



MESSAGE  
FROM  
GENERAL  
MANAGER  
AND CEO  
**BRYAN STORY**

## Lineworkers Power Life— Whatever It Takes

**LINE WORK RANKS** as one of the most dangerous jobs in the country.

The crews at Lamar Electric Cooperative work, rain or shine, in often-challenging conditions to ensure you have reliable electricity. On April 14, we celebrate National Lineworker Appreciation Day, honoring those who make sure our community has the power it needs every day.

It's hard work but very rewarding.

### The Danger

Working around high-voltage electricity comes with obvious risks. Move just a little the wrong way or lose focus for a split second, and it could be deadly.



Linemen often work on energized power lines and can't tell they're energized by sight alone. Their work requires concentration, and there's no margin for error. They often endure rainstorms, high winds, and extreme heat and cold to restore power during an outage—sometimes in the dark or near fast-moving traffic.

That's why workers must undergo years of training before they can officially be called a lineman. They typically start as a groundman, helping crews with tools and keeping job sites safe, then transition

to apprentice status, which usually spans four years. After an apprenticeship, with more than 7,000 hours of training under their belts, they transition to journeyman lineman status—when they're considered official linemen.

But the education is ongoing. Linemen continue training to stay up on safety requirements and up to date on the latest equipment and procedures.

### The Sacrifices

This field comes with trade-offs. Linemen are often first on the scene of devastating emergencies, like car accidents, structure fires and damage from severe storms.

They don't know what type of situation they're going to face or when they'll face it. They get calls at all hours, including in the middle of the night. They might miss their kids' sports events and family dinners, but with the support of their families, their dedication pays off in the end.

Their sacrifices ensure the electricity that powers the lives of our friends and neighbors stays on.

### The Rewards

One thing that makes this job worth it is the camaraderie. Lamar Electric's employees are like a second family, and the line crews are a tight-knit group. In this work, they have to depend on the person beside them in life-or-death circumstances.

It's a culture of trust, teamwork and service. It's all about keeping everyone safe and the lights on.

Linemen have a lot of pride in their work. When it's cold and wet, they

know they're working to keep people warm. There's a lot of satisfaction in hearing someone yell "thank you" from the window after the lights come back on or seeing people flip the light switches on their porches after an outage is restored.

No matter how tired they are or how long they've been working, that feeling makes it worth it.

You can trust that Lamar Electric linemen are doing their best to get the lights back on as quickly and safely as possible—so you can get back to living. ■



KENNETH-CHEUNG | ISTOCK.COM

## Electricity Theft and Vandalism Pose Safety and Financial Concerns

**THEFT INVOLVING** electricity and related materials is a problem all electric utilities face, and it's a problem for electricity customers too. Since Lamar Electric Cooperative is member-owned, electricity theft ends up costing you—the member—money.

Theft of electricity is also extremely dangerous. Tampering with an electric meter can make it unsafe and unstable. When people steal electricity, they put themselves, their neighbors, family and pets—and the co-op's linemen—all at risk for electric shock.

Stealing electrical equipment and materials can also pose a significant risk to the culprit, resulting in injury or even death from electric shock.

Although electricity can be easily acquired through a utility, some people are still willing to risk physical damage or loss of life just for the sake of some free kilowatt hours. Others may not realize the serious legal and potential health implications.

Keeping power safe and affordable is a priority for Lamar Electric. That's why we routinely inspect co-op meters and equipment to ensure we're doing our best to protect you from the risks of electricity theft. We take a proactive approach to this serious problem in an attempt to eliminate theft and reduce related costs.

You can also play a role in this process by immediately notifying us if you suspect someone is gaining access to our power supply without paying their fair share of the costs or by tampering with equipment.

If you have information related to electricity or materials theft, please call us at (903) 784-4303. Rest assured, we'll keep your name private.

Because you share in the ownership of Lamar Electric, when people steal from the cooperative, they're stealing from you too. ■



