



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

## Reflecting on Progress, Planning for the Future

**AS WE BEGIN ANOTHER YEAR,** I want to express gratitude for you, the members of Lamar Electric Cooperative, for your continued trust and support. Our cooperative was built on the promise of people coming together to improve the quality of life in their communities, and that promise still guides everything we do today.

Each decision—whether it’s about delivering reliable electricity, innovating for the future or advocating for smart energy policies—comes back to one simple question: How will this benefit you, our member?

The past year has been marked by meaningful progress, both in strengthening our local system and in working at the national level to influence energy policies that directly affect reliability and affordability.

Over the past year, electric co-ops across the U.S. came together for advocacy efforts on the Environmental Protection Agency’s power plant rule. As originally written, the rule would have forced a rapid shift away from always-available power generation resources, threatening the accessibility of a diverse fuel supply that ensures reliability.

Renewable energy sources are an essential and growing part of our energy future, but we also know that the demand for electricity is rising rapidly, and natural gas, coal and nuclear remain essential for ensuring power is available around the clock.

As we collaborated and engaged with policymakers alongside other cooperatives, we pressed for a

more balanced approach to generating power—one that supports innovation while still recognizing the role of traditional resources.

Modernizing federal permitting to strengthen the grid and meet growing demand is another area we’re working on. This year, electric co-ops helped move the needle on permitting reform, advocating for policies that make the process faster, more predictable and more efficient.

Achievements like these are not just wins in Austin and Washington—they’re wins for Lamar Electric members like you.

In addition to advocacy, we’re proactively preparing for the future by investing in technologies and programs that improve service. With advanced monitoring systems, we’re better equipped to identify issues before they cause problems.

As we look ahead to a new year, I see challenges and opportunities on the horizon. The energy industry is undergoing significant change driven by rising demand for electricity, new tools and technologies, and federal energy policies.

I’m confident that with the dedication of Lamar Electric employees and the continued support of our members, we are well-positioned to adapt and meet challenges head-on. Through it all, our promise to you remains steadfast: reliable power for today—and tomorrow. ■



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## 2026 Youth Tour Applications Open

**SINCE 1958**, electric cooperatives across the country have been sending young people to our 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 trip that will start in Austin and take them to Washington, D.C. Youth Tour participants will visit the U.S. Capitol, meet with members of Congress and tour 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 Electric or attend one of the three high schools served by the co-op (Prairiland, Detroit and Faith Christian). Homeschooled students served by Lamar Electric are also eligible.

### How To Apply

Go to [lamarelectric.coop/youth](http://lamarelectric.coop/youth) and complete the 2026 Youth Tour application, which includes:

1. Application form
2. Written essay on this year's topic: "What are the differences between an electric cooperative and investor-owned utility?" The essay must be two pages, double-spaced with a 12-point font and 1-inch margins.

### Deadline

The application and essay must be received no later than 5 p.m. January 30. Final selections will be announced by February 13. ■



5225 US Hwy. 82 E, Blossom, TX 75416  
P.O. Box 68, Blossom, TX 75416  
**Phone** (903) 784-4303  
**Web** [lamarelectric.coop](http://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

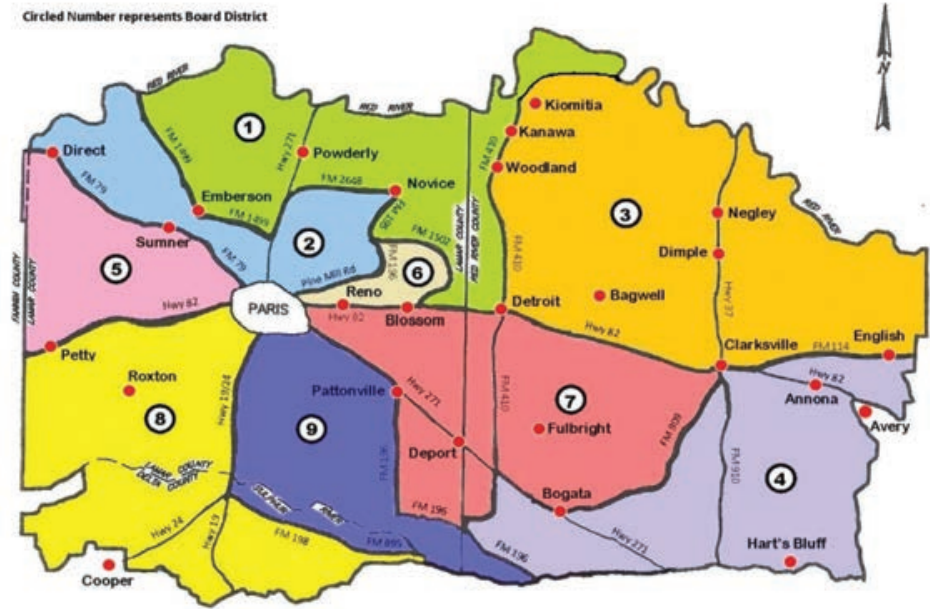
Lamar Electric provides *Texas Co-op Power* and [TexasCoopPower.com](http://TexasCoopPower.com) to give you information about events, safety, special programs and other activities of your cooperative. If you have any comments or suggestions, please contact the co-op office.

