

A Salute to Our Electric Linemen



**MESSAGE
FROM
MANAGER
JERRY D.
WILLIAMS**

As manager of Lamar Electric Cooperative, I work with many talented and hard-working people every day. But one group of employees in particular might best symbolize the rural electric cooperative—and that is our linemen.

When needed, linemen answer the call. Whether it's blazing heat, freezing cold or pouring rain, they head out to restore electric service after it's knocked out. If a calamity such as a severe storm causes system-wide outages, it is the linemen who leave their homes and families to toil for hours or days—whatever it takes—to get the lights back on.

Line workers have a potentially fatal job—in fact, it's rated as one of the most dangerous in the United States. That's why safety comes first, and we insist on extensive training for our linemen.

That training and safety-first culture is put on full display at the Texas Lineman's Rodeo, which you can read about in this issue of Texas Co-op Power. This year's rodeo, to take place near Seguin on July 16, is not only a showcase of lineman skills, but it's also a place where safe practices are paramount.

Throughout the year, our statewide organization, Texas Electric Cooperatives (TEC) conducts numerous educational schools for our linemen. Even our most experienced linemen have learned safer and more efficient ways to do their jobs. TEC uses state-of-the-art training fields and equipment.

Each year, TEC conducts an intense weeklong school concerning how to handle high-voltage electric wires. It is an awesome feeling to be holding a large wire in your gloved hand while standing

in a fiberglass bucket swaying in the wind 40 feet in the air, knowing there are 14,400 volts going through the wire. One wrong decision spells immediate death by electrocution or an immense fireball that melts flesh instantly. I am very proud that one of our experienced linemen, Will Armstrong, was selected this year to be one of the instructors for this important school.

Every employee at Lamar Electric attends some type of training school every year. Linemen generally attend more than one. We gladly pay our linemen to attend these training opportunities because it helps keep them alive and uninjured. This training also saves money for our members through lower insurance rates. There has not been a lost-time accident of any sort at Lamar Electric since July 28, 2008, and we want to keep it that way.

When they're not training or responding to an outage, our linemen are on the job maintaining the infrastructure and building new lines to ensure reliable delivery of your power.

Unfortunately, many of our most experienced linemen are nearing retirement age, and there are not enough trained replacements out there to fill their boots.

This presents an excellent opportunity for young people who are looking for a challenging and well-paying career that will allow them to stay in their home communities. Lineman training programs are offered at several colleges in Texas. For more information on the programs, go to www.texas-ec.org and click on Loss Control Program under Products and Services.

The work is challenging, but linemen develop a camaraderie and earn satisfaction through their profession. And, at the end of the day, linemen know their work directly affects the thousands of members who depend on electricity in their daily lives.

Please join me in saluting our hard-working linemen and thanking them for a job well done.



Northeast Texas Classic Car Show & Motorcycles

Saturday, June 11

(Car Show Rain Date, June 12)

Love Civic Center, Paris

8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Show Registration: 8-11 a.m.

Awards Presentation: 3 p.m.

**HOSTED BY RED RIVER VALLEY
HONKERS ANTIQUE CAR CLUB**

"BLAST FROM THE PAST"

Friday, June 10

6 p.m. • Love Civic Center

Cruise Night and Giant '50s Party

**FREE ADMISSION
FOR SPECTATORS**

Additional Classes Added This Year

Door Prizes • Food • Family Fun

32-inch LCD TV Giveaway

50/50 Pot

**CORPORATE SPONSOR
Toyota of Paris**

**TROPHY SPONSOR
Lamar National Bank**

**CRUISE NIGHT SPONSOR
Mike's Custom Paint & Body Shop**

**BENEFITING LOCAL CHARITIES
RRV Veterans Memorial
PJC Scholarship Fund
Big Brothers & Big Sisters**

**For more information
call (903) 783-6338, visit
www.rrvhonkers.com or
e-mail showinfo@rrvhonkers.com.**

Employee Anniversaries



WADE NIBLETT
Serviceman
37 years on June 17



BETTY WOOD
Office Manager
33 years on June 1



MIKE DAVIDSON
Metering Supervisor
23 years on June 20



LAURA WILLIAMS
Staff Assistant
21 years on June 1

COUNTRY CORNER EVENTS

June 3 Cruisin' The Plaza—Begins at 5 p.m. around the plaza in downtown Paris

June 3-4 4th Annual Highway 82/287 Yard Sale

June 5-6 J.T. Davis Golf Tournament—Paris Golf & Country Club

June 8-12 Gateway to Texas Get-A-Way Bicycle Tour—Sponsored by the Historic Red River Chamber of Commerce. For information, call the chamber at (903) 427-2645.

