

The Life of a Lineman and Ethel



MESSAGE FROM GENERAL MANAGER AND CEO JERRY D. WILLIAMS

They wake before the sun, pour steaming cups of coffee and kiss their families goodbye. After swinging by the office to get the day's orders, they climb into their trucks and head out. Linemen form a solid team with one job: Deliver safe, reliable electricity. But that job can change in a million ways when rough weather sets in.

We often take power—and the men and women who provide it—for granted. Let's take a moment and stand in a lineman's boots.

Linemen have to work safely and efficiently—all while 40 feet in the air wearing sturdy, thick rubber gloves that protect their lives but make performing many tasks more difficult. There is even a leather glove over the rubber glove to keep the rubber safe from cuts and tears. On a typical day, linemen maintain electrical distribution lines or build service to new homes and businesses. Guy wires that have gone slack need "pulled". Yard light fixtures need fixed. Poles need set and wires strung to serve a new house under construction. They have a lot on their plates. But when our dispatcher calls with a problem, everything else takes a backseat.

Power restoration takes precedence over the lineman's daily to-do list. The first thing each morning, crews of 4 men load materials, poles and wire for their day, but when an outage call goes out, one or two will grab their hand tools and head to the outage. One man servicemen will drop what they are doing and head to the outage. After hours, we have crews standing by to serve you 24 hours a day, every day of the week, including weekends and holidays.

Can you imagine getting a call at 3 a.m. telling you that you must go work outside during bad weather? Not many people are even willing to face storms, but

our linemen face the harsh elements every day, all to serve you.

Linemen also focus on safety. The lives of co-workers are on the line. Job safety is important to everyone, no matter the occupation. But for linemen, there can be no slipups or careless actions. Mistakes can cost someone a limb or their life. That's one of the reasons linemen form a brotherhood. When linemen put their lives in the hands of co-workers every day, they become more than colleagues—they're family.



We cannot forget that linemen are not the only folks at Lamar Electric that brave the weather to get your lights on. Every call a lineman gets comes from another member of the family. For now, we will call her Ethel. Why Ethel? Because most are women and I don't want to embarrass anyone by using her real name.

During regular office hours and during ALL big storms, Ethel and her sisters will brave the ice and chill so they can sit by their computer and answer your telephone call. Can you imagine being Ethel and getting a call at 3 a.m. telling you that you must go to the office because

bad weather has struck? For anyone with small children, arrangements have to be made and someone has to take over for you at home. This gets even more complicated for single parents. Few ladies relish the idea of scraping ice and navigating black ice in the middle of the night; but this crew is dedicated and knows you are counting on them.

Ethel and her sisters are the link between you and the linemen standing on a pole in the dark. She communicates with the lineman and makes sure current information about your electric wires is on the computer screen, waiting for your call. They may not be able to tell you how long it will take, but they will be able to tell everything as it happens. (We are working on a program to text you updates.)

That sense of family extends to electric co-ops across the nation. One of our principles is Cooperation Among Cooperatives. We help other co-ops in their time of need, and they extend that service to us, too. It's reassuring to know that if a severe storm strikes, a national team of line workers stands ready to answer the call. During the December 2013 Ice Storm, over 300 workers came to our rescue. Many of those workers were from ten different Rural Electric Cooperatives, here in Texas.

To be ready to respond no matter the situation or weather conditions, linemen and Ethel are highly trained. At Lamar Electric, line workers go through regular training to ensure that they can work safely with various kinds of equipment. The equipment, itself, is tested regularly, too. Office workers are updated on how to use the electronic tools at their desk.

These highly skilled workers help to provide the power we need to light our homes and businesses every day. They endure harsh weather and long hours, all to make our lives better. Please take a moment to thank them.



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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

**GENERAL MANAGER
AND CEO**

Jerry D. Williams

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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

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lamarelectric.coop



NOTICE

of

LAMAR COUNTY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION

MEETING OF MEMBERS

The annual membership meeting of Lamar County Electric Cooperative Association will be held at Love Civic Center, 2025 S. Collegiate Drive in Paris, Saturday, April 19, 2014.

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 1, 8 and 9, each for a three-year term.

A member who wishes to be elected to the cooperative’s board of directors must appear in person at the main office of the cooperative and fill out a nomination form not less than 60 days and no more than 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 1

▶ **Michael Williams**, 16288 Farm Road 195, Detroit 75436

▶ **Brian Kruse**, 4500 Farm Road 1502, Detroit 75436

DISTRICT 8

▶ **Matthew Albus**, 2212 County Road 25200, Roxton 75477

DISTRICT 9

▶ **Lyle Yoder**, 13527 FM 905, Pattonville 75468

▶ **Charles Gilbert**, 21348 FM 1497, Pattonville 75468

You do not have to be present at the meeting to vote in the director election. Before 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 other prizes.

Six \$1,000 scholarships also will be awarded at the meeting. Entries must be received at the cooperative office by 5 p.m. April 11. To be eligible for a scholarship, a candidate:

Must live full time in a residence served by Lamar Electric; and

Be a graduating senior attending a high school or home-school program within the counties served by Lamar Electric.

