

The Lamplighter

TEXAS RURAL ELECTRIC WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

JANUARY 2016

You've Got Talent, and We Know It!



TREWA's Arts and Crafts Sale and Silent Auction were huge successes in August 2015, raising approximately \$3,000 at the Texas Electric Cooperatives Annual Meeting. Many of you across our great state donated crafts or other items for this event. We appreciate your talents and your generous contributions of all the items donated to support TREWA.

In August 2016, we will find ourselves in San Antonio—not strolling down the River Walk, but busy raising funds for TREWA scholarships, Rural Friends/ACRE and the Government-in-Action Youth Tour. Once again, we are asking

that you consider donating an arts and crafts item or items that will stir up a bidding frenzy for the silent auction.

We have approximately seven months to design, shop for, and create those items. To send an item or make a donation to TREWA, please mail it to Bobbi Byford, Trinity Valley EC, P.O. Box 888, Kaufman TX 75142. You may also give your item to any TREWA board member. (Please see the board of directors slate on Page 7.)

Thank you again for making 2015 a success and for your continued support.



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President's Message

A “Capital Idea” Brings Successful Fundraising for TREWA



Holly Gunter, President

Dear TREWA Members:

The phrase “Everything is bigger in Texas” rang loud and clear August 2015 at the Texas Electric Cooperatives Annual Meeting in Austin.

It is now 2016 and time to take a stroll along the River Walk in the second-largest city in Texas. Please join us in beautiful, festive San

Antonio, where we will gather for the 76th TEC Annual Meeting. TREWA also will host its annual membership meeting and fundraising event July 31–August 3, at La Cantera Hill Country Resort in San Antonio.

The fundraising efforts in 2015 were outstanding. TREWA raised more than \$52,250 through raffle tickets, arts and crafts, and silent auction items donated by TREWA members, as well as through letter writing, memberships and group raffles. A unique item came to the TREWA silent auction from Grant Clawson, one of the District 10 directors for CFC, who generously donated a one-of-a-kind handcrafted saddle. Donated items large and small help make our fundraising efforts successful.

These funds made it possible to increase our donation to Rural Friends/ACRE to \$30,000, provide four T-shirts and additional items to each Government-in-Action Youth Tour participant, and increase the number of \$1,500 scholarships we will award from 15 to 20.

The attendees of the TREWA Membership Meeting and spouse program enjoyed an enlightening and engaging program, “Wonderful Wreaths and More” by Mark Ballard.

One of the greatest honors TREWA bestows is an honorary membership to a person who has made outstanding contributions to our program. We were proud to present Edd Hargett of East Texas EC with the 2015 TREWA Honorary Membership Award. Mr. Hargett’s support to the organization through his membership—and the many sought-after Texas A&M collector’s items donated to our silent auction over the years—exemplify only a portion of his devotion to the electric cooperative family.

As always, we thank you again for contributing to TREWA’s 2015 “Capital Idea” in Austin. I invite you to come along with us to San Antonio this year, to take a stroll down the River Walk and to visit the Alamo and all the other wonderful tourist opportunities the city has to offer. And don’t forget to plan on visiting the TREWA booth while at the TEC Annual Meeting.

THANK YOU to Our 2015 Sponsors

VISA Card Donors

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HILCO EC
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Techline, Inc.
Texas Electric Cooperatives

Platinum Sponsors

Bailey County EC	Lamb County EC
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Bluebonnet EC	Mid-South Synergy
Brazos EC	Navarro County EC
CoServ	Northeast Texas EC
Concho Valley EC	Rio Grande EC
Farmers EC	San Bernard EC
Grayson-Collin EC	South Texas EC
Guadalupe Valley EC	Tri-County EC
United Cooperative Services	Wise EC
Wood County EC	

Gold Sponsors

Bartlett EC	Medina EC
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Golden Spread EC	San Miguel EC
Houston County EC	Taylor EC
Lyntegar EC	

