

Help Us Serve You Better



MESSAGE FROM GENERAL MANAGER ALAN LESLEY

I'd like to ask for you, the 9,100-strong membership of Comanche Electric Cooperative, for a little cooperation to help us keep your electric rates as low as possible.

You and your fellow members own CECA. Because all members share the cost of doing business, the less money we must spend to provide service, the more you save on electric rates.

There are several challenges in keeping power flowing safely and economically, and you can help us overcome many of these.

One big way is to keep your eyes and ears open. If you see something that doesn't look right or looks dangerous, please call us at 1-800-915-2533.

Report trees encroaching on power lines and watch for signs of theft. Clues such as dangling lines or an open gate at a substation may indicate that copper thieves were at work. Copper theft can cost the co-op—and its members—thousands of dollars. It's also dangerous. Each year in the U.S., criminals are injured and even electrocuted attempting to steal copper wire.

You may hear that someone is getting power for free. If they are on co-op lines, that means they are stealing power from you. The co-op has to pay for all power distributed on our lines, so the money lost is paid by the entire membership.

Besides helping us with your vigilance, you can help us serve you better by making sure your contact information is current. If you have recently changed phone numbers or moved within our territory, give us a call to help us to update our records. This is also true if you move away from co-op lines. Keeping your address updated ensures that we can send you capital credit retirements when they are made.

You can also help defray expenses by using online banking or our new mobile app. You will need an online account user name and password. If you don't already have one, contact our office and a temporary one will be issued to you. While on that site, be sure and check the box for e-bill as well.

Finally, help us keep electricity costs nationwide affordable by visiting action.coop, the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's effort to persuade the Environmental Protection Agency to not take coal off the table as a fuel for electricity generation. Your voice is important. Please make it heard.

If you spot damage to co-op property, please give CECA a call.



GREGORSTER | ISTOCK | THINKSTOCK

Prevent Hot Water Scalds

Showers that are too hot, food cooking on the stove and even coffee that hasn't cooled enough can cause a scalding injury.

People are scalded when hot liquid or steam damages one or more layers of skin. Children and senior citizens are most likely to become scald victims.

Here are some ways to prevent scald injuries at home

1. Turn pan handles toward the back of the stove.
2. Plug small appliances such as tea kettles and coffeemakers into outlets on the wall next to the countertop. Avoid draping cords across the room or letting them land on the floor.
3. Install grab bars and nonslip bath mats in tubs and showers so anyone can quickly get away if the water is too hot.
4. Turn down the water heater temperature. It only takes five seconds for 140-degree water to scald a healthy adult. The Consumer Product Safety Commission recommends 120 degrees as the maximum safe residential water temperature.
5. Add antiscald valves onto showerheads and faucets.
6. When you finish your shower, turn the faucet to the "cold" position so the next person won't encounter hot water by surprise. For dual-control faucets, turn the cold-water knob on first and off last.
7. Supervise children while you're cooking and at bath time.

**FOR THE LINEMEN WHOM WE
SO OFTEN TAKE FOR GRANTED:**

The Lineman



*Twas a cold and icy morning,
In the darkness before dawn.
The phones were constant ringing,
Wanting power turned back on.*

*The wind did cut right through me,
My coffee cup ran dry.
I trudged on thru the darkness
As sparks arced cross the sky.*

*The tree had fallen 'neath the load,
The danger I did see.
A misstep or my carelessness,
Could mean the end for me.*

*A simple prayer, I then did pray,
"Lord, guide my cold hands all the way."
With steady hands and nerves of steel,
I made it through the whole ordeal.*

*Soaked through and through, down
to the bone,
All feeling in my hands was gone.
I'm headed home, my job is through
The "thanks" I got was serving you.*

*So when that lineman you do see,
Be sure to thank him for you and me.
He does his duty, with thanks or no,
All for our comfort, come rain
or snow.*

— JIM

5 o'clock this morning the power went off. I called two or three times to see what the problem was.

About 9 a.m., it was restored, and as I sat next to my wood stove with a hot cup of coffee, I was struck by the thought of what you guys go through, and I'm sure I don't know the half of your challenges. But I just wanted to say—THANK YOU!

