

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Limestone, granite, hills rising to a height of 400-500 feet above the surrounding plains and valleys is where we will find great cooperative leaders gathering for the 2024 TEC/TREWA Annual Meeting August 4-7, 2024 at the JW Marriott San Antonio Hill Country Resort. As this region represents the very remote rural countryside of Central Texas it also represents the growing suburban neighborhoods and affluent retirement communities.

As our statewide cooperatives gather for this annual meeting, we also see the wide representation of members from small rural communities to bustling suburban, industrial, and commercial communities. Texas Rural Women's Electric Association (TREWA) is so proud to share this time with these leaders each year. Our mission is to educate and create interest and understanding of the rural electric cooperative systems and issues among the members and general public and to present a unified front for the member-owned electric cooperatives as they improve the quality of life in rural Texas.

We utilize this time each year for our annual membership drive and to raise funds for our scholarships, Youth Tour Program and Rural Friends/ACRE support.

Our unique scholarship program offers educational funding opportunities beyond those traditionally offered to graduating seniors. The scholarship program extends to those continuing their education at various levels. TREWA supports our statewide organization in its efforts to provide tools for the Annual Government-in-Action Youth Tour program.



Education and support are also provided to Rural Friends of Electric Cooperatives, a nonpartisan Political Action Committee (PAC) for directors, employees, consumer members, and others associated with the electric cooperatives serving Texas.

Founded in 1976, Rural Friends supports candidates for statewide office, the Texas House of Representatives, and the Texas Senate who will speak for and protect the interests of electric cooperatives and our consumer members. Without it, much of rural America would likely still be in the dark. We look forward to visiting with those that will be attending the meeting and we are a click away if you will not be joining us this year. Thank you for your continued support of the efforts of our/your TREWA organization. We will be looking for you and welcoming you to remain or become a part of this outstanding organization.



**Rachel Ford**  
President

YOUTH TOUR  
JUNE 16-24, 2024

# YOUTH TOUR 2024 YOUTH TOUR 2024 YOUTH TOUR 2024



**The Government-in-Action Youth Tour** sends Texas high school students on an educational and fun trip to Washington, D.C., through a nationwide program sponsored by electric cooperatives.

147 Texas students will be traveling to Washington D.C. in June for Youth Tour 2024.

We would like to send them well wishes and safe travels!

Learn more by visiting Youth Tour Texas online. Scan the QR code below.



SAFE TRAVELS



— “  
Liberty, when it begins to take root, is a plant of rapid growth.  
” —

—Letter to James Madison, March 2, 1788



# GOVERNMENT UPDATE

## EPA Rules Affect Co-op Members (And all electricity consumers)

Here in Texas we often focus more on legislation and regulation coming from Austin, but right now it is hard to ignore the things coming out of Washington, DC. As you may have seen, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recently released some rules that have a major negative impact on the electrical industry and grid reliability.

We are certainly sensitive here in Texas right now when it comes to energy supply and providing electricity to the millions of Texans we all serve. In fact, ERCOT, just released new data showing they serve 27 million Texas energy consumers—and remember ERCOT does not serve the whole state. The continued challenge of keeping up with—and really ahead of—the energy demand growth will be much more difficult with the EPA’s new rules.

The four new rules released by the EPA would constrain existing coal and new natural gas generation plants, requiring carbon capture and technological sequestration. These technologies are not yet even commercially available.

Even the base load in Texas is dependent on natural gas generation plants and these new rules will certainly hurt our ability to provide reliable power to our members.

These new rules do nothing to meet the growing needs of our state or the nation. These rules ignore reliability and will force early retirement of coal and natural gas plants while making construction of new generation facilities more costly and time consuming.

It is important to keep working and communicating with our elected officials know about the impact these new rules from the EPA will have on energy consumers and on power grid resilience and reliability. We had a lot of great discussion during the NRECA Legislative Conference in April, and we were able to share that with our federal elected officials while in Washington, DC.



Stay in contact with staff and make sure our voice is heard and does not diminish. Co-ops have a huge footprint in Washington and in Austin and we must keep it that way by staying in regular contact.

