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## NOTICE OF

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# CECA 2017 DISTRICT MEETING

**A \$15 credit on electric service will be given to each member (family) of District 2 attending.**

Refreshments will be served, and prizes will be given away during the meeting.

*Handicapped-accessible facilities will be provided upon request.*

### **TO: ALL MEMBERS IN DISTRICT 2**

Comanche County (Highway 36 east from Comanche, thence south and west to Highway 36)

**The district meeting will be held at Comanche Community Center**

100 Indian Creek Drive, Comanche • Monday, August 14, 2017 • 6 p.m.

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**This meeting is for the purpose of nominating candidates for director of District 2.**

*(Please refer to the official bylaws printed herein for requirements and information concerning election of directors.)*

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**This meeting also will be open for discussion of any affairs of the cooperative.**



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

**TEXAS CO-OP POWER**



**TO:** All Members in District 2  
**FROM:** Alan Lesley, General Manager  
**SUBJECT:** Nomination of Directors

The CECA Board of Directors and I would like to personally invite you to attend your District 2 meeting. The purpose of this meeting is to nominate candidates for director who will be placed on the ballot for the annual meeting of the membership in October and be elected at large.

Additionally, we will review a variety of issues in the electric industry that most affect our members.

The meeting will be open for discussion of any question or suggestion you have concerning your cooperative.

Who are our owners? Our members. Which means that you, as members, have a voice in your cooperative. This meeting is a demonstration of the openness and transparency of your cooperative, and we hope you will take the time to attend.

One of the most important advantages cooperative members have is being able to participate in the nomination and selection of directors of their cooperative. Other utilities' boards of directors are selected by the voting of the numbers of shares owned by the shareholders, who are mainly interested in the rate of return on investment. Your cooperative is nonprofit. Because your directors are members themselves, their goal is quality service at a reasonable price.

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**PLEASE COMPLETE THE REGISTRATION CARD BELOW AND BRING IT TO THE DISTRICT MEETING. THIS CARD IS YOUR ENTRY FOR THE PRIZE DRAWINGS.**



## **REGISTRATION CARD FOR DISTRICT 2 MEETING**

Monday, August 14, 2017 • 6 p.m.

**NAME**

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**ADDRESS**

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**TELEPHONE NUMBER (            )**

**ACCOUNT NUMBER**

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## Following is an excerpt from the bylaws of CECA detailing important information about director nominations.

### ARTICLE III • DIRECTORS

#### SECTION 3.2. QUALIFICATIONS AND TENURE

A. No Member shall be eligible to become or remain as Director or to hold any position of trust in the Cooperative who is 1) not a bona-fide resident in the area served by the Cooperative; 2) not receiving electric service from the cooperative at their primary residence; or 3) who is in any way employed by or financially interested in a competing enterprise or a business selling electric energy or supplies to the Cooperative or a business primarily engaged in selling electrical or plumbing appliances, fixtures or supplies to the Members of the Cooperative; and 4) no person shall take or hold office as a Director who is the incumbent or elected to public office in connection with which a salary is paid.

B. When a membership is held jointly by a husband and wife, either one, but not both, may be elected a Director; provided, however, that neither one shall be eligible to become or remain a Director or to hold a position of trust in the Cooperative unless both shall meet the qualifications hereinabove set forth except that the spouse is not required to be a resident of the area served by the Cooperative. Nothing contained in this section shall be construed to affect in any manner whatsoever the validity of any action taken at any meeting of the Board of Directors.

C. No employee or former employee shall be eligible to serve as Director until fifteen (15) years have elapsed from date of termination or retirement of employment.

#### SECTION 3.3. DISTRICTS PLAN

**DISTRICTS DESCRIBED.** The territory served or to be served by the Cooperative shall be divided into seven (7) Districts, and each district shall be represented by one director. Said seven (7) Districts shall be as follows:

**District 1**—Comanche County (Highway 16 north of Comanche, thence east to Highway 36)

**District 2**—Comanche County (Highway 36 east from Comanche, thence south and west to Highway 36)

**District 3**—Comanche County (Highway 36 northwest from Comanche, thence east to Highway 16)

**District 4**—Mills County, plus that portion of Brown County south of Highway 67 and including that portion of Brown County west or south of Pecan Bayou