Silver Sponsors

Central Texas EC	Hamilton County EC
Cherokee County EC	J-A-C EC
Deaf Smith EC	Jasper-Newton EC
Deep East Texas EC	Rita Blanca EC
Fannin County EC	San Patricio EC
Fayette EC	Swisher EC
Fort Belknap EC	



2016 TREWA Scholarship Eligibility

1. 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.
2. Grades received in high school will not be the deciding factor in the selection process.
3. Scholarships will be awarded to graduating high school seniors, full-time college students or adults, who have been accepted as a full-time student to attend any accredited college, university, junior college, community college, trade/technical school or business school of their choice.
4. Courses must be taken in credit towards a degree, certificate, diploma or license and awarded by the educational institution.
5. Judging is based on leadership qualities, career focus, personal need, energy awareness, essay content and general knowledge of the rural electric program.
6. The selection process will include, but not be limited to:
 - (1) TREWA scholarship application
 - (2) three letters of recommendation
 - (3) a current photo
 - (4) current cooperative electric bill or proof of employment by a Texas electric cooperative or Texas Electric Cooperatives.
7. Half of the amount of each award will be made at the beginning of the first term or semester, and the second half will be paid at the beginning of the second term or semester. For the scholarship payment to be issued, the student must submit to TREWA proof of enrollment and proof of full-time student status from the registrar's office for the current semester. Scholarship payments will be sent to the school the student will be attending and will be payable to the school. The scholarship MUST be used the first semester following the awarding of the scholarships. Students working on graduate or doctoral degrees must comply with the institution's requirements and schedules including length on tenure per semester for full-time status. Students participating in nontraditional semesters, including but not limited to mini or long semesters, will be compensated after the scholarship chair receives documentation from the institution that the student has completed their full time schedule in the allotted period of time as deemed appropriate by that institution.
8. Should a recipient choose not to continue his/her education for any reason, the recipient should notify TREWA, in writing, at least 30 days prior to the beginning of the semester.
9. TREWA will award a scholarship to an individual only once.
10. Applications may be obtained from:

www.trewa.org
Karen Culpepper
TREWA Scholarship Chair
Wise Electric Cooperative
P.O. Box 269
Decatur, TX 76234
kculpepper@wiseec.com
(940) 626-3003

Applications must be postmarked by midnight, March 14, 2016, to be eligible.



2016 TREWA Scholarship Application

Application must be postmarked by March 14, 2016.

Completed applications must include:

1. One photograph (head shot only in JPG format) of the applicant and signed release
2. Three letters of reference for the applicant
3. Original application
4. Current electric cooperative bill or proof of employment by a Texas electric cooperative or Texas Electric Cooperatives

Return to:

Karen Culpepper
TREWA Scholarship Chairman
Wise Electric Cooperative
P.O. Box 269
Decatur, TX 76234

I would like to apply for the TREWA Scholarship that is open to current TREWA members and/or their children.

Applicant's name

Social Security number

Mailing address

City

State

ZIP code

Daytime phone

Date of birth

Name of parent/guardian

Address

City

State

ZIP code

Daytime phone

Total family income (Circle the range that best applies to your family.) \$0-\$50,000 \$50,000-\$100,000 \$100,000-\$150,000 \$150,000-\$200,000

Cooperative name

Type of electric cooperative affiliation (member/employee)

Is applicant's parent/guardian a current member of TREWA?

School presently attending

Address

Current academic standing

Other scholarships received

Major (if currently attending post-secondary institution)

List affiliations and activities, indicating any offices held, whether past or current, leadership roles and awards received. (Use additional sheets if needed.)

List any jobs you have held, past or current, and describe the nature of the work done. (Use additional sheets if needed.)

College you plan to attend

Include a hand-written essay (maximum length of 250 words) describing, at least, the following about yourself:

- Planned field of study and how it relates to energy/electricity.
 - Your goals (educational, professional and personal).
 - Your plans for the future (5 to 10 years from now).
 - Why you have chosen your particular field of study.
 - Include any other information you feel qualifies you for this scholarship.
-
-
-
-

Note: All submitted essays become the property of TREWA and are not available for public review.

