



MESSAGE FROM GENERAL MANAGER AND CEO BRYAN STORY

Get Involved! Join Us at the Annual Meeting

ONE OF MY FAVORITE yearly events is on Saturday, April 20—when Lamar Electric Cooperative will host our annual meeting for you, the members we proudly serve. I always look forward to this event because it’s a great opportunity for me and the other cooperative employees to talk with our members and hear what’s on their minds.

We hope you’ll join us this year because your participation is so important to what we do.

During the meeting, we’ll share updates on co-op finances, recent projects and news, successes and challenges, and more. We’re going to have a lot of fun, too—there will be prizes!

Spending time with you and hearing your take on our community’s energy future is so important to us. In fact, it’s essential because everything we do is shaped by the members of our community.

The energy industry is in the midst of massive change. Consumer needs and changing technology impact nearly every aspect of how we manage and deliver energy to our corner of Texas.

As we navigate major changes, we need to hear from you to inform our planning as we strive to meet the needs of all Lamar Electric members.

Have your say at the annual meeting.

If you’re wondering whether your opinion really makes a difference—it does. Gaining guidance and perspective from our members and board helps set priorities for the co-op. At our annual meeting, we raise issues for voting consideration by the general membership (that’s everyone who pays for electric

service from Lamar Electric), and members can vote on the co-op’s board of directors.

Our board is composed of members who live and work right here in our local service area, so they’re in a great position to know where community investments are most needed.

This local input means that those closest to the community, who best know its needs and priorities, can help direct where co-op dollars are spent. Every year, we invest in updates to our local system, improving the reliability and resilience of our grid. Think of it this way: Every time you pay your electric bill, you’re actually investing in your community because the money we take in stays here.

By making these investments, we can ensure you have reliable power for everyday life.

Most consumers likely don’t equate active involvement with their electric company with helping their community. But Lamar Electric is no ordinary utility company. We’re a co-op, and our business model is meant to serve the members and the community in which it operates.

Our core purpose and mission are to provide safe, reliable and affordable power. But as a co-op, we’re also motivated by service to our community, rather than profits.

We hope you’ll exercise the benefits of your co-op membership and join us for the annual meeting. We look forward to seeing you this year and hearing what you have to say. ■





PHOTOVS | ISTOCK.COM

What To Do If You Crash Into a Utility Pole

ACCIDENTS HAPPEN. WOULD YOU know what to do if your car crashed into an electric utility pole? Knowing what to do could be the difference between life and death.

Always consider power lines and other electrical equipment to be live and dangerous.

If you crash into a utility pole and a power line falls on your vehicle—and if there is no fire—your safest option is to stay inside your vehicle until help arrives. Even if you can't see any wires, your safest bet is to stay in the car because there may be an energized power line on the ground.

The vehicle acts as a path for the electrical current to travel to reach the ground. Electricity may be flowing through the frame of your car and along the ground. You're safe inside the vehicle, but if you get out, you could be electrocuted. Only leave the car if it's on fire.

If a power line falls on your vehicle—and there is a fire—you should carefully attempt to leave your vehicle. Open the car door, rotate your body until you're facing out; then put both feet on the running board and hop out, landing with both feet on the ground at the same time. Make sure that no part of your body or clothing touches the ground and the vehicle at the same time. Taking shuffling steps or hopping with both feet together, move at least 40 feet away from the vehicle.

Shuffling or hopping away with both feet together decreases the risk of electrical shock.

Whether you stay in the car or safely move away using these instructions, tell others to stay away from the crash site. They're in danger, too. If you see someone has hit a utility pole, do not approach the crash site. Shout instructions to the crash victim, and call 911 and Lamar Electric for help right away. ■



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Web lamarelectric.coop

General Manager and CEO

Bryan Story

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

Barbara Golden, Detroit

Jeremy D. Hamil, Sumner

Ron E. Tippit, Clarksville

Contact Us

For information and to report outages, please call us.

(903) 784-4303

MEMBER BENEFITS

- Level billing
- Automated meter reading
- Free bank draft service
- E-Bill
- Visa and Mastercard accepted
- Prepaid metering

TEXAS CO-OP POWER

Lamar Electric provides *Texas Co-op Power* and TexasCoopPower.com to give you information about events, safety, special programs and other activities of your cooperative. If you have any comments or suggestions, please contact the co-op office.

