

Happy Holidays and Hopeful New Year



MESSAGE FROM GENERAL MANAGER ALAN LESLEY

I DON'T KNOW ABOUT YOU, BUT I AM EXCITED about the end of this year and the approach of the clean slate that a new year offers.

Events in 2015 presented some challenges for ordinary folks and businesses such as CECA—but thanks to the hard work and dedication of our employees and the forward-thinking leadership of our board of directors, your co-op met those challenges. We're poised to meet whatever challenges and opportunities might come our way in 2016.

The cooperative exists to fulfill a purpose: to provide the best possible electric service at the lowest possible cost, improving the quality of life for our communities in the process. That's the cause to which everyone at your co-op is dedicated, year in and year out.

So as the new year draws near, I'd like to take a moment to thank all of the employees at CECA. I've never seen a more dedicated group of people. They come to work each day with service to the co-op's members on their minds, and the safety of themselves and their fellow workers foremost.

I'd also like to thank the co-op's board of directors, whose members have taken on the responsibility of directing a multimillion-dollar utility. It takes a real commitment to keep up with the ever-evolving standards of this complex and fast-changing industry while making decisions that affect thousands of their fellow members.

I'd especially like to thank you, our member-owners, who make all of our jobs possible. Thank you for your support and understanding when things don't go right; thank you for paying your bills on time, which keeps the cooperative financially strong; and thank you for your participation in our annual meeting and community activities.

Without your cooperation, there would be no cooperative.

As we say goodbye to 2015 and look ahead to 2016, let us hope it will be a great year for all of us. Merry Christmas, happy holidays and happy new year from CECA!



PHOTO: ISTOCK.COM

Renewal Required for Ag/Timber Sales Tax Exemption

IF YOU ARE CLAIMING a sales tax exemption on electricity used in the production of agricultural or timber products, you must renew your exemption by December 31 through the Office of the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts. Otherwise, the co-op will be required to charge sales tax beginning in January.

How To Renew Exemption Certificates

There are several options for renewing your exemption certificate: online, by phone or by mail. Online renewal is the fastest, with the applicant receiving a confirmation number immediately. Those applying by phone will receive a confirmation letter by mail in five to seven days. Processing time for renewing by mail could take several weeks.

Those seeking a renewal can visit comptroller.texas.gov/taxinfo/agriculture/get_ready_texas.html for more information. The site also features a list of eligibility requirements.

Only one certificate is required for members with multiple qualifying meters.

For more information, contact the comptroller's office at comptroller.texas.gov/taxhelp or call 1-800-252-5555.



PHOTO: ISTOCK.COM

Meet CECA's Newest Additions

PLEASE JOIN US IN WELCOMING THE NEWEST MEMBERS of the CECA family.

Matthew Bentley is an apprentice lineman for CECA, hoping to become a lineman in the near future. He enjoys the outdoors, so his position with CECA is a good fit. Bentley graduated from Breckenridge High School in 2006. He enjoys hunting, and mechanical and electrical projects. He and his wife and children reside in the Cisco community.

Josh Walls graduated from Eastland High School and has spent most of his life in Eastland. He moved to San Antonio for a short time but moved back to be closer to family. Walls is an apprentice lineman for CECA. In his free time, he enjoys being outdoors, mostly hunting and fishing.



Matthew Bentley



Josh Walls



HAPPY HOLIDAYS

from CECA

Our offices will be closed Thursday and Friday, December 24–25, and Friday, January 1, to allow our employees to celebrate the holidays with their families.

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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

EARLY OFFICE

1801 CR 338
Early, TX 76801

EASTLAND OFFICE

1311 W. Main St.
Eastland, TX 76448

OFFICE HOURS

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

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

Eastland Office: Tuesday and Thursday 8 a.m. to 4 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

1-800-915-2533 toll-free

FIND US ON THE WEB

www.ceca.coop



facebook.com/CECA.coop



▲ Welcome to the 77th Annual CECA Meeting of the Membership.

► Thanks to Clark Tractor and Tractor Supply, members did not have to make the trek from the car to the meeting on foot. CECA personnel were available to transport them back and forth.



