

# Why We Encourage You To Conserve Energy



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

**YOU MAY WONDER WHY WE ENCOURAGE YOU** to use electricity efficiently as possible. After all, we're in the business of selling electricity. As a matter of fact, I can't think of any other business that encourages their consumers to use less of their product. Why would we want our customers to use less electricity?

Unlike other utilities and most businesses around you, your cooperative isn't in the business to make a profit. Lamar Electric was organized in 1937 as a non-profit organization and still is. Our objective is not to make a profit but to serve you in the most reliable, efficient and cost-effective way possible, consistent with good business practices.

Yes, there are many ways we could cut cost that are not effective in the long run. For example, we spend a lot of money each year inspecting and re-treating about 5,000 poles; which

the electric bill as low as possible.

Despite what I am told at the barber shop; every electric bill is calculated based on the electricity that went through each individual meter. Use what you can afford but don't waste it. We now know there is more natural gas and oil in the United States than Saudi Arabia, but at some point there is a limit to the fossil fuels that God has provided. Yes, I know we all live under a promise that cold and heat, summer and winter and day and night shall not cease as long as the earth shall exist. We should however, be good stewards of what He has provided until that end arrives.

Not only is conservation a good idea for future generations, it decreases your electric bill. Every year the electric grid operator in Texas (ERCOT) predicts what the peak demand for electricity will be. Every year the number of electric generators available to provide for those peak days gets fewer and fewer. Each year older generation plants are retired and fewer new generators are added that can run whenever peak usage occurs.

Wind and solar generation have come down in price, but they are still expensive to construct and maintain. In addition, no one wants to limit their electric use to hours when it is sunny and windy. When a lot of consumers lower their usage, it reduces the overall peak load and potentially saves construction of one of those electric generating plants. The most cost effective and efficient power plant is the one not constructed. If electricity can be conserved, less overall power is needed and new power sources can be postponed. This saves everyone money because new construction is not cheap.

Here at Lamar Electric Cooperative, we seek to keep your electricity affordable by automating functions where possible and by setting reasonable budgets that do not sacrifice reliability or service. We make arrangements to lock in future power cost at a lower rate when feasible. That is why we changed wholesale power suppliers on January 1, 2018 and reduced retail rates 2 cents per kWh. As of January 1, 2020 we have changed wholesale power suppliers again and you will see the current retail rates have about a fourth of a cent further reduction. We have no control, however, over the overall market price of electricity, which will eventually be passed on to all Texans. Therefore conservation and using electricity wisely will eventually help us all.

We'll continue to offer tips for conserving electricity and using it efficiently, even though we're in the business of selling it. You can count on Lamar Electric to continue looking out for you.



is about 10% each year. We could skip a year, but that would be sort of like skipping an oil change on your vehicle. Ultimately the decision would prove to be more costly. We try to do things which are in the best interest of our member owners, and that includes encouraging conservation. As a member owned cooperative we share the same interest as our members in keeping

# Director Elections, Scholarships at Lamar Electric Annual Meeting



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

## GENERAL MANAGER AND CEO

Jerry D. Williams

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

George M. Wood, President,  
*Blossom*

Lyle Yoder, Vice President,  
*Pattonville*

Mike Williams, Secretary-Treasurer,  
*Detroit*

Matthew Albus, *Roxton*

Allen Branch, *Sumner*

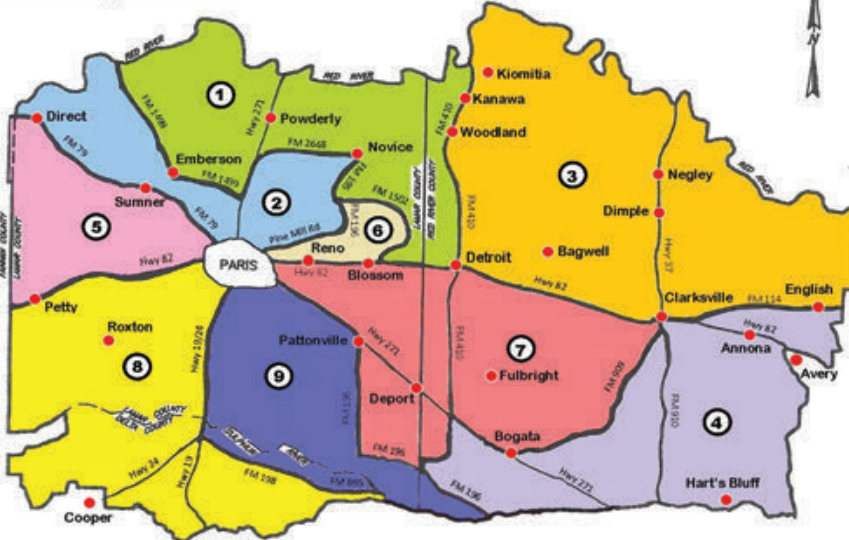
James D. Floyd, *Annona*

Jeremy D. Hamil, *Sumner*

Harry R. Moore, *Clarksville*

Ron E. Tippit, *Clarksville*

Circled Number represents Board District



**THE ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING OF LAMAR ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE WILL BE AT 10 a.m. Saturday, April 18, at Paris Love Civic Center, 2025 S. Collegiate Drive in Paris.** Registration opens at 9 a.m. The business session begins at 10 a.m. and includes any necessary reports of the officers, board members and committees as well as the election of directors in districts 1, 8 and 9, each for a three-year term.

