

Drive the Safe Road



MESSAGE FROM GENERAL MANAGER AND CEO JERRY D. WILLIAMS

Safety is a priority at Lamar Electric Cooperative. This includes the safety of you, our members, as well as that of our employees.

We are proud of our safety record and the measures that we put in place to safeguard those who work to bring you a reliable supply of electricity. That especially goes for our line workers and support crews, who have some of the most dangerous jobs around. Everyone at Lamar is proud that no employee has suffered a lost-time accident since July 2008. That is four and a half years! A record like that does not just happen; it takes a lot of work and concentration.

Our constant focus on safety includes daily briefings, monthly training sessions, and classes in which employees are trained in staying safe around high-voltage equipment and in other hazardous situations. Our training is designed to keep our workers safe, as well as the keeping the general public out of harm's way.

Working around electricity, often far above the ground, and in all weather conditions, is inherently dangerous. But not all the dangers our employees face come from the weather, the climbing or power lines. If you are not paying attention when you are behind the wheel, the danger might come from you.

Sometimes the job of building a line or replacing a broken pole places our crews at the side of narrow roads, which are everywhere in North Texas. Even working on the shoulder of wide and straight major highways can be treacherous because some people drive too fast, leaving no room for error.

This is where you can help keep your electric cooperative workers safe.

If you see utility vehicles and line crews working, give them and the road ahead all of your attention.

Slow down and, if it is safe, move over to give crews as much space as possible.

Respect traffic cones, flashing lights or other signals. They could be the only thing between your car and workers or equipment.

With your cooperation, the dangers of line work don't have to be increased by traffic. There is much our crews can do to enhance their safety, but there's not much protection from a distracted driver.

Please be careful, be aware, slow down and help protect Lamar Electric's most valuable assets: our people.

Lamar EC encourages you to put down the cellphone (and mascara) and keep your full attention on the road when driving to help keep our crews—and others—safe.



Sweetheart Soiree

February 9
PARIS

Country Corner Events

February 9

Sweetheart Soiree, benefiting The Children's Advocacy Center of Paris. Love Civic Center. 7 p.m. Sponsorship and tickets available. For more information, call (903) 784-5787.

February 16

Texas A&M Singing Cadets Choral Performance. Paris High School Auditorium. 7-9:15 p.m. For more information, call (903) 784-2501.

February 16

Choctaw Electric Co-op Relay For Life's 3rd Annual Predator Hunt. Antlers Fair Building, Antlers, Oklahoma. Teams should consist of no more than three members. There is a \$100 entry fee per team and a \$1,000 guaranteed first place prize. Big Dog/Big Cat: 100 percent payout, \$20 each. For more information, call Guy Dale at Choctaw Electric Cooperative, 1-800-780-6486.

If you have any events that you would like listed for Delta, Lamar or Red River counties, please contact Dena Beason. We need the information two months in advance for the magazine. Email dena@lamarelectric.coop or call (903) 783-4949.

Government-in-Action Youth Tour

Each year, Lamar Electric selects two high school students to attend an all-expense-paid tour of Washington, D.C. and visit the U.S. Capitol to meet members of Congress.

Eligible students must be in 11th or 12th grade, must live full time in a residence served by Lamar Electric, or attend one of the four high schools served by Lamar Electric, which include Prairiland, Roxton, Detroit and Faith Christian. Home-schooled students served by Lamar Electric are also eligible. Applications must be complete, and a two-page, typed article on the subject: "Historical Significance of Washington, D.C." must be received by Lamar Electric no later than 5 p.m., February 22. It's that easy!

Learn more about the Government-in-Action Youth Tour at lamarelectric.coop. Look for Washington D.C. Youth Tour Contest under the Youth Programs tab.

Scholarships Being Offered

This year, Lamar Electric Cooperative will award six \$1,000 academic scholarships to students who plan to pursue an academic degree or certification from an accredited university, college, junior college, technical school or other postsecondary educational institution. Scholarship payment will be made directly to the school in one lump sum. Scholarships must be used within two years of the award date. Funds may be used for tuition, books, room and board.

Eligibility Requirements for an Academic Scholarship

To be considered for a Lamar Electric Cooperative scholarship, the student:

- ▶ Must live full time in a residence served by Lamar Electric

- ▶ Must be a graduating senior attending a high school or homeschool program within the counties served by Lamar Electric.

Six scholarships will be given away at the Lamar Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting on April 6 in a random drawing of qualified students. The winners need not be present.

DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES IS MARCH 29.

The application can be found on our website: lamarelectric.coop. Once the application is completed, simply click on the email button and send to: scholarship@lamarelectric.coop.

