

# The Lamplighter

TEXAS RURAL ELECTRIC WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

APRIL 2018



Bobbi Byford,  
Lamplighter Editor

## KNOWLEDGE IS POWER.

You have the power. The power to create change. A group of ladies many years ago, had the power and energy to create the Texas Rural Womens Association (TREWA). The goal was to teach others the benefits of the electric cooperative system in rural America. The earlier years focused on educating and creating an interest and understanding of the need to improve the quality of life in rural Texas.

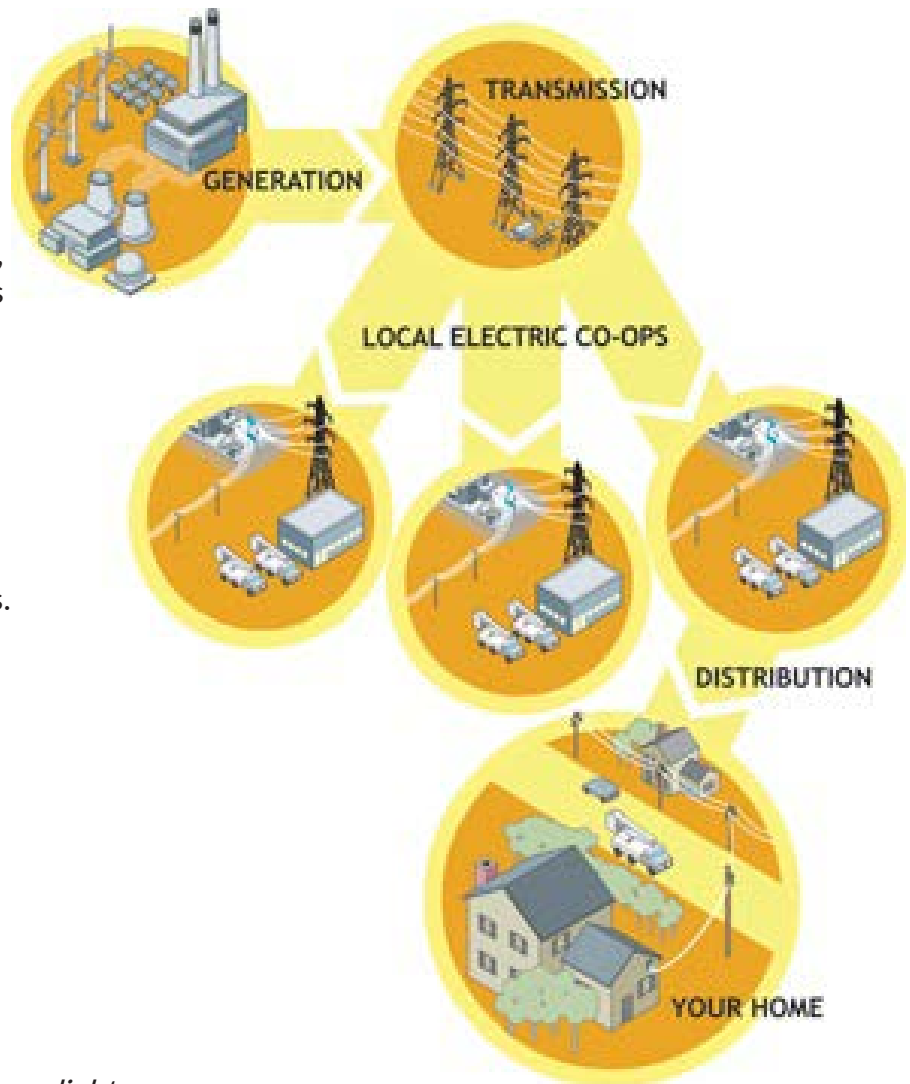
Welcome to Electricity 101. Young or old, education is a powerful tool, and so is electricity.

Electricity is made at a power plant then moves through a system of bulk transmission lines that carry large amounts of electricity over long distances. To keep electric power flowing efficiently, transformers increase the voltage in the transmission lines. As the voltage increases, the force of the electricity pushing the lines increases.

To route electricity to an electric cooperative, a town, or factory, a transmission line interconnects with a substation. At the substation, transformers reduce the high voltage and send the electricity onto distribution lines that deliver power to consumers and businesses.

On the distribution line, the voltage is reduced again by another transformer (often seen on a power pole outside a home) to the 240-volt level required for safe use by equipment and appliances.

From the distribution transformer, the power channels through a meter that measures the kilowatt-hours used, and then travels to the electric co-op member's own distribution panel and home circuit breakers.



Stay tuned in the upcoming issues of the *Lamplighter* as we continue to share the POWER.

