



MESSAGE
FROM
PRESIDENT/
CEO

**DARRYL
SCHRIVER**

The Story behind the Changes

How the board of directors worked to revamp your co-op bylaws

TRI-COUNTY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE HAS operated on our new bylaws for the past month. In September, we let you know news bylaws were coming to your co-op, and in the November *Texas Co-op Power* I covered a few of the major changes. This month I'd like to share with you how the board of directors arrived at the decision to update the co-op's bylaws.

Tri-County Electric Co-op is unique. Your co-op is one of the largest electric co-ops in the nation, as well as one of the fastest growing. In updating the bylaws, the board recognized the co-op's growth and the needs and expectations of the membership. 8002407102

Your board of directors considered lessons learned and challenges from other large cooperatives. Additionally, the board sought guidance from co-op attorneys and consultants on best practices and techniques for going about this complex revision.

I have been in the electric co-op industry for over 25 years, serving in various positions at the state-wide, generation and transmission and distribution levels and on national boards. My time in the industry has allowed me to glean from years of experience to assist the board in creating an adequate governance structure for this co-op. The new set of bylaws was created with you, the member in mind and for the best interest of the cooperative.

The board reviewed cooperative bylaws from across the nation, including those of electric cooperatives along the east coast and here in Texas. The review involved various areas of the co-op's governance structure, including the director election process and director districts. Adequate representation and the right number of directors is important. The board needs to be representative of all members — including residential, commercial and industrial — across all areas of the service territory.

The board decided to transition from eight to nine members to represent the urban, suburban and rural areas of the service territory. The director districts are also redistricted and balanced. Each of the four urban districts, which represent a total of around 53,000 members, are relatively equal. Each of the four urban districts, which represent a total of around 39,000 members, are fairly equal. The rural district represents around 1,600 members in the Seymour/Munday area.

This change brought two additional board seats in the Keller area. One seat is new, as the board grew by one member. The other seat was transitioned from the suburban area when the District 1 seat became vacant after Todd Smith resigned last June. The four suburban districts absorbed that seat. These two urban seats are currently vacant. Additional information is to come on how the board will fill these two seats. 168900101

Election processes and procedures were also carefully reviewed to promote proper democracy. Each year one-third, or 3 director districts, will be up for election. Director nominations will no longer take place at district meetings, and members will have two ways to get their name on the ballot. Members may seek election through the Nominating and Qualifications Committee or by member petition. Watch the next few issues of *Texas Co-op Power* for more information on director elections.

I encourage you to review the bylaws located on our website at tcectexas.com/bylaws and to reach out to your co-op if you have any questions. ■

**To view the new bylaws please visit
tcectexas.com/bylaws**

Winter Hit Early

TEXAS WEATHER IS UNPREDICTABLE. On October 26, a cold front brought low temperatures and rain to much of west and north central Texas. This weather hit our Seymour and Munday service territories hard. Damage included downed lines and numerous broken poles and crossarms. On the first night, crews were able to restore power to more than 1,000 members before another round of weather set in on October 27, causing even more damage. One of the major challenges was ice on the transmission lines feeding the area. Tri-County Electric Co-op crews worked closely with the area transmission providers to restore power. Crews from our Azle, Granbury and Keller service territories helped with restoration efforts. Linemen worked around the clock until every member was restored on the evening of Friday, October 30. 19030002 Tri-County Electric Co-op is prepared for another ice storm or whatever winter may bring this year. We are here for you. ■



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT
The insulator, removed from the pole, hangs along the frozen line. Ice buildup weighed down the line causing the crossarm on the pole to break. Aerial image of a damaged line. Linemen working to restore power after the ice melted. Working on the icy pole to restore power. Aerial image of a damaged line.

Prepare for Winter Storms

WHEN WINTER TEMPERATURES drop and storms hit, heavy snow and ice can lead to downed power lines and power outages. Prepare your family for that possibility and stay safe with these tips.

►**Stay warm.** Plan to use a safe alternate heating source, such as a wood-burning stove, during a power outage. But exercise caution when using such sources, and never leave the heating source unattended. If you are using gasoline-, propane- or natural gas-burning devices to stay warm, never use them indoors. Remember that fuel- and wood-burning sources of heat should always be properly ventilated.

►**Stay fed.** Keep handy several days' worth of food that does not need to be cooked. Crackers, cereal, canned goods and bread are good options. Five gallons of water per person should also be available in the event of an extended power outage.

►**Stay indoors.** It is best not to travel during winter storms, but if you must, bring a survival kit along, and do not travel alone. If you encounter downed lines, always assume they are live. Stay as far away from the downed lines as possible, and report the situation to our dispatchers if possible by calling 817-444-3201. ■

Reporting your Outage

IF WE EXPERIENCE A winter-related storm, please report your outage directly to our cooperative offices.