**District 5**—Brown County north of Highway 67 and east or north of Pecan Bayou

**District 6**—Eastland and Callahan counties, less that portion of Eastland County east or north of Highway 6

**District 7**—Stephens and Shackelford counties, plus that portion of Eastland County east or north of Highway 6

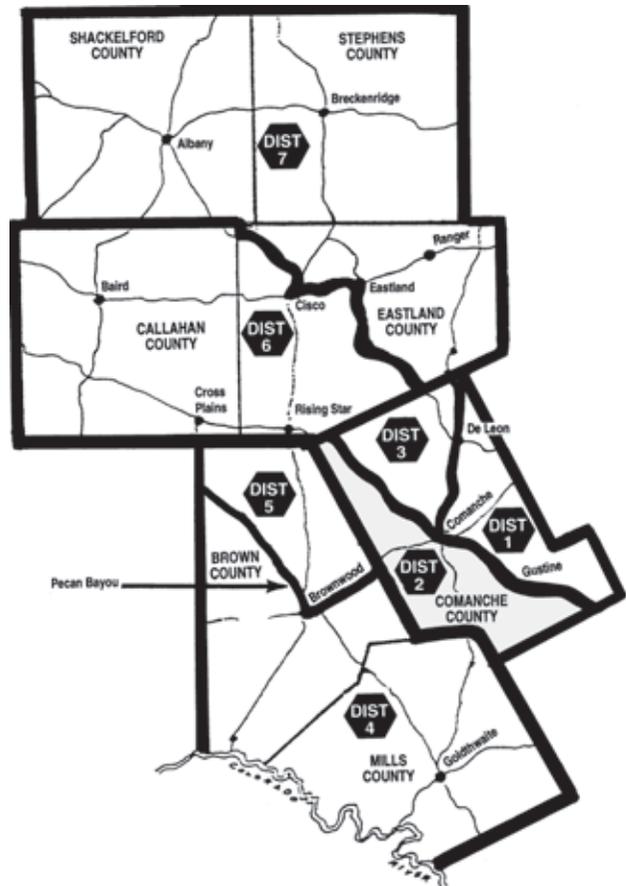
Not less than seventy (70) nor more than ninety (90) days before the annual meeting of the Members in each year for the election of Directors, the board of Directors shall review the composition of the several Districts and if it should be found that inequalities in representation have developed which can be corrected by a re-delineation of Districts or by the addition of Districts, the board of Directors shall reconstitute the Districts.

**DIRECTOR TERMS.** A Director's term begins: 1) after the individual consents to being elected or appointed as a Director; and 2) at the beginning of the first Board Meeting held after the Director is elected or appointed. A Director's term ends after: 1) a successor Director consents to being elected or appointed as a Director; and 2) at the beginning of the first Board Meeting held after a successor Director is elected or appointed. Directors' terms shall be three (3) years. Directors shall be elected on a staggered-term basis.

**NOMINATION OF DIRECTORS.** Not less than thirty (30) nor more than ninety (90) days before the annual meeting of Members for the election of Directors, the Board of Directors shall call a meeting or meetings of the Members of such Districts as are to have vacancies for Director, such meetings to be held not less than twenty (20) days prior to the annual meeting of the Members at suitable places in the Districts affected.

The purpose of the District meetings shall be to nominate, by vote of those Members present in person, no more than two candidates for each vacancy occurring on the Board of Directors. Notice of each District meeting of Members shall be given by the Secretary for such length of time and in such manner as the Board of Directors may direct provided that a written notice stating the place, day and hour and the purpose of such meeting, shall be published in a publication, not less than ten (10) days prior to such District Meeting. Such District Meetings however, shall be open for discussion of any other matters pertaining to the business of the Cooperative, regardless

## CECA BOARD DISTRICT BOUNDARIES



of whether or not such matters were listed in the notice of the meeting, and recommendations with respect thereto may be submitted to the Board of Directors.

