



TEXAS RURAL ELECTRIC WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

DECEMBER 2023

## **MESSAGE FROM**

## THE PRESIDENT

**2023 is wrapping up** and as did the fundraising effort for TREWA at the TEC/TREWA Annual Meeting this past August.

Through the generosity of sponsorships, silent auction, arts and crafts and raffle ticket sales TREWA raised approximately \$50,000.



Many from across the state gathered at Kalahari Resort in Georgetown to take part in learning more about our Texas electric cooperatives and cooperatives across our nation.

We can't say thank you enough for supporting our efforts and continuing to show everyone "The Cooperative Way".



Rachel Ford
President



Kalahari, Georgetown

# YOUTH TOUR JUNE 16-24, 2024









FROM MUSEUMS

#### and MEMORIALS to the majestic U.S. Capitol and Supreme Court, there's a little

Supreme Court, there's a little bit of something for everyone in Washington, D.C.

Join more than 100 other Texas teens on this 10-day summer adventure jampacked with splendid sights and memories in the making.

Youth Tour is sure to be the trip of a lifetime.









The old phrase "time flies" is one that will ring true throughout our lives. It is hard to believe that 2024 is upon us. I am sure we can all look back at 2023 and wish there were things we would've done differently, handled in another way or just completed it! The New Year is historically the time we set new goals or resolutions in our personal life and at our workplace. I am sure we all have long-term plans as well as we turn the page on the New Year and look to what 2024 will bring.

Our industry is one that has seen many changes the last few years and will certainly be many more to come. Much of the change is driven by the governmental bodies and agencies that oversee the electric industry. There is little doubt that technology is playing a larger role for our industry as we progress as well. We are probably all wondering how we will adapt and what changes we will see as new rules are written. What will the impact be to our co-op and its members?

Often it is hard to see and imagine the future, and more often it is harder to face the future. No matter what the future brings for the electric industry, I have no doubt that Cooperatives will answer the call and go above and beyond. That is what makes Cooperatives unique and special. We will face change together and head on. We are not competing against one another because we share the same goals and principles.



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

## GOVERNMENT UPDATE CONTINUED





Co-op employees all have a deep appreciation for the cooperative model and strive to put Members first in all they do. We will see changes in 2024 and we will face them Together! It is the Co-op Way!



If you haven't noticed already, 2024 is an important election year. It is a Presidential election year and the Primary Election Day in Texas is March 5th. That means if you haven't started noticing political signs than you will shortly. Early voting will begin a couple weeks before in February. It is a good time to remind employees and members to make sure they are registered to vote and educate themselves about candidates. It is a Presidential election year, but there are also many Congressional, State Senate and State House seats that are very important to Co-ops. There are most likely local county elections that are important to your co-op as well. It seems like every time we turn around there is another election, but we can't take any election for granted. It is our democracy and it is our voice!





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 voicesforcooperative power.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.

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					
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\$ operative.) ered by your cooperative.)					
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	Occupation: City: E-mail address: Cloyee	Occupation: City: State: State			

without reprisal. Any contribution guidelines presented are merely suggestions. You are free to contribute more or less than the suggested amounts, or

Please remit to: Rural Friends, 1122 Colorado St., 24th Floor, Austin, TX 78701.

not at all. No one will be favored or disadvantaged by reason of the amount contributed or a decision not to contribute.







## Who Invented Electric Christmas Lights?

Posted by: <u>Wendi Maloney</u>

**Thomas Edison, inventor of the first successful practical light bulb**, created the very first strand of electric lights. During Christmas 1880, strands of lights were strung outside his Menlo Park, New Jersey, laboratory, giving railroad passengers traveling by their first look at an electrical light display.

But it would take almost 40 years for electric Christmas lights to become a tradition.

But the wider world was not yet ready for electrical illumination—many people continued to greatly mistrust electricity.



Two small children around a lighted Christmas tree sitting above a village complete with a train.

Some credit President Grover Cleveland with spurring the acceptance of indoor electric Christmas lights when in 1895 he asked for the White House family Christmas tree to be illuminated by hundreds of multicolored electric light bulbs.



On Christmas Eve 1923, President Calvin Coolidge presided over the lighting of the National Christmas Tree with 3,000 electric lights.

At the time, the wiring of electric lights was very expensive, requiring the services of a wireman, the equivalent of our modern-day electrician. Some have estimated that lighting an average Christmas tree with electric lights before the turn of the century cost \$2,000 in today's dollars.

In 1903, General Electric began to offer preassembled kits of stringed Christmas lights, making their use more affordable.

Thomas Edison and Edward H. Johnson may have been the first to create electric strands of lights. But it was Albert Sadacca, whose family owned a novelty lighting company, who saw a future in selling them. In 1917, when he was still a teenager, Albert suggested that the company sell brightly colored strands of Christmas lights to the public. Later, Albert and his brothers organized what became the National Outfit Manufacturers Association Electric Company. It cornered the Christmas light market until the 1960s.

This post draws on the science reference site, "Everyday Mysteries: Fun Facts from the Library of Congress."



#### Texas Rural Electric Women's Association

### **SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS**



Recipient Cooperative

Dylan Lujan Big Country

Chloe Kaluza HILCO
Hanak Vicars HILCO
Jordyn Koonsman HILCO
Jessalyn Payne HOTEC
Lanie Fisher HOTEC
Luke Carter Houston
Troy Shupak Houston

Ramsey Dominy JNEC

Gracelyn Phipps Lamar

Laci White Lamb County
Samuel Lindley Lighthouse
Erin McDaniel Rita Blanca

Callie Haack SBEC
Aarthi Annamalai SPEC
Addie Stewart SPEC
Caroline Munson SPEC
Jacob Everitt SPEC
Aydin Adame SWTEC
Miguel Deluna Wise







Southwest Texas Electric Cooperative

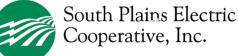
















San Bernard Electric Co-op











## 2022/23 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

Group 7

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



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

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**Dorina Villarreal Board Member** Nueces EC (361)767-7337

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Group 3 Karen Culpepper Past President Wise EC

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kculpepper@wiseec.com





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



"If you don't like the road you're walking, start paving another one." -Dolly Parton

## TREWA MEMBERSHIP

Current memberships expire July 31, 2024.

#### TREWA MEMBERSHIP FORM

Memberships are valid August 1 through July 31.

Membership:	Renewal	New Member	
Membership For Please check the constant \$10 (1 year)	appropriate dues		
First Name			
Last Name			
Address			
City			
State			
Zip Code			
Home Phone			
Work Phone			
Email			
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Relationship to C	•	<b>)</b> Member	
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Return to:			



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**.

TREWA Membership
TEC Lockbox

P.O. Box 201338

Dallas, TX 75320

Mail: