music*.

It wasn’t until his music career took a downturn that he found his true calling.

“By 1985, sad songs and waltzes weren’t selling anymore,” he said. “I couldn’t even get arrested out on the road. I didn’t know what I was going to do.”

He put together a tour in the spring of ’84 that didn’t exactly pan out. “I got home with a lot less money in my pocket than I left with, and I left with nothing.”

The following January, he and his brother, Danny, went



ABOVE: At a stop on the trail, cooks set up their wagons and get ready to feed the cowboys on the annual Trail Ride and Wagon Train that has preceded all but the first Cowboy Gathering.

LEFT: Wagons are required to have wooden wheels, and garb on the trail must be authentic.



ABOVE: Red Steagall earned fame as a Western Swing songwriter and performer before expanding into cowboy poetry and music in the 1980s.

RIGHT: Red Steagall rides into the Stockyards Coliseum during the Grand Entry at a past Ranch Rodeo, held during the Cowboy Gathering.



to the first National Cowboy Poetry Gathering, hosted by the Western Folklife Center in Elko, Nevada. It turned out to be a life-changer.

"I fell in love with it," Steagall said. "I realized that poetry was something that I had never allowed myself the luxury to write, because I was a songwriter. I had to use those creative juices to write songs and make a living. I came home, and they just poured out of me."

For five years, Steagall didn't write a song.

"I wrote nothing but poetry, as if it had been stored up in the back of my mind all my life," he said. "It was a wonderful time in my life, and a great discipline."

But if cowboy poetry transformed Steagall's life, he also helped transform the genre. He and pals Michael Martin Murphy and Don Edwards brought the fame they had attained from music and gave cowboy poetry a visibility it had not had before. Baxter Black became nationally known, and within a few years festivals sprang up all over the country – and drew thousands. 800728745

Red Steagall was made for this moment.

His radio show played a huge role, because he read not only his own poetry, but the poems of others. *Cowboy Corner* still airs in 125 markets in 34 states. Then 12 years ago, he took the format to RFD TV with *In the Bunkhouse*, which after four years was changed to *Red Steagall is Somewhere West of Wall Street*. The show airs Mondays at 8:30 p.m. CST, Tuesdays at 12:30 a.m. and Sundays at 6 a.m.

"I recite poetry, play some cowboy music and have an interview with somebody who has a vested interest in the cowboy way of life," Steagall said. "It might be an actor, a politician, an old-time cowboy or a modern-day rancher – or just somebody who contributes to the West."

Past subjects have included boot-making legend John Justin, musicians Bob Wills and Leon Rausch and actor Barry Corbin. Future shows will focus on western writer Will James, and a segment is planned on the Colorado Coal Mine Wars of 1914 – with an emphasis on how tragedy resulted in improved conditions for coal miners nationwide. It always ends with an

inspirational song.

"There's still a large number of people who appreciate the folk art of cowboy music and poetry," he said. "We call it cowboy poetry, but it's poetry – about a particular group of people, during a particular period in the history of our country."

Steagall spoke with a natural eloquence about the original cowboys' roots in the British Isles, which gave birth to their love of classic poetry and spawned many of the melodies found in their songs.

"They were adventuresome people," he said.

Tri-County Electric Co-op has been a steady partner for Steagall since he built his ranch between Azle and Weatherford, in the heart of the co-op's original territory.

"Since I moved here, 43 years ago, I have never had a problem with Tri-County Electric," he said. "One time a transformer exploded – those are things that nobody can predict – but it was fixed immediately. I've always had a good relationship with Tri-County."

Steagall is a patient man, but he can't wait to bring the Cowboy Gathering back to the Stockyards in 2021. That area holds generations of stories that historians are still working to discover and tell. 164415001

"It's the story of human struggle and human progress and human defeats, and getting on your feet and trying again," he said.

So next fall, if you're traveling in October, shoot for the Red Steagall Cowboy Gathering in the Fort Worth Stockyards. You won't find a lot of glitz and glamour, but you will glimpse the reality of cowboy life and hear some great stories.

"We don't do anything that was invented by Hollywood," he said. "We celebrate the life of the men and women who make their living horseback, working cattle, providing beef for the dinner tables of America. That's the folks we celebrate. And they're still out there."

"As Baxter says, you just can't see them from the freeway." ■



Keep Hot Water Hot

IS YOUR ELECTRIC WATER HEATER warm to the touch? If it is, then you need to insulate it.

Insulating a water heater can cut standby heat loss by about 25% and save up to 16% on your water heating bill, according to the U.S. Department of Energy.

