

The Lamplighter

TEXAS RURAL ELECTRIC WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

FEBRUARY 2015

TREWA—Texas Rural Electric Women's Association

Who we are, what we do and why you should join.

Objective

The objective of TREWA is to educate and create interest and understanding of the rural electric cooperative systems and their issues among members and the general public, providing a unified effort for member-owned electric cooperatives as they improve the quality of life in rural Texas.

Scholarships

TREWA has been awarding scholarships since 1981, and in 2015 is offering 15 scholarships of \$1,500 each to current TREWA members. The 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. A scholarship application is included in this newsletter and can also be accessed at www.trewa.org.

How To Join

Joining TREWA is easy. Just visit www.trewa.org to get the membership form and complete and return it. A 12-month membership is only \$10. It's a great way to learn more about rural electric cooperatives.

Board of Directors

The TREWA Board of Directors is composed of representatives of each

of the seven TEC groups. The immediate past president also serves on the TREWA board. The 2014–15 board members are Tawnya Boos, Central Texas EC; Bobbi Byford, Trinity Valley EC; Lynne Erickson, Houston County EC; Holly Gunter, Medina EC; Christine Jouett, San Bernard EC; Dee Dee Lauterbach, Heart of Texas EC; Kathy Shipp, Lamb County EC; and René Wells, Taylor EC.

For more information on TREWA, contact any TREWA board member or visit www.trewa.org.



Current and former TREWA board members gather at the 2014 TREWA Annual Meeting. Pictured are, from left: Back row—Janell Hubbard, Fort Belknap EC; Karen Culpepper, Wise EC; Tracy Begley, Grayson-Collin EC; Lynne Erickson, Houston County EC; Christine Jouett, San Bernard EC; Dee Dee Lauterbach, Heart of Texas EC; Rickie Warren, Bailey County EC; Kathy Shipp, Lamb County EC; Maggie Spurrier, Farmers EC. Front row—René Wells, Taylor EC; Tawnya Boos, Central Texas EC; Holly Gunter, Medina EC; Nan Glaze, Cherokee County EC; Bobbi Byford, Trinity Valley EC.

In this Issue: President's Message Page 2 Scholarship Report Page 3 Scholarship Application Page 4
Donations Needed for Silent Auction, Art and Crafts Sale Page 7 Membership Renewals Page 8

President's Message

What a "Capitol" idea



Holly Gunter, President

Dear TREWA Members:

Sand, shells, sunshine and maybe even a little sunburn. Summer has long since faded away. I would like to report a good time was had by all in Galveston at the TEC Annual Meeting in 2014.

It is now 2015 and I have a "Capitol" idea for each of you.

You may join us at this year's TEC Annual Meeting in the heart of our great state of Texas. You guessed it our "capitol"—Austin. We will gather there August 2–5, 2015, at the Renaissance Hotel as part of the TEC Annual Meeting to host our TREWA Annual Membership Meeting and fundraising events.

The fundraising efforts in August 2014 were outstanding. TREWA raised over \$52,241 through the purchase of raffle tickets, arts and crafts, silent auction items donated by TREWA members, letter writing, memberships and group raffles. These funds made it possible to once again donate \$20,000 to Rural Friends/ACRE, award 15 scholarships of \$1,500 each and provide four T-shirts and additional items to each 2015 Government-in-Action Youth Tour participant.

One of the goals of TREWA is to award an Honorary Membership to a person who has made outstanding contributions to TREWA. We would like to present at least one Honorary Membership at our annual membership meeting in August. Nominations are now open, and it is as simple as sending the name and biographical information of your nominee along with a description of his/her personal contributions to: TREWA, c/o Holly Gunter, Medina Electric Cooperative, P.O. Box 370, Hondo, TX 78861-0370. Please submit your nominations by March 27.

We all know everything is bigger in Texas. Let's show our Texas pride and round up some great items by purchasing (or making) one or more arts and crafts pieces to be sold at the TEC Annual Meeting in Austin in August. As always a big ole thank you to each of those who have contributed items in the past.

I look forward to seeing each of you. Thank you again for helping to make this a success each year and for years to come.

