



Karen Culpepper  
President

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

### **Take one, two or possibly three.**

We are finding ourselves living in what was once just a made for TV movie "Pandemic". We were not given months of trailers, movie clips, leading cast or opening viewings. This pandemic is real. We found ourselves thrust in the throes of a complete real life pandemic. Rapid changes began to take place in our homes, workplaces, communities, schools and churches. Masks and quarantines became common daily rituals. As we begin to educate ourselves in all areas necessary to protect and continue our daily lives, we begin to mount our defense to continue to live our lives in a new way.

The past several months brought many cancellations of all types of events from games, parties, conferences and fundraisers to a screeching halt. This was in fact what happened to our TEC Annual Meeting that would have been held the first week in August. This annual gathering is the highlight of our TREWA fundraising efforts. The driving force of electric cooperatives is to serve its members and TEC and TREWA were determined to keep their efforts moving forward in spite of COVID-19.

TREWA 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 assistance and Rural Friends/Acre contribution. As the cooperative way has never changed since its beginning some eighty plus years ago, the force was with

us. Managers from across the state, vendors and individuals have generously given funds toward this effort. Our commitments were met with \$30,000 dollars in scholarships that will be awarded to the 2020 scholarships winners, \$10,000 to our TEC Government-In-Action Youth Tour program by sponsoring over two of T-shirts provided for the 100 plus students and chaperones and a generous donation to Rural Friend/ACRE in their efforts to oversee the governmental direction for our cooperatives. TREWA received over \$100,000 through these generous donations.

We are now moving forward with plans for 2021 by encouraging each of you to 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. Seeking those treasured arts and crafts donations will also be on our radar.

We are so grateful to each and every one that helped to change the course of the effects of this pandemic and let the light shine all across our great state. Our prayers are for all of you to stay healthy and that we will see each other at our 2021 TEC Annual Meeting.

God's speed,  
Karen Culpepper

# 2020 Scholarship Winners

| Name            | Cooperative     |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| Lillian Holt    | Bluebonnet      |
| Nash Campbell   | Heart of Texas  |
| Cade Campbell   | Heart of Texas  |
| Ryan Markwardt  | HILCO           |
| Kaylei Cole     | HILCO           |
| Tia Davis       | Houston County  |
| Bryan Perez     | Houston County  |
| Kennedy Wood    | Lamb County     |
| Marcos Pedroza  | Lyntegar        |
| Emily Jenkins   | Lyntegar        |
| Zoe Kelton      | Midsouth        |
| Kylie Miller    | North Plains    |
| Madyson Cook    | South Plains    |
| Thomas Mullen   | South Plains    |
| Sara Willis     | South Plains    |
| Taylor Everitt  | South Plains    |
| Avery Winters   | South Plains    |
| Andrea Safant   | Southwest Texas |
| Tess Decker     | Tri-County      |
| Caden Smallwood | United          |

# Safety & Efficiency

## Save Energy with LEDs

LED lights last up to 30 times longer than incandescents, reducing the need to replace bulbs in high or hard-to-reach places. Below are LED lighting suggestions for your home.



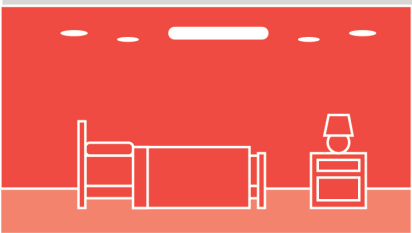
### Living Room Lamps

Table or floor three-way lamps using LED bulbs provide 620, 1,600 or 2,150 lumens of soft white light and deliver up to 25,000 hours of light.



### Kitchen

Dimmable recessed LED conversion lights add a warm glow of up to 1,200 lumens for kitchen workspaces and add far less heat to your kitchen. Each bulb could last 10 years.



### Bedrooms and Hallways

Long-life LEDs are ideal for ceiling fixtures. A 9-watt LED produces the same 800 lumens of light as a 60-watt incandescent, and uses about 80 percent less energy.



### Bathrooms

Omnidirectional LED globe bulbs are designed to provide a warm glow ideal for bathrooms. A 6-watt bulb produces 450 lumens and lasts up to 15,000 hours.



### Outdoors

A 6-watt, 500 lumen LED bulb can replace a 40-watt incandescent bulb. Designed to last up to 30,000 hours, it could be a one-time switch.

## Tips For Energy Efficiency

Cooler temps are just around the corner! Is your home's heating system ready? Remember to replace furnace filters once a month or as recommended. Remember to clean vents and ducts regularly to increase efficiency.

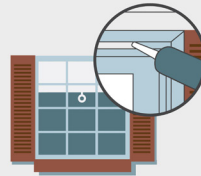
Source: energy.gov



## EASY WAYS TO SAVE ENERGY

### WEATHERIZE

Seal doors and windows with caulk, weather stripping and/or plastic film.



### SEAL IN WARMTH

Close blinds and curtains during the night to keep cold air out. Open them during the day to let sunlight in.



### COOK UP SAVINGS

Use smaller appliances, like microwaves, toaster ovens and slow cookers when possible.



## HOLIDAY LIGHTING COMPARISON

Holiday lighting options have come a long way over the last few decades. The chart below shows three types of lighting options, including wattage and operating cost comparisons.

| TYPE OF LAMP      | WATTAGE PER LAMP | WATTAGE PER 50 LAMPS | SEASONAL OPERATING COST* |
|-------------------|------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|
| C9 INCANDESCENT   | 7                | 350                  | \$13.33                  |
| MINI INCANDESCENT | .425             | 21.25                | \$0.81                   |
| LED               | .069             | 3.45                 | \$0.13                   |

\*Using 40 days of operation, 8 hours per day, \$.119 per kWh (DOE average)  
In addition, the LED will last as much as 40 times longer than the incandescent lamps.



