

Welcome to Your Hometown Co-op



**MESSAGE
FROM
MANAGER
ALAN
LESLEY**

Our community has changed over the years. You may remember as a kid buying groceries and hardware at mom-and-pop stores—most of which are now long gone, driven out by national retailers.

It seems everything today has become a bit generic, focused more on making money than serving and developing relationships with people. Yet it's nice to know there are still locally owned and controlled businesses that you can count on—such as Comanche Electric Cooperative.

October is celebrated as National Co-op Month by cooperative businesses of all types, which have shown great resiliency throughout the financial crisis and economic recession, continuing to meet members' needs even as profit-driven businesses failed to deliver.

By receiving electricity from the co-op, you're a member and part owner of one of those successful businesses. You have a say in how the co-op is run. Your voice rings loud and clear every year at the annual meeting. That's where you join Comanche EC's other members to elect fellow

members to represent your concerns on a daily basis.

At the annual meeting in August, the membership confirmed the Comanche Electric Cooperative Board of Directors for 2010-11. They are Randy Denning, District 1; Doc Murphree, District 2; Ruby Solomon, District 3; Monty Carlisle, District 4; Troy Stewart, District 5; Loren Stroebel, District 6; and Phil Taylor, District 7. These people live near you. They want what you want: affordable energy bills and the comfort of knowing lights will turn on when you flip a switch.

With those goals in mind, board members work throughout the year to guide policy for our electric system

listening to your concerns and ideas.

The board's role is a simple one: to look out for the interests of the membership. And you can be sure they're motivated to do so, because they're members, too. Remember, you and other members elect them.

Like other cooperative businesses, Comanche Electric Cooperative is founded on a set of seven principles, including voluntary and open membership. Anyone who needs electricity within our service territory, regardless of race, religion, sex or economic circumstances, can become an owner of this hometown co-op.

If you were at our annual meeting in August we are proud you were able



If you were at our annual meeting in August, we are proud you were able to attend. If not, we look forward to seeing you next August as our community joins voices to guide the co-op.

and keep power reliable. They focus on educating members about using energy efficiently. They talk to you in the grocery store and on the street,

to attend. If not, we look forward to seeing you next year in August as our community joins voices to guide the co-op.



Comanche EC Welcomes New Employee

Comanche Electric Cooperative is proud to introduce our newest member, Thomas Hesbrook, to our cooperative family. Tommy began employment in April through a staffing agency, and became a permanent employee on July 6. Tommy is a graduate of Gustine High School, and he lives in Gustine with his family. He is married to Sylvia Hesbrook, and the couple has two daughters: Faith DeAnn and Kylee Hope. Tommy is an apprentice lineman and works with our Comanche crew. He is a motivated individual and an important asset to our team. Please join us in welcoming him into the family.

AT COMANCHE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Conservation Matters

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Even Older Appliances Can Be More Efficient

Whether you have the newest, most efficient electric appliances or you're hanging onto some that practically qualify as antiques, you can use them smarter so they waste less energy.

Here are some free and easy ways to cut waste—and your energy bill:

- Move your refrigerator away from the stove, dishwasher and heating vents. The heat from those devices makes the refrigerator work harder to stay cold, so it runs less efficiently.
- If your refrigerator's coils are exposed, vacuum them every three months. When dirt builds up on the coils, the appliance has to use more energy to keep your food cold.
- Repair the gaskets on your refrigerator's door if they come loose. Damaged gaskets let cold air leak out of the refrigerator.
- If your old freezer doesn't self-defrost, do it yourself—as soon as a quarter-inch of ice builds up.

- Stop rinsing dishes by hand before you load them into the dishwasher, especially if yours has a pre-rinse or rinse/hold cycle. Simply scrape leftover food from the plates and let the dishwasher do the rest.

- Set your dishwasher to its "energy-saver" feature and leave it there so it saves energy every time you use it.

- Match the size of your pots and pans to the size of the stovetop burner you're using.

- Cover pots and pans with lids so you can cook at a lower burner setting.

- Select the "small load" setting on your washing machine when you don't have enough laundry to fill the tub.

- Clean your clothes dryer filters after each load. This not only keeps the appliance from working too hard, it can also prevent a fire.

- Set your water heater to 120 degrees. That's hot enough, even though some manufacturers preset theirs to 140 degrees.