Visit [www.epa.gov](http://www.epa.gov) to learn more.



**Phillip Smith**  
Trinity Valley Electric  
Co-op  
Government Affairs  
Coordinator

# GOVERNMENT UPDATE CONTINUED

## Texas Energy Fund Update

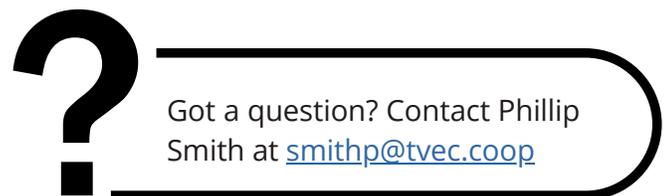
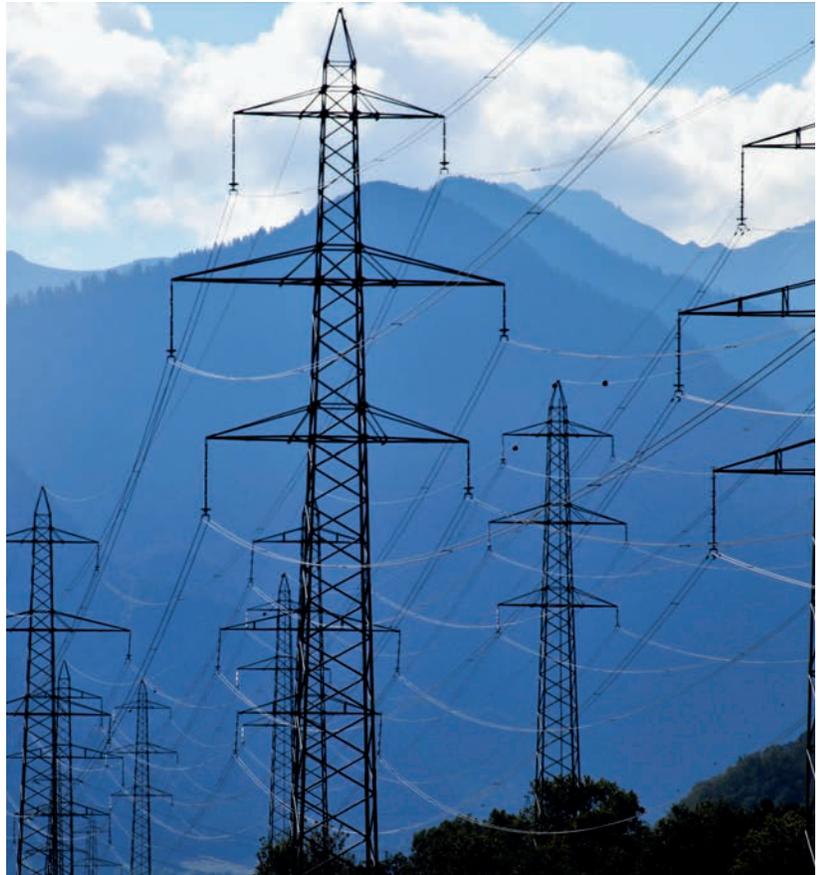
Last year Texas voters approved the Texas Energy Fund (TEF), with the primary purpose of attracting new dispatchable natural gas generation by way of a loan and grant program. Another function of the TEF is something I also want to bring to your attention.

The Texas Backup Power Package Program is also part of the TEF. This program provides grants and loans to qualifying entities to design, procure, or install backup power packages at facilities necessary to support community health, safety, and well-being.

An advisory committee has met a few times this Spring and should provide a recommendation for how the program will function by October. As this rolls out, it could be a good time to take a look at key accounts you may serve that fit the criteria. There could be an opportunity to assist your members and benefit your co-op's system in a big way.

The summer will move quickly, and hopefully without too much strain on the grid. What may be hotter than a Texas summer will be the Presidential race that 2024 holds, along with the other offices up for grabs.

Hold on tight...





A new grassroots advocacy program by NRECA called Voices for Cooperative Power. VCP brings together a network of electric co-op members sharing the needs of their communities with elected officials. This program helps members engage with policymakers and advocate for their energy future.