Source: energy.gov



# Give Your Home an Electrical Safety Checkup

Just as regular wellness checkups are critical for maintaining your health, routine safety checkups are critical for the safety of your home. Use this checklist to ensure that you can identify and correct potential electrical hazards around your home before an electrical fire can result.

## Switches and Outlets

1. Are all switches and outlets working properly?



Improperly operating switches or outlets may indicate an unsafe wiring condition, which could be a fire hazard.



Rx 1.  
Have a licensed electrician check these switches and outlets.

2. Are any switches or outlets warm to the touch?

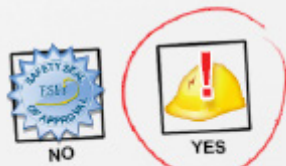


Unusually warm switches or outlets may indicate an unsafe wiring condition.



Rx 2.  
Stop using these switches and outlets until they are checked by a licensed electrician.

3. Are any outlets or switches discolored?



Discoloration signifies a dangerous heat buildup at these connections.



Rx 3.  
Stop using these switches and outlets until they are checked by a licensed electrician.

4. Do any switches or outlets make crackling, buzzing, or sizzling sounds?



Unusual noises from a switch or outlet may indicate an unsafe wiring condition, such as a loose electrical connection.



Rx 4.  
Have a licensed electrician check these switches and outlets.

5. Do plugs fit snugly into all outlets?



Loose-fitting plugs can cause overheating and fires.



Rx 5.  
Outlets without a snug fit should be replaced by a licensed electrician.

# Mark Your Calendars

## SEPTEMBER 2020

National Preparedness Month  
September 7th - Labor Day

## OCTOBER 2020

Breast Cancer Awareness Month  
October 31st - Halloween

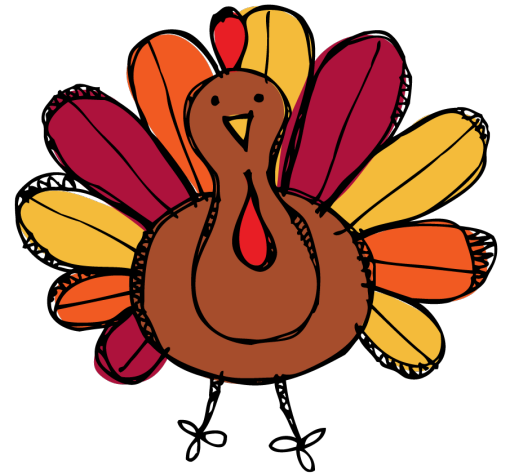
## NOVEMBER 2020

November 3rd - Election Day, Go Vote!  
November 11th - Veterans Day  
November 26th - Thanksgiving

## DECEMBER 2020

December 24th - Christmas Eve  
December 25th - Christmas Day  
December 31st - New Year's Eve





***Rural Friends***  
***ACRE***

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.

---

### 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.**



# 2021 TEC/TREWA Annual Meeting Silent Auction & Craft Donation Form

**YES! I will donate a Craft/Art Item**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Item Donated \_\_\_\_\_

Item Value \_\_\_\_\_

If you are unable to attend the meeting, please designate someone to bring your item for you. \_\_\_\_\_

To send a craft item or make a donation to TREWA, please mail it to:  
**Bobbi Byford, Trinity Valley EC**  
**PO Box 888, Kaufman, TX 75142**

You can also give your craft or silent auction item to any TREWA board member. Again, thank you for your continued support.

Your donated items will help provide funds for TREWA scholarships and donations to Rural Friends/ACRE.

## 2020 TREWA Board of Directors

**Group 1**  
Kathy Chapman  
Arts & Crafts  
Bowie-Cass EC  
(903) 846-2311  
kathyf@bcec.com



**Group 2**  
Kendra Markwardt  
Scholarship Chair  
HILCO EC  
(254) 687-2331  
Ext. 1145 • kmarkwardt@hilco.coop



**Group 3**  
Karen Culpepper  
President  
Wise EC  
(940) 626-3003  
kculpepper@wiseec.com



**Group 4**  
Rachel Ford  
Vice-President  
Comanche EC  
(325) 356-2533  
rford@ceca.coop



**Group 5**  
Jana Bishop  
Membership Chair  
Lyntegar EC  
(806) 470-9270  
jbishop@lyntegar.coop



**Group 6**  
Celeste Mikeska  
Pedernales ECI  
(830) 868-6081  
celeste.mikeska@peci.coop



**Group 7**  
Brenda Rodriguez  
Secretary/Treasurer  
Wharton County ECI  
(979) 543-6271  
brodriguez@myecec.coop



Kathy Shipp  
Past President  
Lamb County EC  
(806) 385-5191  
kshipp@lcec.coop



Bobbi Byford  
Social Media/  
Lamplighter  
Trinity Valley EC  
(469) 261-9876  
bobbi@tvec.coop



*“Coming together is a beginning. Keeping together is progress. Working together is success.”*

- Henry Ford



# TREWA MEMBERSHIP

## Current memberships expire July 31, 2020.

### TREWA MEMBERSHIP FORM

Membership valid August 1, 2020, through July 31, 2021.

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  
 Jana Bishop  
 Membership Chair  
 1122 Colorado St., 24th Floor  
 Austin, TX 78701

Email: [jbishop@lyntegar.coop](mailto:jbishop@lyntegar.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

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