

Welcome to Your Hometown Co-op



**MESSAGE
FROM
MANAGER
JERRY D.
WILLIAMS**

Our community has changed over the years. You may remember as a kid buying groceries and hardware at mom-and-pop stores. Uncle Edward and Aunt Ollie owned the little store in my community. They weren't really my uncle or aunt. The store was mainly used to get gasoline (about 30 cents a gallon) and hog feed in 100-pound sacks (which later became sheets). Occasionally we were treated to a soda pop and chicken leg candy, because most everything else was

stores are now gone, driven out by national retailers.

It seems everything today has become a bit generic, focused more on making money than serving and developing relationships with people. Yet it's nice to know there are still some locally owned and controlled businesses that you can count on—such as Lamar Electric Cooperative.

October is celebrated as National Co-op Month by cooperative businesses of all types, which have proven their ability to succeed and remember their mission throughout the financial crisis and economic recession, continuing to meet members' needs even as profit-driven businesses failed to deliver.

By receiving electricity from the co-op, you're a member and part owner of one of those successful businesses. You have a say in how the

loud and clear every year at the annual meeting. That's where you join Lamar Electric's other members to elect fellow members to represent you on our board of directors.

The members of the Lamar Electric Board of Directors who set the policies are construction workers, retirees on fixed incomes, farmers, a shift worker at Kimberly-Clark and a small-town gas station operator, all who live near you. They want what you want: affordable energy bills and the comfort of knowing lights will turn on when you flip a switch.

With those goals in mind, board members work throughout the year to guide policy for our electric system and keep power reliable. We focus on educating members about using energy efficiently. Board members and your staff talk to you in the grocery store, at church and on the street, listening to your concerns and ideas.

The role of your board members and staff is a simple one: to look out for the interests of the membership. And you can be sure we're motivated to do so, because we're members, too. Remember, you and other members elect the board of directors. Like other cooperative businesses, Lamar Electric Cooperative is founded on a set of seven principles, including voluntary and open membership. Anyone who needs electricity within our service territory, regardless of race, religion, sex or economic circumstances, can become an owner of this hometown co-op. And if you want to serve the community at a higher level, you can run for the board of directors, as well.

We're looking forward to seeing you the next time our community joins voices to guide the co-op. Don't miss the next annual meeting on April 9, 2011. Call the co-op at (903) 784-4303 if you have any questions. Or, you can just ask me the next time you see me out and about, or perhaps in Gifford's, Swaim's Hardware, Brannan's Bass Shop or Weezy's. I just like local stores!



At Lamar EC, the welcome mat is always out for you—our member/customer.

homegrown. We purchased sacks of flour (which later became shirts or dresses), sugar, etc., in bulk once a month when we went to town and bought supplies from a little bit larger, locally owned store. Most of these

co-op is run. If we are not doing what you think is right, I am always available to help. You don't have to go looking for some fat cat in a high-rise in Dallas; your CEO lives right down the road. In addition, your voice rings

NOTICE OF 2009 CAPITAL CREDIT ALLOCATIONS

After the end of each fiscal year, the cooperative must determine what, if any, margins were made during the year and allocate these margins to the members' accounts. Your cooperative's margins are the revenue and receivable in excess of all its operating costs. Since members are owners of the cooperative, the margin is allocated to each member's capital credit account.

These capital credits will be returned to members as approved by the board in the future and when doing so will not weaken the financial condition of the cooperative. At this time, all margins from 1938 through 1969 have been returned to the members. 1969 was the last year capital credits were retired, so it may be some time before you should expect to receive a check. In the meantime, the funds are used to construct new lines or make improvements to the electrical system, even though the amount is credited to each member's capital credit account. The capital credits cannot be used to pay your electric bill.

These capital credits remain even if the member is no longer receiving service from Lamar Electric. It is very important that departing members keep the cooperative informed of their current mailing addresses in the future so they may receive capital credits when they are paid.

Capital credits for each member in 2009 were calculated by multiplying each member's bill by .0782836793.

