

# The Turtles Are Leaving



## MESSAGE FROM GENERAL MANAGER AND CEO JERRY D. WILLIAMS

**A LITTLE TURTLE HAS BEEN HIDING** on the bottom side of your electric meter. They were put there almost 20 years ago and have been slowly doing their job of sending us a meter reading each day. When they were installed years ago, this was innovative technology and virtually eliminated the need for meter readers.

The printed circuit boards were called Turtles because the packets of information containing the meter reading moved very slowly. It took all day for the five numbers on each electric meter register to travel from the meter, through the power lines to our substation. Slow and steady was good because the amount of electricity you used was only calculated once each month.



Over the past few years, many of our Turtle modules have quit transmitting, which resulted in hundreds of meters being replaced each year. The electric meters still worked, but the Turtle transmitting modules would quit sending a reading each day and eventually stop sending us the reading. All the Turtle modules are now outdated. The oldest Turtle modules are no longer made which has resulted in a lot of meters being read by hand each month. A solution had to be found. See “The Turtles Are Slowing Down” in the June 2014 issue of Texas Co-op Power.

After researching the currently available meter reading

technology, we decided the most cost-effective way to read meters was still through the electric wires. The Two Way Automated Communication System was the most efficient and least costly solution. The software the TWACS system uses is completely different than the Turtles system, so new modern equipment had to be installed in each substation to link up with a server in our office that manages the entire system.

We could have retrofitted the old meters with the new TWACS modules, but it was more cost effective to have new General Electric digital meters shipped from the GE factory to the TWACS factory where the TWACS modules were installed. This made the field work as simple as swapping meters. We will probably retrofit some of the more expensive commercial meters with the new TWACS module.

Yes, we are changing out all the residential meters. No, they are not the “Smart” meters. The TWACS meter reading system has no radio transmitter and there are no radio waves. We cannot control anything in your house or even monitor any of your appliances. We have been reading meters through the electric wires for almost 20 years and we will continue reading meters through those same electric wires.

The new meter reading system will help us provide more reliable power. After a large outage, we can “ping” all the meters in an area to determine if everyone’s power came back on. We can then dispatch a lineman to each location that did not come back on when the main line was energized.

Instead of one meter reading each day, we can download hourly meter readings. This has already been useful for helping members discover the cause for high electric usage. In many cases we will be able to turn power off or on from our office, thus eliminating the wait when you move locations.

We will be adding more usage data to our online web site. Go to [lamarelectric.coop](http://lamarelectric.coop) and click “Online Bill Pay.” You will be asked to set up a password that will give you access to your account information. You do not have to pay your bill online, but that is an option. We now call this information site “SmartHub.” If you want, you can download the SmartHub App to your smart phone or tablets, and view your information from anywhere.

To implement the new meter reading system we have already changed a large portion of the meters and will be working hard to replace the remainder, later this year. The new meters are NOT smart meters. Nothing is wrong with your meter. A lot of the Turtles are getting old and need to be replaced with an updated system.



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

**GENERAL MANAGER  
AND CEO**

Jerry D. Williams

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Allen Branch, President, *Sumner*

Lyle Yoder, Vice President,  
*Pattonville*

Mike Williams, Secretary-Treasurer,  
*Detroit*

Matthew Albus, *Roxton*

Mark Jones, *Paris*

Harry R. Moore, *Clarksville*

Ron E. Tippit, *Clarksville*

George M. Wood, *Blossom*

**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**

**www.lamarelectric.coop**



# Country Corner Events

## June 5-6

**Highway 82 & 287 Yard Sale**—In the Red River Valley area, North Texas and southern Oklahoma, there will be yard sales, garage sales, sidewalk sales, farmers markets and flea markets in participating communities covering 425 miles of the Highway 82 and Highway 287 corridors and beyond. From as far as New Boston in the east to Munday and Seymour in the west, south to Henrietta and north to Quanah and Frederick, Oklahoma, and points in between, you are sure to find lots of treasures. For more information, email [becky@paristexas.com](mailto:becky@paristexas.com) or call (903) 784-2501.



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## June 5-6

**Big Garage Sale at Paris/Lamar Fairgrounds Event Center**—8 a.m.-2 p.m., 1875 Fitzhugh St., Paris. Shoppers, come and enjoy a lot of stuff in one location. For more information, call (903) 785-7971.

## June 18-20

**Paris Rodeo & Horse Club Rodeo**—Red River Valley Fairgrounds Rodeo Arena, 570 E. Center St., Paris

## June 18-21 & 25-28

**Damn Yankees**—Paris Community Theatre, 30 N. Plaza in Historic Downtown Plaza. Performances at 7:30 p.m., Thur.-Sat., and 2:30 p.m., Sundays. For more information, call (903) 784-0259. Tickets are \$10. Season tickets available. Visit [pctonstage.com](http://pctonstage.com).

## June 26

**Relay For Life**—R.L. Maddox Stadium on the campus of North Lamar High School in Paris, benefiting the American Cancer Society. It is an all-night event.

