



MESSAGE
FROM
GENERAL
MANAGER/
CEO

**DARRYL
SCHRIVER**

Changes to your Co-op's Bylaws

New bylaws are effective November 1

IN THE SEPTEMBER ISSUE of *Texas Co-op Power*, Jorden Wood, Board Chairman, and I wrote a letter to the membership that included a recap of the past year. In the letter, we mentioned changes to were coming to your co-op's bylaws.

Bylaws serve as one of the governing documents of your cooperative and include procedures for members and the Board of Directors.

After careful consideration, your Board of Directors has approved a new set of bylaws, effective November 1, 2020. The new bylaws can be found on our website at tcectexas.com/bylaws. I encourage you to review the document.

Over the next few months, we will include excerpts of the bylaws in *Texas Co-op Power*. This month, we are highlighting a couple of topics pertaining to the Board districts and nominations.

The Board of Directors is the co-op's governing body and is responsible for the well-being of your cooperative. They make decisions, such as setting co-op policies and retiring capital. The Board is elected by the entire membership and is accountable to co-op membership. 800589326

If you have any questions regarding your co-op's bylaws, please give our offices a call at 817-444-3201.

Director Districts

The Tri-County Electric Co-op Board of Directors will increase to nine directors to represent the urban, suburban, rural and extremely rural areas of the co-op territory. Membership numbers in the urban districts shall be within 5% of each other and membership numbers in the suburban and rural districts shall be within 5% of each other.

Directors will still serve three-year overlapping terms to allow one-third of the Board to be up for election each year.

Director Nominations

Director nominations will no longer take place at District Meetings. Members who wish to run for the Board of Directors may seek election through the Nominations and Qualifications Committee or by member petition.

The Nominations and Qualifications Committee will accept and review nominations for director candidates for each director district scheduled for election each year. The committee is nominated by the Board to three-year overlapping terms. Eligible members may seek nomination through the Nominations and Qualifications Committee by filing an application and gathering 25 signatures from members who reside in the district. 800806107

Eligible members may nominate themselves through petition by gathering 50 signatures from members who reside in the district.

Watch for future issues of *Texas Co-op Power* for bylaws excerpts and deadlines pertaining to Director nominations and elections. ■

**To view the new bylaws, effective
November 1, please visit
tcectexas.com/bylaws**



PROTECT YOUR FAMILY & YOUR FINANCES

Tri-County Electric Cooperative has partnered with AirMedCare Network to offer you the opportunity to join our membership program at a special discounted rate!

AirMedCare Network (AMCN) is America's largest air medical membership network, providing coverage across 320 locations in 38 states.

Expenses for emergency air medical transport can put stress on your finances. With an AMCN membership, you will have no out-of-pocket expenses if flown by an AMCN provider. Best of all, Tri-County Electric Cooperative members can enroll for the special discounted rate of just \$65 per year.

Secure financial peace of mind for your family today!

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 A Global Medical Response Solution



Larry Brumbaugh still has the cash register that came out of his first store, on Roosevelt Avenue in Fort Worth. It was left behind by the previous occupant of the building—a grocery store.

Brumbaugh is as unique as the furniture he sells

BY BOB BUCKEL, COMMUNICATIONS AND MEDIA REPRESENTATIVE

AT 19, LONGTIME Tri-County Electric Cooperative member Larry Brumbaugh found himself on the dean's list at Sul Ross State University – but not in a good way.

He still remembers the college administrator's exact words.

"He said, 'Brumbaugh, I don't ever want you back here. And furthermore, you'll be digging ditches the rest of your life,'" he laughs. "I'll always remember that little fiasco."

The road that led from there to his current spot as the owner, along with his wife and partner, Sally, of Brumbaugh's Fine Home Furnishings in Fort Worth, had some twists and turns. Perhaps the most significant detour went through Camp Pendleton, the U.S. Marine Corps' training base on the California coast between L.A. and San Diego. 800876416

That's where Brumbaugh and some of his North Side buddies found themselves after enlisting in 1961 when the US began to send "advisors" to a place called Vietnam.

