



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The numbers are in!

Through the generosity of the donated items and those who purchased raffle tickets, bid on silent auction items, or purchased items from the Arts and Crafts Sale a grand total of \$58,803 was raised at the 2024 TEC/TREWA Annual Meeting.

These funds will be distributed to help support Youth Tour Government in Action, Scholarships and Rural Friends. A great time was shared by all while in San Antonio. Many visited our booths to talk about their cooperatives, share wonderful stories, and renew their memberships.

Members from across the state donated hand-crafted items for the silent auction and the arts and crafts sale. The electric cooperatives and vendors donated money and gift cards for the other raffles. The sale begins the first day of the conference and ends an hour before the closing speaker. This creates an exciting time for the attendees as they actively participate in some good, spirited bidding and purchasing in hopes they will be the big winner.

We have already started our planning for the 2025 TEC/TREWA Annual Meeting and we hope that you will please keep us in mind for future donations of your handcrafted items to once again make it possible to support our fundraising efforts.



\$58,803 RAISED AT THE 2024 TEC/TREWA ANNUAL MEETING!



As we move into a time of many other celebrations we want to let you all know how incredibly thankful we are to everyone for your support and your renewal of your membership.

Stay tuned as we slide on into 2025.

Blessings,



Rachel Ford
TREWA *President*

YOUTH TOUR

Applications Open Soon!

YOUTH TOUR 2025 YOUTH TOUR 2025 YOUTH TOUR 2025



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.

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

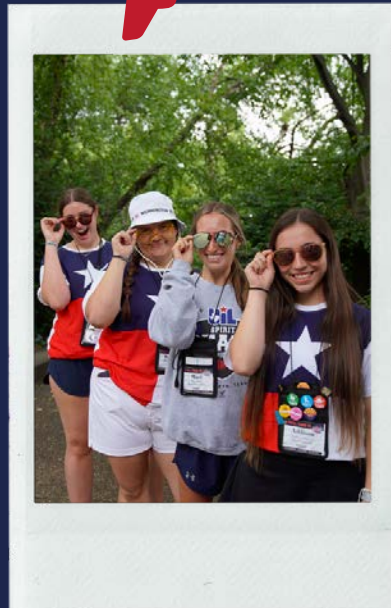


THE TRIP OF A LIFETIME!



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

—Letter to James Madison, March 2, 1788



GOVERNMENT UPDATE

WHAT IS A CO-OP VOTER?

A Co-op Voter:



Wants to preserve the way of life in rural America, but not let our future generations be left behind technologically.



Believes in policies that will modernize our nation's energy supply in a way that keeps costs affordable, promotes system reliability, and avoids imposing undue burdens on our energy supply system.



Wants to be an active voice in the community and promote the democratic system of governance for all our nation's institutions, from our co-ops to the halls of Congress.



Will vote for any candidate, regardless of party, who is willing to help ensure that rural Americans have ready access to reliable, affordable energy.



Rural communities depend on Co-op Voters.

Learn about the issues.
Find your polling place.
Talk to your family and friends.



Be an active participant in our democracy. Be a Co-op Voter.

www.vote.coop



DEADLINES TO KNOW FOR VOTING IN TEXAS

VOTER REGISTRATION DEADLINE:
October 6, 2024
30 days before an election.

ABSENTEE / MAIL-IN VOTING BALLOT DEADLINES:
Request must be received by
October 25, 2024
11 days before the election.

BALLOT SUBMISSION DEADLINE:
Must be received by 5 p.m. on the day after the election if postmarked on or before Election Day.
Postmarked by Election Day



Phillip Smith
Trinity Valley Electric Co-op
Government Affairs
Coordinator

? Got a question? Contact Phillip Smith at smithp@tvec.coop

GOVERNMENT UPDATE CONTINUED

Issues That Impact Us

Cooperative members encounter distinctive challenges.

Cooperative members encounter distinctive challenges. Explore opportunities to engage and champion these causes through our grassroots initiative, Voices for Cooperative Power.

Co-ops Vote is a program built to give members of the cooperative community access to resources and information needed not only to vote but to vote with co-op issues in mind. Voting with an understanding of what policies your candidates support and how they will impact electric co-ops will help ensure continued access to reliable electricity and innovative energy solutions throughout rural America.

Together, we have the power to educate lawmakers, build awareness about our issues and concerns and support legislative issues that are important to our communities. The co-op voice is powerful and it starts with you!

Early Voting **Begins: October 19, 2024**

Early Voting **Ends: November 1, 2024**



- ✓ **Register to vote:** check to make sure your registration is current
- ✓ **Learn voter details for your state:** get information on deadlines, absentee voting and polling places
- ✓ **Get educated:** learn about issues critical to keeping your electricity affordable and reliable
- ✓ **Know the candidates and policymakers:** learn about the candidates running in your local area to see what energy policies they support, and how they would impact your access to reliable, affordable energy.
- ✓ **Share your story:** talk to your family and friends about your co-op, tell them why you're a Co-op Voter and ask them to join you at the polls



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 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.



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.

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., 24th Floor, Austin, TX 78701.**

COOPERATIVE HISTORY

October Is National Cooperative Month

Why we celebrate our unique business model

By General Manager/CEO TVEC, Jeff Lane

Every October, cooperatives from all sectors across the country celebrate National Cooperative Month. The purpose of this annual celebration is to recognize the cooperative difference and remind you, the members of our co-op, about Trinity Valley Electric Cooperative's purpose.