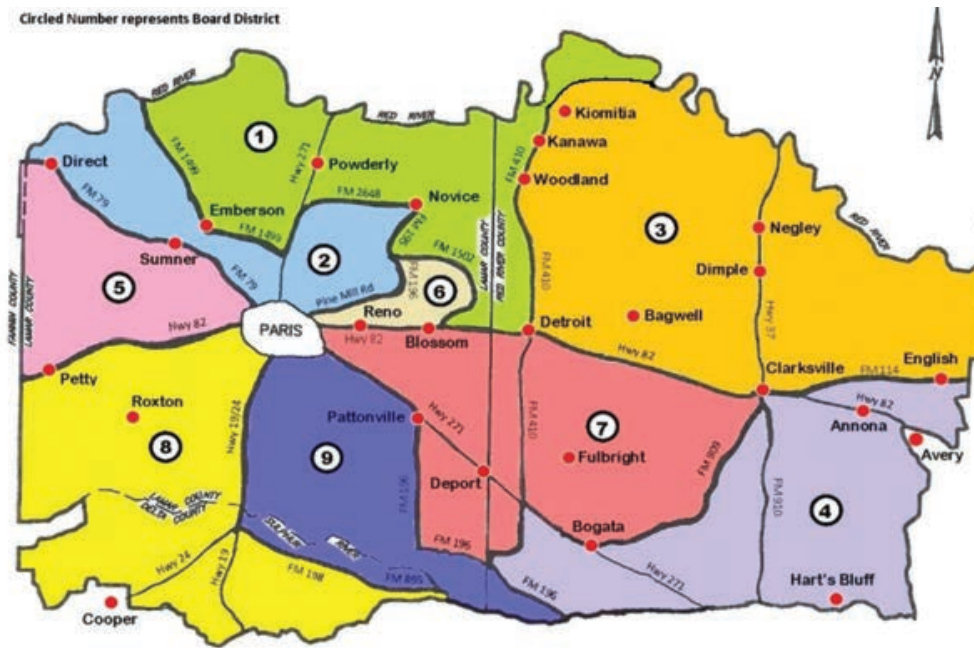
VISIT US ONLINE

lamarelectric.coop



Check us out at
TexasCoopPower.com/lamar

Circled Number represents Board District



Annual Meeting Set for April 20

LAMAR ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE will hold its annual meeting at 10 a.m. Saturday, April 20, at the cooperative’s headquarters, 5225 U.S. Highway 82 E. in Blossom. There will be additional information in *Texas Co-op Power* regarding the meeting over the next few months.

Three positions on the board of directors are up for election each year, and this year, districts 1, 8 and 9 will be voting for their directors at the annual meeting. Members residing in districts 1, 8 and 9 who wish to be a candidate for one of the three available board positions must appear in person at the main office of the cooperative and fill out a nomination form between January 21 and February 20, as outlined in the co-op’s bylaws. If you’re unsure which district you live in, refer to the district map above.

Bylaws Excerpt

ARTICLE III. SECTION 3. Qualifications. No person shall be eligible to become a board member of the cooperative who:

- a) Has not been a member of the cooperative for at least one year prior to nomination;
- b) Has not been a bona fide resident of the board district for which seeking election for at least one year prior to nomination;
- c) Is any way employed by or financially interested in a competing enterprise or a business selling electric energy or supplies to the cooperative;
- d) Is an employee of this cooperative or has been terminated from the cooperative less than five years;
- e) Is a close relative of an employee or an employee’s spouse (“close” being defined as wife, husband, grandparent, grandchild, parent, child, brother, sister, stepparent, stepchild, stepbrother, stepsister, father-in-law, mother-in-law, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, brother-in-law, and/or sister-in-law);

brother, stepsister, father-in-law, mother-in-law, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, brother-in-law, and/or sister-in-law);

- f) Has been convicted, pleaded guilty or plead “no contest” to a felony; or
- g) Is an incumbent of, or candidate for, an elective public office for which a salary is paid.

No person shall be eligible to remain a board member who:

- a) Is not a member of the cooperative;
- b) Is not a bona fide resident of the district for which elected;
- c) Is any way employed by or financially interested in a competing enterprise or a business selling electric energy or supplies to the cooperative;
- d) Is an employee of this cooperative or has been terminated from the cooperative less than five years;
- e) Is a close relative of an employee or an employee’s spouse (“close” being defined as wife, husband, grandparent, grandchild, parent, child, brother, sister, stepparent, stepchild, stepbrother, stepsister, father-in-law, mother-in-law, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, brother-in-law, and/or sister-in-law);
- f) Has been convicted, pleaded guilty or plead “no contest” to a felony; or
- g) Is an incumbent of, or candidate for, an elective public office for which a salary is paid.

Upon establishment of the fact that a board member is holding office in violation of any of the foregoing provisions, the board shall remove such board member.

Nothing contained in this section shall affect in any manner whatsoever the validity of any action taken at any meeting of the board or at any special or annual meeting of the members. ■

Powering Up After an Outage

When the power goes out, we expect it to be restored within a few hours. But when a major storm or natural disaster causes widespread damage, extended outages may result. Our line crews work long, hard hours to restore service safely to the greatest number of consumers in the shortest time possible. Here's what's going on if you find yourself in the dark:



1. High-Voltage Transmission Lines:

Transmission towers and cables that supply power to transmission substations (and thousands of members) rarely fail. But when damaged, these facilities must be repaired before other parts of the system can operate.

