



MESSAGE
FROM
GENERAL
MANAGER
AND CEO

BRYAN STORY

Our Heroes Wear Hard Hats

LINE WORK IS NOT A glamorous or easy profession. It takes years of specialized training and ongoing education and, just as important, a sense of service and commitment to your community. How else can you explain the willingness of linemen to leave the comfort of their homes to tackle a challenging job in difficult conditions, when most other folks are sheltering safely with their families?

This dedication and service is truly what sets our linemen apart. That's why Lamar Electric Cooperative sets aside the second Monday in April—April 8 this year—to celebrate and recognize the men and women who work around the clock to keep the lights on.

We join other electric cooperatives across our state and nation in celebrating Lineworker Appreciation Day to recognize those workers' critical

**Our linemen
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roles in providing our members with the power they depend on.

Every day, linemen face immense risks. Carrying heavy gear, they regularly scale 40-foot poles near

high-voltage power lines, often in the wake of Mother Nature's worst. It's no wonder their profession is among the most dangerous in the country.

Lamar EC's linemen maintain thousands of miles of power lines, keeping the lights on for our members. Our linemen are heroes in every sense of the word. As the first responders of our workforce, we count on them to get us through some of our darkest hours, day or night. They truly deserve this special day of recognition.

We appreciate our dedicated linemen and are proud of their commitment to our members. They deserve all the appreciation and accolades that come their way.

On April 8, and any time you see a lineworker, we hope you'll take a moment to thank them for their service. ■



Lights.
Air conditioning.
Clean clothes.

**Proudly brought
to you by
Lamar EC**

**Lineworker
Appreciation Day**
Monday, April 8



Tame Your Trees

WE LOVE OUR TREES, but when branches are too close to power lines, they can cause power outages, fire hazards and other safety concerns.

Here are some rules to follow:

- ▶ If a tree or a large branch is touching—or falls on—an electric line, call your electric cooperative immediately.
- ▶ Never trim trees that grow close to power lines; that's a job for professionals. Call your electric cooperative for assistance and guidance.
- ▶ Use extreme caution when doing any overhead trimming. Branches often fall in unexpected places.
- ▶ Don't allow children to climb trees or build treehouses close to power lines.
- ▶ Plant appropriate distances from all power lines.
- ▶ When planting a tree, consider how tall the tree will grow. At maturity, trees should be at least 10 feet away from power lines.

Lamar EC encourages you to always practice safety. ■



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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
James D. Floyd, Annona
Barbara Golden, Detroit
Jeremy D. Hamil, Sumner
Josh Hostetler, 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



Notice of Lamar Electric Cooperative Meeting of Members

THE ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING of Lamar Electric Cooperative Association will be held April 20 at the Lamar Electric office at 5225 U.S. Highway 82 E. in Blossom.

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 1, 8 and 9, each for a three-year term.

Any 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 1

Michael R. Williams, 428 County Road 2386, Detroit 75436

District 8

Matthew Albus, 2212 County Road 25200, Roxton 75477

District 9

Lyle Yoder, 13527 Farm Road 905, Pattonville 75468

Charles Brazeal, 142 County Road 14800, Paris 75462

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 districts having an election. If you reside in one of those districts, 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 prizes will be held. You must be present at the time of the drawing to be eligible for prizes.

Six \$1,000 scholarships will also be awarded at the meeting. Entries must be received at the cooperative office by 5 p.m. April 12.

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 accredited home-schooling program within the counties served by Lamar Electric.

We look forward to your attendance and hope you enjoy your annual meeting.

Michael R. Williams

Board Secretary

March 28, 2024

Director Candidate Profiles



District 1

Michael "Mike" R. Williams has been a Lamar Electric Cooperative member since 1996 and has served on the board of directors since 2005. He and his wife, Stacy, live north of Detroit. He has three children, Rachel, Gracie and Eric. He is a graduate of Clarksville High School, Paris Junior College and East Texas State University, where he earned a degree in agribusiness. He has worked as a chemist for TXI and was employed 30 years with the Texas Department of Transportation. He recently retired as a district environmental coordinator.



District 9

Lyle Yoder has been a Lamar Electric member since 1998 and has served on the board of directors since 2008. He and his wife, Jinx, live near Pattonville. They have one daughter, a son-in-law and one granddaughter. He is self-employed with Yoder & Sons Metal Works in Paris.



District 9

Charles Brazeal has been a Lamar Electric member since 2012. He and his wife, Jacey, live in the small community of Broadway with their four children, Ainslee, Alivia, Caroline and Carsen. He currently works for Artisan Power and TX Powerlines. He is a graduate of Navarro Junior College as a John Deere technician.



District 8

Matthew Albus has been a Lamar Electric member since 2005. He feels co-ops are the most effective means of supplying electricity to rural areas and allow rural areas to be self-sufficient. He and his wife, Melissa, live near Roxton. He has a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from Texas A&M University. He has worked for Kimberly-Clark in Paris for 20-plus years, and he enjoys having an engineering job in a rural area. He owns some cattle and enjoys all types of hunting, training horses and leatherwork.