Jim Johnson, Mullin

CECA

P.O. Box 729
Comanche, TX 76442

Operating in Brown, Callahan, Comanche, Eastland, Mills, Shackelford and Stephens counties

HEADQUARTERS

201 W. Wrights Ave.
Comanche, TX 76442

EASTLAND OFFICE

1311 W. Main St.
Eastland, TX 76448

EARLY OFFICE

1801 CR 338
Early, TX 76801

OFFICE HOURS

Comanche Office: Monday through Friday 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Early Office: Monday through Friday 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., closed from 1 to 2 p.m.

Eastland Office: Tuesday and Thursday 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., closed from noon to 1 p.m.

YOUR LOCAL PAGES

This section of Texas Co-op Power is produced by CECA each month to provide you with information about current events, special programs and other activities of the cooperative. If you have any comments or suggestions, please contact Shirley at the Comanche office or at sdukes@ceca.coop.



CONTACT US

CALL US

(325) 356-2533 local or
1-800-915-2533 toll-free

FIND US ON THE WEB

ceca.coop

RICHARD G. BEYER

Comanche Leadership Group Facilitates A Country Crossroads Christmas

When CECA held its one-day Student Leadership Conference in November 2012, Comanche ISD sent a group of 10 exceptional young people to attend. That decision turned out to be a true game-changer that brought people together and greatly improved the Christmas spirit in this small town.



Students and volunteers braved the freezing temperatures to prepare the courthouse square for the light show.

At the conference, students are assigned the task of deciding on a community action project and developing a plan to accomplish that task. This group of students decided Comanche needed more Christmas spirit and chose as their project to “light up the square and the major highways leading into and out of town.”

One thing we try to teach at the conference is that the students do not have to do all the work themselves. It is their job as “leaders” to be the guiding force that gets the ball rolling, then encourage and solicit help from others.

Knowing that this job was entirely too big for their small group, the students did exactly what they were taught at the conference. They began visiting local businesses and organizations in an effort to promote enthusiasm and garner assistance for the program. They visited with county judges and commissioners to gain permission to place the lights on the courthouse and around the courthouse square.

As we all know, sometimes it just takes talking to the right people. The right people in this case were Mayor Ronnie Clifton; Sharon McKinnon, owner of Wonderful Things, and her assistant Sandi Clark; and Dr. Russell Reynolds and Katie Reynolds Pratt. Clifton worked with the students by guiding them in the right direction; McKinnon and Clark helped coordinate the business owners and citizens, while allowing Wonderful Things to be the headquarters for the effort; Reynolds obtained the hardware and software necessary to put the lights to music, and Katie programmed the lights to

five different holiday songs for the light show.

In addition to the 10 leadership students and these community members, a number of other citizens and students—too many to name individually—arrived on work days to provide the necessary labor and expertise to complete the project.

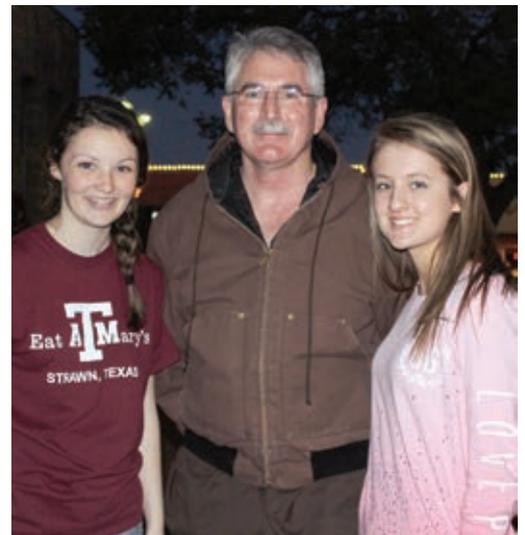
On December 2, after a year of hard work and preparation, a large number of Comanche citizens attended the official lighting ceremony at the Comanche County Courthouse Square. The Sonrisers from United Methodist Church of Comanche provided music. Greg Hardin, pastor of United Pentecostal Church, led a short devotional; and State Rep. J.D. Sheffield addressed the crowd. The assembled community stood in anticipation, sipping hot chocolate, as preparations for the lighting ceremony began. If the “oohs and aahs” and heartfelt applause were any indication, I would say that the first phase of “A Country Crossroads Christmas” was indeed a success.