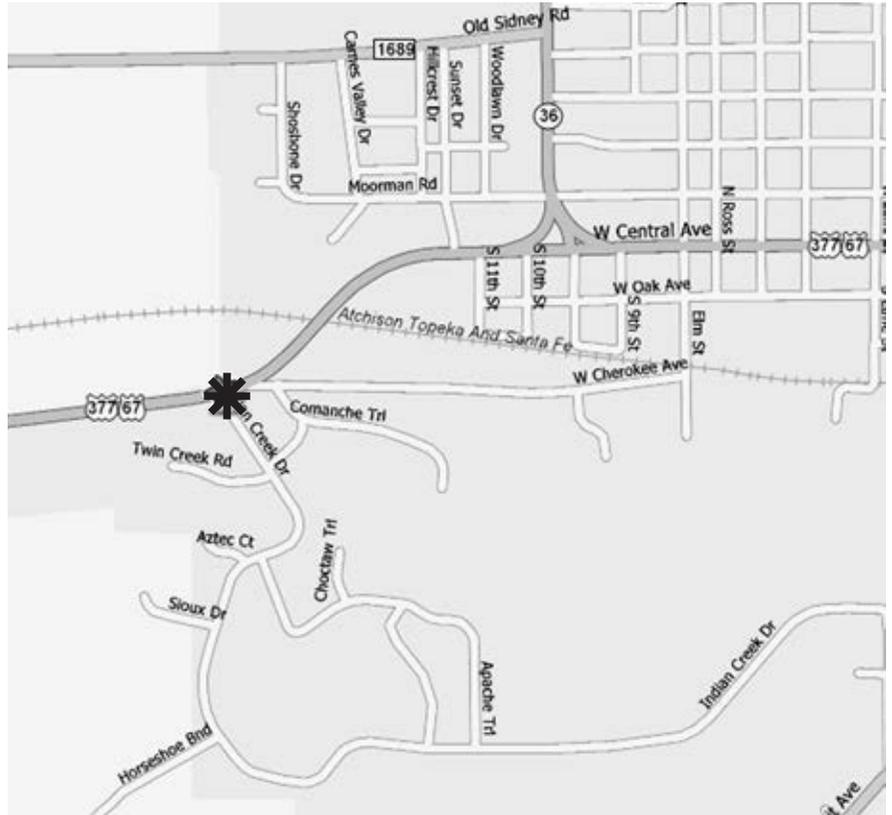
The first order of business at each District Meeting shall be the selection of a Chairman, who shall appoint a Secretary to act for the duration of the meeting. Fifteen (15) of the Members residing in the District present at such duly called District Meeting shall constitute a quorum, but in the event a quorum is not present at such meeting, the Director then serving such District shall be the official nominee for such District. Nominations for Director may be made from the floor at the annual meeting and any Member residing in the District shall have the right to nominate one candidate, which must be seconded by a Member from that District. The meeting shall remain open for nominations until no further nominations are forthcoming, but in no case more than five minutes. Candidates must be Members residing in the District and must possess the qualifications for Director specified in Section 3.2 of the Cooperative's Bylaws.

Voting shall be in person only. Mail-in ballot and proxy voting shall not be permitted at any District Meeting. Each Member present may vote for one nominee as above provided for such District. The two candidates for each place on the Board of Directors receiving the highest number of votes shall be the official nominees of the District. The minutes of such District meeting shall set forth, among other matters the name of each person nominated at the meeting and the number of votes received by each, and shall certify the two nominees receiving the highest number of votes as the official nominees of the District for Director. A certified copy of the minutes, signed by the Secretary and the Chairman of the District Meeting, shall be delivered to the Secretary of the Cooperative within five (5) days after such District Meeting.

The Secretary of the Cooperative shall prepare and post at the principal office of the Cooperative at least fifteen (15) days before the meeting of Members for the election of Directors, a list of nominations for Directors as shown by said certified copies of minutes of said District Meetings. The Secretary shall mail with the notice of the meeting of the Members for election of Directors, or separately, but at least ten (10) days prior to the meeting, a statement of the number of Directors to be elected and showing separately the nominations made by the respective Districts.

# MEETING FOR MEMBERS IN DISTRICT 2

**Comanche Community Center**  
100 Indian Creek Drive, Comanche  
Monday, August 14, 2017 • 6 p.m.



## You Get More Power From an Electric Co-op

As a member-owner of an electric co-op, you have a lot of power. You can vote for your board of directors. You can make your opinions heard at member meetings because you are the owner. That's a huge advantage over the big, corporate power companies. Their customers have no say in the management of the company: No vote for the board of directors and no stake in the power company's future. That's why co-ops work so well throughout America: Because when people want power, we deliver.



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

*We Get Our Power From You—  
Our Member-Owners.*



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## NOTICE OF

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# CECA 2017 DISTRICT MEETING

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### **TO: ALL MEMBERS IN DISTRICT 4**

Mills County, plus the portion of Brown County south of Highway 67 and including the portion of Brown County west or south of Pecan Bayou

**The district meeting will be held at Mullin Community Center**

409 W. Sherman St., Mullin • Thursday, August 17, 2017 • 6 p.m.

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**This meeting is for the purpose of nominating candidates for director of District 4.**

*(Please refer to the official bylaws printed herein for requirements and information concerning election of directors.)*

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Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

**TEXAS CO-OP POWER**



**TO:** All Members in District 4  
**FROM:** Alan Lesley, General Manager  
**SUBJECT:** Nomination of Directors

The CECA Board of Directors and I would like to personally invite you to attend your District 4 meeting. The purpose of this meeting is to nominate candidates for director who will be placed on the ballot for the annual meeting of the membership in October and be elected at large.

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Thursday, August 17, 2017 • 6 p.m.