June 10 Cruisin' The Plaza '50s & '60s Night—Begins at 5 p.m. around the plaza in downtown Paris

June 10, 17, 24 Municipal Band Concert—Bywaters Park, 8:30 p.m.

June 11 Red River Valley Honkers Antique Car Show, Arts & Craft Fair and Swap Meet—Love Civic Center in Paris, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

June 11 22nd Annual Lamar County Crimestoppers Rodeo—Red River Valley Fairgrounds in Paris, 7:30 p.m.

June 17-19, 23-26 Paris Community Theatre presents "The Marvelous Wonderettes"—7:30 p.m.

June 18 "Dancing With The Stars"—Love Civic Center in Paris. For information, call the Lamar County Chamber of Commerce at (903) 784-2501.

June 24-25 Relay For Life Cancer Walk—R.L. Maddox Stadium at North Lamar High School, 7 p.m.-7 a.m. For information, call Carolyn at 903-737-9640.

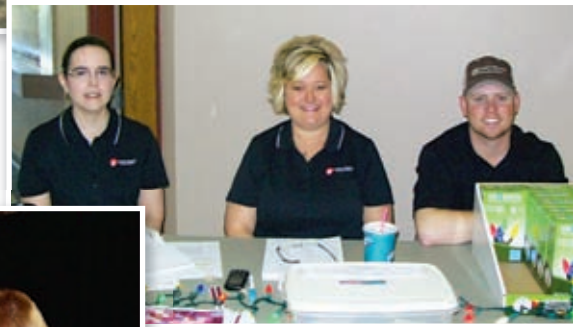
If you have any events that you would like listed for Delta, Lamar or Red River counties, please contact Marci Thompson. Information must be submitted two months in advance for the magazine. E-mail marci@lamarelectric.coop or call (903) 783-4911.



▲ LEC employees Wade Niblett (left) and Jose Recendiz welcome members to the meeting.



◀ LEC directors, from left, Allen Branch, Lyle Yoder and Charles Dooley with Marsha Williams, wife of LEC Manager Jerry Williams



▲ LEC employees, from left, Delana McFadden, Leslie Colvard and Casey Martin



▲ LEC Manager Jerry Williams explains energy-efficient Christmas lights.



◀ LEC employee Marci Thompson gets some help drawing for scholarship winners.



Annual Meeting Highlights

The Lamar Electric Co-op annual membership meeting was held April 9 at Love Civic Center in Paris.

Three directors were re-elected. In District 1, Mike Williams, running uncontested, received 117 votes. In District 8, James Dunn and Derrell London ran against incumbent James Sam Cooper. Cooper won with 148 votes to London's 48 and Dunn's 25. In District 9, Lyle Yoder ran uncontested and earned 188 votes.

The names of six high school seniors were drawn out of a hopper for \$1,000 scholarships. There were 66 entries. The \$1,000 scholarship can be used at any accredited university, college or junior college of their choice.

Money for these scholarships comes from unclaimed deposits and unclaimed refunds from our members. Each member can still file a claim with the State of Texas for unclaimed checks, but the law allows Lamar Electric to

use a portion of these funds for scholarships.

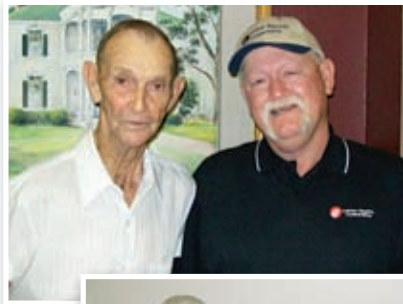
The winners were: **GARRETT BURT**, home-schooled, son of Paul and Teresa Burt of Lake Creek; **LANEY JACKSON**, Prairiland High School, daughter of Geron and Glenna Jackson of Pattonville; **JORDAN MALLICOTE**, Honey Grove High School, son of Charles and Laurie Mallicote of Tigertown; **HALEY OTTMO**, North Lamar High School, daughter of Cecil and Brenda Ottmo of Caviness; **DREW PARKER**, Cooper High School, son of Greg and Pam Toon of Cooper; and **MOLLY PYLANT**, Prairiland High School, daughter of Jamie and Karen Pittman of Blossom.