For example: If your total billing for 2009 from the cooperative (consisting of energy billing and power cost adjustment) was \$1,658, simply multiply that amount by .0782836793. The product of this arithmetic is \$129.79.

In calculating your total bill, include any security light charge, but do not include any tax, service or miscellaneous charges.

If you have any questions concerning the calculations, please contact the cooperative office.

(This article is intended to serve as an official notice of the Capital Credit Allocation for 2009.)

Trick or Treat Safety Tips

Trick or treat!" That's the phrase shouted with glee by many a youngster across the country every Halloween night. But before your ghosts and goblins trick or treat this year, parents should keep in mind these trick or treating safety tips to make sure the only howls are those of fun.

- Never trick-or-treat alone.
- Wear comfortable shoes.
- Carry a flashlight.
- Wear something with a reflector on it.
- Accept treats only in the doorway—never go inside a stranger's house.
- Throw away all homemade or unwrapped treats.
- When walking down the street, have an adult walk closest to the road, and the

children closest to the houses.

- Do not let children run ahead of adults. It's very easy for them to get carried away and accidentally run into the road.
- Do not pet strange animals while trick or treating.
- Do not knock on doors where lights are off.
- Watch where you step.
- When you get home, check all of the candy before allowing children to eat any of it.

Always be polite. And don't forget to say "Trick or Treat" and "Thank You." Have a safe and fun Halloween, and take lots of pictures!



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

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Jerry D. Williams

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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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

Essays Key to Washington,

Following are the essays written by Kelsey Evans and Ronnie Stotts that made them the winners of Lamar Electric Cooperative's 2010 Government-in-Action Essay Contest. The two enjoyed an eight-day trip to the nation's capital for their efforts.



Kelsey Evans

I have always been one of those people who loves to help others. This year at school, we have started a new trend. For our dual-credit and/or AP test, we take peer mentoring in order to pay for our classes. Peer mentoring involves going to a classroom where kids are having trouble with their work. I interact with the

kids by helping them with their work.

I was excited about this class because I take three dual-credit classes and one AP class. So peer mentoring was saving me about \$1,000 a semester. I thought this was a great idea, and I figured the only reason I would do it was to save money. We used to have teacher assistants in classes to help the teacher. A teacher assistant would go get copies for the teacher, go to the office for the teacher—anything that the teacher may have needed. I figured that this peer mentoring was just going to be the same easy thing a teacher's assistant was. Yet, I was wrong.

I was nervous the first day I went into the classroom; I didn't really know what to do. Since the kids were younger than I was, I didn't really have anyone to talk to in the class. The Spanish teacher went on with the lesson. I heard, but I didn't listen. After a few weeks, one of the kids came up and asked me a question. I told her the answer, and she went back and sat down. Then another kid came up, and soon the whole class was asking me questions. This was going to be harder than I thought.

As I began to pay more attention in class, the students and I began to grow closer. I would learn what they were learning, and I would do the work they were doing. I kneeled and got on their level, yet in a way, I was still higher. A teacher stands above the kids and teaches them; I am there to help them learn. I would come up with nifty little ways that a kid could learn the material easier. I would sit by kids during tests, encouraging them to do their best and to achieve the highest grade they could get.

As I began to grow closer to the kids, their grades began to improve. I was helping these kids not only in their Span-

ish class but also in their other classes. I would encourage them so much that they carried it on into their other classes. Sometimes I would get really frustrated, but I would never discourage them. I have yet to be disappointed.

In this classroom I have grown as a person. Helping these kids, I have achieved greater patience and a better understanding of others. I believe that I have also helped to improve the community by encouraging these kids to succeed. I believe that if someone can set up these classes, these mentors for kids, then it can help them. It can give them the courage and confidence to make good grades and can give them respect for teachers. Helping the kids now gives them a bigger chance when they get older to retain the practice of studying more and even asking for help. I was so excited just because it was paying for my classes. I realized I would love to be doing this even if it wasn't paying for my classes. To see the look on any kid's face when they finally understand something really touches me. There is no better way to improve the community than to help improve the people in it!



