

We Are Paying Capital Credits



MESSAGE FROM GENERAL MANAGER AND CEO JERRY D. WILLIAMS

Applications for retirement of capital credits to the estates of deceased members are now available to the surviving spouse or heirs of deceased members. Our board of directors have authorized us to begin accepting applications beginning May 1 for all members who died between January 1, 1970, and December 31, 1979.

The only addresses we have for most of these accounts do not comply with current postal address regulations because they were before 911 addresses were used. Should we mail a capital credit check to an address that is not valid, it will most likely be returned by the postmaster and trigger the unclaimed property laws. Retiring capital credits to the "Estate of" will allow Lamar Electric to give money back to the spouse, heirs, or legal representatives that would typically be turned over to the state of Texas as unclaimed property. At the same time, it will allow us to update our records, change the name on active accounts still in the name of the deceased, and update addresses for future retirement of capital credits.

If your spouse died before January 1, 1980, or you are the heir to a member that died between January 1970 and December 1979, you can come by our office or call to request an application packet be mailed to you. Once completed, these applications will be presented to the board each month for approval, and checks will be issued in the order they are received as funds are available.

To submit an application, you will need a Xerox copy of the death certificate or other proof of death. A copy of an obituary helps document who the heirs are. All heirs to the estate will need to sign the application. The check will be made payable to only one person.

Once we get a handle on how many applications we get for the 10 years before 1980, consideration will be given to accept-

ing applications for the next 10 years. All capital credits before 1970 have been paid, as well as a small percentage of the capital credits before 2008. In addition, we will be evaluating our financial condition in the future and will likely be considering retiring all the capital credits for the year 1970 and work our way forward.

Lamar is a nonprofit organization. Expenses are deducted from revenue and the balance is called a margin instead of profit. We are required to have a certain amount of margin. Each year we allocate that margin to each member based on how much your electric bills were. Those margins are used to make capital improvements rather than secure a loan every time we needed to upgrade a power line or build a line to your new home. This is why they are often referred to as "capital credits." These capital credits are actually each member's share of the margin at the end of each year. There is not a bank somewhere holding all the margins that have been allocated to the members. The allocations have been made on our books, but the money has been invested into poles, wire and equipment.

Eventually, all capital credits will be paid to each member. When that time comes, if you have moved or no longer have electric service with Lamar, it is important that you inform the cooperative of your current address, so that future retirements can be properly mailed to you. If you purchased electricity during the years for which capital credits are being retired, then you are entitled to a capital credit retirement (check), even if you move out of the Lamar Electric service area.

As a locally owned business, Lamar Electric is committed to the people and communities it serves. Enjoy the benefits of personalized and reliable electric service from your cooperative today and look forward to a return on your investment in the future.

Country Corner Events

June 1

Clarksville Art Festival, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Clarksville Square. For more information, call Larry Algaier at (903) 219-1215.

June 5-9

Get A Way Bicycle Tour. Sponsored by the Red River Valley Chamber of Commerce. For more information, call the chamber at (903) 427-2645.

June 7-8

Highway 82/287 Yard Sale. All communities on or near Highways 82 and 287 can participate. For more information, call Diane Peeks at (903) 427-2645 or visit the Lamar County Chamber of Commerce website at paristexas.com.

June 7

Cruisin' on the Plaza, 5-9 p.m., downtown Paris on the Plaza.

June 8

Sixth Annual Northeast Texas Classic Car Show, 8 a.m.-5 p.m., Love Civic Center

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.

**HAPPY
Father's Day!**

Sunday, June 16



Stay safe this summer: Make sure there are no power lines nearby when climbing trees.

Summer Electric Safety Tips for Kids

School's out for summer, and that means that kids are outdoors having fun. Parents can share a few electrical safety basics with their children to ensure a happy, healthy summer.

"It is important that parents make electrical safety a priority for summer, especially as kids begin a three-month journey of newfound freedom," says Jerry Williams, Lamar EC general manager. "We encourage parents to sit down with their kids and talk with them about the dangers of electricity. That way, their loved ones can avoid a potentially perilous situation in the future."

Here are a few safety measures parents should encourage their children to follow:

- ▶ Be aware of power lines around you and always assume that wires are "live and dangerous." Never touch an outdoor wire with any part of your body, a toy, stick or any other object.
- ▶ Do not throw items such as sneakers onto electric lines or equipment, or try to retrieve them.
- ▶ Fly kites and model airplanes and other toys in large, open areas such as a field or a park—safely away from trees and overhead power lines. Also, do not

attempt to retrieve balloons, kites or other objects that may get stuck on power lines or other electrical equipment.

- ▶ Do not climb trees near power lines. Even if power lines are not touching the tree, they could touch during climbing when more weight is added to a branch.
- ▶ Never climb a utility pole or play on or around electrical equipment.
- ▶ Never post or tie signs, hang banners or tie ribbons or balloons on utility poles or other electrical equipment. They can create a danger for linemen.
- ▶ Do not go into an electric substation for any reason—even on a dare. Electric substations contain high-voltage equipment, which can kill you. Also, never attempt to rescue a pet that goes inside. Instead, call Lamar EC.
- ▶ Never try to rescue a family member, friend or pet that has come into contact with any electrical equipment. Call 911 immediately.
- ▶ Keep electrical toys, appliances and tools at least 10 feet away from pools and wet surfaces.
- ▶ Never touch any electrical toy, appliance or tool while you are wet or standing in water.