The names of all members present at the meeting were placed in the hopper for prize drawings. Prizes were given to 38 members. The grand prizewinner of a 32-inch LCD HDTV was Timothy Crawford of Bagwell.

LAMAR ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE



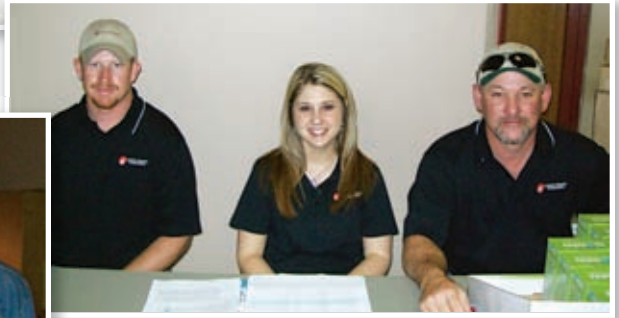
▲ From left, Mike Williams of District I, James Sam Cooper of District 8 and Lyle Yoder of District 9 were all re-elected to their positions as directors on the LEC board.



◀ Member Neal Conder, left, and LEC employee Rick Crump

LEC employees, from left, Ryan Dean, Tessi McFadden and Scott Sansom ▼

A group of sisters collect their goodies before the meeting starts. ▶



▼ Many members took home prizes.



◀ Charles Christian signs in before the meeting starts.



The names of all members present at the meeting were placed in the hopper for prize drawings. The grand prizewinner of a 32" LCD HDTV was Timothy E. Crawford of Bagwell. Other winners were:

- | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Microwave | Dorothy T. Fletcher, Bagwell | Electric Sander | Betty D. Wood, Reno |
| Western Lamp | Danny Michael, Paris | 4-Slice Toaster | Ryan Dean, Blossom |
| 15-inch Electric Weed Eater | Will Armstrong Jr., Sumner | Surge Protector | Rickey J. Henry Jr., Paris |
| Bissell Vacuum | Currey Jones, Paris | Electric Skillet | Charles M. Kennedy, Pattonville |
| Welcome Sign | Tigertown Community Center, Tigertown | Iron | Chisum Trails Cowboy Church, Powderly |
| Lighted Mirror | Dean Gillean, Enloe | Shredder | Donald J. Pittman, Blossom |
| Pair Cordless Phones | Haskell R. Stonaker, Paris | Dremel Rotary Tool | Royce L. McDaniel, Sumner |
| Food Processor | Michael R. Sorensen, Pattonville | 3/8-Inch Drill | Derrell F. London, Cooper |
| Jig Saw | Charleston Methodist Church, Charleston | Weather Radio | Jerry C. Carrington, Enloe |
| DVD Player | Phyllis London, Cooper | Steamer | W.H. George, Paris |
| 16-inch Hedge Trimmer | Clay Williams, Reno | Slow Cooker | Jose L. Recendiz, Paris |
| Electric Lawn Blower | Marcia L. Buford, Blossom | Alarm Clock | Kenneth N. Morris, Ben Franklin |
| Deep Fryer | Jeremy M. Bell, Roxton | Hand Mixer | D.D. Leonard, Blossom |
| Toaster Oven | W.H. Brumley, Sumner | Blender | Joe Goforth, Sumner |
| 18-inch Pedestal Fan | Gwen B. Moore, Ben Franklin | Mini Chopper | Lynn L. Lowrey, Brookston |
| Hand Vacuum | Timothy E. Crawford, Bagwell | Griddle | James R. McLeod, Paris |
| Fan | D. Andrew Whipkey, Reno | Coffeemaker | Tommy Roberts, Paris |
| Bug Zapper | H.R. Stephens, Sumner | Clock/Radio | J.P. Duke, Roxton |
| Hair Dryer | Jimmy Fodge, Paris | | |