▼ Air Evac Lifeteam allowed members to tour an ambulance, including sitting inside, checking out all the equipment and seeing it fly. Insurance can be obtained annually via Air Evac, or monthly through CECA.



CECA Annual Meeti

BY SHIRLEY DUKES

OCTOBER 10 TURNED OUT TO BE an exceptionally beautiful day for a celebration under a big tent, when more than 600 people attended Comanche Electric Cooperative's 77th Annual Meeting of the Membership at the Comanche City Park.

Upon entering the park, members were greeted and registered by enthusiastic CECA employees. They were presented with the CECA Annual Report, a ballot and other important information

concerning the cooperative, along with an ecoPOWR energy-efficiency kit and a stadium/picnic blanket featuring the CECA logo. Soft drinks, water and popcorn were dispensed by CECA personnel, and members and their guests were given the option of attending the entertainment provided by The Class of '57, and/or a health fair with the following vendors present: Air Evac Lifeteam, Abilene Behavioral Health, Comanche County Medical Center, Comanche WIC,

Cross Timbers Health Clinic, STARRY Counseling, Tanglewood Pharmacy, The ARK, Texas Department of Family and Protective Services and Western Hills Nursing Home.

Adults were not the only ones enjoying the circus-tent atmosphere. Happy little faces of children were filled with delight as they filed into the big tent. Ashley's Twist and Paint was available to paint pint-sized faces with a variety of designs, ranging from superheroes to



◀ Ryan Harris gives a ride in a bucket truck to a future CECA member.

▼ A future member takes advantage of co-op benefits, including face painting.

▲ Comanche Boy Scout Troop No. 67 presents the colors and leads the Pledge of Allegiance.

◀ State Rep. J.D. Sheffield regales the crowd with a funny story of his “Mamaw,” shortly after she first received electricity.

▶ Shorty Hatley, Dale Ogle and Monty Cunningham serve good ol’ movie-style popcorn to members.



ng Draws Crowd

unicorns, and to twist balloons into amusing shapes. On the other side of the tent, CECA employees Brandon Cook and Ryan Harris placed yellow hard hats on the heads of adventurous youngsters who dared to venture off the ground in bucket-truck rides.

At 10 a.m., the meeting officially commenced when Comanche Boy Scout Troop No. 67 presented the colors and led the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by the national anthem sung by Carissa Cole.

General Manager Alan Lesley opened the meeting with a short prayer. Reports were given by Ruby Solomon, secretary of the board; David Copeland, CPA from Bolinger, Segars, Gilbert & Moss; and Don Richards, legal counsel for CECA.

Special guests in attendance were: Dr. J.D. Sheffield, state representative for District 59, and his District Director Gary Kafer; and Dr. Dawn Buckingham, candidate for state Senate. Sheffield was given the opportunity to speak and gave

a humorous rendition of a family story concerning an event he still remembers about his “Mamaw” before electricity.

Lesley addressed the membership, extolling the uniqueness of the cooperative model. He expanded on the meeting theme of “The Power of Giving Back” by giving examples of the many ways CECA is involved in the communities in which it serves. Lesley gave several examples of CECA’s commitment to community, including this one: “At our core, the



▲ The Class of '57 band entertained the crowd with a variety of tunes of all genres.

▶ This lucky member won an LED TV.



▲ Members participate in the Annual CECA Health Fair.

Comanche County Medical Center and clinic nurses were in demand as they provided flu shots to members at the CECA Health Fair. ▶



cooperative exists to meet community needs. We are committed to working with you, our members, on issues you care about. As you well know, the areas we serve are rural. And some are more rural than others.

“The Mullin Volunteer Fire Department sits in one of these areas. When faced with the challenge of providing a safe area in which to land an air ambulance, they set out to find a solution. Working through Comanche Electric Cooperative’s Operation Round-Up Program, they were able to acquire the funds to build a helipad. This site is now known to both ground and air medical personnel as the place to meet when transferring patients to trauma centers. Embracing this idea as something that would prove valuable to other small communities, CECA has since partnered with the communities of Gorman and Wayland to build similar facilities in their areas.