Pre-cut blankets or jackets for water heaters are available for about \$20, and installation can be done in about an hour. Before installing insulation on your water heater, be sure that your system is not leaking. Leaky tanks need to be replaced. 800742988

To install insulation on an electric water heater, follow these steps outlined on energy.gov:

- Turn off the water heater. For electric water heaters, turn off the breaker on the electrical panel. Measure the height of the water heater and cut the blanket to length. Leave the top of the water heater exposed, especially on a gas unit for which it is important to leave the vent uncovered.
- Wrap the insulation around the water heater and secure temporarily with tape. Position the blanket or jacket to where the ends do not come together over the access panels on the sides of the water tank.
- Use a marker to mark where the controls are so you can cut them out. Electric units usually have two panels on the side of the tank. Also mark the area where the pipe sticks out of the side of the water heater.
- Install the blanket. Line up the cut-out areas carefully, then install the insulation with tape.
- Turn the water heater back on. Turn the breaker back on, and be sure to set the thermostat to an energy-efficient 120 degrees. A hotter setting could cause electrical wiring to overheat.
- Remember, heat loss can also occur from hot water pipes, so insulating those can result in energy savings, too. ■

Straight Shooting on Safety



Texans love to hunt. There's suspense and excitement and escape from the daily routine.

Always remember the 10 commandments of shooting safety:

- 1. Always point** the muzzle of your gun in a safe direction.
- 2. Treat every firearm** or bow with the same respect you would show a loaded gun or nocked arrow.
- 3. Be sure** of your target.
- 4. Unload firearms** and unstring conventional bows when they're not in use.
- 5. Know** your safe zone-of-fire and stick to it.
- 6. Handle firearms**, arrows and ammunition with care.
- 7. Control** your emotions when using weapons.
- 8. Wear** hearing and eye protection.
- 9. Don't consume** alcohol or drugs before or while handling firearms or bows.
- 10. Never use** electrical insulators or transformers as targets.

Tri-County Electric Co-op encourages you to always practice safety.

#SafetyStrong



Virtual Annual Meeting
October 6

Election Day
November 3

Your Co-op's Community Calendar

October

2

Pink Luncheon,
parkercountyhealthfoundation.org

2-4

Oktoberfest,
southlakechamber.com

6

Virtual Annual Meeting,
tcectexas.com/annual-meeting

8

**WISD Education Foundation Golf
Tournament,** weatherfordisd.com

9

7th Annual Dragon Classic,
dragonclassic.com

10

Cruisin' the Brazos,
cityofseymour.org

15

**Granbury Young Professionals
Virtual Cooking Class,**
granburychamber.com

Wine and Jazz,
kellerchamber.com

16

Fore the Kids Golf Tournament,
casahopeforchildren.org

30

Halloween on the Green,
metroportchamber.org

November

3

Election Day


11

Veterans Day

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.

Tri-County Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

CONTACT US

200 Bailey Ranch Road

Aledo, TX 76008

Phone (817) 444-3201

Email customer_service@tcectexas.com

Web tcectexas.com

General Manager/CEO

Darryl Schriver

Board of Directors

Jorden Wood, President

John Killough, Secretary-Treasurer

Jerry A. Walden

Steve V. Harris

Dr. Jarrett Armstrong

Max Waddell

Larry Miller

24/7

Outage Hotline Numbers

For information and
to report outages, please
contact us.

Phone: (817) 444-3201

Online: tcectexas.com

App: TCEC Connect

ABOUT TRI-COUNTY ELECTRIC CO-OP

Tri-County Electric Co-op owns and maintains more than 9,145 miles of line to provide electric service to more than 93,000 members in Archer, Baylor, Denton, Foard, Haskell, Hood, Jack, King, Knox, Palo Pinto, Parker, Stonewall, Tarrant, Throckmorton, Wilbarger, and Wise counties.

OFFICE LOCATIONS

Aledo

200 Bailey Ranch Road, Aledo 76008

Azle

600 NW Parkway, Azle 76020

Granbury

1623 Weatherford Highway, Granbury 76048

Keller

4900 Keller-Hicks Road, Fort Worth 76244

Seymour

419 N. Main, Seymour 76380

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 electric bill. Simply contact one of the offices listed above and make them aware of your discovery!

VISIT US ONLINE

tcectexas.com

[Facebook.com/TCECTexas](https://www.facebook.com/TCECTexas)



Candy Corn on Cobb

BY CHRIS TURNER
KELLER

16 oz candy corn
1 package sugar cookie dough

1. Roll cookie dough out in a thick rope. Cut in 2-3 inch pieces.
2. Take candy corn and insert the candy into dough in rows.
Store candy cobb in freezer until shortly before serving.

Enjoy!

COOK'S TIP For a healthy alternative, cut a banana into 2-3 inch pieces. Insert candy corn in banana in rows. Store in freezer until shortly before serving.

Tri-County Electric Co-op Member Recipe Submission Form

MEMBER _____

CITY _____

EMAIL or PHONE NUMBER _____

RECIPE NAME _____

SUBMITTING YOUR RECIPE:

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

ONLINE: tcectexas.com/recipe-submission

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, Texas 76008

