



MESSAGE FROM GENERAL MANAGER AND CEO

JERRY D. WILLIAMS

The Attic Is a Hot Topic

FOR MOST OF US, the attic is a place to store clothes, luggage and Christmas decorations. For energy efficiency professionals, the attic is a hot topic of discussion. Not long ago a lady asked me if she should replace the whirlybirds on her roof when the shingles are replaced. It seems that almost every spring parts of our area get pummeled with large hail. Usually, by the second hail storm you begin to start seeing the damage. If you are having a roof replaced for any reason, you should know about attic ventilation and ridge vents.

Proper ventilation in your house's attic will help lower your electric bill. In an ideal world, the summer time attic temperature would be equal to the outside air temperature. Generally that is not possible, but it helps folks understand the goal. In many cases, a maximum attic temperature of 20 degrees warmer than outside air is achievable.



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Unfortunately, many attics can reach 160 degrees or more in the North Texas area. The primary culprit is the type of roofing material, color and ventilation. A dark shingle roof will absorb more heat into the house, compared to a lighter color roof that will reflect some of the sun's heat. A metal roof with a reflective paint will transmit less heat into the attic than a metal roof with dark regular paint.

The color of your roof is likely dictated by what will complement the overall look of the house sid-

ing and most likely not up for discussion. Ventilation options are much easier to deal with. Besides roofing material, attic temperature is generally a product of attic ventilation and will affect your cooling bill. A very hot attic will penetrate through the ceiling insulation and add to your cooling load in the house.

If you don't have about 12-16 inches or more of insulation on the floor of your attic, you should add insulation. Adding insulation to your attic is generally one of the best returns for your money and will help during the summer and winter. We recommend R-38. Adding 12 inches of blown fiberglass or cellulose to your attic will often pay back the investment in less than two years. You would be surprised at how much insulation you can purchase for less than \$1,000. Assuming you have 1,500 square feet of insulated attic, using 25 rolls of

unbacked rolls (60 sf) of R30 fiberglass insulation should cost around \$900.

Regardless of how much insulation you have in the attic, you can reduce your cooling load and increase the life of your shingles by having good attic ventilation. Ridge vents are the all-natural way of ventilation. Hot air will naturally rise. The most efficient way of ventilating your attic is to have ridge vents along each ridge line of your roof, and soffit vents along the underside of the eave. The soffit vents allow outside air to enter the attic at the lowest point of the roof—along the underside of the eave. As the air heats in the attic and naturally rises to the very peak of the roof (ridge line) a vacuum will be created which pulls in the cooler air through the soffit vents. If you have soffit vents on each side of the house, a

natural flow of air will travel along under the roof line and extend the life of shingles and naturally reduce the attic temperature.

The ridge vent can easily be added to your existing roof by removing approximately two inches of the plywood or chip board decking along each side of the very top edge. A roofer with a Skil saw can perform this event in no time. The ridge vent is typically made of a color matching plastic/nylon or polymer material that comes in a roll or in 10-foot sec-



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tions. The vent fits directly over the 4-inch opening at the peak of your roof and is nailed down. The vent allows hot air to escape on each side through a mesh opening. The mesh prevents insects from entering, and the top edge extends far enough to prevent blowing rain from entering. The last step is to nail some shingles on top of the vent, allowing the vent to blend in with the roof line.

Thermostat-controlled power vents were once considered a good idea. That belief was shattered when many folks discovered there is no good way to know if the thermostat or electric fan motor is still working. There are just simply too many things that can go wrong with this type of ventilation system and no good way of knowing that it is not working correctly. Of course, another drawback is the cost of electricity used to power the vent fans. Don't get them, and if you already have them, replace them with a ridge vent.

At one time everyone thought having two or three whirlybirds that turn when the wind blows or when hot air escapes from the attic was the best. The problem is that they only allow hot air to escape at these two or three locations, and they cannot be mounted at the very peak where all the hot air will naturally accumulate. In addition, they can produce a very irritating squeak. Take them out when installing a ridge vent.

Some folks will install louver vents in each gable of the roof. They do allow a small amount of hot air to escape at each gable, but do little for the balance of the attic. There are some nice decorative fake vents to install on the gable if you like the looks. Do not use gable vents with ridge vents. The gable vents will cause you to lose part of the vacuum created by hot air escaping through the ridge vent.

Don't avoid venting your attic for fear of allowing cold air into your home. Your home should be enveloped in at least some insulating material. Your living space is sealed and insulated at the attic floor. The attic is outside the envelope. Adding the ridge vents is easily done by any roofing company when they replace your shingles due to hail damage. If the roofer doesn't have to deal with other types of venting, the cost of adding ridge vents may offset or add very little cost. ■



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Congratulations! Annual Meeting Scholarship Winners



1



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1. Jerry Williams, general manager and CEO, delivers a speech at Lamar Electric's annual meeting.