**NAME**

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**ADDRESS**

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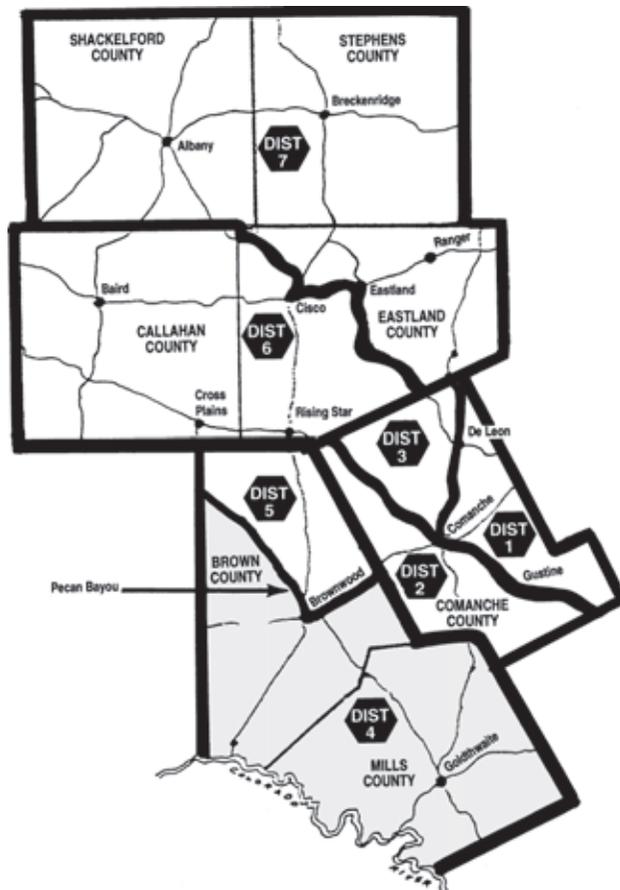
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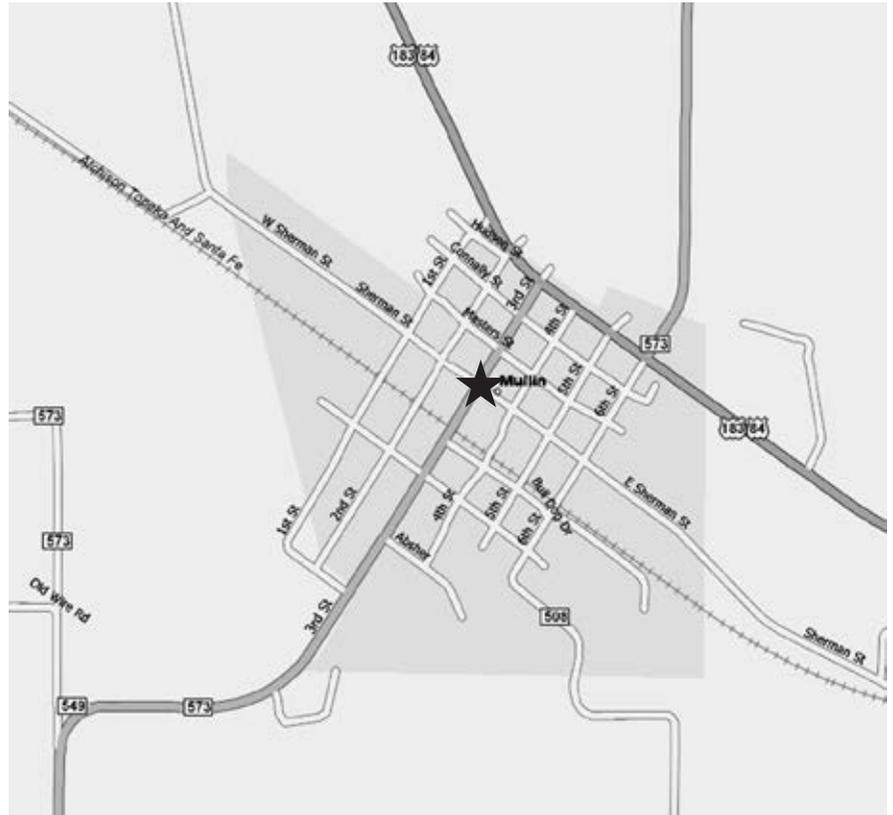
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# MEETING FOR MEMBERS IN DISTRICT 4

## Mullin Community Center

409 W. Sherman St., Mullin

Thursday, August 17, 2017 • 6 p.m.



## You Get More Power From an Electric Co-op

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Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

*We Get Our Power From You—  
Our Member-Owners.*

# Appreciating Electricity, One Penny at a Time

*You can still get value for just a penny's worth of electricity*



## MESSAGE FROM GENERAL MANAGER ALAN LESLEY

*I recently ran across a column written by Curtis Condon, editor*

*of Ruralite magazine in Hillsboro, Oregon. His points were so enlightening, I thought I'd share them with you this month.*

**SOME OF US ARE OLD ENOUGH** to remember when penny candy actually cost a penny.

But what does a penny buy these days? Not much. The government can't even make a penny *for* a penny anymore. According to the U.S. Mint, it now costs 1.5 cents to produce one.

About the only thing of value that you can still get for a penny is electricity. I'm not kidding.