- Website:** oms.tcectexas.com
- Mobile App:** TCEC Connect
- Phone:** 817-444-3201

Reporting directly to our offices allows our System Operations team to track your outage and make sure power is restored as fast as safely possible. ■

Annual Meeting goes Virtual

BY ANNIE MCGINNIS, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS

IN A NORMAL YEAR, Tri-County Electric Cooperative members would flock to Weatherford for the co-op's annual membership meeting. However, we all know that 2020 is not a *normal* year. Instead, Tri-County Electric Co-op members participated in the October 6, meeting virtually by phone or online.

Darryl Schriver, President and CEO, said this was the best option to conduct the business meeting, director election and provide an update.

"When reviewing our options to either cancel, postpone or go virtual, this was the best decision for our members," he said. "With our diverse membership base, we are able to reach our members by phone or online without them having to commute to Weatherford."

More than 1,140 member-owners participated in the 81st Annual Meeting of the Members, including 541 members who listened by phone and more than 600 members who watched online. 19030002

Gloria Barron, Director of Marketing and Business Development, welcomed the members to the virtual meeting and Greg Hood, a Senior Utility Designer, delivered the invocation. Arya Kumar, a 2019 Youth Tour participant, sang the national anthem, followed by Joey Hollingsworth, a Staking and Field Engineering Technician, who led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Next, Barron and Schriver announced a round of 60 door prizes, a member favorite. Members who participated in the election, conducted by our third-party partner Survey and Ballot Systems, were entered into the door prize drawing. With so many changes, Schriver said keeping the door prizes was a must.

"Our members are used to coming to the Annual Meeting to receive an update on their co-op and hope to walk away with a prize donated by one of our vendors," he said. "Not including door prizes in the virtual meeting is not an option."

After the first round of prizes, Jorden Wood, Board Chairman, called the business meeting to order. Schriver and Barron addressed the first item of business by providing proof of mailing for the meeting notice.

Next, Schriver asked Barron to explain quorum requirements for the meeting. Barron explained a 5 percent quorum was needed to conduct business. With 92,980 notices mailed, Barron established quorum at 4,649.

Schriver presented the official report from Survey and Ballot Systems, this year's third-party election partner.

"According to Survey and Ballot Systems, we had a total of 4,018 ballots submitted by mail and 2,432 ballots submitted electronically, for a total of 6,450 ballots for this election," he said. "We have our quorum and a qualified election for the 81st Annual Meeting of the Members."

Schriver proceeded to the approval of the minutes from the 80th Annual Meeting of the Members held on October 1, 2019. Members listening by phone were asked to press "1" to approve, and members watching online could vote by clicking "approve" on the screen. Schriver announced the minutes were approved in sufficient numbers.

Barron introduced John Killough, Board Secretary/Treasurer, to provide his financial report. Killough said the financial reports were distributed to all members in the September issue of *Texas Co-op Power*. He then reported healthy financials for the co-op's fiscal year, including \$632,835,789 in total assets, \$263,178,426 in revenue and margins of \$16,729,900.

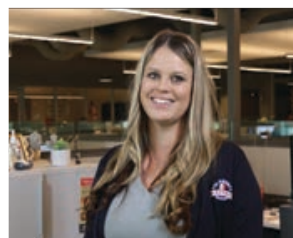
Schriver proceeded to report on the 2020 district meetings and director election. Barron recapped the District 1 Meeting and the District 4 Meeting, followed by Schriver announcing the nominee for Director District 4, Jerry Walden, had been approved by the membership. He continued with an update on the Director District 1 vacancy.

Schriver and Barron announced another round of 60 door prize winners before Schriver presented the State of the Co-op address. He kicked off the co-op update with a COVID-19 update, before passing the mic to co-op employees. 800846517

"As a part of my report to the members this year, I wanted you to learn more about your cooperative from the employees who perform those day-to-day tasks of running this cooperative to serve you," he said.

Seven co-op employees provided an update on their areas of the co-op's operation. Members received an update from operations, technology and system operations, member services, communications, safety and the Chief Financial Officer.

Schriver introduced Melony Block, Director of Human Resources, to announce a new





member benefit.

"We have partnered with AirMedCare to bring you the opportunity to purchase an air ambulance service membership," Block said. "Thanks to Touchstone Energy discounts, your entire household can be covered for \$65 a year."

Schraver returned to provide an update on the co-op's bylaws and board election process. Additionally, he mentioned the special election ballot mailed to all members in April seeking guidance on the sale of the affiliate company, OneSource. More than 19,000 members, or 32% of the membership, participated in the special election and voted to sell the company. 800758236

The co-op update ended with a short video of employees who work for you. Employees from each office and department introduced themselves and said "I work for you."