I must admit that occasionally, I have been somewhat cynical of PR "holidays" that fill up social media, but National Cooperative Month has a genuinely special purpose that's near and dear to me.



This month is all about celebrating co-ops' unique business model, based on the Seven Cooperative Principles: Voluntary and Open Membership; Democratic Member Control; Members' Economic Participation; Autonomy and Independence; Education, Training and Information; Cooperation Among Cooperatives; and Concern for Community.

For co-op employees and members who are familiar with the principles, the month of October is a great opportunity to renew our connection to each other and the purpose of our co-op. TVEC's main purpose is to provide safe and reliable electricity to our members. But we also offer many other programs and services to our members.

In the U.S., there are more than 30,000 co-ops in many industries. These diverse yet connected businesses join together this month to educate members—and nonmembers—about the community of cooperatives.

There are more co-ops in our local community than most people realize. Co-ops are even represented on the shelves at our local grocery stores, such as Land O'Lakes, Welch's, Organic Valley, Cabot Creamery, Sunkist, Ocean Spray and many more.

In fact, In fact, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, co-ops count more than 350 million members in the U.S. alone (with some folks belonging to multiple co-ops), and cooperatives employ more than 2 million Americans and generate more than \$700 billion in annual revenue.

The Seven Cooperative Principles speak to the heart of why we must take every opportunity to celebrate and teach others about the cooperative business model. So plan your own co-op celebration by purchasing co-op products, do business with co-ops right here in our community and attend your local co-op Annual Membership Meeting.

Scan the QR code to read more articles like this one in Texas Co-op Power Magazine.





2025 TREWA Scholarship Application

Application must be received by March 15, 2025.



Twenty (20) TREWA scholarships of \$1,500 each will be awarded to CURRENT TREWA members and their children. 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.

The selection process will include, but not be limited to:

- TREWA scholarship application
- 3 letters of recommendation
- A current photo
- A current cooperative electric bill or proof of employment by a Texas electric cooperative or Texas Electric Cooperatives



Bang Bang Shrimp with Pasta



Ashley Brewer

Wife of Mack Brewer, Journeyman, Trinity Valley EC

- | | |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1 lb. thin spaghetti | 1 c. mayonnaise |
| 1.5 lb. Shrimp (peeled & deveined) | 1 c. Thai sweet chili sauce |
| 3 cloves of garlic | 4 cloves minced garlic |
| 3 tsp. paprika | 4 tbsp. lime juice (fresh is best) |
| 1 tbsp. dried parsley | ½ tsp. crushed red pepper flakes |
| Black pepper to taste | 1 tbsp. coconut oil |

For the Sauce:

Mix mayonnaise, Thai sweet chili sauce, 4 garlic cloves, lime juice and red pepper flakes together in a bowl and set aside.

For the Shrimp:

Place shrimp in a bowl and season with 3 garlic cloves, paprika, dried parsley and black pepper.

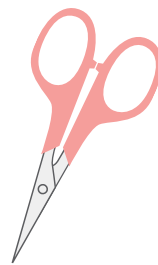
Heat the coconut oil in a skillet on medium-high heat and add the coated uncooked shrimp. Stir constantly while cooking until pink for approx. 6-8 minutes (depending on the size of the shrimp). In a large pot of boiling water, cook the pasta and drain well. Once pasta is ready, combine pasta, shrimp, and sauce mixture and toss well.

Serve immediately and enjoy!

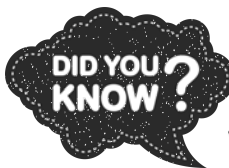


TEC/TREWA Annual Meeting

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:



Stay tuned for more details about the Annual Meeting..



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.

2024/25 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



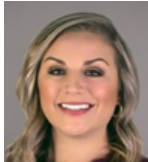
Group 5

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



“

You have to believe in yourself when no one else does.

Serena Williams

”

TREWA MEMBERSHIP

*Current memberships expire
July 31, 2025.*

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



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 paper form or online TREWA membership forms are also available at trewa.org.

LET'S CELEBRATE

Let's Be Aware

October

Co-op Month
Breast Cancer Awareness
Cybersecurity Awareness
Fire Prevention Week - Oct. 6-12
Careers in Energy Week - Oct. 14-18
Day of Rural Women - Oct. 15

November

Lung Cancer Awareness
Career Development Month
Military Family Month
Election Day - Nov. 5
America Recycles Day - Nov. 15
Rural Health Day - Nov. 21

December

National Volunteers Month
Safe Toys & Gifts Month
Rosa Parks Day - Dec. 1
Pearl Harbor Day - Dec. 7*
Hanukkah begins - Dec. 25
Kwanzaa begins - Dec. 26

**Day of Remembrance*

Reminders

Daylight savings time ends on Sunday, November 3, 2024.

Don't forget to "fall back" and set your clocks back one hour.



Upcoming Holidays

- Halloween - Oct. 31
- Veterans Day - Nov. 11
- Thanksgiving Day - Nov. 28
- Christmas Day - Dec. 25
- New Years Eve - Jan. 31

First day of winter is December 21.