

A Message from the President

Countdown to the 2026 TEC/TREWA Annual Meeting

Mark your calendars now for the 2026 TEC/TREWA Annual Meeting, which will be held August 2-6 at the beautiful JW Marriott San Antonio Hill Country Resort.

Each year, cooperative leaders, employees, trustees, and their families gather from across Texas to learn, connect, and celebrate the cooperative spirit that unites us. From educational sessions and industry updates to networking opportunities and time spent with cooperative friends, the annual meeting is an opportunity to strengthen both professional relationships and personal connections.



TREWA remains committed to its mission of promoting understanding and support of the rural electric cooperative program while helping improve the quality of life in the communities we serve. Through the generosity of our members and supporters, we continue to fund programs that make a lasting impact, including TREWA scholarships, the Government-in-Action Youth Tour, and America's Electric Cooperatives PAC (AEC PAC).

Our scholarship program continues to provide educational opportunities beyond those traditionally available to graduating seniors, helping individuals pursue education and training at various stages of life. We are also proud to support Youth Tour participants as they experience firsthand the value of leadership, civic engagement, and the cooperative difference. In addition, TREWA supports AEC PAC, a nonpartisan political action committee that helps ensure the voice of electric cooperatives and their members is represented on issues affecting rural communities and the electric cooperative industry.

As we prepare for this year's meeting, we are once again seeking donations for our annual silent auction and arts and crafts sale. Handmade, locally crafted, and community-inspired items are always popular and directly support the programs that benefit students, families, and communities across Texas. Whether it's artwork, woodworking, baked goods, specialty items, quilts, home décor, or something uniquely representative of your community, your contributions are greatly appreciated.

The impact of your generosity extends far beyond the auction tables. Every donated item helps support leadership development, educational opportunities, and community programs that strengthen cooperative communities throughout Texas.

Thank you to our cooperative directors, CEOs, employees, TREWA members, and supporters for your continued commitment to these efforts. We look forward to seeing many of you in San Antonio as we continue working together to support the future of electric cooperatives across Texas.

Rachel Ford
TREWA President





Technology Will Change. Cooperative Values Won't.

Preparing Today's Youth for Tomorrow's Energy World

Think about a child entering elementary school today. By the time they graduate high school, the energy industry could look dramatically different from the one we know today.

Artificial intelligence, advanced robotics, smart grids, battery storage, electric vehicles, and new energy technologies are already transforming the way electricity is generated, delivered, and used. The next generation will grow up in a world where homes can communicate with the electric grid, appliances can automatically adjust energy use, and technology helps identify outages before they happen.



Some of today's students may become engineers designing the electric systems of the future. Others may develop artificial intelligence tools that help utilities improve reliability, cybersecurity, and efficiency. Some may work with advanced battery storage systems, renewable energy technologies, or entirely new innovations that have not yet been imagined.

Yet for all the technological change ahead, one thing is unlikely to change: communities will still need people who care about people.

Electric cooperatives rely on local leadership and decision-making, emphasizing community understanding over technology. Programs like scholarships, Youth Tour, and leadership development are crucial as they foster essential skills like leadership, communication, critical thinking, teamwork, and commitment to service, among young people, which technology cannot replace.

As cooperative members, we must prepare the next generation for the future by investing in education, fostering curiosity, and supporting leadership opportunities. While the energy sector evolves to be more digital and connected, the essence of cooperatives remains grounded in people, communities, and enduring cooperative values.





COOPERATIVE HISTORY

90 Years of Powering Rural America

Celebrating the Legacy of the Rural Electrification Act

This year celebrates the 90th anniversary of the Rural Electrification Act (REA), signed on May 20, 1936. At that time, only about 10% of rural homes had electricity, leaving many families dependent on kerosene lamps and manual labor while cities enjoyed modern conveniences.

The federal government initiated a program to provide low-interest loans for rural electric systems, leading to the formation of member-owned electric cooperatives. This initiative transformed rural life by enhancing quality of life, educational opportunities, agricultural productivity, and local economies, while connecting communities to broader national opportunities.