A Touchstone Energy® 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

Mike Williams, Secretary-Treasurer,
Detroit

Matthew Albus, *Roxton*

Billy Hines, *Clarksville*

Mark Jones, *Paris*

Ron E. Tippit, *Clarksville*

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

CALL US

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

FIND US ON THE WEB
lamarelectric.coop



▲ Members enjoy the annual meeting.

Attorney James Rodgers and President of the Board Allen Branch ▶



◀ Linemen visit with members as they enter the annual meeting.

There were many lucky prizewinners. ▶



▲ Drew Conder hands Harlan Alexander his prize.



Annual Meeting Highlights

The Lamar Electric Co-op Annual Membership Meeting was held on Saturday, April 6, 2013, at Love Civic Center in Paris.

Three directors were re-elected. In District 2, Mark Jones ran uncontested and got 141 votes. In District 3, Billy R. Hines ran uncontested and got 122 votes. In District 4, Charles Dooley ran uncontested and got 98 votes.

General Manager Jerry Williams updated members on the financial reports and ongoing projects. He reviewed several current and future

projects being done to help improve service reliability and make sure power is available when needed.

The names of six high school seniors were drawn out of a hopper for a \$1,000 scholarship. There were 44 entries. The scholarship can be used at any university, college, junior college, technical school or other postsecondary educational institution 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 scholarship winners were: Chelcee Conrad, Shelby Downs, Amanda Poland and Keaton Raney of North Lamar High School; James Horne of Clarksville High School; and William Clark McKenzie of Chisum High School.

Chelcee is the daughter of Johnny and Whitnee Young of Sumner. Shelby is the daughter of Steven and Stacy Hill of Sumner. Amanda is the daughter of



◀ Three-year-old Ty Henry helps General Manager Jerry Williams with drawing names for prizes.



▲ Ryan Dean delivers a prize to Ruth Murray.



Congratulations to Our Scholarship Recipients



CHELCEE CONRAD



SHELBY DOWNS



AMANDA POLAND



KEATON RANEY



JAMES HORNE



WILLIAM CLARK MCKENZIE

2013 Annual Meeting Prizewinners

Bernadine Morgan of Reno. Keaton is the son of Steve and Wendy Raney of the Faught community. James is the son of John and Sherry Horne of the Dimple community. William is the son of Curtis and Shirley McKenzie of the Forrest Hill community.

The names of all members present at the meeting were placed in the hopper for prize drawings. Prizes were given to 35 members.

The grand prizewinner of a 32-inch LED HD television was Lynda Bryan of Paris.

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| Lynda Bryan , Paris |LED TV | Lionel Getz , Paris |Western Pocket Knife |
| Donnie Edwards , Reno |4 Cordless Phones and Answering System | Tigertown Community Center |18-Inch Hedge Trimmer |
| D.D. McCaskill , Blossom |Blu-Ray Player | Dorothy Fletcher , Bagwell |Western Photo Frame & Stand |
| Ruth Murray , Clarksville |3-D Motion Air Circulator (Fan) | Mattie Hervey , Paris |Toaster Oven/Toaster |
| Mike Teubner , Paris |Microwave | Tony D. Ballard , Pattonville |12V Cordless Drill |
| W.H. Brumley (Phyllis) , Sumner |Food Processor | Neal Conder , Powderly |5-Inch Sander |
| Harlan Alexander , Cooper |12-Piece Cookware Set | Bobbie Thompson , Clarksville |Digital Picture Frame |
| Bobby Tingle , Sumner |Leaf Blower | W.R. Phillips , Paris |Shark Hand Vacuum |
| Debbie Dean , Sumner |Circular Saw | J.D. Rook , Powderly |Convection Oven |
| Terry McFadden , Paris |Western Sculpture | Jerry C. Carrington , Enloe |Dremel Rotary Tool |
| Carl Peek , Paris |Shop-Vac, 8 gallon | Monda Fultz , Pattonville |Crock-Pot |
| Cheryt Whitson , Powderly |Shredder | Silas Rosson , Cooper |Surge Protector |
| Richard Peace , Paris |Dirt Devil Vacuum | Timothy E. Crawford , Bagwell |Floor Lamp |
| Clayton Williams , Paris |Electric Skillet | Larry W. Bible , Sumner |Hand Blender |
| Joe Goforth , Sumner |iPhone Dock/Clock | Nora Sue Wade (James) , Reno |Rice Cooker/Food Steamer |
| Brian Kruse , Detroit |Weather Station | Lawrence Brown , Honey Grove |Smart Touch Can Opener |
| Jerry L. Brazeal , Paris |Jigsaw | Isaac Jewett , Paris |Programmable Coffeemaker |
| | | Joseph Gillean , Cooper |NOAA Weather Radio |