Thanks to a dedicated group of 10 students, Comanche is well on its way to being an area showcase during the holidays. If you missed the light show, you can view a short video on our Facebook page at facebook.com/CECA.coop. But be sure to put it on your list of places to visit during the next Christmas holiday!

And don’t forget to compliment this group of kids and the school officials who had the foresight to send them. I think we can expect big things from them in the future.



CECA's 2012-13 leadership team at the lighting ceremony. Pictured are: John Moerman, Marshall Wirtz, Dilon Bhakta, Taylor Payne and Taylor Jones. Not pictured are: Koysce Colcleasure, Travis Hickman, Alyssa Escobar, Basti Herrera and Saul Lopez.



CECA leadership students Taylor Payne and Taylor Jones visit with State Rep. J.D. Sheffield at the lighting ceremony.



▲ A few of our youngest visitors gathered in the front row to watch the spectacular light and music display.

Since the lights were put to music, it was almost impossible to get a good photo with all lights on, so this photo does not do the light show justice. To view a short video of the lights with music, visit our Facebook page at facebook.com/CECA.coop. ▶





Students Today—World Leaders Tomorrow

Today they are just high school juniors, but in just a few short years they will be entering the working world and soon will be the power that drives America's workforce. How do they prepare for that? How do they go from being carefree students to being responsible adults who make decisions for their personal lives, their careers, and their communities and country?

CECA addresses that issue each year by inviting each school within the service territory to send up to 10 students from their junior class to the one-day CECA Student Leadership Conference.

Led and facilitated by leaders within the communities, the conference is an opportunity for students to draw from those leaders' experience while learning to lead on their own.

Throughout the day, students participate in a series of leadership activities that encourage them to think outside the box and work together on problem-solving.

They are tasked to formulate a community action project that, ideally, fills a need either in their community or school. Once they decide on their project, they must devise a plan of action that details where the labor, money and materials will come from, which community leaders must be approached to gain permission for the project, and who will approach them and how. They then present their program to the assembled group and explain how they intend to accomplish their goal. Before leaving the conference, they are encouraged to return to their community and follow through with their project.

On November 20, 85 students from 10 schools attended the one-day conference at Lake Brownwood 4-H Center. Each of these students, along with the school officials who made the decision to send them, are to be congratulated for the leadership qualities exhibited that day. Please join us in acknowledging them for their exemplary efforts, and supporting them as they move forward to complete their chosen Community Action Projects.

Community Action Projects

CISCO: Clean up and renovate City Park.

DE LEON: Install welcome signs at each edge of town welcoming visitors to Bearcat Country.

COMANCHE: Veterans Memorial at City Park, plus a luncheon for veterans following the annual Veterans Day Program held at the high school

GORMAN: Improve City Park by adding a volleyball court and replacing the basketball hoops.

EASTLAND: Organize fundraisers to upgrade and reopen City Park.

SIDNEY: Improve and add to the existing track.

EARLY: Set up a sand volleyball court and build a pathway from the high school to the middle school.

CROSS PLAINS: Raise money for families in need with a dodgeball tournament.

CENTURY 21 LEADERSHIP GROUP OF BROWN COUNTY: Enhance the landscaping at Lake Brownwood 4-H Center.



What Does It Mean To Be a Member of a Cooperative?

A COMMENTARY BY SHIRLEY DUKES

To me, being a member of a cooperative is being a member of something big, something that works for the good of all, something I can be proud of. Yes, I am a bit biased because this is where I work and spend a large portion of my time. But because of that, I have firsthand knowledge of what goes on here.

A cooperative is not like other businesses in that it is not profit-driven. A cooperative is a nonprofit organization owned by the members it serves. It belongs to you, the people who use it—people who have organized to provide themselves with dependable power at an affordable price. It operates for your benefit.

More than 14,000 homes, farms, businesses and industries are served by Comanche Electric Cooperative in seven counties. And since we are owned by you, we are not about making profit for shareholders, but creating value for you.

You became a member-owner of CECA and subscribed to our services when you paid your membership fee. That fee entitled you not only to excellent service and affordable power, but it also gave you the right to vote and decide who runs your cooperative and how it is run. This, along with our values and principles, is what gives CECA its unique character.