Let's pretend the average rate for a kilowatt-hour of electricity is 10 cents. That's 60 minutes of 1,000 watts of electricity for a dime, so a penny of electricity equates to 100 watts. It's enough to power a 9-watt LED lightbulb—the equivalent of a 60-watt incandescent bulb—for 11 hours, all for only a penny.

The value is just as evident when powering things besides lighting. Take, for instance, your smartphone. Using the same 10 cents per kWh price, one penny's worth of electricity allows you to fully charge your iPhone more than 18 times. You can charge it once every day of the year for about 20 cents total.

We are fortunate electricity is such an excellent value because we have a huge appetite for it. We tend to forget that.

Electricity is not expensive. The expense is due to our using it for so many different things: lighting, heating, cooking, cooling, refrigeration, cleaning, washing, pumping, entertainment, communications—even transportation these days.

Unfortunately, we don't always appreciate it. When our monthly electric bill comes, we open it and might complain about the cost. It's a knee-jerk reaction ingrained in us as consumers. We don't stop to think about the value we receive for the money.

In 1940, when many co-ops were built, a penny had as much buying power as 17 cents today. This means the residential price of electricity—which now averages 12 cents a kWh nationally—is actually a better deal today than it was in 1940. And it won't rot your teeth.



## Strengthening Our Roots

# Let's Go Power Blogging!



Check out the  
*CECA Power Blog*  
to keep up with the latest  
news and information  
about your cooperative!  
[www.cecacoop.com/blog](http://www.cecacoop.com/blog)



P.O. Box 729, Comanche, TX 76442

Operating in Brown, Callahan, Comanche, Eastland, Mills, Shackelford and Stephens counties

#### HEADQUARTERS

201 W. Wrights Ave.  
Comanche, TX 76442

#### EARLY OFFICE

1801 CR 338  
Early, TX 76801

#### EASTLAND OFFICE

1311 W. Main St.  
Eastland, TX 76448

#### OFFICE HOURS

**Comanche Office:** Monday–Friday  
7:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m.

**Early Office:** Monday, Wednesday  
and Friday 7:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m.,  
closed 1–2 p.m.

**Eastland Office:** Tuesday and  
Thursday 8 a.m.–4 p.m.

#### General Manager

Alan Lesley

#### Board of Directors

Randy Denning, District 1  
Pete McDougal, District 2  
Ruby Solomon, District 3  
Monty Carlisle, District 4  
Troy Stewart, District 5  
Loren Stroebel, District 6  
Phil Taylor, District 7

#### Report an Outage

CECA crews are available 24/7 in the event of a power quality issue by calling 1-800-915-2533.

## Contact Us

#### CALL US

1-800-915-2533 toll-free

#### FIND US ON THE WEB

[www.cecacoop.com](http://www.cecacoop.com)



[facebook.com/CECA.coop](https://facebook.com/CECA.coop)



CECA Operation Round-Up Board President Regina Johnson presents a \$1,000 Classroom Teacher Grant check to the Comanche ISD agriculture mechanics, fabrication and advanced welding class students. Pictured from left are Johnson, students Dillian Bill, Cody Constancio, Jeffrey Abbey, Clayton Martin and Trent Strickland, and teacher Phillip Beard.

## Ag Class Benefits From Operation Round-Up Grant

BY SHIRLEY KIDD DUKES

*It is a relatively common practice for Texas high school students to walk out of their ag class at the end of the year with a basic understanding of how to weld. But to walk out with an American Welding Society certification—which renders a student capable of obtaining a welding job at the age of 17 or 18—is a rare and special undertaking. Phillip Beard, agriculture science instructor for Comanche High School, had a strong desire to offer his 2017 agriculture mechanics, fabrication and advanced welding classes the opportunity to do just that. But Beard knew he would need to come up with more sophisticated equipment if he wanted to set his students up for success and turn that dream into reality.*

**ACCORDING TO A RECENT STUDY** by *Fortune*, millennials are starting more businesses and outperforming their parents, targeting higher profits than their baby boomer predecessors. The majority of these entrepreneurs are in the technology sector, a very important and ever-growing area. But what about those other graduating students whose expertise is outside the technology sector? What happens to those students? More and more public schools are concentrating their efforts on preparing those students for a successful future. Comanche ISD is no exception.

Very few students in secondary education become AWS-certified due to the rigor of the test involved as well as the cost of testing. Beard was certain his students were of a sufficient caliber in skills and maturity to handle the rigor and stress of testing. The problem, as he saw it, was that he had plenty of machines for his students, but they were almost all entry-level, hobby-type arc welding machines with AC polar-

ity. What he needed was dual AC/DC polarity machines. They had one, a 1979 model, and another machine that had recently been donated, but with a large class and class periods of only 46 minutes, these two machines were not sufficient for the program. The shop needed several more, at a cost of approximately \$2,500 each.