Comanche EC Offers Leadership Opportunity to High School Students



On November 3, Comanche Electric Cooperative will be hosting its annual S.O.S. (System of Service) Program for high school juniors. The S.O.S. Program, formerly known as the John Ben Shepperd Leadership Forum, is a joint effort of Comanche Electric Cooperative and the University of Texas at Permian Basin. This forum prepares students to "think outside the box" and develop unique and workable solutions to day-to-day problems. It teaches practical information and skills to students with leadership potential. It is interactive, entertaining and educational. The experiences, skills and techniques of successful business, political and civic leaders are combined with the ambition and idealism of students for a sound System of Service. Students with diverse backgrounds are not only introduced to current and future leaders, but are also given a networking opportunity with students of similar backgrounds.

If you have a student who is a junior in high school and has leadership potential, and if that student would be interested in our program, please have them contact their school counselor or principal, or contact Shirley at the Comanche Electric Cooperative office at (325) 356-2533 or 1-800-915-2533, or by e-mail at sdukes@ceca.coop before October 13.



Comanche Electric Coop

Six-hundred ninety people attended the 72nd annual meeting of Comanche Electric Cooperative on August 14 at Comanche City Park. Registration and a free health fair began at 9 a.m. Attending members received a door prize of an energy-efficiency kit and a folding chair. They then made their way to the big tent where they were greeted with the music of John Kirby and the Class of '57, who entertained them with a mix of 1950s rock 'n' roll plus a little bit of country.

Members also had the option of

visiting the health fair, where Abilene Regional Hospital offered free cholesterol screenings; CARE Inc. distributed homemade cookies; Comanche County Clinic and Comanche County Medical Center offered free blood pressure checks; Cross Timbers Community Health Center offered blood glucose testing; Ruth Tippie performed back massages; and Air Evac, CARR (City and Rural Rides), Juice Plus, Comanche Hospice, Comanche Home Health, Mid-Tex Hearing and Western Hills Nursing Home passed out literature.

At 10 a.m., the meeting was called to order by Board Chairman Lewie Newman, followed by the national anthem sung by Christine Salmon and signed by Kari Rust, along with the presentation of colors by the De Leon Boy Scouts.

The purpose of the meeting was to elect directors for Districts 3, 5 and 6. Incumbents Ruby Solomon and Loren Stroebel ran uncontested for Districts 3 and 6. Lewie Newman, longtime director from District 5, chose not to run for an additional term. At the District 5 meeting held at the May High School on June 14, members nomi-



Cooperative Celebrates 72 Years

nated Troy Stewart and Jeff Phillips, both from the May community, to run for the board. Three hundred twenty-three members voted and elected Troy Stewart as the District 5 director.

Directors for the 2010-11 year are: Randy Denning, District 1; Doc Murphree, District 2; Ruby Solomon, District 3 and secretary to the board; Monty Carlisle, District 4 and board chairman; Troy Stewart, District 5; Phil Taylor, District 6 and vice chairman of the board; and Loren Stroebel, District 7.

While ballots were being cast, Gen-

eral Manager Alan Lesley gave the annual report to the membership, and scholarship winner Jeremy Phillips thanked members for his \$1,000 award. Service pins were awarded to the following employees for their years of service: Adam Constancio, Brandon Cook, Craig Hardy and Dale Ogle, 5 years; Pam McClain, 10 years; and Kellie Deters and Shirley Dukes, 20 years. Larry Jacobs was awarded a 30-year pin and a meter lamp for his long years of service. Outgoing board member Newman was awarded a meter lamp for his 16 years of service to the cooperative.

Under new business, members had the opportunity to take part in the democratic process by raising questions and concerns related to the cooperative.

The meeting closed with the much-anticipated luncheon of fish, chicken and all the trimmings by Cook's Fish Barn.

If you did not attend the 2010 annual meeting of Comanche Electric Cooperative, you were missed. We hope you will be able to attend next year when we celebrate 73 years of service.

CO-OP EMPLOYEES RECEIVE SERVICE AWARDS



Employees receiving their service awards are, from left: Adam Constancio, 5 years; Brandon Cook, 5 years; Shirley Dukes, 20 years; Larry Jacobs, 30 years, Craig Hardy, 5 years; Kellie Deters, 20 years; Pam McClain, 10 years; and Dale Ogle, 5 years.