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 vote either by mail or in person at the meeting. Each member in attendance at the meeting will receive a registration gift, and drawings for other prizes will be held. You must be present at the time of the drawing to be eligible to win a prize.

Six \$1,000 scholarships will be awarded at the meeting. Applications must be received at the cooperative office by **5 p.m. April 3. To be eligible for a scholarship, a candidate must:**

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

Watch for additional details in the next issue of *Texas Co-op Power*.

## 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**

**FIND US ON THE WEB**  
**www.lamarelectric.coop**



# Lamar Electric To Award \$6,000 in Scholarships

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 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.



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### Eligibility Requirements

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

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

Six scholarships will be given away at the Lamar Electric Annual Meeting on April 18 in a random drawing of qualified students. The winners need not be present.

The entry deadline is **April 3**. The application can be found at [lamarelectric.coop](http://lamarelectric.coop) and submitted by email to [scholarship@lamarelectric.coop](mailto:scholarship@lamarelectric.coop) or mailed to **Lamar Electric Cooperative, Attn: Kristen Bollman, P.O. Box 580, Paris, TX 75461**.

## LAMAR ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE 2020 SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

DEADLINE: APRIL 3

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

NAME OF HIGH SCHOOL \_\_\_\_\_

PARENT(S)/GUARDIAN(S) NAME(S) \_\_\_\_\_

LAMAR ELECTRIC ACCOUNT NO. \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_



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## Meter Tampering Can Kill

**TAMPERING WITH YOUR ELECTRIC METER** can cost you your life.

No, the crime won't land you on death row when the electric cooperative—whose technicians are trained to spot electricity theft—reports you to the police. In that case, you'll be charged with theft, possibly sent to jail and definitely slapped with fines of about triple the money you thought you could save by rigging your meter.

But an attempt to bypass or alter an electric meter can result in shock, fire, explosion and even electrocution. And if you're lucky enough not to get hurt, you'll still leave the tampered meter in a state that's dangerous to others, including the electric cooperative employee who reads or maintains it.

Plus, you're driving up electric costs for your neighbors, just as shoplifters force stores to inflate the prices of their products to cover losses from theft.

The cooperative does not have to catch you red-handed to turn you over to the authorities. In fact, the law assumes that a person who benefits from the use of stolen electricity has tampered with the meter.

If you're aware of a meter on our lines that you suspect has been tampered with, please let us know. You could save a life.

# Lamar Electric Recognizes Employees for Years of Service

BY KRISTEN BOLLMAN

**LAMAR ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE RECENTLY RECOGNIZED 11** employees and a member of the board of directors for their years of service. This recognition is intended to show appreciation for the employees' commitment to the cooperative and their performance.

Every year, the co-op celebrates employees' work anniversaries in five-year increments. Each employee and board member recognized is presented with a service award plaque marking his or her tenure with the co-op. The employees and director recognized this year represent 220 years of combined service to the community.

"We are proud of the dedicated and professional team that works to keep the electricity on for our members," said Jerry Williams, general manager. "It is not uncommon for an employee in a rural electric co-op to join the family and still be a member of that family 40 years later. Someone who has worked that long with one organization has dedicated a life-

time of service."

That dedication in the co-op world stands in stark contrast to most workplaces. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the median number of years that wage and salary workers had been with their current employer was 4.2 in January 2018.

Lamar Electric values its staff and employee retention.

The following employees were recognized this year for reaching service milestones:

**45 years: Wade Niblett.**

**40 years: Will Armstrong and Larry Bills.**

**20 years: Drew Conder.**

**15 years: Ryan Dean.**

**10 years: DeLana McFadden, Jose Recendiz, Michael Sorensen and Jerry Williams.**

**Five years: B.J. McCoy and Bryan Story.**

George Wood, board president, was recognized for serving on the board of directors for 10 years.



Service award recipients, from left, Bryan Story, Michael Sorensen, Will Armstrong, Larry Bills, Jerry Williams, DeLana McFadden, Wade Niblett, B.J. McCoy, Drew Conder, Ryan Dean and Jose Recendiz. Not pictured: George Wood.