"We had heard about the Pendleton Roundup, and when we signed up, the recruiter said, 'Yeah, we've got a bucking arena and everything at Pendleton,'" he laughed. "So, we got there and it was just a little bitty arena, nothing. No stands."

Instead of riding bulls, Brumbaugh and his fellow Marines "ran, and ran, and ran," living in six-man tents beside the Pacific Ocean. When they weren't running, they were on the rifle range, where everyone had to qualify as a sharpshooter or face consequences.

"If you couldn't hit the target, that was bad," he says.

After Camp Pendleton, Brumbaugh went to Twenty-Nine Palms and found a job as supply sergeant. He re-enlisted and stayed through the 1960s, into the time when the Vietnam war got "hot and heavy" and he was working 20-hour days, shipping out supplies to the Marines in the trenches.

"I don't know what I'd have ended up doing, but I had on-the-job training in the Marine Corps," he says. "Basically, the sergeant who was ahead of me, in supply, he got out, and they moved me up to supply sergeant, and everything I did there was getting it, putting it in inventory and shipping it out. It was a good job."

Brumbaugh said the Marine Corps gave him an education.

"I never thought in my wildest dreams I'd be in a business," he said. "I hadn't even thought about it. But procuring furniture from the Carolinas, selecting leathers – we bring it in here, put it in inventory, then ship it out. I learned that in the Marine Corps."

Today, people from all over the world visit Brumbaugh's for unique furniture and home décor. The distinct "Texas or Tuscan Style" is evident throughout the 50,000 square-foot store at 11651 Camp Bowie West Blvd. in Aledo, where Larry sits at his overflowing desk, surrounded by richly carved hardwood, wrought iron, fine upholstery, cut glass, lamps and hand-knotted rugs. The store feels like a small city, but with

the smell of wood and leather and the ambience of a luxurious home.

Like the furniture he sells, Brumbaugh is one-of-a-kind, his life journey etched with character and a healthy amount of stress, solid as oak and getting better with age.

“People coming in, they see me sitting out here,” he said. “I’m not boarded up in the office back there. I’m out here. I greet them, find out where they’re from, what they do, and this and this and this. It’s a good place to visit. 800873784

“What else would you do – go to the coffee shop all morning, sip coffee and sit and visit with some old-timers?”

Brumbaugh prefers talking to his customers. Talk awhile, and you realize he knows an awful lot about furniture. In fact, he knows a lot about many things – cattle, horses, land, history – and mostly, people. If you try and steer the conversation in a specific direction, it’s not likely you’ll have much success. It’s best to just enjoy the ride.

“I’m good at what I do, but I’m average in everything else,” he laughs. “If you’re here every day, looking at people every day, helping people every day, you kind of pick it up.”

The Quest for Quality

Brumbaugh has been doing this “every day” for a long time. He went into the business 53 years ago, selling furniture and carpet to bargain hunters on Fort Worth’s North Side, near where he graduated from Carter-Riverside High School in 1959. For 30 years, he sold damaged goods, salvaged from freight cars. He moved up to low-end, vinyl-upholstered furniture, stapled together in East Texas for the mass market, then watched as American furniture makers gradually moved their factories to China. As the industry shifted, he saw opportunity.

“As time went on, the customer would ask you, ‘Have you got anything better?’ And most stores say, ‘This is the best we’ve got.’ Well, maybe that’s the best they’ve got, but they don’t have what we’ve got.”

Larry and Sally’s quest for better furniture led them to the Carolinas, where American craftsmen still make high-quality sofas, chairs, tables, bedroom suites and other items. After years of serving the bottom end of the market, he turned toward the top end. Since he and Sally built the Camp Bowie store in 1999, they have established a reputation for quality that is unmatched, selling to music and football stars, well-heeled ranchers and cutting-horse royalty.