“Now, looking forward and planning for the future, CECA has recently purchased a 15-acre tract of land and warehouse building close to the Comanche

Airport. Once renovated, this facility will not only serve as our new headquarters, but also support a large community facility capable of hosting events such as this annual meeting and other civic-minded gatherings. With proper planning, we are helping to build and strengthen our community. Motivated to provide more than electricity, we are helping to empower the communities we serve.”

Lesley closed by emphasizing that it is CECA’s concern for community that sets it apart from other entities. “We’re here because we believe life can be better. It won’t do to wait for someone else to fix problems for us—we know we can do anything with the power of cooperation.”

A purpose of the meeting is to elect directors to represent the membership. Districts 1 and 7 previously had met and nominated incumbents Randy Denning and Phil Taylor to represent their communities on the board. With no other nominations from the floor, Richards called for and received a motion and a second to elect Denning and Taylor by

acclamation. The motion passed.

Before ending the business part of the meeting, Lesley complimented all employees for their dedication and hard work during some difficult moments during the year. Seven employees reached five-year milestones in their careers and were presented with service awards. Shirley Dukes and Kellie Deters each received a 25-year pin and a commemorative watch to celebrate their co-op careers. Pam McClain received a 15-year pin; Brandon Cook and Dale Ogle received 10-year pins; and David Cisneroz and Tommy Hesbrook received five-year pins.

Back by popular demand, a meal of fried fish and chicken, catered by Cook’s Fish Barn, was the final and one of the most-anticipated events of the day. As the final door prizes were being drawn, members followed their noses to the lunch line.

If you made it to the meeting, CECA thanks you. If you did not, we invite you to plan on attending the 78th Comanche Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting to be held in October 2016.

There were plenty of lucky prizewinners.



Prize Donors

Abilene Behavioral Health
 Anixter Power Solutions
 (formerly HD Supply)
 Brazos Electric Power Cooperative
 The Chatfield, Assisted Living
 Comanche Electric Cooperative
 Comanche County Medical Center
 Cross Timbers Health Clinic
 Insurance Network of Texas
 Horton Tree Service
 Schneider Engineering
 Texas Electric Cooperatives
 WESCO

CECA Annual Meeting Prizewinners

Clifford Ray Mugrauer
 \$50 Credit for Electric Service
Lester Puckett
 \$50 Credit for Electric Service
John George Cockrell
 \$50 Credit for Electric Service
Elizabeth Prater
 \$50 Credit for Electric Service
Eva Adams Lites
 \$50 Credit for Electric Service
Ladoytt Northcutt
 \$50 Credit for Electric Service
Evelyn Feller
 \$50 Credit for Electric Service
Wanda Hanson
 \$100 Credit for Electric Service
Viann Melot
 \$100 Credit for Electric Service
Dearl Pittman
 \$50 Visa Gift Card
Donald Tremaine
 \$50 Visa Gift Card
Don L. Myers
 \$50 Visa Gift Card

Betsy Ward
 \$50 Visa Gift Card
E. Nelson Thomas
 \$50 Visa Gift Card
Randy Couch
 \$100 Cabela's Gift Card
Julia Ditto
 \$100 Walmart Gift Card
Julie Munn
 Door Wreath
Brenda Jones
 Candle and Harvest Sign
James Silva
 Blu-Ray DVD Player
Wanda Gilbert
 Electric Blower/Vacuum
Roger Boone
 Waffle Maker
O.L. Larkin
 Stanley Utility Heater
Norman Cox
 Oscillating Heater
Larry Don Sears
 1,500-Watt Fan/Heater

DuWayne Hunter
 RedStone Quartz Heater
Eladio Lopez Martinez
 Radiator Heater
Jason Anderson
 Portable Work Light
Robert Agee
 500-Watt Work Light
Gerald B. Tunnel
 1,000-Watt Work Light
B. Fred Daniel
 Meter Lamp
Fran Spadlin
 Insulated Tote
Harold Reich
 45-Quart Elite Cooler
Mrs. Jerry Conway
 45-Quart Elite Cooler
Rex and Tammi Reed
 32-Inch TV
Jim Bob Harris
 40-Inch TV