By utilizing the CECA Classroom Grant of \$1,000, along with federal funding courtesy of the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act, the school purchased a dual-polarity Miller Dialarc welder. The addition of this machine afforded students more time on the stick welder, allowing them to hone their skills and become more skilled in the trade, better preparing them for the test.

In preparation for the test, the students spent the school year completing 18 projects. Many were small projects that included table slag shields for welding and cutting safety; buffalo, Indians on horseback, cowboys and longhorns cut out

of 1/4-inch plate; ground-up refurbishing of three flatbed trailers; a 4-by-8-foot tool shed; 16-foot low-profile pig trailer; cattle squeeze chute; five fire pits; a cowboy cooker with an oven; two large bale feeders; concrete curbs and flower bed leveling; and a ramp on the school's stock trailer.

Thanks to the classes' presence on social media, they were asked to cut out some buffalo for a gentleman in the metroplex, who also wants four longhorns this fall. All projects are good practice for the students. These types of projects depend on the community. "If someone has a good idea and kind of unique, we'll do it," Beard said. "Everybody has been so supportive in the community. It's just been amazing."

In addition to their smaller works, the class constructed two large projects: a scraper for a local dairy and a low-profile trailer for the department. These two projects were taken to

*"It's all about the students, and that's how it should be."  
Phillip Beard, Comanche ISD Agriculture Science Instructor*

several competitions. The scraper won sixth place at the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo. The trailer won the show at Sul Ross University. Both projects won their class and division at a Kingsville competition, and the scraper won its division at Blinn College.

While many people think the shows are just a welding and fabrication contest, Beard assures it's not. "Building it is only 80 percent of it," he said. "Then they have to present it. It's almost like [being] a car salesman; you have to sell it." When the judges show up, Beard walks away. "It's all about the students, and that's how it should be," he said.

The students must not only show the judges what they did, but also explain how they made their project, the processes they went through to arrive at the final product, and why they did it that way. "When the judges walk up, it's game on," Beard said. "Basically it's an interview."

The students are separated for the interview, thus removing their power-in-numbers safety net. Every student is on his own with a judge.

Training throughout the school year comes in phases, depending on the classification of the students. The sophomores take ag mechanics and metal fabrication classes, where they learn all the basics, using a stick welder the first semester. Beard then breaks them out and teaches them oxy, acetylene and propane cutting, mig, and finally plasma cutting.

The junior class mainly does beginning fabrication projects such as the longhorns. The students in the 2017 junior class were more advanced than usual, allowing them to take on some more complicated projects such as the scraper, which ordinarily would be done their senior year.

The seniors have a double-block advanced class. These are

the students who built the low-profile trailer for show.

For the actual welding certification test, the students traveled to Stephenville, where Ranger Junior College is an AWS official testing site.

For the first phase of the test, each student is given a coupon, a 7-by-3-inch plate with a backing plate, and is required to perform a root weld, joining the three pieces. After the root weld is cleaned and the toes ground slightly, the subsequent passes are welded and cleaned until the cover weld is completed. The student is allowed to chip it out and clean it before it is presented to the inspector for the visual test. There are no grades on this type of test. It is either pass or fail, depending on whether or not the students were able to meet the parameters.

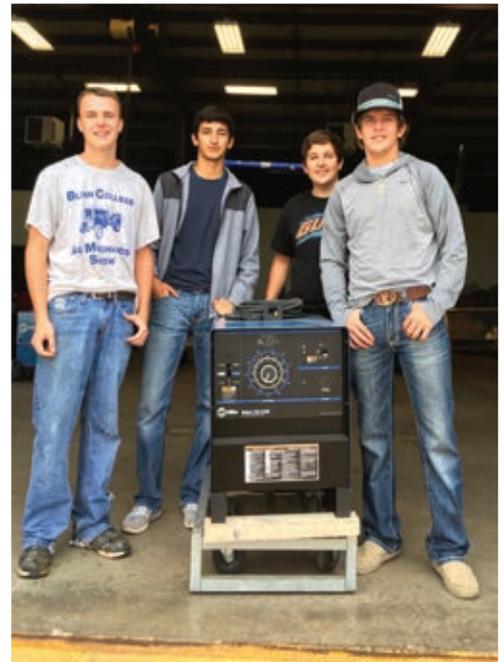
The next phase of the test consists of placing the completed coupons in a band saw to cut out the face and root strips that would be destructively tested in a hydraulic bender. Using the



**Left—clockwise from left: Colton Wilson, Matthew Hamilton, Alan Schulte and Cody Constancio show off their finished welding tests.**

**Above: Students Alfredo Cervantes, Frank Moerman, Nacho Rios, Matthew Hamilton, Wyatt Welch, Mark Stark, Colton Wilson, Alan Schulte, Cody Constancio, Billy Scheller and Bryce Massingill.**

**Right: Clayton Martin, Dillian Bill, Jeffrey Abbey and Trenton Strickland are pictured with the Miller Dialarc welder purchased with the Operation Round-Up Classroom Teacher Grant.**



bender, the 1/2-inch wide test specimens are bent face and root so that both pieces are destructively tested. The result is to butterfly out all those layers of welds, allowing the inspector to see all the layers.

