

The Lamplighter

TEXAS RURAL ELECTRIC WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

JANUARY 2018



Karen Culpepper,
President

President's Message

Time flies' when you are having fun and 2017 passed by at the speed of light.

They say "Keep Austin Weird," but how TREWA rocked Austin at the 2017 TEC Annual Meeting was not WEIRD, but WOW. Culturally and artistically, the talent displayed in the Arts and Crafts sale and silent auction items certainly led to its success. To be honest it was NOT a silent auction — we were not silent, but shouted out loud and proud, because through the generosity of all who participated we raised \$51,383.30. These funds will support the TREWA Scholarship Program, Rural Friends/Acre and the Government-In-Action Youth Tour.

TREWA's mission is not only to support these programs, but also to educate young and old about the importance and history of the cooperative way. Throughout 2018 in a quarterly Lamplighter we will share cooperative history and electric safety information. Our rural communities are not necessarily so rural these days so there is a necessity to pass along the cooperative message to a lot of new friends and neighbors. It doesn't hurt to remind ourselves as well.

Our cooperative roots run deep and so does our Texas history. We will be visiting another historical city for the 2018 TEC Annual Meeting this year and here's a little chorus to give you a clue.

I've been away for a while,
But it still brings a smile
When I think of the way that it goes
Now I'll sing it to you
Just so we both can do
That old San Antonio Stroll.

That's right! We will find ourselves strolling the Riverwalk, visiting the Alamo, shopping at the Market Place and enjoying all the cultural aspects of this historic city. Mark your calendars to attend the 2018 TEC Annual Meeting, August 5-8, in San Antonio. Also, don't forget we would greatly appreciate any donations of arts, crafts and silent auction items to assist in our annual fundraising efforts. Like I said...

Yes, I'll sing it to you
Just so we both can do
That old San Antonio Stroll.





Texas Rural Electric Cooperative History

Cooperatives bring electricity to rural and suburban Texas, turning on the lights and improving quality of life.

By the 1930s, most urban areas in the United States and Texas had already been living with the conveniences of electricity for nearly 50 years.

A nighttime view over Texas during that era would have shown large clusters of light glowing around Dallas/Fort Worth, Houston, San Antonio, El Paso and Austin. Aside from a few scattered pockets, the rest of the state would have been totally dark.

It was simply not profitable for the existing large, private power companies to serve rural areas. Farm and ranch wives cooked on wood stoves; children did their homework by the dim light of coal-oil lamps; water was pumped by hand, just as it had been for centuries. Radio communication with the outside world was all but unknown.

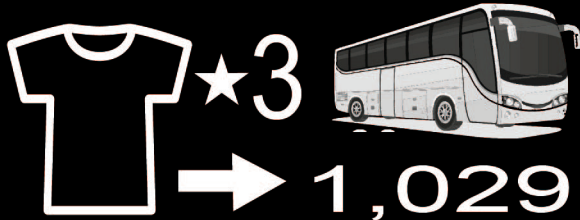
Finally, in 1935, with the establishment of the Rural Electrification Administration, farmers and ranchers could borrow federal money and take it upon themselves to form local, consumer-owned electric cooperatives. At last, light shone on rural America. The impact was even greater than anyone had imagined. By 1940, 567 cooperatives across the nation were providing electricity to 1.5 million consumers in 46 states. Today, nearly 900 electric co-ops serve 40 million people in 47 states.

In 1935, Bartlett Electric Cooperative in Central Texas was first in the nation to turn on the lights for its members. Today, Bartlett EC is one of the 75 electric cooperatives—64 distribution co-ops and 11 generation and transmission co-ops—that provide safe, reliable electric service at a reasonable cost to nearly 3 million member-consumers in Texas. Texas co-ops own more than 320,000 miles of line serving more than 2.1 million meters in 241 of the state's 254 counties.

Electric cooperatives are democratic, tax-paying, not-for-profit businesses governed by member-elected boards of directors. As member-owned utilities, the distribution systems are self-regulating. In addition to providing electricity and other products and services to their member-consumers, electric co-ops adhere to a proud tradition of community service. Co-op members and employees participate in economic development efforts and are involved in charitable undertakings and numerous other volunteer activities that contribute to quality of life in the communities they serve.

How are we making a difference?

YOUTH TOUR
147  Students



SCHOLARSHIPS
\$10,000

RURAL FRIENDS/ACRE
\$20,000



THANK YOU

to the
2017 Sponsors

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- Techline, Inc.
- Texas Electric Cooperatives

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| Fort Belknap EC | San Miguel EC |
| Hamilton County EC | Sam Houston EC |
| Heart of Texas EC | Upshur Rural |
| Houston County EC | Wood County EC |
| J-A-C EC | |

TREWA Scholarships

Hear Ye Hear Ye are you continuing your education or just beginning to enter college. Twenty (20) TREWA scholarships of \$1,500 each will be awarded to CURRENT TREWA members and their children.

1. Applicant or applicant's parent or guardian must also be a current member or an employee of a Texas electric cooperative or an employee of Texas Electric Cooperatives, Inc. Applicant must be a current member of TREWA.

2. Grades received in high school will not be the deciding factor in the selection process.

3. Scholarships will be awarded to graduating high school seniors, full-time college students or adults, who have been accepted as a full-time student to attend any accredited college, university, junior college, community college, trade/technical school or business school of their choice.

4. Courses must be taken in credit towards a degree, certificate, diploma or license and awarded by the educational institution.

5. Judging is based on leadership qualities, career focus, personal need, energy awareness, essay content and general knowledge of the rural electric program.

DEADLINE: March 15, 2018





Silent Auction & Craft Sale Donation Form

YES! I will donate 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

Ann Horn
Arts & Crafts
Jasper-Newton EC
(409) 423-2241
ext. 120 • ahorn@jnec.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
Lyntegar EC
(806) 470-9270
jbishop@lyntegar.coop



Group 6

Christina Martinez
Membership Chair
Bluebonnet EC
(512) 332-7924
Christina.martinez@bluebonnet.coop



Group 7

Priscilla Burgos
Secretary/Treasurer
Victoria EC
(361) 573-2428
pburgos@victoriaelectric.coop



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



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



Why are you a TREWA Member

“I was appointed to this board by director Audie Morris and have remained on this board because of my commitment to the cooperative way! It’s not easy, but nothing worthwhile usually is, but when you see how much money TREWA raises and how generous the people are, it warms your heart. The TREWA board is not just a board, it’s a group of ladies from different cooperatives but with the same vision of helping others. We are a family and friends to one another, we encourage and pray for each other. For me, I know that God put some of the ladies in my path for a reason!” ~ Karen Culpepper, TREWA President

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



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.