We look forward to your attending. Enjoy your annual meeting.

MICHAEL R. WILLIAMS, *Board Secretary*

Dated: March 3, 2014

2014 Director Candidate Profiles

District 1



Michael "Mike" R. Williams has been a member since 1996 and has served on the board of directors since 2005. He and his wife Ginger live in Detroit. He has two children, Rachel and Eric. He is a graduate of Clarksville High School, Paris Junior College and East Texas State University with a degree in Agribusiness. He has worked as a chemist for TXI and has been employed for 28 years with the Texas Department of Transportation, where he is a district environmental coordinator.



Brian Kruse has been a member since 2012. He and his wife Debbie live in Detroit. He has two children, Sierra and Taiwa. He attended Southeastern Oklahoma State University, Oklahoma State University, and Paris Junior College. He is a licensed Mechanical Contractor in both Oklahoma and Texas. He is the owner of Kruse Air & Heat since 1989. He is a member of the Refrigeration Service Engineers Society, Air Conditioning Contractors of America and is an AEP Certified Cool Savers Contractor. He is also a member of Texas Farm Bureau and the Lions Club, and is a member and director of the East Post Oak Volunteer Fire Department.

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District 8



Matthew Albus has been a member since 2005. He feels co-ops are a means for rural areas to remain as self-sufficient as we can. He and his wife Melissa live in Roxton. He has a Bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from Texas A&M. He has worked for Kimberly Clark in Paris for 17 years. He enjoys being able to have an engineering job in a rural area. He has some cattle and enjoys all types of hunting, training

horses, and leatherwork. His wife teaches pre-K at Roxton ISD. They are both active members of Immanuel Baptist Church in Paris.

District 9



Lyle Yoder has been a member since 1998 and has served on the board of directors since 2008. He and his wife, Jinx, live in Pattonville. They have one daughter and son-in-law and on granddaughter. He is self-employed with Yoder & Sons Metal Works in Paris.



Charles Gilbert has been a member since 1984. He and his wife Deborah live in the Taylortown community. They have three children, Jeff, Christal and Rebecca (deceased). They have five grandchildren. He is employed at Turner Industries as a QA/QC Manager. He is the Fire Chief of the Taylortown VFD and a Lamar County Tax Appraisal District board member. He is a member of Abundant Life Church in Minter,

American Welding Society and National Association of Corrosion Engineers.

Scholarship Application Deadline Is Approaching

The April 11 deadline is right around the corner for high school seniors to enter for a chance to win one of six scholarships to be given away at Lamar Electric Cooperative's annual meeting Saturday, April 19.

For more information and an application form, visit lamarelectric.coop. You can also email Dena Beason for an application at dena@lamarelectric.coop.



Seal Air Leaks; Save Energy

Heating and cooling your home costs money, yet most homes let some of that conditioned air escape to the outdoors through tiny leaks, like cracks around windows; doors that don't close quite tightly enough; and holes in walls that allow cable, telephone, sump pump and electrical lines to enter the building.

Remove old, cracked caulking and replace with new caulking designed for the application. Caulking can be designated for exterior, interior and bathroom applications, and you don't want to use bathroom caulk on the outside of your home. Also, make sure the caulk can be painted if you want it to blend in with colors used in the rest of your home.

So find those leaks and seal them. Here are some tips:

► On a windy day, light a stick of incense or a match indoors, blow it out and hold it near the interior of each window, door, electrical box, plumbing fixture, electrical outlet, ceiling fixture, attic hatch and anywhere else where you see an opening that lets something from the outside in. If the smoke moves, you have found an air leak.

► Plug the leaks. You can do that by applying caulk right into the hole or crack. You also can install weatherstripping around doors and windows.

Country Corner Events

April 14

2014 April in Paris Wine Fest, 5:30-9:30 p.m., downtown Paris. Visit local stores while enjoying great food and wine.

April 24

Chamber Archery Shoot-Out, 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Love Civic Center, Paris. Test your skills, getting ready for the ASA Tournament.

April 30

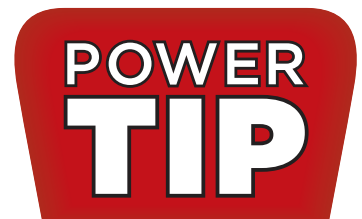
Chisum Western Days, Paris/Lamar County Fairgrounds. Chuckwagon cook-offs and lots of fun for all ages. For more information, call Bud Mackey at (903) 732-3869.

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.



Lamar Electric Cooperative will be closed Friday, April 18, in observance of **Good Friday.**



Save **ENERGY** • Save **MONEY**

Appliances account for about 13 percent of your home's energy use. If they have energy-saving settings, use them! If your appliances are nearing voting age, consider replacing them with new, energy-efficient models. And remember to try smart power strips for smaller appliances and electronics that continue to draw power even when turned off. For more tips, visit EnergySavers.gov.