The Critical Connections Behind Your Power

APRIL 8 IS NATIONAL LINEMAN APPRECIATION DAY, so it's appropriate that we take a moment to recognize the people who work in sometimes brutal weather conditions to ensure that we all have safe and reliable power. Linemen work with thousands of volts of electricity high atop power poles 24 hours a day, every day, to maintain the energy infrastructure and keep electricity flowing.

Lamar Electric Cooperative linemen labor in dangerous, highly visible settings, but they're only one piece of the cooperative puzzle. There are many more folks behind the scenes who also work tirelessly to help keep the lights on. They do so with little public recognition or acknowledgment.

The Power Behind Your Power

Another "powerful" figure is Bryan Story, Lamar EC's general manager and CEO. Similar to the head coach of a team, he ensures that all the players (employees) know their roles and perform them at a highly proficient level, and he recruits and retains talent—an especially challenging task in today's competitive hiring environment. He also implements measures decided upon by the board of directors and members to guide the co-op's direction.

Promoting a Culture of Safety

Operations and engineering personnel ensure that the co-op's overall system is well maintained. This team plans for future needs and continually monitors existing equipment.

An equally important area of focus is safety. Working with electricity is an inherently dangerous task, and helping foster a culture of safety for all co-op workers is a major priority.

Calling for Energy Efficiency

Your co-op's member services representatives answer calls and questions about billing and energy use. They work with

members to identify high-use periods and discuss ways to save on monthly bills.

The member services department ensures that members' needs are addressed appropriately and satisfactorily. They're also responsible for presenting the co-op's annual meeting and maintaining communication with members, including through *Texas Co-op Power*.

Delivering Timely Savings

The accounting and finance department is responsible for the fiscal well-being of your co-op. While we're a member-owned cooperative and operate differently from investor-owned utilities, we're still a business. As such, the accounting department ensures that revenue collected from members' monthly bills exceeds our expenses so that we can apply the latest technology and help lower your energy costs whenever possible.

It's All About People

The human resources department is responsible for all personnel associated with our co-op. They handle recruiting, hiring, retiring, benefits and orientations. Continual learning and training for employees is crucial to maintaining a skilled workforce that helps keep the co-op operating efficiently.

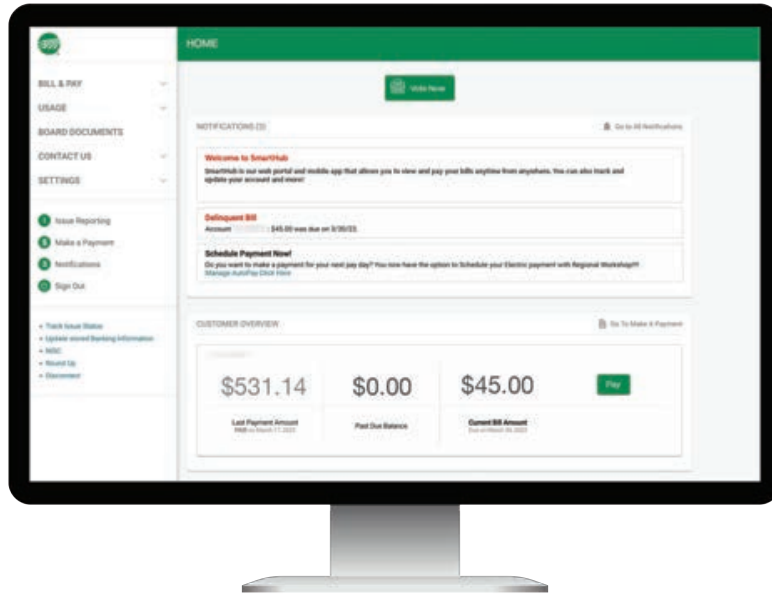
Staying in Sync

The co-op's various departments work closely together to serve you because you, the member, are at the heart of everything we do. A cooperative's Concern for Community is one principle that sets us apart from other businesses, and we stand as a driving force in our community.

The electricity we provide powers our communities. It takes every person in the co-op to deliver on this promise. ■



NEWLY REDESIGNED SMARTHUB



HOW CAN SMARTHUB HELP YOU CONTROL YOUR ACCOUNT?

It can be frustrating waiting on hold to get your questions answered or pay your bill. Our SmartHub web portal or mobile app will keep you informed.

Billing & Payments: No more waiting for your bill to arrive in the mail, access your bill at anytime from anywhere. Save time with easy payment options to avoid late fees and service interruptions.

Alerts & Notifications: Stay informed on important account events via email or text messages. Receive the information you need to make the right decisions about your account.

Paperless Billing: What if you could save some time and a tree at the same time? Activate SmartHub paperless billing, an eco-friendly way to instantly access your bill.

Usage Monitoring: Worrying about usage or surprising bill amounts can be stressful. Imagine opening your bill and seeing an amount less than expected. When you can see how much energy you are using on a daily basis, it can help you make decisions to lower your usage like adjusting your thermostat setting.

SmartHub gives you complete control over your account by giving you the tools that deliver the right information at the right time so you can make the right decisions about your account.

SMART MANAGEMENT. SMART LIFE. SMARTHUB.