Or fill out the application below and mail to: **Lamar Electric Cooperative**, Attn: Dena Beason, P.O. Box 580, Paris, TX 75461

LAMAR ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE 2013 SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

Deadline March 29, 2013

Name _____

Address _____

Name of High School _____

Parent(s)/Guardian(s) Name _____

Lamar Electric Account Number _____

Phone _____

Mail to: Lamar Electric Cooperative, Attn: Dena Beason, P.O. Box 580, Paris, TX 75461



Lamar Electric Cooperative

1485 N. Main St. • P.O. Box 580
Paris, TX 75461

Operating in Lamar, Red River,
Delta and Fannin counties

GENERAL MANAGER AND CEO

Jerry D. Williams

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Allen Branch, President, *Sumner*
- Charles Dooley, Vice President, *Annona*
- Billy Hines, Secretary-Treasurer, *Clarksville*
- Matthew Albus, *Roxton*
- Mark Jones, *Paris*
- Ron E. Tippit, *Clarksville*
- Mike Williams, *Detroit*
- George M. Wood, *Blossom*
- Lyle Yoder, *Pattonville*

Member Benefits

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

Your "Local Pages"

This section of Texas Co-op Power 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.



CONTACT US

For information during office hours
and outages after hours

CALL US

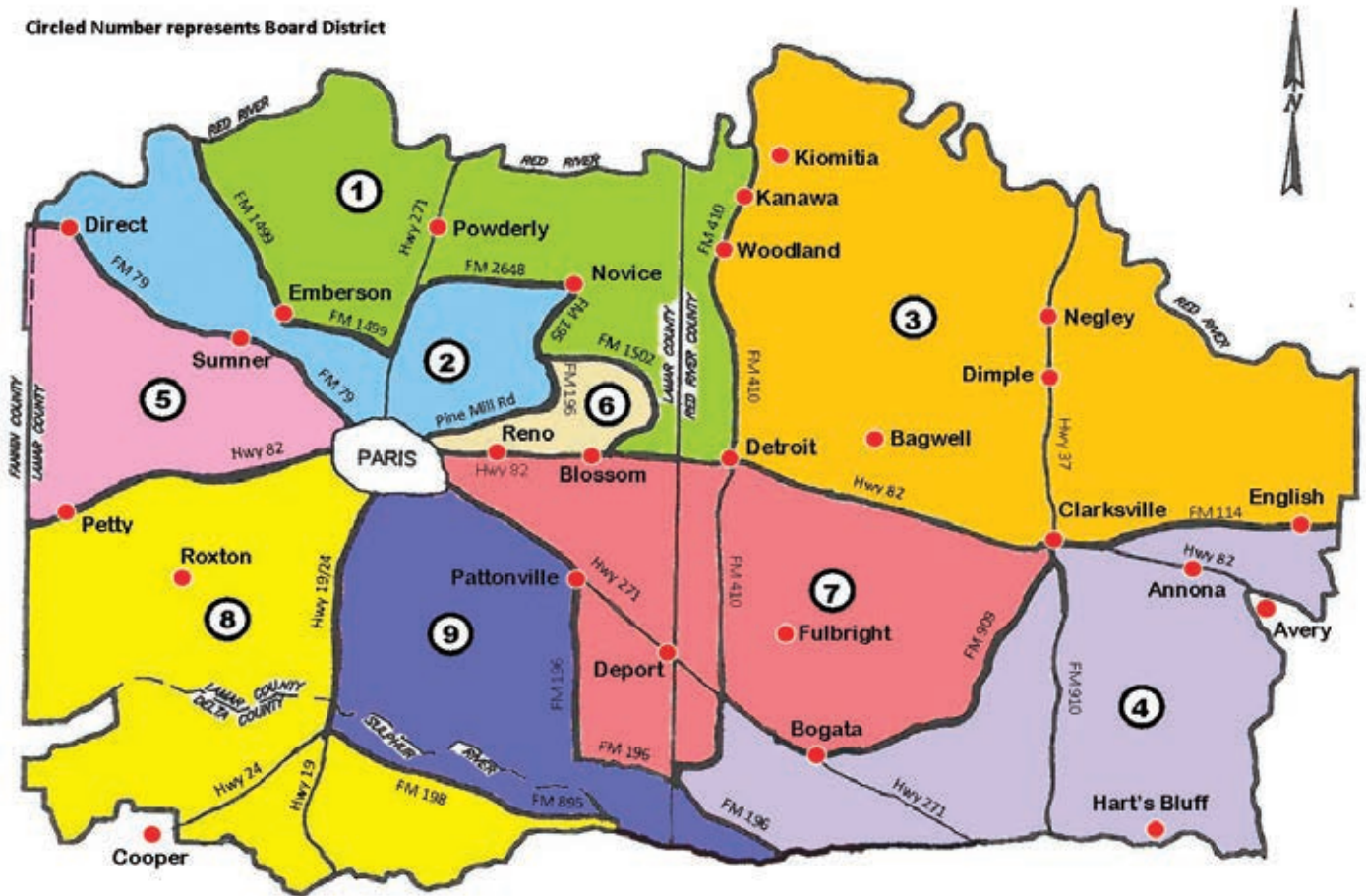
(903) 784-4303 local or
1-800-782-9010 toll-free

