



The Lamplighter



TEXAS RURAL ELECTRIC WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

DECEMBER 2018



Karen Culpepper
President



PRESIDENT'S REPORT



In August, TREWA waltzed into San Antonio to the TEC Annual Meeting and proceeded—with the assistance of donations from vendors, members from all across the state, purchases of silent auction items and arts and crafts—to tally up a grand total of \$49,530.97! These funds will aid in providing support to our Rural Friends/Acres causes, TREWA Scholarships and Youth Tour Program. We simply can't express how grateful we are to have such tremendous support from all over the state of Texas.

Thanksgiving has passed and Christmas is now hot on our heels. As you and your family

light your tree, cook your holiday meals and enjoy the warmth of your homes, please take a moment and remember the pioneers of rural electrification that made all of that possible.

As you, your family and your friends reminisce and share new stories, don't forget to shine a little light on the enlightening change that took place over eighty years ago. In an effort to shine our light, we will continue to bring you *The Lamplighter*. It is appropriately named to share this information with you and will continue the educational efforts, so that the history of rural electrification may never be forgotten.





Cooperative History Series



Day after day, season after season, every farm has heavy and tedious jobs which must be done. Such work needs up energy and time. More, it needs up money. The farmer needs strength. Just help that costs little. Electric power is the answer. . . . Changes start with the more it is used, the stronger it gets. Modern farmers know how electricity can be turned into dollars. Electric farm equipment has been proved by experience. It is labor saving, pocketbook saving. Look at the equipment on this page. Think of it on your farm. . . . In saving, its ready power, its money-making possibilities, now and in the future.

THE ELECTRIC MILKER.—It can milk 100 cows and more like it. It can milk 1 cow for an entire month for the cost of only 1 1/2 kilowatt hours.

THE ELECTRIC SAW.—It saves up a cord of wood for an acre in the cost of 2 kilowatt hours, saves an acre, time and money.

THE ELECTRIC PUMP.—It fetches water without grinding, can serve all needs of the farm and house for about 25 kilowatt hours per month.

THE ELECTRIC BROODER.—It gives easy tasks to a heat-sitting hen at great speed, making the farmer's work more quiet, easier.

THE ELECTRIC MILK COOLER.—Milk keeps sweet in a modern regulated date cooler. 1 kilowatt hour will cool 10 gallons of milk a day.

"More Power to the Farmer" brochure, Rural Electrification Administration, United States department of Agriculture, around 1940.

Imagine your daily life without electricity. Cooking and heating clothes irons on wood stoves, pumping water by hand, reading and working under kerosene lamps. Many people in rural America lived that life until well into the 20th century. Most only received electricity by choosing to work together with their neighbors and participate in electrical cooperatives, or co-ops for short.

Electricity would improve the efficiency of work and the comforts of home life in rural areas, encouraging more Americans to stay on family farms. Franklin D. Roosevelt made this issue part of his 1932 presidential campaign and worked with Congress to establish the Rural Electrification Administration (REA). Rather

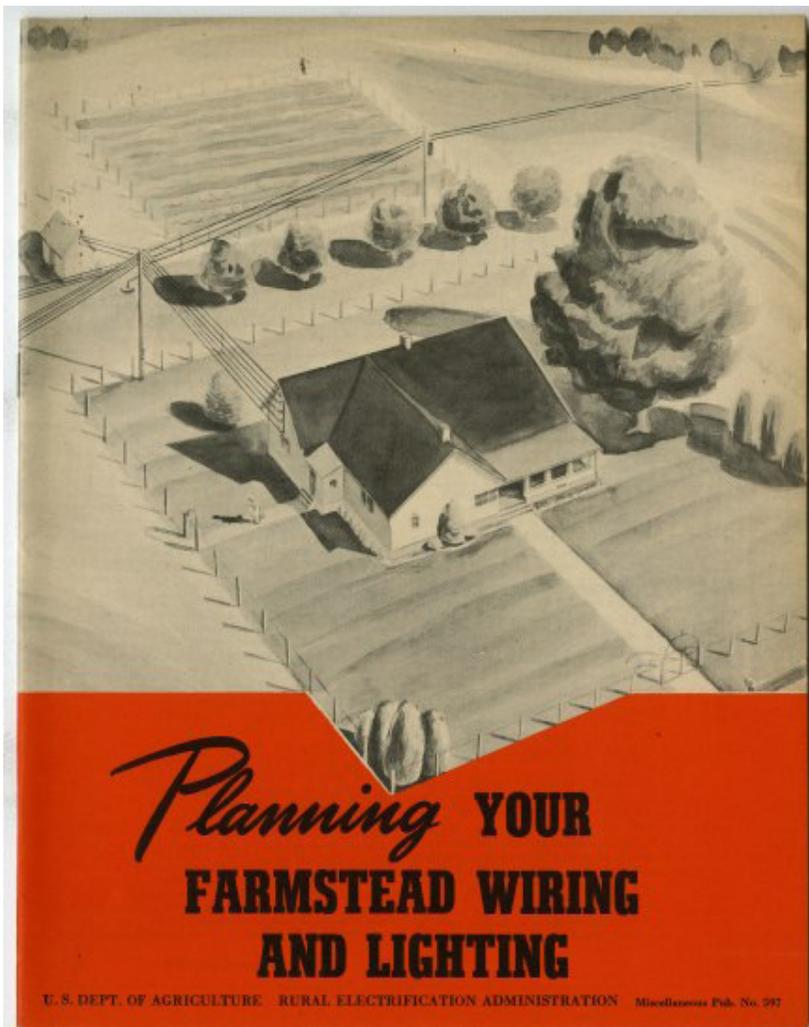
than simply build power systems, the REA made loans to electric cooperatives that were repaid over 30 years. Country folk came together, organized cooperatives, and provided labor to build the systems that they ultimately came to own.