## June 27

**Dancing With the Stars**—6-10 p.m. at the Love Civic Center in Paris.

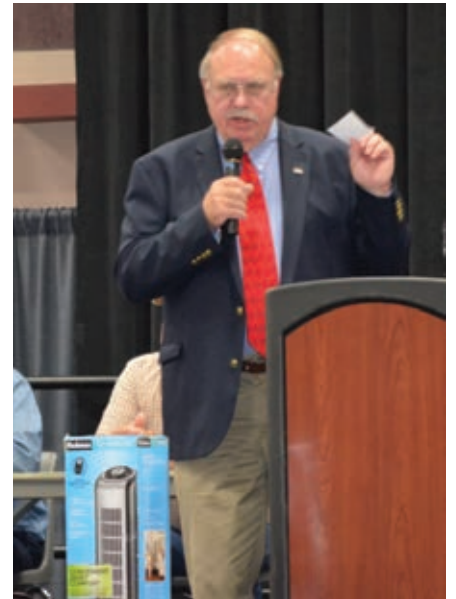
# HAPPY FATHER'S DAY

SUNDAY, JUNE 21

My father gave me the greatest gift anyone could give another person: He believed in me. —*Jim Valvano*



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# Lamar EC Annual Meeting Highlights

**THE LAMAR ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE** Annual Membership Meeting was held Saturday, April 18, at Love Civic Center in Paris.

Lamar EC had three directors up for re-election, and all were unopposed. In District 5, Allen Branch received 107 votes. In District 6, George Wood received 77 votes. In District 7, Ron Tippit received 70 votes. These directors were declared elected and will each serve another three-year term.

General Manager Jerry Williams updated the members on the financial reports and ongoing projects and answered

questions from the audience.

The names of six high school seniors were drawn out of the hopper to receive a \$1,000 scholarship each. There were 55 entries. The \$1,000 scholarships can be used at any university, college, junior college, technical school or other post-secondary educational institution of the students' choice.

Money for these scholarships comes from unclaimed deposits and unclaimed capital credits retirements from our members. Each member can still file a claim with the state of

# Scholarship Winners



**Merilyn Campbell**



**Paige Dixon**



**Dakota Durham**



**Shelbie Little**



**Shakedra Stature**



**Haskell Walker**

Texas to recover unclaimed checks, but the law allows Lamar EC to use a portion of these funds for scholarships.

Scholarship winners were **Merilyn Campbell** of North Lamar High School, daughter of Corey and Lynn Campbell of Reno; **Paige Dixon** of Paris High School, daughter of Kevin and Althea Dixon of Reno; **Dakota Durham** of Avery High School, son of Dixie Durham of Annona; **Shelbie Little** of Chisum High School, daughter of Shannon and Jennifer Little of Paris; **Shakedra Stature** of Clarksville High School, daughter of Tyra Jackson of Clarksville; and **Haskell Walker** of Prairiland High School, son of Mark and Stacy Walker of Reno.

The names of all members present at the meeting were placed in the hopper for prize drawings. Prizes were won by 32 members. The grand prizewinner of a 46-inch LED high-definition TV was Sharon Bremseth of Reno.

After the meeting, board members held a special meeting to elect officers. Allen Branch will continue to serve as board president, Lyle Yoder will serve as vice president, and Mike Williams will remain secretary/treasurer.

## Annual Meeting Prizewinners

- Sharon K. Bremseth**, *Reno*, 46-inch HDTV  
**Tigtown Community Center**, *Sumner*, Microwave  
**Carl Peek**, *Reno*, Phone Set/ Answering System  
**Betty Rowe**, *Sumner*, Case Knife  
**James W. Walls**, *Pattonville*, Blower/Vac  
**Lynda Bryan**, *Paris*, Food Processor  
**Harlan Alexander**, *Cooper*, Drill  
**Silas Rosson**, *Cooper*, Shredder  
**Terry McFadden**, *Paris*, Jigsaw  
**Joe Goforth**, *Sumner*, Wet/Dry Vac  
**Tony D. Ballard**, *Pattonville*, Hedge Trimmer  
**Debra Goodrich**, *Sumner*, Vacuum  
**Gerald Pardue**, *Detroit*, Rotary Tool  
**Sharon K. Bremseth**, *Reno*, Men's Western Wallet  
**Eugene Adams**, *Paris*, Fireproof/Waterproof Safe  
**Marc Jamin**, *Blossom*, Tower Fan  
**Ronnie Hostetler**, *Reno*, Indoor Grill  
**Joseph Gillean**, *Cooper*, Skilsaw  
**Lynol Getz**, *Paris*, Hand Vac  
**William Splawn**, *Paris*, Ladies' Western Earrings  
**James Gullion**, *Paris*, Blender  
**Lynn Lowrey**, *Brookston*, Coffeemaker  
**Jerilou Bankston**, *Sumner*, Toaster Oven  
**W.H. Brumley**, *Sumner*, Electric Skillet  
**Barbara Brazeal**, *Paris*, Sander  
**Dale Goodin**, *Bagwell*, Work Lights  
**Maycle Hausler**, *Clarksville*, Surge Protector  
**John D. Thomas**, *Blossom*, Slow Cooker  
**Martha Buster**, *Sumner*, Ladies' Western Wallet  
**Cameron Ashton**, *Paris*, Blender  
**Willie Pace**, *Clarksville*, Griddle  
**Ron Tribble**, *Honey Grove*, Deep Fryer  
**Roger Wettschreck**, *Paris*, Weather Radio