Early cooperative members gather to mark another chapter in the ongoing effort to bring reliable electricity to rural America

Electric cooperatives play a crucial role in rural America, serving millions of homes, farms, and businesses. Over 900 cooperatives invest in electric infrastructure, broadband expansion, and new technologies, building on a 90-year foundation. The Rural Electrification Administration has transformed into the Rural Utilities Service (RUS), which supports projects enhancing electric, telecommunications, and water infrastructure in rural communities.

As members of the Texas Rural Electric Women's Association, we understand that the cooperative story is about more than power lines and poles. It is a story of neighbors working together, communities investing in one another, and generations of leaders committed to serving others.



Agriculture Secretary Brooke Rollins appreciates co-ops and Rural Utilities Service staff for supporting rural communities.
(Photo By: Erin Sutherland/NRECA)

As we celebrate 90 years of the Rural Electrification Act, we honor the visionaries who brought electricity to rural America and the cooperative members, employees, directors, and volunteers who continue that mission today.

The lights may have come on 90 years ago, but the cooperative spirit that made it possible continues to shine brightly across Texas and beyond.

2026 TEC/TREWA Annual Meeting



SCAN HERE

2026 Annual Meeting

August 2-5

Silent Auction & Craft
Donations Needed



Looking for inspiration?

Popular donations consist of handcrafted décor, woodwork, paintings, quilts, baskets, custom knives, kitchen items, and unique artisan creations.

To send a craft item or make a donation to TREWA, please mail to:

Bobbi Byford, Trinity Valley EC
P.O. Box 888, Kaufman, TX 75142

You can also give your craft or silent auction item to any TREWA Board Member.

Check out these items
donated by TVEC!



2026 TEC/TREWA ANNUAL MEETING

SILENT AUCTION & CRAFT DONATION FORM

NAME

CITY, STATE, ZIP

ITEM DONATED

ITEM/DONATION VALUE

\$

DESIGNATED PERSON BRINGING ITEM TO MEETING:

thanks
for your
support



Texas Electric Cooperatives

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner



2026 TREWA Board of Directors

Group 1

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Sam Houston EC

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Scholarship Chair

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Group 3

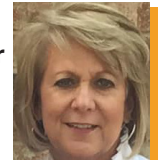
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“ We need women in STEM because solving the world's biggest problems requires all of the world's talent.

Reshma Saujani
Founder, *Girls Who Code*

”

TREWA MEMBERSHIP

**Current memberships expire
July 31, 2026.**

TREWA MEMBERSHIP FORM

Memberships are valid August 1 through July 31.

Membership: ☐ Renewal ☐ New Member

Membership Fees:

Please check the appropriate dues assessments:

☐ \$10 (1 year) ☐ \$20 (2 years)

First Name _____

Last Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip Code _____

Home Phone _____

Work Phone _____

Email _____

Cooperative Name _____

Please spell out

Relationship to Cooperative:

☐ Employee ☐ Director ☐ Member

☐ Spouse of Employee ☐ Spouse of Director

☐ Other _____

Return to:

Mail: TREWA Membership
TEC Lockbox
P.O. Box 201338
Dallas, TX 75320



Email: knejtek@tex-ec.org



The TREWA Board of Directors thanks you for your continued support of this organization.

TREWA membership is open to men and women of rural electric cooperatives. We encourage you to become a part of our growing organization as we continue to light the lamp of knowledge for the future.

Membership has its privileges. The children of TREWA members are eligible to apply for scholarships sponsored by TREWA. Members also receive an edition of The Lamplighter, which is sent twice a year via email.

Regular membership price is \$10 per year and, to date, we have almost 1,000 members. Once again, TREWA is offering membership at \$5 per person to cooperatives that enroll 100 percent of their directors, directors' spouses and employees (or spouse of an employee).

Renew your membership today by completing and returning the paper form or online TREWA membership forms are also available at trewa.org.



Hello Summer!

SUNSHINE.
GOOD TIMES.
COOPERATIVE SPIRIT.

*Wishing you a safe,
relaxing and joy-filled summer!*



Rooted in *Texas*. Powered by *People*. Committed to *Community*.