2. Distribution Substation:

A substation can serve hundreds or thousands of consumers. When a major outage occurs, line crews inspect substations to determine if problems stem from transmission lines feeding into the substation, the substation itself or if problems exist further down the line.

3. Main Distribution Lines:

If the problem cannot be isolated at a distribution substation, distribution lines are checked. These lines carry power to large groups of consumers in communities or housing developments.

4. Tap Lines:

If local outages persist, supply lines (also known as tap lines) are inspected. These lines deliver power to transformers, either mounted on poles or placed on pads for underground service, outside businesses, schools and homes.

5. Individual Homes:

If your home remains without power, the service line between a transformer and your residence may need to be repaired. Always call to report an outage to help line crews isolate local issue.

Operate Your Generator Safely

ICE STORMS, FALLEN TREE branches and even animals can cause power outages. When the electricity goes out, generators can help you weather the storm and stay warm until power is restored. However, before starting a generator, it's vital that you learn how to use one safely.

There are two types of generators for homeowners to choose from: standby and portable. Standby generators are connected directly to the house and typically are powered by natural gas or propane. These generators start automatically when the power goes out.

Portable generators are usually gas-powered and easy to move around. You can power appliances by plugging them into it. Your generator should have a greater output than the wattage of the electronics you plan to plug into it. This way, the generator will be able to create the extra electricity it takes for the initial power surge. Make sure nothing is plugged into the generator when you fire it up.

When you refuel a generator, make sure the engine is cool to prevent a fire, should the tank overflow. Be sure to keep children and pets away from the generator, which could cause burns.

Generators pose electrical risks, so use a generator only when necessary, especially in wet conditions. Protect the generator by operating it under an open, canopy-like structure and on a dry surface, where water cannot form puddles or drain under it.

Carbon monoxide fumes emitted by the gasoline engine on a generator can be deadly. Always operate your portable generator outdoors, at least 10 feet from your home and farther still from doors or open windows.

If you're not careful with the installation of a portable or standby generator, you can put the lives of others in danger away from your home because of backfeed—a situation where a generator feeds electricity back through your electrical system and meter into the power lines. To prevent backfeed, standby generators must have a transfer safety switch installed by a professional. Portable generators should never be plugged directly into a home outlet or electrical system; plug appliances into an outlet on the generator for power.

It's recommended that a generator be operated once a month for 10 minutes to ensure that it will run properly when needed. ■



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2024 Youth Tour Application Process Open

SINCE 1958, electric cooperatives across the country have been sending young people to the nation's capital for a weeklong study tour. Once again this year, Lamar Electric Cooperative will send two students from our area on a trip of a lifetime. These students will participate in the Government-in-Action Youth Tour, an all-expenses-paid 10-day trip that will take them to Washington, D.C. The Youth Tour will take participants to the U.S. Capitol, where they'll meet with members of Congress. They'll also visit many historical sites, monuments and museums.



Who Is Eligible?

Tenth, 11th and 12th grade students who live full-time in a residence served by Lamar EC or attend one of the three high schools served by Lamar Electric, which are Prairiland, Detroit or Faith Christian. Home-schooled students served by Lamar Electric are also eligible.

How To Apply

Go to lamarelectric.coop/youth and complete the 2024 Youth Tour Application process, which includes the following:

1. Application form

2. Written essay on this year's topic: "If you had the opportunity to change one thing about your school or community, what would it be and why?" The essay must be two pages, double spaced with a 12-point font and 1-inch margins.

Deadline

The application and essay must both be received no later than **5 p.m. January 31**. Final selections will be announced by February 15. ■

LAMAR ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE 2024 SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

Lamar Electric Cooperative will award six \$1,000 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 institution in one lump sum and must be used within two years of the award date. Funds may be used for tuition, books, and room and board.

Eligibility Requirements:

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

- Live full time in a residence served by Lamar Electric Cooperative.
- Be a graduating senior attending a high school or an accredited home school program within the counties served by the Cooperative.
- Apply by April 12.

Winners will be chosen in a random drawing at the Lamar Electric Cooperative Annual Membership Meeting on Saturday, April 20, 2024. You need not be present to win.

Entry Deadline is April 12, 2024

Once the application is completed email to: scholarship@lamarelectric.coop

Or mail to:

Lamar Electric Cooperative
Attn: Scholarships
PO Box 68
Blossom, TX 75416

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

NAME OF HIGH SCHOOL _____

COLLEGE OF INTEREST _____

COLLEGE MAJOR OF INTEREST _____

PARENTS/GUARDIANS NAMES _____

LAMAR ELECTRIC ACCOUNT NUMBER _____

PHONE _____