

# Honoring Those Who Keep the Lights On



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

**HELP WANTED: APPLICANTS MUST BE COMFORTABLE WORKING AT** night 40 feet in the air for long hours during heavy rain and lightning. Must be willing to hold a 14,000 volt energized wire in gloved hand in freezing or scorching weather while providing excellent customer service. Must be willing to use a chain saw to cut a stick of wood off the end of a log that has an electric line pinned down with such pressure the stick of wood could easily take your head off as it is released and goes flying thru the air.

That doesn't sound like a job many of us would sign up for, but fortunately for Lamar Electric Cooperative and its members, we have a team of folks who embrace that challenge—our linemen. Our professional men love their job so much we don't have any openings.

On Wednesday, April 18 we will celebrate National Lineman Appreciation Day. Lamar Electric Cooperative will join cooperatives and other utilities from across the nation in recognizing the employees who keep the lights on. This is a group that deserves this special day of recognition.

Electric linemen do not often receive the recognition they deserve. Electric line workers across our service territory work every day near deadly energized wires, building and repairing lines to ensure the overall reliability of the system. Like most professions some of our men go by other job titles such as Right-Of-Way Workers, Equipment Operators, Staking Engineers or even Substation Technician. Regardless of the job title, at Lamar Electric every one of them are the unsung heroes who stand at the ready to respond to outages caused by storms, accidents and anything else that may knock out power. They are the ones who, through their tireless efforts, help ensure the system reliability of your member-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperative.

We recognize our electric line workers and crew members for the services they perform around the clock, often in dangerous conditions, so that our members can enjoy the conveniences and safety electricity provides. "Conveniences" that are lost when the power goes out is almost an understatement. Many folk have become so very dependent on having electricity that some think they simply could not go on living without these conveniences powered with electricity.

Perhaps you have seen them rising in their bucket trucks in howling winds and torrential rains, or in freezing, icy conditions—working around the clock near high-voltage power lines until electricity is restored to every member in our co-op community. You may have seen them expertly remove a very heavy large tree that has an electric line pinned down. Not all the work is done in the air as is very evident when you see a worker dragging an electric wire thru mud and fallen tree tops to prepare for the job of pulling it back into the air.

After hours you will see Lamar Electric line workers serving as volunteer firefighters, coaches, leading worship at a local church or even teaching a Sunday

## Got Power? Thank a Lineman.

Lineman  
Appreciation Day  
April 18



school class. Everyone one of them are respected members of the rural community where they live.

In addition to aiding members in our service territory, our line workers always are willing and eager to volunteer when other communities are in need. An example occurred when an Ice Storm hit Southern Oklahoma a couple years ago and Lamar Electric crews found themselves in unfamiliar territory repairing electric wires in Southwest Oklahoma, North of Wichita Falls. They were not accustomed to flat land with virtually no trees. Our men were glad to volunteer for this very dangerous assignment because they were helping those rural families get back to normal after a devastating ice storm.

I want to say Thank You to all of the Lamar Electric line workers for the vital role they play in helping us provide our members with safe, reliable and affordable power. Our crews do a great job of making sure the lights stay on. On April 18, please join us by taking a moment to personally thank a lineman or line crew member for the work he does.

## Government-in-Action Youth Tour Winners Announced

**LEXY COSTON AND AUSTIN PLETT ARE THE WINNERS OF LAMAR ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE'S 2018 Government-in-Action Youth Tour essay contest.** Contestants submitted an essay on the topic, "How has electricity improved life in the area where I live?"

Coston is the daughter of Renae and the late Joe Coston of the Midway community. She is a junior at Chisum High School. Plett is the son of Ernie and Rachel Plett of the Tigertown community. He is a sophomore at Faith Christian School.

In June, these students will join 148 other students from Texas and fly to Washington, D.C., for a week of educational events. Before leaving for Washington, the students will tour the Texas Capitol and learn about state government in Austin. While in Washington, they will visit their congressional representatives, spend a day on Capitol Hill and tour the Smithsonian Institution and many other popular sites. Students from the group also will participate in a wreath-laying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.



LEXY COSTON



AUSTIN PLETT



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

### GENERAL MANAGER AND CEO

Jerry D. Williams

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Ron E. Tippit, President, *Clarksville*

Lyle Yoder, Vice President,  
*Pattonville*

Mike Williams, Secretary-Treasurer,  
*Detroit*

Matthew Albus, *Roxton*

Allen Branch, *Sumner*

James D. Floyd, *Annona*

Jeremy D. Hamil, *Sumner*

Harry R. Moore, *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**



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## NOTICE OF LAMAR COUNTY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

# MEETING OF MEMBERS

**THE ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING OF LAMAR COUNTY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION WILL BE HELD AT PARIS JUNIOR** High School, 2400 Jefferson Road in Paris, on Saturday, April 21.

