

# Co-ops: Focused on Service, Not Profits



MESSAGE FROM  
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER ROBERT A. LOTH III**

**NOW, AS ALWAYS, IS A GOOD TIME TO BE A MEMBER OF AN ELECTRIC cooperative.**

Not only are co-ops locally owned—by you, the members—they are locally run to serve your needs.

While many Texas electricity customers pay their power bills to companies that answer to faraway stockholders—who demand a healthy profit every quarter—local members call the shots for electric co-ops.

Co-ops aren't under pressure to keep rates high enough to generate big dividends for investors. Instead, we keep rates as low as we can while providing high-quality service.

Central Texas Electric Cooperative invests money earned in excess of operating costs back into the co-op and eventually returns the excess, known as margins, to members in the form of capital credits.

And unlike the boards of investor-owned utilities who must consider Wall Street profit pressures, your co-op's directors are fellow members with only one goal in mind: keeping the lights on while keeping costs down. That is what's so great about co-ops. If you don't like the direction your co-op is taking, you have the power to change its leadership through democratic means.

You may know the history of the electric cooperative movement, how eight decades ago, rural citizens banded together to bring the conveniences of

electricity to their communities when investor-owned utilities would not extend service. The associations they formed, on the same democratic principles as this great nation, are as strong and relevant today as they were then.

Co-op leadership shares the concerns that you, the members, have. You can stop by, give us a call or send us an email and be assured that someone here is listening.

As locally owned and operated businesses, electric co-ops have a firsthand understanding of the people they serve. Cooperative management and employees share the same values and have the same community pride as you because it is our community, too. We act like neighbors because we are neighbors.

And that's the cooperative difference.



**COOPERATIVE PRINCIPLE**

**VOLUNTARY AND OPEN MEMBERSHIP**  
Cooperatives are voluntary organizations open to all persons able to use their services and willing to accept the responsibilities of membership, without gender, social, racial, political or religious discrimination.

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CENTRAL TEXAS EC  
DECEMBER 12

## Regular Board Meeting Recap

**Meeting called to order and prayer offered.**

**Approved:** Minutes of the November 13, 2018, Regular Board Meeting

**Approved:** Minutes of the November 28, 2018, Special Board Meeting

**Approved:** November 6–December 3, 2018, Membership List and Membership Conversions

**Reviewed:** Financial and Statistical Reports for 10 Months Ended October 31, 2018

**Reviewed:** Preliminary Budget for 2019

**Appointed:** Voting Delegates for NRECA and NRTC Annual Meetings

**Reviewed:** Board Policy No. 16

**Approved:** Revision to Board Policy No. 8

**Rescheduled:** February 2019 Regular Board Meeting Date

**Approved:** Workplace Safety Policy Meeting adjourned.



### LIKE US ON FACEBOOK

Central Texas Electric Cooperative members can “like” their co-op on Facebook. On the CTEC Facebook page, members can find information on energy efficiency, co-op meetings, outages, CTEC’s community involvement, fun contests and other timely information you can use—so “like” us today.

# Deadline Approaches for District Meeting Ballot

**THE MARCH 15 DEADLINE IS APPROACHING FOR CENTRAL TEXAS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE** members who are interested in running for a seat on the cooperative's board of directors. Those members interested in becoming a director candidate and appearing on ballots at the district meetings in June must meet bylaws requirements, including residing in the area served by the cooperative and receiving electric service in the district they wish to represent.

In adherence with CTEC bylaws, any member interested in a director nomination must submit a completed application along with a petition signed by at least 10 cooperative members within the district in which they are seeking nomination. Members who do not deliver a completed application and petition before the March 15 deadline will not be eligible to be named as a district meeting nominee, as the bylaws do not allow for nominations from the floor.

The Credentials and Election Committee, composed of cooperative members, will review each application and petition. The individuals whose applications and petitions are verified and approved will be listed on the District Meeting Notice mailed to all cooperative members in the districts in question.

The deadline for submitting the required materials is 5 p.m. Friday, March 15, in our headquarters office in Fredericksburg. However, members who wish to be placed on the ballot are urged to turn in the necessary items as soon as possible. The earlier a member turns in their submission, the more time CTEC staff members have to review the material and determine if all requirements are met, giving the prospective candidates the opportunity to resolve any errors or oversights before the deadline. Applications received after the deadline will not be considered. Prospective candidates also are encouraged to obtain petition signatures from more than the minimum of 10 members in the event one or more of the signatures is not recognized as valid by the Credentials and Election Committee.

Applications and petition forms are available at the CTEC headquarters office in Fredericksburg. To have forms mailed or emailed, or if you have questions about the director election process, please call the cooperative's toll-free number, 1-800-900-2832, or the Fredericksburg office at (830) 997-2126.



## Power Tip

Reduce drafts by locking all your windows. A tighter seal is formed when the windows are locked.