I know the hearts of the people who work here. I know

their dedication. I have seen them go above and beyond not only for the cooperative, but for the communities we serve. I have seen them rescue people and animals with no thought whatsoever for any type of reward, monetary or otherwise. I've seen them cry when they know of a member in need whom they cannot help. I've seen them work long hours in extreme weather situations, and instead of complaining about the hours and unpleasant working conditions, they lament that they could not do more.

Are we perfect? No, not by a long shot. But what we do, we do with heart. And while sometimes you might not see the value or reason behind our actions, it is there. And when we make a decision, no matter how simple or difficult, we do so with the entire membership in mind.

Over the next few months we will be explaining to you exactly what a cooperative is and the benefits of being a member. We will discuss our cooperative principles and what they mean.

But we would also like to hear from you. What does your cooperative mean to you, and/or what does it mean to you to be a member? Good or bad, we want to hear it. We look forward to hearing from you.

Shirley Dukes is a communications/public information specialist for Comanche Electric Cooperative Association.



WE ARE LISTENING, AND WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

What does it mean to you to be a member of CECA? We want to know.

Send your comments to:

CECA
P.O. Box 729
Comanche, TX 76442
or email sdukes@ceca.coop

We will be listening.



Co-op Connections Featured Businesses

Get great discounts and help support local merchants.

Air Temp Refrigeration

Air Temp Refrigeration, located at 300 Main St. in Brownwood, has been a local institution serving this area for 55-plus years. Air Temp offers a LIFETIME WARRANTY on residential heating, air conditioning, electrical and plumbing repairs. We also offer 24-hour service with no overtime fees and precision tune-up inspections that ensure a longer, more economical life for your heating and air conditioning equipment. We can save you money on utilities by installing attic insulation in your home. Our technicians are licensed, insured, bonded and drug-free. For all your heating, air conditioning, electrical and plumbing needs, call Air Temp Electric, where our motto is: "We fix it right; we fix it for life."

LOCATED: 300 Main St., Brownwood

PHONE: (325) 643-3000

HOURS: Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. with 24-hour emergency service

WEBSITE: airtemprefrigeration.com

EMAIL: airtemptexas@verizon.net

OFFER: \$20 off any heating, AC, electrical or plumbing service call. (Not valid with any other offer.)



AlphaGraphics

AlphaGraphics North Central Texas (Eastland and Stephenville) is a full-service printing company that offers customers a wide range of print services and the finest-quality printing products available anywhere, with affordable options to meet a variety of business printing needs. Whether it's an understated black-and-white document or a full-color catalog or brochure, you'll find a printing solution that meets your project requirements at a price you can afford. With more than 225 locations in the U.S. and many locations around the globe, AlphaGraphics is a network of highly skilled and knowledgeable people with cutting-edge technology and equipment that can match the level of speed, flexibility and expertise you require. And should you need large-scale printed products, AlphaGraphics has the resources to meet your needs.

LOCATED: 400 W. Main St., Eastland

PHONE: (254) 629-2626

STEPHENVILLE SALES OFFICE: Interbank Building, 150 N. Harbin, Ste. 418, Stephenville

PHONE: (254) 965-6137

HOURS: Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-5:30 p.m.

OFFER: 20 percent off first order total invoice



Get a Pet Door That Saves Energy

You've weatherstripped your doors and windows, caulked around electric outlets and other wall penetrations and had your heating system checked by a pro.

Yet you let your dog or cat push through a flap in an uninsulated pet door whenever nature calls.

There's no reason to lose expensive, heated air through a pet door. Manufacturers make energy-efficient models that allow your animals to come and go without wasting electricity.

Here are a few features to consider when replacing your energy-wasting pet door with a more efficient model:

- ▶ Look for an Energy Star-rated model. These are guaranteed to be substantially more energy efficient than older pet doors.



Help Fido enjoy his freedom with an energy-efficient doggy door.

- ▶ Choose a door with magnetic striping so it fits into the door opening as snugly as possible.

- ▶ If you buy a wooden door, look for one that is filled with an insulating material such as polyurethane foam or fiberglass.

- ▶ If you prefer a glass door, buy one with two panes of coated glass that are filled with a nontoxic gas for an extra layer of efficiency.

- ▶ For security, find a door that you can lock at night to keep your pet indoors and unwanted animals out.