“You buy this sofa, you take it home and use it 20, 30, 40, 50 years – you don’t wear it out,” he said. “It’s an heirloom. It’s a quality piece. It’s never going to be out on the curb. You pass it on in your will.”

If a customer wants to talk about leather, hand-dyed in Italy and hand-burnished by fourth- and fifth-generation craftsmen, Larry can do that. He can explain the difference between no-sag springs and eight-way hand-tied coil springs. If someone is curious about hand-carved teak buffets, salvaged from fishing boats in Java, Larry can walk them through the Jason Scott collection. If they want to discuss the relative merits of old-fashioned animal-fat glue versus synthetic glue, he can do that. 800737342

And if they want high-end, designer-inspired collections and colors, Brumbaugh’s has that, too.

Larry and Sally’s daughter Elizabeth, who puts together collections for Brumbaugh’s, has a master’s degree from Texas A&M University and is a member of the American Society of Interior Design.

“A lot of people run around saying they’re interior designers,

TOP: Brumbaugh was a supply sergeant in the U.S. Marine Corps through most of the 1960s.

BOTTOM: Brumbaugh’s big grin is the same now as it was when he was a 150-pound Marine.



LARRY BRUMBAUGH

but very few of them have that ASID – probably about one percent,” Larry says. “She’s got it, and she’s been involved in the business pretty strong for the last four or five years.”

A champion non-pro rider in the cutting horse business, Elizabeth lives in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, with her husband and son. They come to Fort Worth often, Larry says.

Brumbaugh’s customer list includes a good many of those cutting-horse people as well as Kix Brooks of the country duo Brooks & Dunn, cowboy poet Red Steagall and Dallas Cowboys legends Walt Garrison and Randy White.

“The level we’re in – of the top end, we’re the cream of all the furniture,” he says. “The quality is better, the hides are better, the dying process is better – it’s a super product. And yeah, it’ll cost you, but the leather’s the best, the frame’s the best, the colors are great. 800867875

“I like what I do,” he says. “I really like what I do.”

The Brumbaughs also raise cattle – Brumbaugh Ranches had the champion pen of Commercial F1 Tiger-striped heifers at the 2019 Fort Worth Stock Show – and thoroughbred horses. One horse, Improbable, that spent some time at Brumbaugh’s place in Parker County ran in last year’s Kentucky Derby.

The ranch location, in a scenic bend of the Brazos River, is what motivated him to build the new store on Camp Bowie.

“I had always said, somewhere down the line I want to build



BOB BUCKEL

Larry Brumbaugh has an office, but his favorite spot is at a desk right out in the middle of the furniture store, where he can visit with the customers who come in.

a building out there on that property because from here to the ranch is 30 minutes, with three red lights,” he says. “I can get here fast and I can get home fast.”

At the ranch, Brumbaugh has been a member of Tri-County Electric Cooperative since 1984.

“I’ve always liked Tri-County,” he says. “The power just never goes out, and on the rare occasion when a storm knocks it out, it’s always back on very quickly.

“If I’m sitting in the dark, I know they’re on their way.” ■



Applications are open for the 2021 Youth Tour!

Tri-County Electric Cooperative is sponsoring six high school students on an all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C. in June 2021.

Winning students will also receive a \$2,000 scholarship for college or trade school.

Applications are due Friday, January 15, 2021!

Visit tcectexas.com/youth-tour to view eligibility requirements, guidelines and to apply.

APPLICATION DEADLINE
MARCH 5, 2021

SCHOLARSHIP

\$2,000
\$4,000
Scholarships Available

Learn More & Apply
tcectexas.com/scholarship

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



November 11 - January 3

PARKER COUNTY SHERIFF'S POSSE

2251 MINERAL WELLS HWY

WEATHERFORD

Gather the family and marvel at 2 million lights, animated to the tunes of your favorite holiday classics from the safety and comfort of your car!

