

When Storms Strike, We'll Be There



**MESSAGE
FROM
MANAGER
JERRY D.
WILLIAMS**

By the time you read this, most folks will have almost forgotten about the big snow in February. I grew up in the Kiamichi Mountains on the other side of the Red River and expected a little snow every winter, but I can't remember ever seeing as much snow in this area as we had on February 12. Lamar Electric crews worked all night to restore power to the hardest hit areas. I found the deepest snow in the northern part of Red River County.

A light snow will not usually cause the electricity to go off. In this case, the pine and cedar branches bowed over onto the electric lines as over 12 inches of snow (in some areas) weighted them down. In some cases, we were able to cut the limb off or shake it until it dropped its load. Of course, as it continued to snow, several electric lines went back off. We had to restore power to some areas three times. Unfortunately, some of the electric lines burned down before the fuse blew and turned the power off.

I saw several instances where tree limbs have been allowed to remain too close to the main high-voltage wires. Some of these situations were in or near front yards, and the crews reported that when our right-of-way crews came through in the past, the landowner had objected to the limbs being cut back as they should have been. This is just not fair to their neighbors. I love trees, but tree limbs and high-voltage electric wires just do not mix. This is why Lamar Electric secures a signed easement before we build an electric line. Many times these easements were signed many

years ago, and the land has changed hands many times, but the easement is still valid. We all have to figure out how to get along, but for the sake of your neighbors and my sanity, I would ask you to be cooperative when the crews arrive to cut tree limbs.

Some of our past right-of-way procedures came back to haunt us. Some landowners related how in the past they asked the right-of-way crew to just cut a particular tree down, rather than trim a few limbs. At the time, our contracted right-of-way crews were being paid a set price per foot to trim limbs within 10 feet of the line and were following orders when they declined to remove the whole tree. This problem has been fixed, but it is going to take awhile to get around to all 2,000 miles of electric line.



George Scroggins and Casey Martin

After such a cold and wet winter, many of us are glad to see the return of warmer weather. If forecasts are right, this spring should be wetter than usual in Texas. Usually, with more rain comes a bigger chance of severe spring storms. And with those storms often come lightning and downed limbs and trees. Those are the two biggest causes of power disruptions on our system.

We hate to think that any of our members will have to go through the inconvenience of a power outage, but we know that in a severe storm, that situation is almost a certainty. If your electricity does happen to go off at your home or business, we at Lamar Electric

want to remind you of a few things:

First, give us a call at (903) 784-4303 and let us know your power is out. You may be on hold for a while, so please be patient. We'll send repair crews as soon as possible, and they will continue to work until your lights are back on. Depending on the severity of the outage, this could take several hours; so make sure you have supplies such as flashlights, candles or lamps on hand.

Also, do yourself a favor and turn off everything in your house but a porch light. Then, when power is restored, a power surge from all your electronics turning on at once won't damage your sensitive equipment.

By leaving a porch light on, it will signal to our linemen in the field that your house's power has been restored. Once the power is back on, you can go back through your home and turn on needed appliances and lights one by one.

Please, above all, be safe. If you see downed power lines, stay away from them. Call us and call 911 to let public safety authorities know so they can help keep the area clear.

If the outage is a long one and you decide to use a portable generator, know the rules for operating it safely. Don't plug directly into your house's wiring. That can cause a dangerous condition known as backfeeding that can send electricity onto power lines, injuring or killing the linemen working to restore your service. Instead, plug individual appliances into the generator using an extension cord. Also, make sure to operate it in a well-ventilated area outside to avoid a buildup of deadly carbon monoxide gas.

Let's hope severe storms don't strike our area this spring. But if they do, we are prepared to do whatever it takes to restore your service.

At Lamar Electric Cooperative, we take pride in delivering the best possible service at an affordable price. That includes prompt service whenever an outage strikes.

NOTICE

of

LAMAR COUNTY ELECTRIC
COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION

MEETING OF MEMBERS

The Annual Membership Meeting of Lamar County Electric Cooperative Association will be held at the Paris High School Auditorium, 2400 Jefferson Road, Paris, Texas, on Saturday, April 17, 2010.

Registration opens at 9 a.m. The business session will begin at 10 a.m. and includes any necessary reports of the officers, board members and committees as well as the election of board members in Districts 2, 3 and 4, each for a three-year term.

In order for a member to be nominated for a position of director of the Cooperative, his/her name must be officially received at the main office of the Cooperative not less than sixty (60) days nor more than ninety (90) days before the date of the annual meeting of the members at which board members are to be elected.

The following members have placed their names in nomination at the Cooperative Headquarters:

DISTRICT NO. 2

Mark G. Jones, 380 Private Road 42495, Paris, TX 75462

DISTRICT NO. 3

I.B. (Barney) Chapman II, 23110 Farm Road 1159, Clarksville, TX 75426

Billy R. Hines, 1680 Farm Road 1159, Clarksville, TX 75426

DISTRICT NO. 4

Billy F. Bratton, 1484 County Road 4417, Annona, TX 75550

Charles N. Dooley, 632 Farm Road 1701, Annona, TX 75550

You do not have to be present at the meeting to vote in the director election. Prior to the meeting, ballots will be mailed to members who reside in those districts. If you reside in one of the districts having an election, you may either vote by mail or in person at the meeting.

Each member in attendance at the meeting will receive a registration gift, and a drawing for other prizes will be held. You must be present at the time of the drawing to be eligible for door prizes. In addition, two \$1,000 scholarships will be awarded at the meeting.