Ronnie Stotts

What Can Be Done to Improve My Community?

Caring is the essential ingredient in improving any community. A community must care about its members and get involved in community activities. Our community could improve by getting more people involved in service projects. Some of the service projects that

we could become more involved in are C-Canned food, A-Angel Tree, R-Recycling, I-Involvement, N-Needy assistance and G-Giving Time.

This year our Key Club collected 2,030 cans for the local Kiwanis food drive. We loaded them in my friend's bright red truck and we headed to Campbell's Soup and picked up pallets of donated cans. Later, my dad and I went and bought several more cans. Our principal encouraged students to bring cans by offering an incentive trip to eat pizza. Together we were able to have one of the largest canned-food drives that our high school has ever had. My mom and I helped the local Kiwanis box up the cans and we put a coupon from Brookshire for a free turkey in every box. Then another group of caring individuals delivered the boxes to the recipients. It brings great satisfaction to be able to help these people in our community to have a nice Christmas meal.

D.C., Trip

Another way we could improve our community is by buying and wrapping gifts for the Angel Tree gift program. Our Key Club asked our elementary counselor for a list of items that six needy children wanted for Christmas. We went out and purchased gifts and wrapped them and delivered them.

By involving more caring individuals, we could have helped more of the needy children at our school.

Recycling is something that our Beta Club has been very active in. We have plastic and can bins for recycling. We also sell the cans and bottles to raise money for our club. Another project that I worked with was the Plant Pine project. We now have pine trees in my yard that are taller than myself. Not only did this project provide beautiful trees, but it also helped protect the ozone layer. Simple things like not polluting and picking up trash can help our community.

Involvement is the word that makes all these projects work. Our community needs volunteers to make services work.

Assisting the needy is something that will improve our community. Our Key Club Lt. Governor Project was to buy toiletries for Meals on Wheels recipients. We bagged up over \$300 worth of items to be delivered to the Meals on Wheels recipients. Another community project that I was involved with was the Beta Club clothing and toy drive. We cleaned our closets out and brought shoes and clothes that we could no longer wear.

Compassion for the unfortunate is like sun to flowers. The unfortunate people in our community cannot thrive without caring individuals who work on projects to help our community. Without caring individuals giving their time, these community projects could not have been a success. Getting people involved in numerous community service projects is the crucial step in improving my community.

COUNTRY CORNER EVENTS

OCTOBER

1-3 and 7-10 Paris Community Theatre presents "Daddy's Dyin', Who's Got The Will?" 7:30 p.m.

1 "Cruisin on the Plaza" - 6 p.m. in downtown Paris on the square. Bring your lawn chairs and enjoy classic cars, fellowship and music.

2 Clarksville Fall Bazaar - 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. around the courthouse in Clarksville

2 Davy Crockett Festival in downtown Honey Grove

9 St. Joseph's Community Foundation Gala at Love Civic Center

9 Texas Fall Trash-Off - 7 a.m.-noon. Volunteers needed. Meet at Home Depot parking lot. For more information, contact Jimmy at (903) 249-4028.

9 Roxton City-Wide Garage Sale

14 Lamar County Farm Bureau Annual Membership Meeting - 7 p.m. at Celebrate It. For more information, call (903) 785-0375.

16 17th Annual Chiggerfest on the Historic Downtown Cooper Square - 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.

16 Lanes Chapel Harvest Festival

23 Festival of Pumpkins - 9 a.m. - 6 p.m. in downtown Paris on the square

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.



17TH ANNUAL DELTA COUNTY CHIGGERFEST

HISTORIC DOWNTOWN COOPER SQUARE

Sponsored by
Delta County Chamber of Commerce
www.deltacounty.org

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 15

6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Boogie on the Square

Featuring "Elvis"

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 16

7 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Festival



September 28

to

October 2



For more details go to

rrvfair.org