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## Central Texas Electric Cooperative

### Fredericksburg (headquarters)

386 Friendship Lane  
Fredericksburg, TX 78624

### Llano

1410 E. State Highway 29, Llano

### Kingsland

Nob Hill Subdivision  
706 Cottonwood St., Kingsland

### Mason

1881 E. State Highway 29, Mason

### Office Hours

8 a.m.–5 p.m., Monday–Friday

### Website

ctec.coop

### CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Robert A. Loth III

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mark Hahn, President, *Mason County*  
Tim Lehmborg, Vice President, *Gillespie County*  
Doylene Bode, Secretary, *Gillespie County*  
Charles E. Pearson, Treasurer, *Gillespie County*  
Jack Asbill, *Mason County*  
Rex Brand, *Kerr County*  
Tommy Duncan, *Llano County*  
Allen Goodwin, *Kendall County*  
Stanley Keese, *Llano County*  
James Low, *San Saba County*  
W.C. "Dub" Stewart, *Llano County*

## Emergency Contact

To report electric service interruptions, please call the Central Texas Electric Cooperative office in your area at the numbers listed below:

### FREDERICKSBURG AREA

**(830) 997-2126**

**1-800-900-CTEC (2832)**

including Gillespie, Kendall, Kerr, Blanco, Real and Kimble counties

### LLANO AND SAN SABA AREAS

**(325) 247-4191**

### THE LAKES AREA

**(325) 388-4542**

### MASON AREA

**(325) 347-6314**

including McCulloch, Menard and Kimble counties

### AFTER HOURS OUTAGE REPORTING

**1-800-900-CTEC (2832)**

# CTEC Scholarship Deadline Draws Near

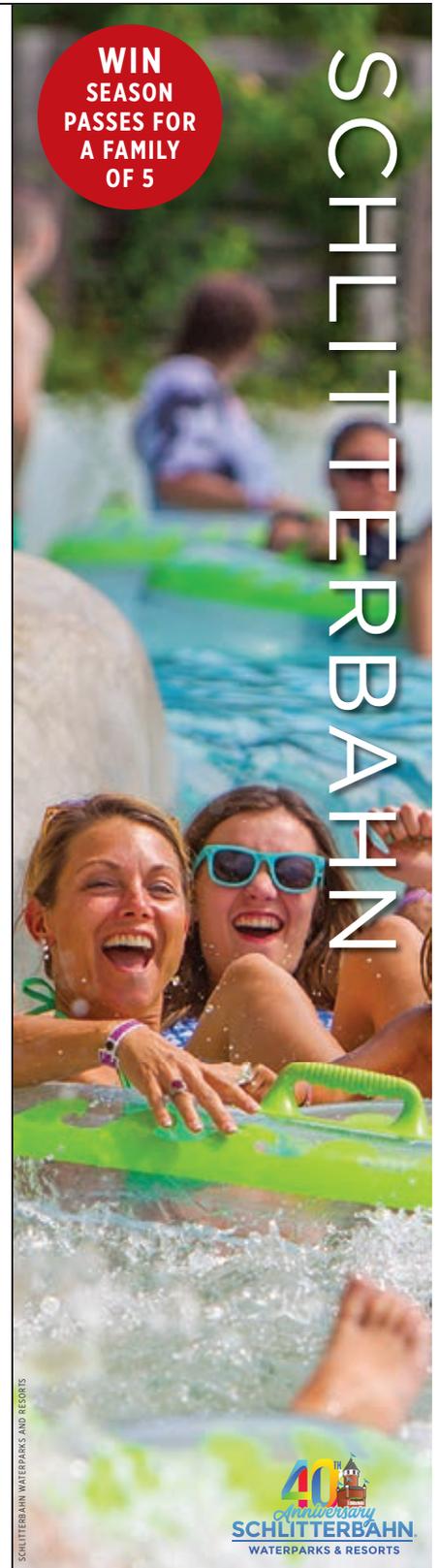
**THIS YEAR, CENTRAL TEXAS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE IS OFFERING 25 \$1,000 SCHOLARSHIPS**, bringing the combined amount of financial aid awarded to area students over the program's 22-year history to \$584,000! Completed scholarship applications must be in the CTEC office in Fredericksburg by 5 p.m. Friday, February 22.

Scholarships are awarded based upon an applicant's eligibility and will be granted to students who attend an accredited Texas institution of higher education. Recipients must carry a minimum of 12 hours or be considered by the registrar to be a full-time student. All scholarships will be mailed directly to the financial aid office of the selected school for the 2019 fall semester. A scholarship selection committee, appointed by the board of directors of Central Texas EC, will choose recipients and alternates for the 25 scholarships.

Applicants must be active members or immediate family of an active member whose primary residence is served by CTEC. This means the electric service must be in the name of the applicant or the applicant's parent or guardian. These scholarships are not just for high school students but for people of any age planning to further their education.