# ARE YOU READY?

*Be prepared for tornado and hurricane season! Know the signs, gather supplies, have a shelter or evacuation plan, and most importantly...  
**STAY SAFE!***



## Tornado Safety Tips

### Practice and Prepare

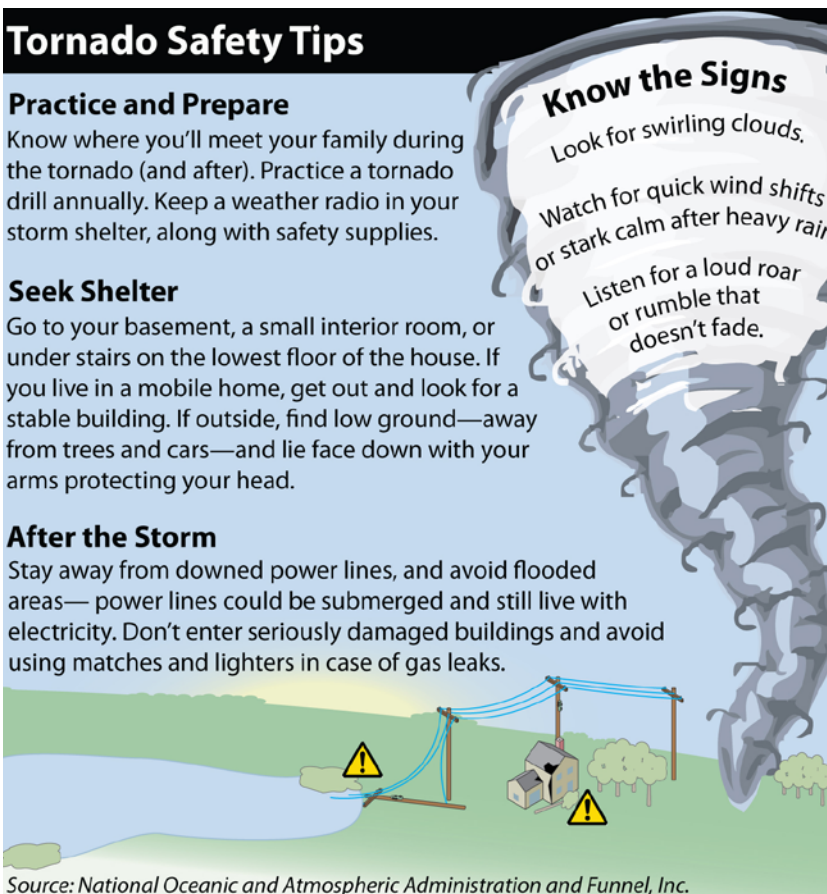
Know where you'll meet your family during the tornado (and after). Practice a tornado drill annually. Keep a weather radio in your storm shelter, along with safety supplies.

### Seek Shelter

Go to your basement, a small interior room, or under stairs on the lowest floor of the house. If you live in a mobile home, get out and look for a stable building. If outside, find low ground—away from trees and cars—and lie face down with your arms protecting your head.

### After the Storm

Stay away from downed power lines, and avoid flooded areas—power lines could be submerged and still live with electricity. Don't enter seriously damaged buildings and avoid using matches and lighters in case of gas leaks.



The Atlantic hurricane season runs from June 1 to November 30, with the peak occurring between mid-August and late October. The Eastern Pacific hurricane season begins May 15 and ends November 30.



Tornadoes can strike in any season, but occur most often in the spring and summer months. They can happen at all hours of the day and night, but are most likely to emerge between 3 P.M. and 9 P.M.



## Energy Efficiency

In spring and summer months, set your ceiling fans to turn in the counterclockwise direction. This will create a cool breeze. Remember, ceiling fans cool people, not rooms. Turn them off when you leave the room.

Source: [energystar.gov](http://energystar.gov)



## Laundry for Less:

Full loads = fewer cycles. Run washers and dryers in the evenings, during non-peak hours.



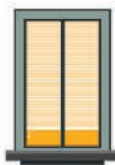
## Summer Storm Safety Tip

Strong summer storms can create dangerous situations. Always avoid downed power lines - the wire could be live, which could be deadly for those nearby. Quickly report downed power lines to your local electric cooperative.



## Summer Energy-Saving Tips

Costs associated with cooling your home can make up a large portion of your summer electric bills. Stay cool and save money with these energy efficiency tips!



### NO-COST TIPS

Close blinds and drapes during the day to keep heat out.



Set your thermostat to 78 degrees when you are home. Set it to a higher temperature when you're away.



Turn off lights and ceiling fans when you leave a room.



### LOW-COST TIPS

Plant trees and shrubs to shade the exterior of your home.



Replace disposable air filters (or clean permanent filters) once a month to maximize efficiency.



Use solar lighting to brighten up your outdoor space. Solar lights are easy to install, low maintenance and provide free electricity.

# 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, P.O. 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 help provide funds for TREWA scholarships and donations to Rural Friends/ACRE.

## 2017-18 TREWA Board of Directors

### Group 1

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*"When one door of happiness closes, another opens; but often we look so long at the closed door that we do not see the one which has been opened for us."*

- Helen Keller

# TREWA MEMBERSHIP

*Current memberships expire July 31, 2018.*

## TREWA MEMBERSHIP FORM

Membership valid August 1, 2017, through July 31, 2018.

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  
 Christina Martinez  
 Membership Chair  
 1122 Colorado St., 24th Floor  
 Austin, TX 78701

Email: [christina.martinez@bluebonnet.coop](mailto:christina.martinez@bluebonnet.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:

- e Comanche EC, Group 4
- e CoServ Electric, Group 3
- e Heart of Texas EC, Group 2
- e Houston County EC, Group 1
- e North Plains EC, Group 5
- e Taylor EC, Group 4
- e 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).