



MESSAGE  
FROM  
GENERAL  
MANAGER  
AND CEO

**BRYAN STORY**

## We're Prepared for Summer Storms

**SUMMER IS HERE**, school is out and families are gearing up for a few months of fun and relaxation. Summer brings fun in the sun, but it can also bring the occasional severe storm. In the event of a power outage, you can trust that Lamar Electric Cooperative is ready to respond.

The major cause of most power outages is damage to power lines caused by falling trees and branches. Through right-of-way clearing, we work year-round to ensure that power lines in our service territory stand little risk of being damaged by trees, branches or other vegetation.

Despite our best efforts, though, during major storms, damage can occur to transmission stations, substations and power lines. When this happens, our first priority is to safely restore power to as many members as possible in the shortest amount of time.

We start by mobilizing our line crews and other critical staff. Every phone line available is used to take your outage report calls. The big problems are handled first, such as damage to substations, before we can focus on other areas where more localized damage might have occurred.

LEC's line crews inspect substations to determine if the problem starts there or if there could be an issue down the line. If the root of the problem is at the substation, power can be restored to hundreds, possibly thousands of members.

Next line crews check the service lines that deliver power into individual neighborhoods and communities. Crews will then repair the damaged lines, restoring power to dozens of people. If you continue to experience an outage, there might be damage to a tap line outside your home or business. Make sure you notify Lamar EC so crews can inspect these lines.

We will do our best to avoid power outages, but sometimes Mother Nature has other plans. During a power outage, be sure to check [lamarelectric.coop](http://lamarelectric.coop), Facebook or the SmartHub app on your smartphone for the latest updates. ■



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## You Get a Say in the Co-op Way

**LAMAR ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE** holds elections every year—and everyone whose home or business gets electricity from the co-op has a right to vote for members of the board of directors.

It's not often—or ever—that any other utilities ask you to weigh in when it comes to selecting the best people to run the organization. But cooperatives aren't like other utilities.

Electric cooperatives are actually owned by the people who buy their electricity.

So accordingly, cooperative employees call their consumers—that's you—"members."

Electric co-ops are governed by a board made up of your neighbors—members of the utility who understand what the consumers want and need—because they're consumers themselves.

So when you get a notice about a board of directors election or an annual meeting of Lamar Electric, mark it on your calendar. And be sure to exercise your right to vote. ■

# Summer Sun Brings Out Solar Scammers

**CONSUMERS HAVE GOOD** intentions when they install solar panels, but we're hearing reports that some solar companies and their sales representatives do not. They're not making good on their promises.

In response to disreputable companies giving false guarantees, purposely installing undersized systems and knowingly soliciting unbuildable systems, the Solar Energy Industries Association offers these guidelines to protect solar customers.

## Here Comes the Sun

Ask friends, family and neighbors for references when shopping for a solar installation company and check on a company's history through state and local consumer protection agencies, such as the Better Business Bureau, before signing any agreements. You should also compare bids from several companies, paying special attention to:

- ▶ The expected performance of the equipment and size of the panels.
- ▶ The full cost of installation, including any permit fees.
- ▶ Whether it is guaranteed to produce a certain amount of energy.
- ▶ What warranties apply to the equipment and the installation's workmanship.
- ▶ Also check with Lamar Electric Cooperative and your homeowners association, if you belong to one, for any restrictions or regulations on solar panel installation and maintenance.

## Good Day, Sunshine

Industry experts predict that more than 5 million homes will have some sort of solar installation by 2025. That creates a lot of opportunity for scammers. Make sure to do your research before installing solar panels, and if you think a solar company has taken advantage of you, contact an experienced attorney for help.

Remember, if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is. ■



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Bryan Story

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## 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](http://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](http://lamarelectric.coop)



Check us out at  
[TexasCoopPower.com/lamar](http://TexasCoopPower.com/lamar)



# Lamar Electric Holds 86th Annual Meeting

**THE LAMAR ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE** Annual Membership Meeting was Saturday, April 20, at the co-op's meeting room in Blossom.

Lamar Electric had three directors up for election. In District 1, Michael "Mike" R. Williams ran unopposed and received 68 votes. In District 8, Matthew Albus ran unopposed and received 108 votes. In District 9, Lyle Yoder ran against Charles Brazeal. Members cast their votes and reelected Yoder, who received 101 votes. Brazeal received 48 votes.

These directors were declared elected and each will serve another three-year term.

Bryan Story, general manager and CEO, updated members in attendance on the co-op's financial reports and projects.

Six high school seniors whose names were drawn out of a hopper will each receive a \$1,000 scholarship. The scholarships can be used at any university, college, technical school or other postsecondary educational institution of the recipient's choice. Money for these scholarships comes from

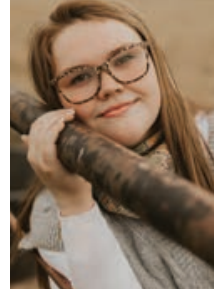




## Scholarship Recipients



Harlee Cochran



Emma Wilkins



Elizabeth Stowell



Kindle Fox



Randeel Maull



Mackenzie Martin

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 **Harlee Cochran** of Chisum High School, daughter of Kristi Cochran; **Emma Wilkins** of North Lamar High School, daughter of Tony and Monica Wilkins; **Elizabeth Stowell** of Prairiland High School, daughter of Dana and Christine Stowell; **Kindle Fox** of Prairiland High School,

son of Michael and Missy Fox; **Randeel Maull** of Prairiland High School, daughter of Randell and Aimee Maull; and **Mackenzie Martin** of Paris High School, daughter of Casey and Bonnie Martin.