VCP is a place for those who want to influence policy decisions impacting electric co-ops and their consumer-members. Members come together to communicate this perspective and protect our co-ops' ability to deliver affordable, reliable services.

Speaking up on issues that impact electric co-ops sends a message to elected officials about the needs of our communities – and their constituencies. VCP gives you a platform to talk about the many ways your electric co-op supports your community. Beyond delivering electricity, co-ops provide jobs, stability, and economic growth – all while ensuring that energy affordability and reliability remain foundational advantages of electric co-op membership.

Check out the website [voicesforcooperativepower.com](http://voicesforcooperativepower.com) for more information and how you can get involved.



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.



For more information on Rural Friends of Electric Cooperatives, or eligibility to participate, please contact Jen Johnston, Government Relations Coordinator, at (512) 486-6221 or [jjohnston@texas-ec.org](mailto:jjohnston@texas-ec.org).



**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.

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### 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.**

# COOPERATIVE HISTORY

## The Impact of The Sewing Machine On Society

Gold Star Tool, 2023 Gold Star Tool blog post, published online 04 April, 2023, by David Akhamzadeh

**Nobody knows when humans started sewing and making clothes, but the world's oldest sewing needle dates back about 50,000 years.** While it seems like a simple tool today, the sewing needle was at one time a modern miracle.

Many scientists believe humans started wearing clothes about 100,000 to 500,000 years ago. Early humans probably started wearing clothes by draping and tying furs, skins, and bark over themselves. Even after humans started sewing furs together with bone needles and sinew, it took thousands of years before advances in textiles made the invention of the sewing machine possible and necessary.



Sewing machines were invented during the first Industrial Revolution. The first Industrial Revolution occurred between about 1760 to 1840. It started in Great Britain and was the first major transition in human society to move industries from hand production to machine production.



*The Singer sewing machine brand is easily the most widely known, and in the early days of sewing machines, the company continued to grow and innovate with the times.*

The invention of the sewing machine has had a significant impact on society. It revolutionized the manufacture, production, and distribution of clothing and allowed women to enter the workforce and earn independence. The importance of the sewing machine in the textile and fashion industry can most easily be seen in the amount of time it takes to produce quality garments. Before the invention of the sewing machine, a shirt took about 15 hours to sew. Using Isaac Singer's 1850 sewing machine, a tailor could sew the same shirt in about an hour.



*Modern sewing machines have come a long way from their early predecessors and include features like automatic threading, LCD screens, and built-in stitches.*

Even though Thomas Edison's invention of electricity brought electric lights to Manhattan as early as 1882, only half of America's homes had electricity by 1925. By 1945, thanks to President Franklin Delano Roosevelt's Rural Electrification Act of 1936, the number of homes with electricity had grown to about 85 percent. Even though Singer stopped production of sewing machines during World War II, by the 1950s, when Singer celebrated 100 years of manufacturing sewing machines, America had reached the golden age of sewing.

[READ MORE](#)





# Texas Rural Electric Women's Association SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

# 2024



## Recipient

Hannah Caswell  
 Lauren Callaway  
 Aryn Lesley  
 Cadence Edwards  
 Catherine Swize  
 Carter Tucker  
 Carson Wood  
 Rexie Sanders  
 Evan Born  
 Sage Gaillard  
 Nicholas Ortiz  
 Barrett Lubianski  
 Hannah Fisbeck  
 Taylor Neal  
 Ava Hounshell  
 Jacob Martinez  
 Jett Teague  
 Timber Bennett  
 Walker Dennis  
 Valeria Deluna

## Cooperative

Big Country  
 Big Country  
 Comanche  
 Hilco  
 Hilco  
 Houston Co  
 Lamb Co  
 Lyntegar  
 North Plains  
 Rita Blanca  
 Sam Houston  
 San Bernard  
 San Bernard  
 South Plains  
 South Plains  
 South Plains  
 South Plains  
 South Plains  
 South Plains  
 Wise Co



South Plains Electric Cooperative, Inc.



WISE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE



Lamb County Electric Cooperative, Inc.