Changes to CECA Billing To Be Implemented in October

Acting upon the recommendation of an exhaustive cost-of-service study, the Comanche Electric Cooperative Board of Directors approved an 8.24 percent rate increase in May 2009. This increase was designed to recover the rise in costs to provide electric service since the last rate change 8 years earlier.

In an effort to minimize the impact of the increase on our members, the decision was made to phase in the increase in small increments over a period of 4 years. The largest increase was implemented in October of 2009 with much smaller increases of \$1 per meter per month to be added in October each of the next 3 years.

The \$1 addition will be reflected on your November 2010 statement.

If you have any questions about the rate adjustment, please contact any CECA office.

WE WANT YOUR RECIPES!

Do you have a favorite recipe you would be willing to share?

Comanche Electric Cooperative would love to have your recipes for a members-only cookbook. You might even be featured on our website or newsletter! Send your submissions to Comanche Electric Cooperative, Attn: Shirley Dukes, P.O. Box 729, Comanche, TX 76442 or sdukes@ceca.coop.



Power TIP

SAVE ENERGY ■ SAVE MONEY

Check your attic insulation by climbing up high enough so you can see over the existing stuff. You should see a continuous sea of loose-fill insulation with no mountains or valleys. If you see a lot of lumber, you don't have enough insulation.

LOCAL. TRUSTED. SERVING YOU.™

The Cooperative Difference

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

OPEN & VOLUNTARY MEMBERSHIP

NONDISCRIMINATION

COOPERATION AMONG COOPERATIVES

SERVICE TO MEMBERS

ON-GOING EDUCATION

DEMOCRATIC MEMBER CONTROL

DISTRIBUTION TO MEMBERS

BUILDING FINANCIAL STABILITY

Learn more about cooperatives by visiting
www.nreca.coop or www.go.coop

Every October since 1930, not-for-profit cooperatives of all stripes have celebrated Cooperative Month. During this time, it makes sense to highlight the qualities that make electric cooperatives different from other types of utilities and businesses.

For starters, electric co-ops like Comanche EC are owned by those they serve. That's why those who receive electric service from us are called members, not customers. Without members, there would be no Comanche Electric Cooperative.

Members maintain democratic control of our co-op, which means they elect fellow members to represent them on the board of directors at our annual meeting. As a bonus, co-op members receive special benefits through programs like the Co-op Connections Card, our Eco Power Rebate Program, Youth Tour Contest, scholarships and free energy audits. We also return margins ("profits") to our members in the form of capital credits.

One principle that sets us apart from other businesses is our concern for community. As a cooperative, we have a special responsibility to support the areas in which our members live and work. From offering arcing demonstrations to schools and organizations to supporting new jobs and industry through our economic development efforts, we stand as a driving force in our community.

Of course, co-ops span all industries, including credit unions, dairy operations, health care, housing and much more. There are more than 29,000 co-ops across the nation. And not all are small or rural. Just look at nationally known co-ops like Sunkist, Ace Hardware and Land O' Lakes.

Overall, co-ops are more accessible than other types of businesses. We give our members a voice, and we are local—living and working alongside those we serve.

That's the cooperative difference.



Keep an eye on your pets when they're near hot surfaces.

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BEWARE

Not All Fire Hazards Are Obvious

When you do a sweep of your home for fire hazards, don't overlook these not-so-common problems in the making:

■ **Security bars on the windows.** If you feel you need them, buy the kind that have a quick-release device that opens from the inside.

■ **Lightbulbs in closets.** Cleaning out your closet could help prevent a fire. Closets often have a single, exposed lightbulb that can ignite clothes and boxes stacked too close. In fact, 12 percent of house fires start in a closet. Likewise, if you have a skylight in a closet, the sun can literally scorch your clothes. Cover your skylights with UV film.

■ **Smoke alarms that don't work.** Locate smoke alarms high on the wall or on the ceiling and have one outside of every bedroom in your house. Install carbon monoxide alarms, too—but place them low on the wall. The best device won't operate properly if you don't install it right—or if the batteries aren't fresh.

■ **Pets.** Your cat or dog can knock over candles and space heaters, swat flammables onto a hot stovetop, chew through wires or even accidentally turn on a stove. Create barriers between your pet and potential hazards.