World War II interrupted the work of the REA. When President Roosevelt signed the Rural Electrification Bill in September 1944, he said, "From the point of view of raising the living standards of rural America and providing a more efficient form of farm management, one of the most important projects interrupted by the war is the extension of rural electrification."

President Roosevelt went on to explain that participation in rural electrification must be wide and

not limited to areas with greater resources: "It is particularly important that extensions of rural electrification be planned in such a way as to provide service on an area basis. The practice has been too frequent in the past for private utility companies to undertake to serve only the more prosperous and more populous rural sections. As a result, families in less favored and in sparsely settled sections were left unserved. I believe that our postwar rural electrification program should bring modern service of electric power to the farm families in the back country."

The rural communities that established, built, and now own their cooperatives have continued to reap benefits from their participation. In the years after most of rural America electrified, the REA (now Rural Utilities Service) continued working to bring telephone lines and later broadband Internet connections to the countryside. Hundreds of rural cooperatives throughout the country continue to provide power and other services for their participating members.



Front cover of pamphlet titled "Planning Your Farmstead Wiring and Lighting," 1940-1951.

*Excerpted from "Power from the people: Rural Electrification brought more than lights" by Harold D. Wallace Jr.
<http://americanhistory.si.edu/blog/rural-electrification>





Energy Efficiency



3 Quick Tips to Avoid High Winter Bills

Looking for easy ways to lower your energy bills this winter? Here's a few tips from the Department of Energy:



Open blinds and curtains during the day to allow sunlight in to warm your home. Close them at night to keep cold, drafty air out.



Wash clothes in cold water, and use cold-water detergent whenever possible.



Replace incandescent light bulbs with LEDs, which use at least 75 percent less energy.



Be merry and bright, but don't let your holiday lights shine all night. Save money on your electric bill by installing a light timer for your decked out home. It can help lower your electric bill and reduce energy consumption. Use a manual timer plugged into an electrical outlet to automatically turn lights on and off as scheduled.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy

TREWA Scholarships

This year, TREWA will be awarding 20 scholarships, each worth \$1,500, to current TREWA members or their children.

See page 11 for requirements and application.

Guidelines:

- 1) Applicant or applicant's parent/guardian must be a current member or an employee of a Texas electric cooperative or an employee of Texas Electric Cooperatives. Applicant must also be a current member of TREWA.
- 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.





Thank you 2018 Sponsors



*Thank
you!*



Platinum Sponsors:

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 Upshur Rural



HOLIDAY LIGHTING SAFETY TIPS



Avoid resting bulbs on tree needles and branches.

Try using a clip to keep the bulbs upright.



Rural Friends
ACRE

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

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.**

2019 TEC/TREWA Annual Meeting Silent Auction & Craft Donation Form

YES! I will donate a Craft/Art Item

Name _____

City, State, Zip _____

Item Donated _____

Item Value _____

If you are unable to attend the meeting, please designate someone to bring your item for you. _____

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.

2018-19 TREWA Board of Directors

Group 1

Kathy Chapman
Arts & Crafts
Bowie-Cass EC
(903) 846-2311
kathyf@bceec.com



Group 2

Kendra Markwardt
Scholarship Chair
HILCO EC
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Ext. 1145 • kmarkwardt@hilco.coop



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Group 7

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kshipp@lceec.coop



Bobbi Byford
Social Media/
Lamplighter
Trinity Valley EC
(469) 261-9876
bobbi@tvec.coop



"The most important thing is to enjoy your life - to be happy - it's all that matters."

- Audrey Hepburn

TREWA MEMBERSHIP

Current memberships expire July 31, 2019.

TREWA MEMBERSHIP FORM

Membership valid August 1, 2018, through July 31, 2019.

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
Christina Martinez
Membership Chair
1122 Colorado St., 24th Floor
Austin, TX 78701

Email: christina.martinez@bluebonnet.coop



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:

- CoServ Electric, Group 3
- Heart of Texas EC, Group 2
- North Plains EC, Group 5
- 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.



2019 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. Applicant must be a current member of TREWA.
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 institutions requirements and schedules including length on tenure per semester for full time status. Students participating in non-traditional 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 recipients 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

Kendra Markwardt
TREWA Scholarship Chairman
HILCO Electric Cooperative
P.O. Box 127
Itasca, TX 76055

kmarkwardt@hilco.coop

(254) 687-2331, ext. 1145

Applications must be received by midnight, March 15, 2019, to be eligible.



2019 TREWA Scholarship Application

Application must be received by March 15, 2019.

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:

Kendra Markwardt
TREWA Scholarship Chairman
HILCO Electric Cooperative
P.O. Box 127
Itasca, TX 76055
(Applications will not be accepted by email.)

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.
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