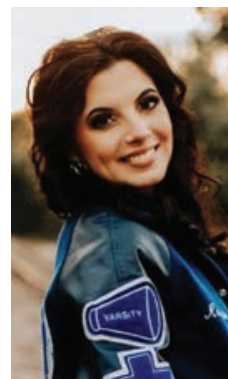
2. Williams with Sutton Denise Ballard, granddaughter of member Tony Ballard and great-granddaughter of member Ann Jewett.



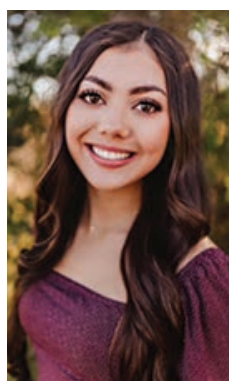
Gabe Purviance



Blake Ballard



Kourtnie Stringer



Ashley Trenchard



Kendall Stephens



Kallan Barber

Lamar Electric 83rd Annual Meeting Highlights

THE LAMAR ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE Annual Membership Meeting was held Saturday, April 17, at Lamar Electric's new meeting room in Blossom. Lamar Electric had three directors up for election, and all ran unopposed. In District 1, Michael R. Williams received 84 votes, in District 8, Matthew Albus received 113 votes, and in District 9, Lyle Yoder received 115 votes. These directors were declared elected and will each serve another three-year term.

Jerry Williams, General Manager/CEO, updated the members on financial reports and ongoing projects.

The names of six high school seniors were drawn out of a hopper to receive a \$1,000 scholarship each. There were among 79 entries. The \$1,000 scholarships can be used at any university, college, junior college, technical school or other postsecondary 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 Texas to recover

unclaimed checks, but the law allows Lamar Electric to use a portion of these funds for scholarships. Scholarship winners were Gabe Purviance of Rivercrest High School, son of Jim & Stephanie Purviance of the Cuthand Community, Blake Ballard of Prairiland High School, son of Jeff & Patti Ballard of the Blossom Community, Kourtnie Stringer of Detroit High School, daughter of Justin & Tanya Stringer of the Dimple Community, Ashley Trenchard of North Lamar High School, daughter of Louis & Kim Trenchard of the Faught Community, Kendall Stephens of North Lamar High School, daughter of Paul & Shannon Stephens of Paris, and Kallan Barber of North Lamar High School, son of Clint & Kacie Barber of Paris.

The names of all members present at the meeting were placed in the hopper for prize drawings. Prizes were won by 35 members. The grand prizewinner of a 50-inch high-definition TV was Robbie White of the Sumner area. ■



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Checks To Be Mailed

THIS MONTH, members that were receiving electric service from 1976 through 1980 will be receiving checks. Only those members who have capital credits from 1976–1980, and who have an active account today will receive a check, this time.

We are focusing on members with active accounts because we have good addresses and we don't have a good address for many of our former members. Capital credits for 1976–1980 for former members will be retired in the future, but not this year. If we write a check that is not cashed, the unclaimed property laws kick in and most will ultimately be sent to the State of Texas; which is what we want to avoid.

Capital credits are what we call your equity in your electric co-op. All margins are invested in poles, wire and equipment (capital projects) when they are first assigned, therefore we often refer to them as "capital credits." Margins are calculated each year by deducting the expenses of operating the cooperative from the income from the sale of electricity. These margins are allocated to each member's capital credit account based on electric use. When the financial condition of the cooperative is adequate to meet all normal and emergency needs, the board of directors may approve the return of a portion of these margins to the member-owners.

This is one of the many benefits of being served by an electric cooperative like Lamar Electric. Members have received more than \$3,701,031.00 in capital credit checks over the last 5 years. ■

Annual Meeting Prizewinners

Rob White	Three-piece pruners and lopper set
Monda Fults	Toaster
Susan Guymon	Power strip/surge protector
Dorothy Plunk	Case pocketknife
Robert Moss	Slow cooker
Paul Bayer	Extension cord
Mrs. Roy Ervin	Sawzall
W.H. Brumley	Garden hose
Patsy Golden	Skill saw
Robert Groves	Hand mixer
Connie Alsup	Sander
Charles Christian	Grinder
Doug Faires	Toaster oven
George Nichols	Coffee maker
Jeanette Wilson	Shop surge protector
Carroll Denison	LED work light
Harlon Alexander	Hand vacuum
Curry Jones	LED garage lights
James Hill	Blender
Nancy Mauldin	Shovel and rake
Harold Smith	Iron
Susan Morales	Socket wrench set
Bobby McQueen	Tower fan
Mike Mayfield	Drill
Karen Williams	Cast-iron skillet set
Raymond Rosenbrough	Trifold wallet
Bethel Baptist Church	USB table lamp
Barbara Jewett	Leaf blower
Jane Washington	Hedge trimmer
Jennifer Norton	LED spotlight
Leatha Ford	Fire extinguisher
Randall Taylor	Vacuum cleaner
Jeff Paskin	7-in-1 pressure cooker instant pot
Crystal Cox	Microwave
Robbie White	55-inch TV