Although all 17 students passed the root test, some had problems with stringer and cover welds and a few other issues that became noticeable during the face bend test, and only 10 of the 17 passed both tests. This was still an impressive result for a group of high school students.

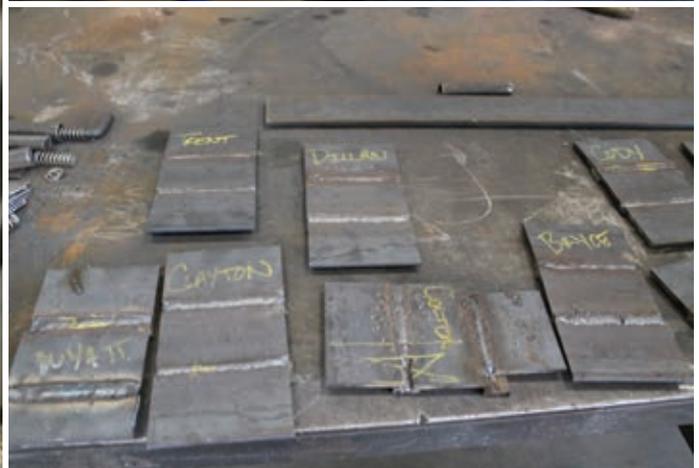
Beard lost seven of his seniors this year, but the program appears to be growing, with a class of 10 coming in with the new year. The 2018 class already has projects lined up for the coming year: a horse walker; an elliptical trailer poly tank with a spray boom; and a cattle scale trailer. “We’re looking forward to next year,” Beard said. “I’m working on some other grants, trying to get more money to replace all of the arc welders with dual polarity.”

The CECA Operation Round-Up Classroom Grant is an annual grant, offering four \$1,000 grants to any K–12 classroom

teacher whose school or community is within the CECA service territory. Applications for the 2017/2018 grants are currently being accepted, with a deadline of September 30.

To apply, visit [www.ceca.coop](http://www.ceca.coop) and click on the Operation Round-Up Classroom Grant Program link under the Youth Opportunities tab. While there, check out our other youth opportunities: scholarships; Government-in-Action Youth Tour; Student Leadership Conference; and Ignite the Flight Portfolio Training.

For more information on any CECA program, contact Shirley Dukes at 1-800-915-2533 or [sdukes@ceca.coop](mailto:sdukes@ceca.coop).



Alan Schulte demonstrates the Miller Dialarc welder. “We practiced for probably about two weeks,” said Schulte, a 2017 graduate of Comanche ISD. “Mr. Beard knew what he was doing training us.” Schulte is one of 10 students who passed all phases of the test. He and the other students are AWS-qualified and can begin their welding careers. Schulte is currently preparing for a career in structural welding.

Top: Alan Schulte and teacher Phillip Beard with Alan’s completed test coupon, along with the results of his test.

Middle: Allen’s completed coupon after it has been run through the band saw and hydraulic bender.

Bottom: Students test coupons after the 1/2-inch specimens have been cut off for the final phase of testing.

# Teachers! Have You Applied for the CECCA Classroom Grant?



## CLASSROOM GRANTS 2017-2018 SCHOOL YEAR

### What is a Classroom Grant Program?

The Operation Round-Up Classroom Grant program is sponsored by the membership of Comanche Electric Cooperative through the CECA Operation Round-Up program. Because the education of our youth is such a critical matter, the Operation Round-Up Board of Directors has approved to offer five Classroom Grants of up to \$1,000 each to enhance the education of our youth.

### Who may apply for these grants?

Any K-12 classroom teacher whose school or community is served by CECA, or whose students' homes are served by CECA. The list of qualifying schools includes: Albany, Baird, Bangs, Blanket, Breckenridge, Brownwood, Cisco, Comanche, Cross Plains, De Leon, Early, Eastland, Goldthwaite, Gorman, Gustine, Hamilton, May, Moran, Mullin, Priddy, Ranger, Rising Star, Sidney and Zephyr. Grants are limited to one per school per year. Each school may submit multiple applications, and all are encouraged to do so to increase chances of being awarded a grant; but only one application per school will be approved.

### What information does an applicant need to know before applying for the grant?

The applications will be judged by the Operation Round-Up board and an appointed CECA group. Applications will be judged on the following criteria:

- A project, educational tool or field trip that demonstrates cooperation between students.
- A project, educational tool or field trip that encourages a high level of student involvement.
- A project, educational tool or field trip that indicates coordination with Comanche Electric Cooperative.
- A project, educational tool or field trip that focuses on student learning.
- Appropriateness for age and grade levels.
- Overall quality of the application and adherence to grant guidelines.