5225 US Hwy. 82 E, Blossom, TX 75416

P.O. Box 68, Blossom, TX 75416

**Phone** (903) 784-4303

**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](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.

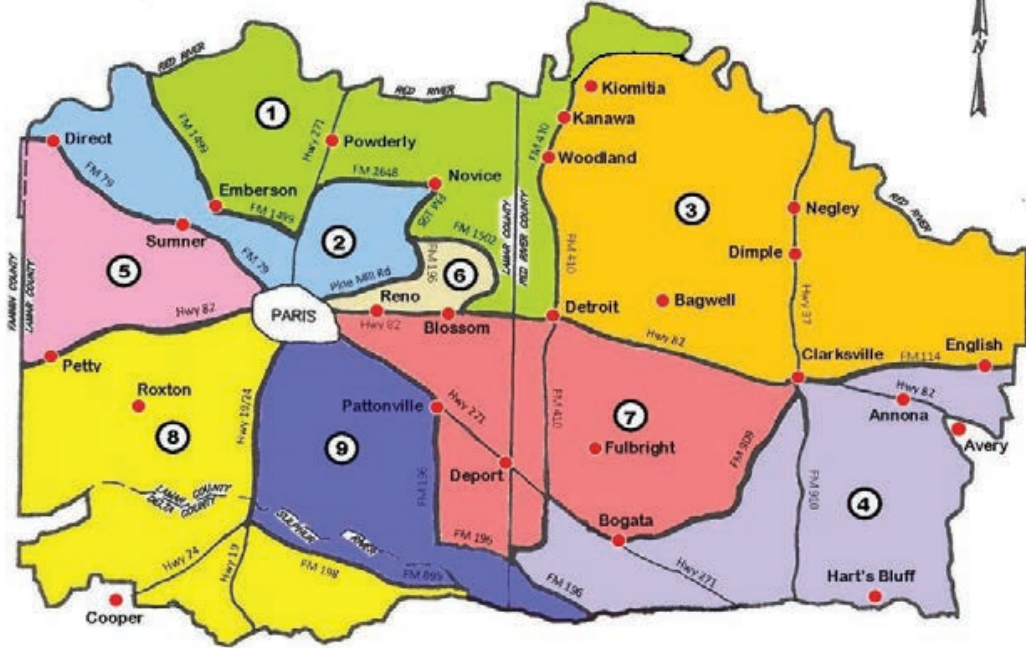
### VISIT US ONLINE

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



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

Circled Number represents Board District



## Notice of Lamar Electric Cooperative Meeting of Members

THE ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING of Lamar Electric Cooperative Association will be held at Lamar Electric's office, located at 5225 U.S. Highway 82 E. in Blossom, Saturday, April 26.

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 5, 6 and 7, 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 5:** Josh Hostetler, 401 County Road 32230, Sumner 75486

**District 6:** George Wood, 796 County Road 44750, Blossom 75416

**District 7:** Ron Tippit, 4679 State Highway 37 S., Clarksville 75426

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 holding 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.

Ten \$1,500 scholarships also will be awarded at the meeting. Entries must be received at the cooperative office by 5 p.m. April 4.

### 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. Enjoy your annual meeting.

Michael R. Williams

**Board Secretary-Treasurer**

March 28, 2025

# Lamar Electric Board Nominees



**District 5**

**Josh Hostetler** has been a member of Lamar Electric Cooperative since 2000. He has served on the cooperative’s board since 2024. He attended North Lamar High School and is currently employed at Good Guy’s Trailers. He and his wife, Catherine, have two children, Haley and Lauren.



**District 6**

**George Wood** has been a member of Lamar Electric since 1988. He has served on the cooperative’s board since 2009 and currently serves as board president. He attended Prairiland High School, Paris Junior College and Northeast Texas Community College. He served in the U.S. Army from 1973 to 1977. He worked for the Lone Star Steel Co. for almost 11 years and retired from Kimberly-Clark after nearly 30 years’ tenure. He went back to work at Kimberly-Clark in 2021 as a contractor for Ozark Global Engineering and fully retired in 2022. He is chairman of the board for the Red River Valley Veterans Memorial and president of the East Post Oak Volunteer Fire Department. He attends Novice Baptist Church. He has two children, Amanda and George Jr., and three grandchildren.



**District 7**

**Ron Tippit** has been a Lamar Electric member since 1981 and has served on the board since 2006. He is a credentialed cooperative director as certified by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. The CCD curriculum consists of five courses designed to provide basic knowledge and skills required of cooperative directors and a learning assessment to be completed for each. He is a graduate of Clarksville High School. He is retired from Kimberly-Clark and is a rancher. His wife, Jerri, was the former manager of Tippit Hilltop Tamales. They have five children.





# WE NEVER STOP.

Not everyone starts their day at the same time or in the same way.  
But no matter when or how, Lamar Electric Cooperative  
is there to help you power every moment of it.

Visit [lamarelectric.coop](http://lamarelectric.coop) to discover the power of your co-op.

**YOUR SOURCE FOR POWER. AND INFORMATION.**



## LAMAR ELECTRIC

When you  
find yourself  
in the dark,  
we've got  
your back.

NATIONAL LINEWORKER  
APPRECIATION DAY  
MONDAY, APRIL 14

## What's Different About an Electric Cooperative?

**YOU RECEIVE** *Texas Co-op Power*  
because you buy your electricity from an  
electric cooperative. That's a utility that  
operates like no other.

Cooperatives are consumer-owned businesses, which means you and your neighbors actually own your electric company. In fact, you may have noticed that the cooperative refers to you as a member rather than as a customer.

Lamar Electric Cooperative's board of directors is made up of co-op members, just like you. The board makes decisions based on what's best for current and future members. When the directors' terms expire, the co-op holds an election and you get to vote.

As a member-owned, not-for-profit organization, any profits or margins go back to the members. This money is used to finance system maintenance and improvements, and when the board determines it's financially responsible, the money is given back to the members as a bill credit or check.

Take advantage of the opportunity to participate as a member-owner of your co-op by attending membership meetings and voting in board elections. ■