FIND US ON THE WEB

lamarelectric.coop

Annual Membership Meeting Set for April 6

Circled Number represents Board District



Three positions on the board of directors are up for election each year. This year, Districts 2, 3 and 4 will be voting at the annual meeting. Members residing in Districts 2, 3 and 4 who wish to be a candidate for one of those board positions must appear in person at the main office of the cooperative and fill out a nomination form between January 6 and February 5, as outlined in the co-op's bylaws. If you are unsure of which district in which you live, please refer to the district map above.

Lamar Electric Cooperative will hold its annual meeting at 10 a.m. Saturday, April 6, at Love Civic Center, 2025 S. Collegiate Drive in Paris. If you have any questions, call Laura Williams at (903) 783-4907.

Qualifications for board members are specified in our bylaws. A copy of the qualifications portion of the bylaws was published last month in this magazine. A copy of the bylaws is available at the Lamar Electric office and on our website at lamarelectric.coop.

Appliance Compliance

Tips to keep them and you safe

We use electrical appliances to heat, cool, clean and perform countless other chores around our homes and businesses every day. It's easy to take these time-saving tools for granted and forget to put safety first. Here are some useful tips to help keep you and your appliances safe.

- ▶ When using space heaters, toasters, stoves, lamps or any heat-producing appliances, remember to keep combustibles such as paper, drapes and furniture clear of the appliance.
- ▶ Keep the appliance clean, operating properly and out of high-traffic areas.
- ▶ Unplug irons and space heaters when you are finished and let them cool before storing.
- ▶ Never try to operate an electric appliance while touching metal, standing on a wet surface or while taking a bath or shower.
- ▶ Under certain circumstances, a ground-fault circuit interrupter automatically shuts off power to the outlet, protecting you from electrical shock and preventing fires. GFCIs should be installed in outlets near water sources such as bathrooms, kitchens, laundry rooms, garages and outdoors. If your outlet has a "test" and "reset" button, it has a GFCI.
- ▶ Keep objects, including fingers, away from all electric outlets. To prevent injury to young children, use outlet covers and never overload outlets.

- ▶ Unplug appliances before cleaning, while performing minor repairs and when not in use.
- ▶ Keep motors clean and free from lint, dust and dirt.
- ▶ If an appliance sparks, smokes or delivers a shock, unplug it and don't use it again until it has been repaired.
- ▶ Have a qualified electrician assess your electric load; leave repairs and installations to the experts.

▶ Replace blown fuses with ones that are correctly sized in amperage and watts. Some of the most common safety hazards are caused by misuse of extension cords. It's important to observe these safety rules when you find it necessary to use one:

- ▶ Use a heavy-duty cord for power tools, a weather-resistant cord for outdoors and a three-wire cord with a three-prong plug for appliances that require grounding.
- ▶ Avoid using a three-pronged adapter, and never remove the third prong to create a two-prong plug.

- ▶ Avoid kinking, twisting or crushing the cord.

- ▶ Pull the plug, not the cord.
- ▶ Don't place a cord where it will be walked on, tripped over or damaged.
- ▶ Keep cords away from heat and water.
- ▶ Never wrap a cord around a metal pipe or an appliance and don't run a cord under a rug.

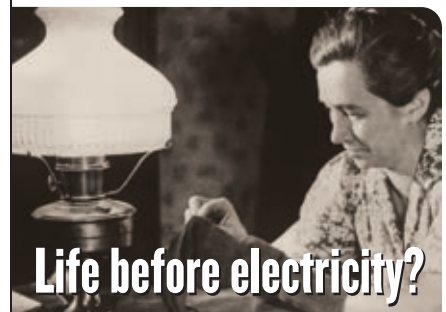
Stay safe by minimizing use of extension cords and checking cords to make sure they are in good repair.



Time Is Running Out!

If you receive a federal benefit payment by mail, such as a Social Security check, the U.S. Department of the Treasury is requiring you to switch to electronic payments by March 1, 2013. You can switch to direct deposit or the Direct Express MasterCard by visiting GoDirect.org or by calling 1-800-333-1795. Have your checking or savings account information and your most recent federal benefit check on hand when you make the switch.

Source: U.S. Department of the Treasury



Life before electricity?

Shoot an interview with someone who remembers those days. You could win

\$1500

STUDENTS Make your own YouTube video and you could win a cash prize!

TEACHERS Win \$1000 for your school by sponsoring the grand prizewinner.

TEXAS CO-OP POWER

CO-OP TEENS POWER TEXAS

TexasCoopPower.com

OPEN TO STUDENTS IN GRADES 6-12!