YEHAW AND THANK YOU to our 2014 Sponsors

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HILCO EC
Insurance Network of America
Scarborough, Medlin & Associates
Techline, Inc.
Texas Electric Cooperatives

Platinum Sponsors

Bailey County EC	Magic Valley EC
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Brazos EC	Rio Grande EC
CoServ Electric	Texas Electric Cooperatives
Farmers EC	Tri-County EC
Golden-Spread EC	Trinity Valley EC
Grayson-Collin EC	United Cooperative Services
Guadalupe Valley EC	Wise EC
Karnes EC	Wood County EC
Lamb County EC	

Gold Sponsors

Bartlett EC	Sam Houston EC
Cooke County EC	San Bernard EC
Houston County EC	San Miguel EC
Lyntegar EC	San Patricio EC
Medina EC	Taylor EC
North Plains EC	

Silver Sponsors

Cherokee County EC	Lighthouse EC
Deaf Smith EC	Mid-South Synergy
Deep East Texas EC	Rayburn Country EC
Fannin EC	Rita Blanca EC
Fayette EC	Rusk County EC
Fort Belknap EC	South Plains EC
Hamilton County EC	Swisher EC
J-A-C EC	

TREWA Scholarship Report

Let's get the word out to our college-bound students: The scholarship contest is fast approaching.

Once again, thanks to your support, TREWA will be awarding 15 \$1,500 scholarships. We are proud to be able to offer these scholarships and help our members with college expenses.

TREWA Scholarship Eligibility and Procedures

1. Fifteen 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 member of an electric cooperative in Texas or an employee of a Texas electric cooperative or an employee of Texas Electric Cooperatives.
2. Grades received in high school will not be the deciding factor in the selection process.
3. Scholarships will be awarded to graduating seniors, full-time college students or adults who have been accepted as full-time students to attend any accredited college, university, junior college, community college, trade/technical school or business school of their choice.
4. Courses must be taken for credit toward 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) current photo, (4) current cooperative electric bill or proof of employment by a Texas electric cooperative or Texas Electric Cooperatives. **Applications must be postmarked by midnight, March 13, 2015, to be judged.**
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.
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 before the beginning of the semester.
9. TREWA will award a scholarship to an individual only once.
10. Applications may be obtained:
 - at trewa.org,
 - by writing Maggie Spurrier, TREWA Scholarship Chair, Farmers EC, 2000 Interstate 30 E., Greenville, TX 75402,
 - by emailing mspurrer@farmerselectric.coop,
 - or by calling Maggie Spurrier at (903) 453-0554.





TREWA Scholarship Application

Application must be postmarked by March 13, 2015.

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, Inc.

Return to:

Maggie Spurrier
TREWA Scholarship Chairman
Farmers Electric Cooperative
2000 Interstate 30 East
Greenville, TX 75402

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.

Silent Auction, Art and Craft Sale Are a SUCCESS!

TREWA's Arts and Crafts Sale and Silent Auction were both a huge success this past August during the TEC Annual Meeting in Galveston.

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 2015 event at the TEC Annual Meeting in Austin even better, we again need for you to consider providing an arts and crafts item or an item that will have the members scrambling to bid on it during the silent auction. The proceeds continue to fund scholarships each year and also 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 2015 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 crafted item, please designate someone to bring your item for you:

Name _____

2013-14 TREWA Board of Directors

Group 1

Lynne Erickson
Houston County EC
(936) 852-7224
lynne@houstoncountyelec.com



Group 2

Dee Dee Lauterbach
Historian/Arts & Crafts
Heart of Texas EC
1-800-840-2957
deedee@hotec.coop



Group 3

Maggie Spurrier
Scholarship Chair
Farmers EC
(903) 453-0554
mspurrer@farmerelectric.coop



Group 4

René Wells
Vice President
Taylor EC
(325) 793-8539
rene.wells@taylorelectric.coop



Group 5

Kathy Shipp
Secretary/Arts & Crafts
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, 2015.

The TREWA Board of Directors would like to thank you for your continued support to 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 560 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:

- ▶ Heart of Texas EC , Group 2
- ▶ North Plains EC, Group 5
- ▶ Rita Blanca 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, 2014, through July 31, 2015.

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
 100 Cooperative Way
 Georgetown, TX 78626

Email: tawnya.boos@ctec.coop

Fax: (830) 997-9034