

The Lamplighter

TEXAS RURAL ELECTRIC WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

OCTOBER 2019



Karen Culpepper
President

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The Fairmont Austin opened its doors to this year's TEC/TREWA Annual Meeting. History has shown the Fairmont to be the iconic "Place of Occasion" and so was the annual meeting. Directors, CEO/General Manager's and staff gathered together to take part in learning about topics that affect the cooperatives, rekindle friendships and support TREWA's fundraising efforts. A stroll outside the grand meeting room gave attendees the opportunity to visit the many TREWA booths. Arts and Crafts wares were in abundance and covered a multitude of choices. Bidding wars took place over the many Silent Auction items donated by vendors and members from across the state as were all the items. Many others took their chances on the Group Raffle Ticket Sales and the 6-Visa Card Raffle Ticket Sales. This year's fundraising event was outstanding and raised \$52,293.

The generosity of those that donated and those that purchased items is phenomenal. These funds will aid in providing support to our RuralFriends/ACRE causes, TREWA Scholarships and Youth Tour Program. We simply can't express how very grateful we are to have such tremendous support from all over the state. As we continue to live and work in a world so dependent upon electricity, let's not forget to continue to tell our story of the pioneers of rural electrification. The Lamplighter will continue to shine a little light to keep the story going.



Safety & Efficiency



Tips For Energy Efficiency

Fall is here, and that means colder months will be here before we know it. Is your home prepared for the drafts that may enter? Tight-fitting insulating drapes or shades are a perfect way to keep the heat in and the cold out.

PLEASE MOVE OVER FOR EMERGENCY AND UTILITY CREWS

If you see police, firefighters, utility crews or other emergency personnel on the side of the road, please slow down and move over when possible.

Together, we can keep our crews safe.



AMERICA'S ELECTRIC
COOPERATIVES

Cooperative History Series

It came after the electric light and before radio, television, microwave ovens, blenders, juicers, computers - indeed, it was the first electrical appliance to populate the home and one of only a handful of devices in history to achieve ubiquity in advanced nations. Interestingly, although it turned 100 years old in 2005, it can still be found in more than 90% of American homes. As the first electrical appliance, this also means we are now celebrating over 100 years of electrical appliances. Oh, and by the way, can you guess what it is?

Now toast is not new, first having become common about 5,000 years ago in Egypt. Once more the Romans were responsible for the spread of the idea of toast across Europe and the word "toast" comes from the Latin "tostum" which means scorch or burn.

The application of electrical energy to standardize the difficult process of scorching bread seemed a natural. Appliances fashioned from wire and designed for holding bread (over a fire) were among the more commonplace kitchen items of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries and anyone who has ever toasted bread on an open fire will vouch for the many difficulties.

According to the Cyber Toaster Museum, a young engineer named Albert Marsh applied for a patent for an alloy of

nickel and chromium in March, 1905, which Marsh described in his patent application as having: "...the properties of being very low in electrical conductivity, very infusible, non-oxidizable to a very high degree, tough and sufficiently ductile to permit drawing or shaping it into wire or strip to render it convenient for use as an electrical resistance element."

Two months later, George Schneider submitted a patent application for an enclosed toaster using a resistance wire and the very first rudimentary electrical appliance, the toaster, was born.

- The first toaster had a colorful name, "El Tosto," and was manufactured under the Pacific Electric Heating name, which later became Hotpoint Electric.
- The first U.S. Patent for an electric toaster was made in 1909 by General Electric.
- The first automatic pop-up toaster was the Toastmaster 1A1, invented in 1926. The was the most desired wedding gift of that time. In today's dollars it would have gone for \$150 making it a prized wedding gift.
- Toasters really gained popularity in 1933 upon the invention of sliced bread. It is historically speaking, the toaster is the next best thing since sliced bread.
- Today over 75 million Americans enjoy a piece of golden brown toast ever day.

November is National Bread Month in the United States so celebrate and give a "toast" to National Bread Month.



"The First Electrical Appliance Turns 100 Years Old" by Mark Hanlon
<https://newatlas.com/the-first-electrical-appliance-turns-100-years-old/4824/>

Mark Your Calendars

OCTOBER 2019

National Breast Cancer Awareness Month

October 14th - Columbus Day

October 16th - Boss's Day

October 31st - Halloween

NOVEMBER 2019

November 3rd - Daylight Savings "Fall Backwards"

November 11th - Veteran's Day

November 28th - Thanksgiving Day

November 29th - Black Friday

DECEMBER 2019

December 2nd - Cyber Monday

December 7th - Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day

December 25th - Christmas Day

December 31st - New Years' Eve



AUTUMN 2019
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 23 -
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21



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.**

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

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"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, 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.