The meeting ended with the announcement of the last 85 door prize winners and a question-and-answer session. Members listening on the phone could press *3 to ask a question and members watching online could type their question below the streaming player. Anna Harms of Fort Worth was the grand prize winner of free electricity, up to \$300 a month, for the rest of 2020.

Overall, the virtual meeting was deemed a success and opened the door for future virtual opportunities. In fact, Schraver hosted a townhall call for members in the Keller area using the same platform a week later.

Kathy Anderson of Granbury, who watched online, said this was her first annual meeting.

"Thank you for doing the meeting online!" she typed. "I hope you do it again even if live at a venue."

Members may watch or listen to the recording of the Annual Meeting at tccetexas.com/annual-meeting. ■

Mark your 2021 calendar!

Tri-County Electric Cooperative's 82nd Annual Meeting of the Members will be held on Tuesday, October 5.

**PROTECT YOUR FAMILY
AND YOUR FINANCES**



Tri-County Electric Cooperative has partnered with AirMedCare Network (AMCN) to offer you the opportunity to join our membership program at a special rate of just \$65 per year!

Expenses for emergency air medical transport can put stress on your finances. With an AMCN membership—America's largest air medical membership network—you will have no out-of-pocket expenses if flown by an AMCN provider.

Secure financial peace of mind for your family today!

ENROLL TODAY!

Wes McAden
U.S. Business Development
843.708.6192
wes.mcaden@gmr.net
Track Code: 14396



A Global Medical Response Solution

10 Reasons to Apply for Youth Tour

BY ANNIE MCGINNIS, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS

THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC HAS KEPT you home long enough. Kick off Summer 2021 with a 10-day, all-expense-paid trip to Washington, DC. Tri-County Electric Cooperative is looking for high school sophomores and juniors to apply for this once-in-a-lifetime trip.

On the 2021 Youth Tour, you'll meet life-long friends, crane your neck at tall buildings, stand humbled by national memorials, and get inspired by leaders. You'll love it so much that you will be sad to return home.

Need more convincing? Here are 10 reasons to apply for the 2021 Youth Tour.

1. It's free: Tri-County Electric Co-op, along with various sponsors, will cover the cost for you to attend the Youth Tour, including airfare, hotels, meals and attractions. All you need is money for souvenirs!

2. It includes a scholarship: The six winning participants will also receive a \$2,000 scholarship for college or trade school after high school. 800737543

3. You can put it on your résumé: When you apply for college or a job, Youth Tour can help you stand out. The trip offers experiences that can shape your college applications, essays and career path.

4. You learn a lot: You return home with newfound knowledge of our nation's history from being surrounded by venues that focus on history, science, art, space, American culture and more.

5. You get to travel: Your days are spent touring popular attractions in D.C., including memorials, monuments and museums.

6. You meet new people: You'll make new friends from among more than 150 teens from across Texas, and more than 1,900 teens from around the nation.

7. You gain leadership experience: You are able to grow as a young adult and return home with leadership experience. Also, one student will be selected to represent Texas in a week-long, in-depth, leadership workshop.

8. You get a classic American adventure: Washington, D.C., is rich in history and heritage. Attending the Youth Tour will allow you to connect with history.

9. You can make your voice heard: You will spend a day on Capitol Hill and get the opportunity to meet with an elected official.

10. You connect with opportunity: You get plugged into the electric co-op community and are in a great position to learn about scholarships, internships and jobs offered through this network.

Are you ready to pack your bags? Applications are due by 5 pm on Friday, January 15, 2021.

The Youth Tour truly is the trip-of-a-lifetime. If you are a sophomore or junior in high school, I highly encourage you to apply. The Youth Tour will allow you to experience our nation's history, learn more about government, meet congressional leaders, get outside of your comfort zone, meet new friends, and expand on your leadership skills. 43696001

Additional information can be found at tcctexas.com/youth-tour. For more questions related to the Youth Tour program, email Annie McGinnis at amcginnis@tcctexas.com or call 817-752-8116. ■



ELIGIBILITY

- ▶ Reside with parents or legal guardians who are members of Tri-County Electric Co-op
- ▶ Be a current high school sophomore or junior at the time of application
- ▶ Submit the completed scholarship packet by **5 pm on Friday, January 15, 2021.**

GUIDELINES

A complete application includes the following:

- ▶ Tri-County Electric Co-op Youth Tour application
- ▶ Two (2) letters of recommendation
- ▶ 500-word essay, on one of three topics
 1. If you could talk to a political leader, what would you ask and why?
 2. Should electric linemen be considered first responders? Why or why not?
 3. If you were to start a cooperative, what kind would it be and what products or services would it offer?
- ▶ High-resolution headshot

2021 Scholarship Program

Applications due by 5 pm on Friday, March 5

TRI-COUNTY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE'S 2021 Scholarship program is open for applications. This year, Tri-County Electric Co-op will award eight \$4,000 scholarships and eight \$2,000 scholarships to graduating seniors planning to attend a 4-year university, college, junior college or trade school. 800733492

Eligibility Requirements

To be eligible to receive a scholarship, the applicant must

- Reside with parents or legal guardians who are members of Tri-County Electric Co-op
- Be a current high school senior
- Submit a complete application packet by 5 p.m. on Friday, March 5, 2021

Application Guidelines

A complete application includes the following

- Tri-County Electric Co-op Scholarship Application
- Two (2) letters of recommendation
- Current High School Transcript
- Essay, 300-500 words, on the topic *"If you could change one thing about your school or community, what would it be? Why? How would you accomplish this?"*
- High-resolution headshot

Additional information can be found at tcctexas.com/scholarship. For more questions related to the scholarship program, email Annie McGinnis at amcginnis@tcctexas.com or call 817-752-8116. ■

APPLICATION DEADLINE
MARCH 5, 2021

TRI-COUNTY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE
SCHOLARSHIP

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

Learn More & Apply
tcctexas.com/scholarship


A Touchstone Energy Cooperative



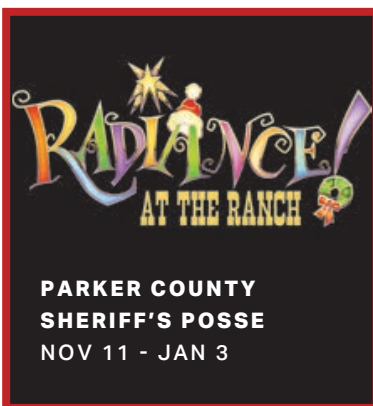
November 11 - January 3
PARKER COUNTY SHERIFF'S POSSE
2251 MINERAL WELLS HWY
WEATHERFORD

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



RADIANCE! at the Ranch
Nov 11 - Jan 3

Christmas Holiday
December 24-25

Your Co-op's Community Calendar

December

1-31

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

3

Mistletoe Market Tour,
cityofseymour.org

5

Christmas Tyme in Aledo,
aledo-texas.com

Christmas at 404,
azlechamber.com

10

Lighted Christmas Parade,
cityofseymour.org

24-25

Christmas 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.

January 2021

1

New Year's Day,
Our offices will be closed

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

15

2021 Youth Tour applications due by 5 pm,
tcectexas.com/youth-tour

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

President/CEO

Darryl Schriver

Board of Directors

Jorden Wood, Chairman

Max Waddell, Vice Chairman

John Killough, Secretary-Treasurer

Jerry A. Walden

Steve V. Harris

Dr. Jarrett Armstrong

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)

Cranberry Date Bars

BY ELLEN BROWN
WEATHERFORD

- 1 package of fresh or frozen cranberries, washed
 - 8 oz. package chopped dates
 - 1 tsp vanilla
 - 2 cups all-purpose flour
 - 2 cups oatmeal
 - 1 1/2 cup brown sugar
 - 1/2 tsp baking soda
 - 1/2 tsp salt
 - 1 cup butter, melted
- Orange Glaze, optional**
- 2 cups powdered sugar
 - 1/2 tsp vanilla
 - 3 tbsp orange juice
1. Combine cranberries, chopped dates, and vanilla. Cook for 15 minutes stirring often. The cranberries will pop open.
 2. Combine flour, oatmeal, brown sugar, baking soda and salt. Stir in melted butter until crumbly.
 3. Press half of mixture into greased 13 x 9-inch baking dish.
 4. Bake at 350°F for 8 minutes. Spoon cranberry mixture over crust. Spread gently. Sprinkle with remaing crumb mixture. Pat down gently.
 5. Bake at 350°F for 20-25 minutes. Let cool.
 6. Prepare the glaze by mixing the powdered sugar, orange juice and vanilla.
 7. Once the bars are cool, remove from pan and cut into 1 to 2-inch wide bars. Drizzle glaze over the bars.

Enjoy!



PUBLICDOMAINPICTURES | PIXABAY

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



A circular logo for Tri-County Electric. The outer ring contains the text "TRI-COUNTY" at the top and "ELECTRIC" at the bottom. Inside the ring is a stylized graphic of a power line tower. Below the circle, it says "A TCU Energy Cooperative".