

Karen Culpepper  
President

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Are we there yet? I know you have asked that question before, well the answer is no, not quite. Over the past year, we've experienced an unprecedented shift in our way of life due to COVID-19. The 1960 film "The Time Machine" was a classic take on a classic story. Mr. Wells traveled through time to a world completely different from his own. This past year has been nothing short of what we have previously considered normal. Isolation, masks, gloves, social distancing, virtual learning, and so many new norms have become our way of life. Many are vaccinated and CDC rules are changing, yet we still find ourselves taking a very cautious step back into the old normal way of life.

Our TEC Annual meeting will take place this year but with a very different look without TREWA due to attendance restrictions. This annual gathering has been and will always be the highlight of our TREWA fundraising efforts. It is true that the driving force of electric cooperatives is to serve its members and TEC and TREWA are determined to keep their efforts moving forward in

spite of these restrictions.

TREWA has set into motion the fundraising campaign by reaching out to cooperatives across the state and many others seeking to meet the needs to fund our scholarships, Youth Tour 2022 assistance and Rural Friends/Acre contribution. Managers, vendors and individuals continue to support our efforts.

We want you to continue this ride with us. Renew your membership or join TREWA if you have not had the chance. You may visit our website at [TREWA.org](http://TREWA.org) and check out "The Lamplighter" for your membership application.



























Hop in and take this ride with us, we will get there. We are so grateful to each one that helps us shine our light across this great state. Our prayers continue for good health and safety and we will plan to see you in person at the 2022 TEC Annual Meeting.

God's speed,  
Karen Culpepper

# COVID-19 Updates

## Choosing Safer Activities

Accessible link: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/participate-in-activities.html>

	Unvaccinated People	Examples of Activities	Fully Vaccinated People
		<b>Outdoor</b>	
Safest		Walk, run, wheelchair roll, or bike outdoors with members of your household	
		Attend a small, outdoor gathering with fully vaccinated family and friends	
		Attend a small, outdoor gathering with fully vaccinated and unvaccinated people, particularly in areas of substantial to high transmission	
Less Safe		Dine at an outdoor restaurant with friends from multiple households	
Least Safe		Attend a crowded, outdoor event, like a live performance, parade, or sports event	
		<b>Indoor</b>	
Less Safe		Visit a barber or hair salon	
		Go to an uncrowded, indoor shopping center or museum	
		Attend a small, indoor gathering of fully vaccinated and unvaccinated people from multiple households	
Least Safe		Go to an indoor movie theater	
		Attend a full-capacity worship service	
		Sing in an indoor chorus	
		Eat at an indoor restaurant or bar	
		Participate in an indoor, high intensity exercise class	

### Get a COVID-19 vaccine



**Prevention measures not needed**



**Take prevention measures**

Wear a mask, stay 6 feet apart, and wash your hands.

- Safety levels assume the recommended prevention measures are followed, both by the individual and the venue (if applicable).
- CDC cannot provide the specific risk level for every activity in every community. It is important to consider your own personal situation and the risk to you, your family, and your community before venturing out.



[cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://cdc.gov/coronavirus)



# Safety & Efficiency

## What Do Different Air Filters Block?

Air filters are rated by Minimum Efficiency Reporting Value (MERV). Filters with a higher MERV block more dirt, but also reduce airflow and system efficiency. Use this guide to find the right filter for your home or business.

	1-4 MERV \$2-\$10	5-8 MERV \$10-\$20	9-12 MERV \$18-\$25	13-20 MERV \$\$\$
<b>Blocked Items</b>	Pollen, sanding dust, large insect bodies 	+ Pet dander, mold, spores, dust mites, hair spray 	+ Lead dust, milled flour, car emission particles 	+ Bacteria, virus, face powder, smoke, sneezes, paint pigments, oil, carbon dust 
<b>Filter Types</b>	Disposable, washable	Pleated, disposable, electrostatic	Pleated, disposable, electrostatic	High efficiency particulate arrestance (HEPA), box 6-12 inches thick, flexible 12-36 inches thick
<b>Common Uses</b>	Homes, window air conditioning units	Better homes, general office buildings	Superior homes, better office buildings, businesses	Hospitals, drug and electronic labs