### VISIT US ONLINE

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



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



# Annual Meeting Set for April 18

LAMAR ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE will hold its annual meeting at 10 a.m. Saturday, April 18, at the cooperative 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 2, 3 and 4 will be voting for their directors at the annual meeting.

Members residing in districts 2, 3 and 4 who wish to be a candidate for one of the available board positions must appear in person at the main office of the cooperative and fill out a nomination form between January 18 and February 17, as outlined in the co-op's bylaws. If you're unsure of which district you live in, refer to the district map above.

## Lamar Electric Bylaws Excerpt

**Article III. Section 3. Qualifications.** No person shall be eligible to become a board member of the cooperative who:

- Has not been a member of the cooperative for at least one year prior to nomination;
- Has not been a bona fide resident of the board district for which seeking election for at least one year prior to nomination;
- Is any way employed by or financially interested in a competing enterprise or a business selling electric energy or supplies to the cooperative;
- Is an employee of this cooperative or has been terminated from the cooperative less than five years;
- 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);
- Has been convicted, pleaded guilty or plead "no contest" to a felony; or
- Is an incumbent of, or candidate for, an elective public office for which a salary is paid.

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:

- Is not a member of the cooperative;
- Is not a bona fide resident of the district for which elected;
- Is any way employed by or financially interested in a competing enterprise or a business selling electric energy or supplies to the cooperative;
- Is an employee of this cooperative or has been terminated from the cooperative less than five years;
- 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);
- Has been convicted, pleaded guilty or plead "no contest" to a felony; or
- 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. ■

# Lamar Electric Cooperative 2026 Scholarship Application

LAMAR ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE will award \$1,500 scholarships to 10 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

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

- ▶ Live full-time with a parent or guardian in a residence served by Lamar Electric
- ▶ Be a graduating senior attending a high school or an accredited homeschool program within the counties served by the cooperative

### ▶ Apply by April 3

Winners will be chosen in a random drawing at the Lamar Electric Cooperative Annual Membership Meeting on Saturday, April 18. You do not need to be present to win.

### April 3 Deadline

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

### Or mail to:

Lamar Electric Cooperative  
Attn: Scholarships  
P.O. Box 68  
Blossom, TX 75416

## Lamar Electric Cooperative 2026 Scholarship Application



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Name of High School \_\_\_\_\_

College of Interest \_\_\_\_\_

College Major of Interest \_\_\_\_\_

Parents'/Guardians' Names \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Lamar Electric Account No. \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_



Lamar Electric Cooperative is  
always by your side—  
keeping you powered for the  
moments that matter most.  
Because our job is dedicated  
to you and our community.



**BRINGING  
COMMUNITY  
TOGETHER**

# Substations Perform a Powerful Role

The electrical system depends on devices behind fences

**ELECTRICAL SUBSTATIONS ARE** vital to delivering power to our community's homes and businesses. The complex array of equipment serves as transit points in this system, with the ability to raise ("step up") and lower ("step down") voltage.

High voltage helps speed power across long distances on transmission lines. However, if electricity enters your home at too high a level, electronics could be damaged, as happens with lightning strikes.

That's why, as power gets closer to its final destination, substations reduce it to a safe and constant voltage level.

Several types of substations are found between power plants and homes. Each contains different equipment, including transformers, lightning arrestors, circuit breakers and insulators.

Initially, step-up substations at power plants increase electricity's voltage to various levels (between 115 and 765 kilovolts) so it can be shipped through high-voltage transmission lines. Once electricity nears its destination, transmission substations typically reduce the voltage to between 23 and 69 kV.

From there, the power moves through smaller transmission facilities to electric co-op distribution systems. Distribution substation transformers then slash the voltage even lower, typically to 12,500 volts.

At this point, the distribution lines you see running up and down rural roads and across fields bring power to you. To make that energy safe for household use, a pole-mount transformer (the round object resembling a small gray garbage can located near the top of a utility pole outside your residence) or a padmount transformer (the gray boxes dotting your neighborhood) cuts the voltage once more, to between 120 and 240 volts.

Remember, the voltage entering and exiting substations far exceeds anything you'll find at home. Substation fences protect you and the equipment housed within and help ensure that your co-op can continue providing you with a safe, reliable and affordable supply of power. ■



MEGAN MYERS

## Kickin' Chicken Spaghetti

- 1 pound uncooked spaghetti**
- 3 cups shredded chicken**
- 1 can cream of chicken soup**  
**(10.5 ounces)**
- 1 can cream of mushroom soup**  
**(10.5 ounces)**
- 2 cups shredded cheddar cheese**
- 1 orange bell pepper, diced**
- 1 jar diced pimiento peppers**  
**(4 ounces)**
- 2 cans diced green chiles**  
**(4 ounces each)**
- 1 teaspoon seasoned salt**
- 1/8 teaspoon cayenne pepper**
- 1 cup shredded pepper jack cheese**

1. Lightly grease a 9-by-13-inch casserole dish. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Boil spaghetti until it's al dente. Drain noodles and pour into a large bowl.
2. Mix in shredded chicken, soups, cheddar, bell pepper, pimientos, green chiles, seasoned salt and cayenne.
3. Pour into prepared casserole dish. Sprinkle on pepper jack. Bake 45 minutes, until bubbly.

SERVES 8

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