Tickets are available at
www.RadianceChristmas.com

Enter special code "TCEC5" to
redeem your \$5 discount offer!

Enjoy the wonder of **RADIANCE!**
A Holiday Light Spectacular!

Tri-County Electric
Co-op members
receive

\$5 off

with code
TCEC5

Lighting the Way with Christmas Spirit

Radiance! at the Ranch to be completely COVID-safe

"THE ART OF THE POSSIBLE" is coming to Weatherford this Christmas.

Radiance! at the Ranch, a drive-through holiday light spectacular, will open Nov. 11 at the Parker County Sheriff's Posse, on Highway 180 just west of town, and run through Jan. 3. The display, which features two million lights, animated to classic holiday songs, is being built by the same folks who put together Christmas extravaganzas at the Gaylord Hotels and Six Flags theme parks. 7000029201

It will be like nothing Parker County has ever seen.

Millsap resident Bryan Lank is the president of Peerless Production Group and a member of Tri-County Electric Cooperative. To create *Radiance!* experiences in Weatherford, Frisco and Decatur, he has enlisted the help of Warren Lyng, who directed entertainment for all the Gaylord Hotels during his 25-year career there.

"We've created environments that are completely COVID-safe," Lyng says. "You're in your own car. It's about 30 minutes to drive through about a mile-and-a-half of lights."

The goal for future years is to create an entire Christmas-themed ranch, with snow-tubing hills, real snow, ice skating, bumper cars on ice, character dining and more. But Lyng says

this year, the event will start small – though "small" will still knock your eyes out.

"Year five looks like Disneyland," he says.

The idea is to make it an annual holiday tradition that will draw participants from all over North Texas. There will also be food and beverage items for sale, as well as toys and other mementos, on a drive-by basis with quick, touch-free exchanges. Tickets are \$30 per car, or \$50 per car for the VIP lane, which includes hot chocolate and "magic" glasses for the kids to enhance the light effects. Tickets are available at radiancechristmas.com.

Tri-County Electric Co-op members can enjoy \$5 off the *Radiance!* experience by entering the special code "TCEC5" when purchasing tickets online. 800704663

"Everything PPG does is really about getting families to come together," Lyng says. "What we're saying is, 'You've had a challenging year. It's time to brighten up your life. Christmas is just around the corner.'" ■



RADIANCE! at the Ranch
Nov 11 - Jan 3

Thanksgiving Holiday
November 26-27

Your Co-op's Community Calendar

November

3
Election Day

11
Veterans Day

RADIANCE! At the Ranch,
radiancechristmas.com
*Ends January 3

12
Golf Classic,
kellerchamber.com

14
Annual Coyote Chase Race,
wc.edu

20
Lone Star Legislative Report,
metroportchamber.org

26-27
Thanksgiving Holiday,
Our offices will be closed

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.

December

1-31
RADIANCE! At the Ranch,
radiancechristmas.com
*Ends January 3

5
Lighted Christmas Parade,
cityofseymour.org

24-25
Christmas Holiday,
Our offices will be closed

January 2021

1
New Year's Day,
Our offices will be closed

RADIANCE! At the Ranch,
radiancechristmas.com
*Ends January 3

Tri-County Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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Jordan 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 94,000 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)



SEPARATUS | PIXABAY

Pecan Pie Trifle

BY JUDY BRUCE
KELLER

- Pecan Pie, one-and-a-half 8-inch pies**
- 8 oz cream cheese**
- 1 can Eagle Brand**
- 12 oz Cool Whip**
- Caramel ice cream topping**

1. Break pie into little pieces.
2. To make the filling, combine cream cheese and Eagle Brand. Stir in cool whip.
3. Layer, starting with filling, then drizzle caramel, then pie. This will make three layers. End with filling and a caramel drizzle.

Enjoy!

COOK'S TIP You can bake your own pies using your favorite recipe, bakery pies or frozen pies.

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
Alledo, Texas 76008