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 5, 6 and 7, 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 5: Allen Branch**, 1216 CR 32240, Sumner 75486

**DISTRICT 6: George Wood**, 796 CR 44750, Blossom 75416

**DISTRICT 7: Ron Tippit**, 4679 TX HWY 37 S., Clarksville 75426

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 holding 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 the 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 6.

**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 an accredited home extended studies program within the counties served by Lamar Electric.

We look forward to seeing you there. Enjoy your annual meeting.

**MICHAEL R. WILLIAMS**

*Board Secretary*

Dated: March 29, 2018

## Lamar Electric 2018 Director Candidate Profiles



### DISTRICT 5

**ALLEN BRANCH** has been a member since 1974. He is a graduate of Rehobeth High School in Dothan, Alabama. He has served on the

Lamar Electric board since 2003, during which time he has taken several National Rural Electric Cooperative Association director training courses. After 38 years of service, he retired from Earth Grains Bakery, where he was fleet superintendent of the Paris plant for 20 years. Before moving to this area, he was fleet superintendent for several other company locations and attended several fleet-management training courses throughout the United States. He and his wife, Geri, have two children, Janice and Lana (and one, Kelvin, deceased), along with four grandchildren.



### DISTRICT 6

**GEORGE WOOD** has been a Lamar Electric member since 1988. He attended Prairiland High School, Paris Junior College and North-

east Texas Community College. He served in the U.S. Army from 1973 to 1977. He worked for the Lone Star Steel Company for almost 11 years and recently retired from Kimberly-Clark after a nearly-30-year tenure. He is chairman of the board for Red River Valley Veterans Memorial and president of the East Post Oak Volunteer Fire Department. He and his wife, Pam, have two children, Amanda and George, and three grandchildren.



### DISTRICT 7

**RON TIPPIT** has been a member since 1981. He has served on the Lamar Electric board since 2006. He currently serves as the

Lamar Electric board president. He is a credentialed cooperative director through the NRECA's Credentialed Cooperative Director training program. The CCD curriculum consists of five courses designed to provide basic knowledge and skills required of cooperative directors and a learning assessment to be completed for each. He is a graduate of Clarksville High School. He is retired from Kimberly-Clark and is a rancher. His wife, Jerri, manages Tippit Hilltop Tamales. They have five children.

# Scholarship Deadline April 6

**THIS YEAR, LAMAR ELECTRIC 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 college, university or school in one lump sum. Scholarships must be used within two years of the award date. Funds may be used for tuition, books, and room and board.

## Eligibility Requirements for an Academic Scholarship

To be considered for a Lamar Electric scholarship, a student must:

- ▶ Live full time in a residence served by Lamar Electric.
- ▶ Be a graduating senior attending a high school or an accredited home extended studies program within the counties served by Lamar Electric.

Six scholarships will be given away at the Lamar Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting on April 21 in a random drawing of qualified students. The winners need not be present.

**Entry deadline is April 6.** The application can be found on our website: lamarelec.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: Katie Morris**

**P.O. Box 580**

**Paris, TX 75461**

## LAMAR ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE 2018 SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

**Deadline: April 6**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Name of High School \_\_\_\_\_

Parent(s)/Guardian(s) Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Lamar Electric Account Number \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

## RECIPE OF THE MONTH



RICK PATRICK

## Banana-Strawberry Trifle

- 1 large box vanilla pudding
- 1 box yellow cake mix
- 2 cups heavy cream
- 2 tablespoons sugar
- 6 bananas
- 2 pints strawberries, washed and stemmed

1. Prepare pudding according to directions on box.
2. Bake cake according to directions on box. Allow to cool.
3. Whip heavy cream with sugar to form soft peaks.
4. Thinly slice fruit. Cut cake into small cubes.
5. Layer cake cubes on bottom of trifle dish. Add a layer of vanilla pudding. Arrange bananas and strawberries on top of pudding. Spread whipped cream in a thin layer over fruit.
6. Repeat layers: cake, pudding, fruit, whipped cream.
7. Chill and serve.

Find this and more delicious recipes online at  
**TEXASCOOPPOWER.COM**