TREWA Scholarship Photo Release

In exchange for consideration received, I hereby give permission to TREWA to use my name and photographic likeness in all forms and media for lawful purposes of announcing, advertising and promoting the TREWA scholarship program.

Print Name

Signature

Date

If scholarship recipient is under the age of 18, I _____, am the parent/legal guardian of _____

_____, the individual named above, and I have read this release and approve of its terms.

Print Name

Signature

Date

Application must be postmarked by March 14, 2016.

Silent Auction, Art and Craft Sale Are SUCCESS!

Arts and crafts and silent auction items needed for this year's fundraising event

TREWA's Arts and Crafts Sale and Silent Auction were huge successes this past August during the TEC Annual Meeting in Austin.

Many of you donated craft items for this event, and we appreciate your talents and all of the extra effort in supporting TREWA. To make our 2016 event at the TEC Annual Meeting in San Antonio even better, we again need you to consider providing an arts and crafts item or an item that will have members scrambling to bid on during the silent auction. The proceeds continue to fund scholarships each year and support Rural Friends/ACRE.

To send a craft item or make a donation to TREWA, please mail it to Bobbi Byford, Trinity Valley EC, P.O. Box 888, Kaufman, TX 75142. You can also give your craft or silent auction item to any TREWA board member. Again, thank you for your continued support.

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



YES! I will donate a hand-crafted item to TREWA for the 2016 Arts and Crafts Sale.



First name _____



Last name _____



Address _____

City _____

State _____

ZIP _____

Item donated _____

Value amount _____

If you are unable to attend the meeting and would like to donate a hand-crafted item, please designate someone to bring your item for you:

Name _____

2015–16 TREWA Board of Directors

Group 1

Ann Horn

Arts & Crafts

Jasper-Newton EC

(409) 423-2241 ext. 120

ahorn@jnec.com



Group 2

Kendra Markwardt

HILCO EC

(254) 687-2331 ext. 1145

kmarkwardt@hilco.coop



Group 3

Karen Culpepper

Scholarship Chair

Wise EC

(940) 626-3003

kculpepper@wiseec.com



Group 4

Rachel Ford

Comanche EC

(325) 356-2533

rford@ceca.coop



Group 5

Kathy Shipp

Secretary-Treasurer

Lamb County EC

(806) 385-5191

kshipp@lcec.coop



Group 6

Tawnya Boos

Membership Chair

Central Texas EC

1-800-900-2832

tawnya.boos@ctec.coop



Group 7

Holly Gunter

President/Raffles

Medina EC

(830) 741-7343

hollyg@medinaec.org



Bobbi Byford

Immediate Past President/Lamplighter

Trinity Valley EC

(469) 261-9876

bobbi@tvec.coop



The Texas Rural Electric Women's Association helps improve life in rural Texas by supporting education and fostering a unified understanding of electric cooperatives and the communities they power.

Texas Electric Cooperatives, Inc., 1122 Colorado St., 24th Floor, Austin, TX 78701

Time To Renew Your TREWA Membership

Memberships expire July 31, 2016.

**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). We would like to acknowledge and thank the cooperatives that currently have 100 percent membership:

- Comanche EC, Group 4
- CoServ Electric, Group 3
- Heart of Texas EC, Group 2
- Houston County EC, Group 1
- North Plains EC, Group 5
- Taylor EC, Group 4
- Tri-County EC, Group 3

Renew your membership today by completing and returning the form at right. TREWA membership forms are also available at trewa.org.

TREWA Membership Form

Membership valid August 1, 2015, through July 31, 2016.

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 _____

Home phone _____

Work phone _____

Email _____

Cooperative (spell out) _____

Relationship to cooperative:

Employee Director Member
 Spouse of Employee Spouse of Director Other

Return to:

Mail: TREWA
Tawnya Boos
Membership Chair
1122 Colorado St., 24th Floor
Austin, TX 78701

Email: tawnya.boos@ctec.coop