SAM HOUSTON ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE



San Bernard Electric Co-op



## Sausage Bread



Donna Hindman  
Director of Corporate Services, Trinity Valley EC

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1 pkg. Frozen Bread Loaves              | Garlic Powder                          |
| 1 lb. Hot Sausage                       | Onion powder                           |
| 1 lb. Poblano Pepper                    | 1 chopped onion                        |
| 1 small can - Chopped hot green chiles  | 1 dz beaten eggs (optional) & Egg wash |
| 1 small can - Chopped mild green chiles | Bacon jam (optional)                   |
| Cheddar cheese (sliced thin or grated)  | Everything Bagel seasoning             |

1. You can place each loaf on a sprayed parchment-lined cookie sheet the night before serving. The bread dough will thaw and rise overnight.
2. Preheat oven to 350.
3. In a large skillet, brown the sausage, onion & poblano pepper. Drain & add seasonings & chilies and then eggs. Cook until the eggs are scrambled.
4. Press each loaf of the dough into a rectangle with your hands. In the center of each, spoon a layer of bacon jam, a layer of cheddar cheese, a layer of sausage mixture, and another layer of cheese.

5. Fold in the long edges of the dough over the sausage mixture, like a burrito, and tuck in the ends. Brush with egg wash (sprinkle with Everything Bagel seasoning or grated cheese) and bake for 25-30 minutes until golden brown.

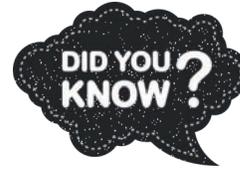


# TEC/TREWA Annual Meeting

## SILENT AUCTION & CRAFT DONATION FORM



**YES! I will donate a craft/art item!**



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

Name

City, State, Zip

Item Donated

Item Value

Designated Person Bringing Item to Meeting:



The 2024  
TEC/TREWA  
Annual Meeting  
will be held  
August 4-7, 2024.

Texas Electric Cooperatives  
Your Touchstone Energy Partner



To send a craft item or make a donation to TREWA, please mail to:

Bobbi Byford, Trinity Valley EC  
P.O. Box 888, Kaufman, TX 75142

*thanks  
for your  
support*

You can also give your craft or silent auction item to any TREWA Board Member.

## 2023/24 TREWA Board of Directors

### Group 1

**Dana Massey**  
Arts & Crafts  
Sam Houston EC  
(936) 328-1279  
dmassey@samhouston.net



### Group 2

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



### Group 3

**Malony Bartush**  
Board Member  
Pentex Energy  
(940) 759-2211  
malony.bartush@pentex.com



### Group 4

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



### Group 5

**Suzie Brown**  
Board Member  
Bailey County EC  
(806) 272-4504  
sbrown@bcecoop.com



### Group 6

**Dawn Southwell**  
Secretary/Treasurer  
Pedernales EC Inc.  
(830) 868-6142  
Dawn.Southwell@peci.com



### Group 7

**Dorina Villarreal**  
Board Member  
Nueces EC  
(361)767-7337  
dvillarreal@nueceselectric.org



### Group 3

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



**Bobbi Byford**  
Communications  
Trinity Valley EC  
(469) 261-9876  
bobbi@tvec.coop



**Laura Melton**  
Communications  
Trinity Valley EC  
(469) 344-1836  
meltonl@tvec.coop



“ Be a first-rate version of yourself, not a second-rate version of someone else. *Judy Garland* ”

# TREWA MEMBERSHIP

*Current memberships expire July 31, 2024.*

## TREWA MEMBERSHIP FORM

Memberships are valid August 1 through July 31.

**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 Code** \_\_\_\_\_

**Home Phone** \_\_\_\_\_

**Work Phone** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email** \_\_\_\_\_

**Cooperative Name** \_\_\_\_\_

*Please spell out*

### Relationship to Cooperative:

- Employee  Director  Member  
 Spouse of Employee  Spouse of Director  
 Other \_\_\_\_\_

### Return to:

Mail: TREWA Membership  
TEC Lockbox  
P.O. Box 201338  
Dallas, TX 75320



**Email:** [knejtek@tex-ec.org](mailto:knejtek@tex-ec.org)



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).

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