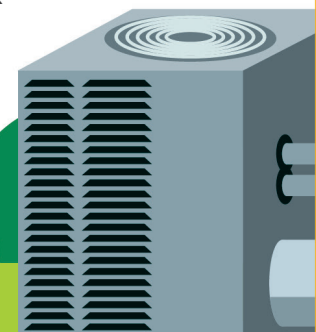
*Source: epa.gov/iaq*

## 3-Step HVAC Test

As summer temperatures rise, so do electric bills. Follow these steps to test the efficiency of your HVAC unit.

The outdoor temperature should be above 80 degrees, and you should set your thermostat well below the room temperature to ensure the system runs long enough for this test.

1. Using a digital probe thermometer (about \$12), measure the temperature of the air being pulled into your HVAC filter.
2. Measure the temperature of the air blowing out of your A/C vent.
3. Subtract the A/C vent temperature from the HVAC filter temperature. You should see a difference of about 17 to 20 degrees. If the difference is less than 17 degrees, you may need a licensed technician to check the coolant. If the difference is greater than 20 degrees, your ductwork may need to be inspected for airflow restrictions.





# ELECTRICAL SAFETY

## While Working From Home



Do you have a **home office** or **work from home**? Follow these **electrical safety tips** to keep you and your home safe from electrical hazards.



1



Avoid **overloading** outlets.

2



**Unplug** appliances when not in use to save energy and minimize the risk of shock and fire.

3



**Regularly inspect** electrical cords and extension cords for damage.

4



Extension cords should only be used on a **temporary** basis.

5



Never plug a space heater or fan into an **extension cord** or **power strip**.

6



Never run cords under **rugs / carpets, doors, or windows**.

7



**Plug in smartly.** Make sure cords do not become tripping hazards.

8



Keep papers and other potential combustibles at least **three feet** away from space heaters and other heat sources.

9



Make sure you use **proper wattage** for lamps / lighting.

10



Make sure your home has **smoke alarms**. Test them monthly, change batteries yearly, and replace the unit every 10 years.

*Wherever you work, it's always important to be safe.*

Please **share** this **free** resource to save lives



[www.facebook.com/ESFi.org](https://www.facebook.com/ESFi.org)

[www.twitter.com/ESFIdotorg](https://www.twitter.com/ESFIdotorg)

[www.youtube.com/ESFIdotorg](https://www.youtube.com/ESFIdotorg)



# Mark Your Calendars

## JUNE 2021

National Safety Month

June 7th-11th - Right of Way Professional Week

June 20th - Father's Day

June 21st-25th - Lightning Safety Awareness Week

## JULY 2021

July 4th - Independence Day

July 15th - Get to Know Your Customers Day

## September 2021

National Preparedness Month

September 6th - Labor Day

September 11th - Patriot Day

## October 2021

Co-op Month

October 16th - Boss's Day

October 31 - Halloween

## November 2021

November 11th - Veteran's Day

November 25 - Thanksgiving

## December 2021

December 25th - Christmas Day

December 31st - New Year's Eve



## SEPTEMBER • NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH

**Disasters Don't Plan Ahead. YOU CAN.**

[www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov) • #PlanAhead



Rural friends/ACRE supports legislators who have not only demonstrated an understanding of the unique role electric cooperatives have played in the development of rural communities, but who have also been recognized for their communities to represent the rural interests of electric cooperatives and their members.

**Rural Friends/ACRE** was formed with the mission of making the voice of electric co-op consumers heard in the Texas Legislature and U.S. Congress. Rural Friends of Electric Cooperatives is the nonpartisan political action committee that supports candidates seeking election to the Texas Legislature. It operates under a set of bylaws and the policies of a board of directors composed of electric co-op leaders elected from around the state. ACRE - the Action Committee for Rural Electrification - supports candidates for the U.S. Congress. Rural Friends and ACRE are subject to all state and federal campaign finance laws and reporting requirements.