### What should be the focus of a proposal?

An eligible project, educational tool or field trip should offer students an expanded learning opportunity that complements and reinforces classroom study. The project or field trip should be limited only by the imagination of teacher and students and the resources available.

### How can the grant money be used?

The money must be expended in compliance with your proposal.

### May the grant be used to extend/expand an existing project?

Yes, but in that case, clearly indicate the scope of the original project and for what part of the original project you plan to use the grant.

### What kind of documentation or final report is required?

Each Classroom Grant recipient must submit a written final report on their project or field trip. Educators are encouraged to include CECA in all plans. In some cases, CECA may be able to provide technical support in the form of classroom presentations, information, etc. In addition, CECA would like to feature your class and project, educational tool or field trip in their local pages of *Texas Co-op Power*, and on the CECA website and Facebook page.

### How do I apply?

The entry form is available online at [www.ceca.coop](http://www.ceca.coop). Click on Youth Opportunities and then Operation Round-Up Classroom Grant. The form must be completed and submitted online by 5 p.m., September 30.

### Whom do I contact for more information?

For more information, contact Shirley Dukes at 1-800-915-2533 or [sdukes@ceca.coop](mailto:sdukes@ceca.coop).

# ADULT AND NONTRADITIONAL STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS

Going back to school? CECA has a program just for you!



*An investment in knowledge  
pays the best interest.*

*-Benjamin Franklin*



Through the Operation Round-Up program, CECA is proud to offer a Nontraditional Scholarship to adults attending college.

To qualify, an applicant must be an active member of CECA and participate in the Operation Round-Up program.

To apply, visit the CECA website at [www.ceca.coop](http://www.ceca.coop). Go to the Operation Round-Up page under Member Benefits, then fill out and submit the online Nontraditional Scholarship application.

For questions concerning the program, contact CECA's Member Services Department at 1-800-915-2533 or email [memberservices@ceca.coop](mailto:memberservices@ceca.coop).

Applications must be received no later than 4:30 p.m., September 30.

# What Do You Know About Substations?

**YOU MIGHT THINK,** “Why would I want to know about substations?” But substations are an important part of the electrical system that brings you safe and reliable electricity every time you flip a light switch or turn on an appliance.

A substation supports delivery between the transmission and distribution systems. Transmission substations give electricity its first step-down; distribution substations step voltage down even further and maintain it at a constant level so that it can be sent on to the consumer.

A constant level of voltage is particularly important: To travel long distances over wires, electric power voltage must be much higher than the level at which it is produced by a power plant. For example, electricity leaves a power plant at about 22,000 volts, then is increased to as much as 765,000 volts. The higher the voltage, the lower the line loss and voltage drop—thus, the greater the system’s efficiency. As the power gets closer to its destination, voltage is gradually decreased to a level safe for consumers.

A mass of equipment can be found in a substation: transformers, insulators, circuit breakers, lighting arrestors, etc. The thing that looks like a garbage can near the top of a pole is the transformer. Its function is to increase voltage for efficient long-distance transmission or to lower voltage for use by co-op members. The lines leaving a distribution

substation are owned and maintained by the local co-op. These lines carry the power to industries, businesses, homes and schools.

The next time you drive by one of those menacing, fenced conglomerations of power lines and equipment, remember this: A substation is an important part of your power system. It helps ensure that you receive electricity in a reliable and safe manner.



**Substations are an important part of the power system, ensuring the safe delivery of electricity.**

## Lightning Safety

**IT ONLY TAKES ONE STRIKE** of lightning to change a person’s life forever. Lightning can cause serious injuries and death. Unfortunately, lightning can be unpredictable. It does not have to be raining for lightning to strike, and you can be injured even if you are inside.

Lightning can strike up to 10 miles away from a thunderstorm. If you can hear thunder, you are within striking distance. It is best to plan ahead so you are not caught outside in a storm. However, if you cannot take shelter in a building, you can follow these tips to lessen the chances of a lightning accident:

- Take shelter in a vehicle with a solid metal roof. Close windows and avoid contact with electrical-conducting paths, such as the steering wheel, gearshift or radio.
- Avoid water, high ground and open spaces.
- Do not seek safety in open-frame shelters or vehicles, such as golf carts.
- Do not stand near poles, metal fences or bleachers, trees or even other people. Groups of people should spread out at least 20 feet apart.
- Wait until 30 minutes have passed without lightning or

thunder until you return outside.

Even indoors, lightning requires safety precautions. If lightning strikes your home, it can travel through electronics and plumbing. It is safest to stay away from electronics, outlets and plumbing during storms.

