



Karen Culpepper  
President

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

**While we are all winding down the** first quarter of 2020, there are two important things that I wanted to remind everyone about—Primary runoff elections and the 2020 U.S. Census. Both are very important to rural Texas and electric cooperatives.

We have just wrapped up primary voting on March 3rd, but for some, this means just the “first” election is over. You may have local candidates in run-off elections and even federal and state office candidates who are still working to get across the finish line in the primary. The run-off day will be May 26th with early voting starting one week prior.

Also easily forgotten, your municipal elections and local school boards could have a slate of candidates for a May 2nd Election. Please take the time to find out! Historically, these are very low turnout races. It would be good to see that change in 2020. Your voice in your city and your school is through your elected representatives.

We have a tremendous organization and network to impact all levels of government if we will just jump in and take part. Please get involved, get educated and encourage others.

Second, like elections, it is important to take part in the census. You likely have already received notices in the mail and there has been a concerted effort this year across the state to get the word out more than ever.

If you did not already know, the census is constitutionally required. The constitution mandates that everyone in the

country be counted every 10 years. It is important for many reasons, but for starters, the reapportioning of the US House of Representatives depends on it. You may recall that in 2010, Texas gained additional seats in Congress. That stands to be the case again in 2020 if we make sure every person living in Texas is counted. The population data will also impact the drawing of local political lines in our counties and for our state house and senate seats.

The Census data is also available for use by business developers and local governments. The data is used in the distribution of about \$675 billion in federal funds, grants and money to states, counties and communities. But not to worry, your personal information is safe and is protected by law. Your personal information cannot be used by any other agency.

This is the first year that you can fill out census information online if you so choose. Instructions will come to every house so be on the lookout. They would like for you have it back in by the end of April, and doing so will likely help ease the burden on census workers who will be visiting people who do not respond. There is a lot more of information available at [census.gov](https://www.census.gov). Let's help educate our community because the impact will be felt for at least the next decade.

2020 is a big year and we've just gotten started! Let's make a difference!

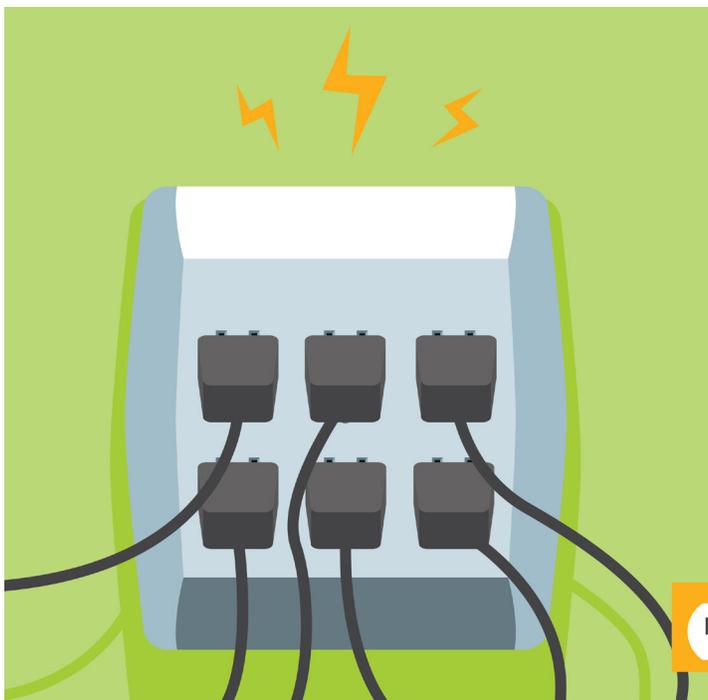


# Safety & Efficiency

## Tips for Energy Efficiency

Spring is nearly here! Now is the perfect time to test your A/C and ensure it's ready for summer. Remember to check the evaporator coil, which should be cleaned annually for optimal efficiency.

Source: energy.gov



### Know the warning signs of overloaded outlets:

- Flickering/blinking lights
- Warm or discolored wall plates
- Burning odor from receptacles
- Mild shock or tingle from appliances, receptacles or switches
- Frequently tripped circuit breakers

May is National Electrical Safety Month

 plug into safety



### MARCH 2020

National Women's History Month

March 8th - Daylight Savings "Spring Forward"

March 8th - International Women's Day

March 17th - St. Patrick's Day

March 19th - First Day of Spring

### APRIL 2020

April 1st - April Fools Day

April 10th - Good Friday

April 12th - Easter

April 13th - Lineman Appreciation Day

### MAY 2020

National Electric Safety Month

May 10th - Mother's Day

May 25th - Memorial Day



**SPRING 2020**  
**THURSDAY, MARCH 19 -**  
**SATURDAY, JUNE 20**



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.

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### 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., 24<sup>th</sup> Floor, Austin, TX 78701.**

# 2020 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.

## 2019 TREWA Board of Directors

**Group 1**

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



**Group 2**

Kendra Markwardt  
Scholarship Chair  
HILCO EC  
(254) 687-2331  
Ext. 1145 • kmarkwardt@hilco.coop



**Group 3**

Karen Culpepper  
President  
Wise EC  
(940) 626-3003  
kculpepper@wiseec.com



**Group 4**

Rachel Ford  
Vice-President  
Comanche EC  
(325) 356-2533  
rford@ceca.coop



**Group 5**

Jana Bishop  
Lyntegar EC  
(806) 470-9270  
jbishop@lyntegar.coop



**Group 6**

Celeste Mikeska  
Membership Chair  
Pedernales ECI  
(830) 868-6081  
celeste.mikeska@peci.com



**Group 7**

Brenda Rodriguez  
Secretary/Treasurer  
Wharton County ECI  
(979) 543-6271  
brodriguez@myceec.coop



Kathy Shipp  
Past President  
Lamb County EC  
(806) 385-5191  
kshipp@lcec.coop



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



*“Be yourself; everyone else is already taken.”*

- Oscar Wilde

# TREWA MEMBERSHIP

## Current memberships expire July 31, 2020.

### TREWA MEMBERSHIP FORM

Membership valid August 1, 2019, through July 31, 2020.

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  
 Celeste Mikeska  
 Membership Chair  
 1122 Colorado St., 24th Floor  
 Austin, TX 78701

Email: celeste.mikeska@peci.com



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](http://trewa.org).