Billy R. Hines

BILLY R. HINES, Board Secretary

Dated: March 25, 2010



**LAMAR
ELECTRIC
COOPERATIVE**

1485 North Main St.
P.O. Box 580 • Paris, TX 75461
Phone (903) 784-4303

For general information and outages after hours, call (903) 784-4303 local or 1-800-782-9010 toll-free

Operating in Lamar, Red River, Delta and Fannin counties

Find us on the web at www.lamarelectric.coop

GENERAL MANAGER

Jerry D. Williams

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

CHAIRMAN

Allen Branch Sumner

VICE CHAIRMAN

Charles Dooley. Annona

SECRETARY-TREASURER

Billy Hines Clarksville

James Sam Cooper Roxton

Mark Jones. Paris

Ron E. Tippit Clarksville

Mike Williams Detroit

George M. Wood. Blossom

Lyle Yoder Pattonville

YOUR "LOCAL PAGES"

This section of Texas Co-op Power magazine is produced by LEC each month to provide you with information about current events, safety, special programs and other activities of the cooperative. If you have any comments or suggestions, please contact the local office.

MEMBER BENEFITS:

- Level billing
- Automated meter reading
- Free bank draft service
- Visa and MasterCard accepted



LAMAR ELECTRIC DISTRICT MAP

LAMAR ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Board of Directors
Candidate Profiles

DISTRICT 2



MARK G. JONES and wife Debbie have been members of Lamar Electric since 1976. He has served on the Lamar Electric Board since 2007 and previously served on the Board from 1998-99. He has received director training from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. He is owner of J-10 Inc. in Paris. He and Debbie have two children.

DISTRICT 3



I.B. (BARNEY) CHAPMAN II is part owner of the Chapman Family Ranches, Ltd. He attended Texas Christian University from 1956-61 and is a past president of the TCU Frog Club. He is a member of the Texas & Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association and vice president of the Fort Worth Stock Show and Rodeo. He has seven children.



BILLY R. HINES and wife Eulvee have been members of Lamar Electric since 1965. Billy has served on the Lamar Electric Board since 2004 and currently serves as the board secretary. He is a Certified Credentialed Director and Board Leadership Certified by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. Billy was foreman for Smotherman's Aluminum from 1961-75. He owned and operated K&B Steel from 1975 until his retirement in 1994. He and Eulvee have four children, eight grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

DISTRICT 4



BILLY F. BRATTON and wife Jane have been Lamar Electric members since 1977. He served on the Lamar Electric Board from 2004-07. Billy retired after 30 years' service with the Texas Highway Department, District 2 Fort Worth Engineering Department on New Construction. He and Jane have two children.



CHARLES N. DOOLEY and wife Jody have been members of Lamar Electric since 1987. He has served on the Lamar Electric Board of Directors since 2007, currently is vice chairman and is Board Leadership Certified by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. He is retired from International Truck and Engine. He is past secretary of the Clarksville Chamber of Commerce and has served as president of the board of directors for the Boxelder VFD. He served on the Red River County Commission Oversight Committee. He and Jody have three children and six grandchildren.



Kids Safe Saturday

A FREE **THINK CHILD SAFETY FAIR**
FOR CHILDREN UP TO AGE 12 AND THEIR PARENTS.

SATURDAY, MAY 1
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Love Civic Center
2025 S. Collegiate Drive • Paris

Lamar Electric Co-op will perform
electrical safety demonstrations.

PLAY

- * Beat the Heat
- * Games & Activities

SEE

- * Ambulances
- * Police Cars
- * Fire Trucks
- * A Helicopter
- * School Buses
- * Jaws of Life

PRESENTATIONS ON:

- * Electrical Safety
- * Water Safety
- * Internet Safety
- * Animal Safety
- * Gun Safety
- * Traffic Safety
- * Home Safety
- * Farm Safety
- * Alcohol, Tobacco & Other Drugs
- * Bicycle Safety

SPECIAL APPEARANCES BY:

- * Andy the Ambulance
- * McGruff the Crime Dog
- * Crash Test Dummies Vince & Larry
- * Trauma Roo

COUNTRY CORNER EVENTS

A P R I L

2 Good Friday – Lamar Electric Co-op will be closed.

9 Scholarship Application Deadline: Applications are due in our office by 5 p.m.

10 Bogata Homecoming

10 Ranch Rodeo & Family Fun Day sponsored by Lamar County Chapter American Red Cross at Sunset Arena starting at 10 a.m. (For more information call Lamar County Chapter Red Cross at (903) 737-4390 or go to www.lamarcounty.red-cross.org)

14-16 42nd Annual Lamar County Junior Livestock Show (For more information and showing times go to www.lcjl.org)

Paris Community Theatre presents “A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur’s Court”

April 16 at 7:30 p.m.

April 17 at 7:30 p.m.

April 18 (time TBA)

17 Lamar Electric Annual Membership Meeting 10 a.m. at Love Civic Center in Paris. **Paris High School Auditorium**

17 Delta County Fair & Junior Livestock Show at Cooper City Park, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

17 Red River County Child Protective Services Annual Fish Fry at the VFW Hall. Serving 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tickets: \$6 adults and \$3 children

17 Paris Bluegrass Show. 18 West Hearne St. (next to South Main Café) – Paris – Matinee 4 to 5:30 p.m. & Evening Session 7 to 9 p.m.

22-25 Dallas Tandem Bicycle Rally at Love Civic Center in Paris

23-24 5th Annual Relay for Life at Rivercrest High School. For team information call Ruth Brown, (903) 427-3821 or (903) 632-4927

If you have any events that you would like listed for Delta, Lamar or Red River counties, please contact Marci Thompson. Information must be submitted two months in advance for the magazine. E-mail marci@lamarelectric.coop or call (903) 783-4911.