**Membership** is strictly voluntary and consists of persons who have an interest in preserving and defending our local electric co-ops. Rural Friends/ACRE raises personal, voluntary contributions from supporters who care about our co-ops and the communities we serve.

**Contributions** go to candidates for state and federal office who have demonstrated support for electric co-op goals, who share co-op values and who want electric co-ops to be successful. Support is based on voting records on legislation affecting electric co-ops, statements on co-op issues, and historical stances on those issues.

**Joining is Easy.** Simply fill out and mail the form below along with your check to add your voice to those electric co-op leaders who are "making a difference" for electric co-ops in Austin and Washington, D. C.

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### Rural Friends/ACRE Membership Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Cooperative: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

I am a cooperative:  Director  Manager  Employee  Attorney  Other \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a member of an electric cooperative?  Yes  No

Select yearly membership:  \$25  \$50  \$100 Century Club  \$150 Century Club Plus  \$500 President's Club

Enclosed are my membership dues in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_.

Please payroll deduct my dues. (If offered by your cooperative.)

Please add my dues to my monthly electric bill. (If offered by your cooperative.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Signature**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**

*Contributions to Rural Friends of Electric Cooperatives (Rural Friends) and the Action Committee for Rural Electrification (ACRE) are not tax deductible. Contributions to Rural Friends and ACRE are voluntary and will be used for political purposes. You have the right to refuse to contribute without reprisal. Any contribution guidelines presented are merely suggestions. You are free to contribute more or less than the suggested amounts, or not at all. No one will be favored or disadvantaged by reason of the amount contributed or a decision not to contribute.*

Please remit to: **Rural Friends, 1122 Colorado St., 24<sup>th</sup> Floor, Austin, TX 78701.**





A new grassroots advocacy program by NRECA called “Voices for Cooperative Power (VCP)”. VCP brings together a network of electric co-op members sharing the needs of their communities with elected officials. This program helps members engage with policymakers and advocate for their energy future.

VCP is a place for those who want to influence policy decisions impacting electric co-ops and their consumer-members. Members come together to communicate this perspective and protect our co-ops’ ability to deliver affordable, reliable services.

Speaking up on issues that impact electric co-ops sends a message to elected officials about the needs of our communities – and their constituencies. VCP gives you a platform to talk about the many ways your electric co-op supports your community. Beyond delivering electricity, co-ops provide jobs, stability, and economic growth – all while ensuring that energy affordability and reliability remain foundational advantages of electric co-op membership.

Check out the website [voicesforcooperativepower.com](http://voicesforcooperativepower.com) for more information and how you can get involved.

## 2020 TREWA Board of Directors

**Group 1**  
 Kathy Chapman  
 Arts & Crafts  
 Bowie-Cass EC  
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[kathyf@bcec.com](mailto:kathyf@bcec.com)



**Group 2**  
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**Group 3**  
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 Wise EC  
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**Group 4**  
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**Group 5**  
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*“Coming together is a beginning. Keeping together is progress. Working together is success.”*

- Henry Ford



# TREWA MEMBERSHIP

## Current memberships expire July 31, 2021.

### TREWA MEMBERSHIP FORM

Membership valid August 1, 2021, through July 31, 2022.

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 \_\_\_\_\_

Home phone \_\_\_\_\_

Work phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Cooperative (spell out) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to cooperative:

- Employee  Director  Member  
 Spouse of Employee  Spouse of Director  Other

#### Return to:

Mail: TREWA  
 Janna Bishop  
 Membership Chair  
 1122 Colorado St., 24th Floor  
 Austin, TX 78701

Email: [jbishop@lynegar.coop](mailto:jbishop@lynegar.coop)



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). We would like to acknowledge and thank the cooperatives that currently have 100 percent membership:

- CoServ Electric, Group 3
- Heart of Texas EC, Group 2
- North Plains EC, Group 5
- Tri-County EC, Group 3
- Houston County EC, Group 1

Renew your membership today by completing and returning the form at right. TREWA membership forms are also available at [trewa.org](http://trewa.org).