The names of members present at the meeting were placed into the hopper for prize drawings. Prizes were won by 36 members, and the grand prizewinner of a Nexgrill 4-Burner Grill was Phyllis Brumley of Summer. ■



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If you have a dog, try to keep it indoors while lineworkers are on or near your property. While most dogs are friendly, some are defensive of their territory and can't distinguish between a burglar and a utility worker. Our crews work best without a pet "supervising" the job.

We recognize that, for your family's safety, you want to make sure only authorized workers are on or near your property. You'll recognize LEC employees by their uniforms and the co-op's logo on our service trucks. You may also recognize our lineworkers because they live right here in our community.

### Slow Down and Move Over

In addition to giving lineworkers space while they are near your property, we also ask that you move over or slow down when approaching a utility vehicle on the side of the road. One work zone crash occurs every 5.4 minutes across the U.S., on average, and 70 of those each day result in injuries. There is one fatality each week from these accidents.

The lineworkers' focus is on the work at hand, not on the road, so we need you to watch out for them.

Also, never text, scroll or type while you drive—around work crews or at any other time. That message can wait, and the momentary distraction can change lives forever.

### Keep Poles Clear and Safe

Nails, staples and other attachments to utility poles not only get in lineworkers' way when they are trying to climb poles, but these foreign objects can also damage the workers' safety gear, exposing them to possible shock or electrocution. Never post signs or attach anything to utility poles.

Guy wires may occasionally be inconveniently located, but please leave them alone. The wires provide support for poles, and removing or modifying them can weaken the system, causing poles, power lines and possibly lineworkers to come crashing to the ground.

Lamar Electric's employees are looking out for you. Help them stay safe by returning the favor. ■

## Stay Back and Stay Safe

**WORKING WITH ELECTRICITY** can be a dangerous job. In fact, USA Today lists line repairers and installers among the most dangerous jobs in the U.S. That's why, for Lamar Electric Cooperative, safety is our No. 1 priority. This is no empty slogan: Over time, we've created a culture of putting our crews' safety and that of the community above all else.

Yes, we strive to deliver affordable and reliable electricity to you, but even more important, we want our employees to return home safely to their loved ones at the end of each shift. This requires ongoing focus, dedication, vigilance—and your help!

### Distractions Can Be Deadly

While we appreciate your kindness and interest in the work of our crews, we ask that you stay back and let them focus on their task at hand. Even routine work has the potential to be dangerous, and it takes their full attention and that of their colleagues, who are also responsible for the team's safety. Distractions can have deadly consequences.

If a lineworker is on or near your property during a power outage, for vegetation management or for routine maintenance, please allow them ample room to work. These small accommodations help protect our crews—and you.



# Have a Safe Father's Day

**KEEP FATHER'S DAY** happy by keeping Dad safe, even as he tries out his new electric gifts.

Home repairs can be a dangerous undertaking when electricity gets involved, so it's important to use care with electrical equipment and steer clear of power lines.

A bit of common sense and caution while working outside this spring and summer can keep everyone safe. Some tips:

- ▶ A ladder—even a wooden one—can cause a fatal shock if it touches a power line.
- ▶ Inspect power tools and cords for frayed or broken wires and cracked cases before plugging them in.
- ▶ Unplug outdoor tools and appliances when you're not using them. Store them out of reach of children.
- ▶ Wait for things to dry off before working outdoors after it rains. Water and electricity are never a good mix.
- ▶ When carrying ladders, aluminum siding, poles and other long objects, look up! More than 20% of people who die in electricity-related home repair accidents have touched a power line with a ladder or building material. Keep every component of your projects at least 10 feet away from power lines. ■



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## Grill-Roasted Chicken

**Large whole chicken**

**Italian seasoning**

**Garlic salt**

**2 cans beer (12 ounces each)**

1. Prepare grill by lighting charcoal and then adding wood, using side burner if possible.
2. Remove neck and giblets from chicken cavity and discard.
3. Generously cover chicken on all sides with Italian seasoning and garlic salt.
4. Place chicken on a rack inside a baking pan so chicken is not resting on pan. Add beer to pan. Cover chicken and pan with aluminum foil so chicken stays moist.
5. Place pan on grill and close lid. If your grill doesn't have a side burner, use indirect heat. (The charcoal/wood embers should be to the side or surrounding the pan but not directly underneath it.)
6. Roast chicken 2–4 hours, depending on intensity of heat. If grill thermometer reads close to 400 degrees, chicken will be fully cooked in 2 hours. If thermometer reads 200–250 degrees, chicken will require 3½ to 4 hours. Roast uncovered for final half hour or hour for crispier skin. Add charcoal/wood as necessary to maintain grilling temperature.

**SERVES 8**

**TCP** Find this and more delicious recipes online at [TexasCoopPower.com](https://www.texascoopower.com).