Applicants must be of good character as evidenced by at least two letters of recommendation from teachers, principals, counselors, etc., from the school they currently attend. For applicants returning to school after an extended absence, recommendation letters will be accepted from previous employers, supervisors, ministers, etc. Applicants must demonstrate a coherent degree plan and willingness to pursue a course of higher learning.

For high school seniors, CTEC has sent information to many area schools where CTEC has meters. Applications are also available at all CTEC offices and can be downloaded from the co-op's website, [ctec.coop](http://ctec.coop). Please direct questions to Patricia Stehling at 1-800-900-CTEC (2832) or (830) 997-2126.



**WIN  
SEASON  
PASSES FOR  
A FAMILY  
OF 5**

**SCHLITTERBAHN**

SCHLITTERBAHN WATERPARKS AND RESORTS

**40  
Anniversary  
SCHLITTERBAHN  
WATERPARKS & RESORTS**

**One lucky Central Texas EC member will win!**

Get details and enter online at  
**[TexasCoopPower.com/contests](http://TexasCoopPower.com/contests)**.

Find Schlitterbahn info at [schlitterbahn.com](http://schlitterbahn.com).

# CTEC Operation Round-Up Awards Grant

**THE OPERATION ROUND-UP BOARD OF DIRECTORS AT CENTRAL TEXAS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE** recently approved a grant for Hill Country Community Action's home-delivered meals program.

Hill Country Community Action provides nutritious meals to homebound seniors in Kingsland, Buchanan Dam and Sunrise Beach as well as someone to check in on and talk to the program's clients once a day. HCCA's service area covers nine counties, including Llano, San Saba and Mason, which overlap with CTEC's service area.

Pat Frain, Operation Round-Up director from Llano County, and Dub Stewart, CTEC director, presented a check for \$1,500 to Site Manager Nita Burton at the CTEC office in Kingsland.

Hill Country residents have long embraced an ethos of neighbors helping neighbors, and CTEC members who voluntarily participate in Operation Round-Up uphold that spirit.

By having their monthly electric bills rounded up to the next whole dollar each month, nearly 1,400 enrolled co-op members have been able to make a difference in the lives of several families.

CTEC members who haven't yet signed up for Operation Round-Up can do so simply by picking up the phone and calling the nearest CTEC office to enroll one or all of their accounts. The average contribution comes to 50 cents per month, or just \$6 for an entire year.

One-time monetary contributions to Operation Round-Up also are accepted. Just call any of the member services representatives at a nearby CTEC office and tell them your preference. All donations are tax-deductible.

CTEC serves more than 36,000 meters. And for less than the cost of a soda each month, co-op members can have their accounts rounded up. It's an easy, inexpensive way to invest in a great community program through your co-op membership.

For more information on HCCA and the services it offers, please contact:

**Hill Country Community Action**  
**hccaa.com**  
**1-866-372-5167**  
**hccaa@hccaa.com**  
**2905 W. Wallace St., San Saba**



## Give Your Washer and Dryer a Longer Life

**YOU CAN EXTEND THE LIFE OF YOUR** washer and dryer—and your clothes—by treating your appliances with care on laundry day. Here's how:

**Clean your dryer's lint filter after every use.** Occasionally vacuum the chute that houses the filter.

**Unfasten the duct from the dryer** at least twice a year and vacuum it.

**Cut down on drying times** if your clothes consistently come out wrinkled—an indication that you're overdrying.

**On nice days, skip the dryer** completely by installing and using a clothesline.

**Avoid overloading your washing machine** with comforters, rugs and large blankets. Check your owner's manual to learn how much weight your washer's tub can safely handle.

**Balance your load of laundry.** Washers can fail when heavy loads bang around in an unbalanced machine.

**Replace your water intake hoses** every five years, even if they look OK. Older hoses are prone to bursting.

# There's More Than One London

*The one in Texas is for dancing*

BY PATRICIA STEHLING



**WITH A POPULATION OF AROUND 180, THE TOWN OF LONDON CAN** feel a bit sleepy during the day, but most Saturday nights, the town comes to life as locals and visitors alike make their way to one of the oldest dance halls in Texas. Tiny London lies among Mason, Junction and Menard, and its dance hall draws from all three. While the venue has been open for more than a century, it hasn't always been a dance hall. The site has been home to a hotel, roller-skating rink, feed store and movie theater before the London Dance Hall came to occupy it in the late 1920s.

Billy Ivy, who grew up in London, has owned the dance hall for decades and also runs the London Grocery and Grill across the street. She inherited the grocery store from her father and added a cafe that serves delicious down-home cooking.

"I saw the hall going down a little bit, and it was fixing to

close," Ivy says. "I didn't want to see it close, so I bought it."

London Dance Hall has hosted many Texas music legends, including Robert Earl Keen, Larry Joe Taylor, Kevin Fowler and Johnny Bush. Bush even wrote a song about the historic establishment, *The Ballad of London Hall*.

"Johnny and Linda came through here one summer afternoon years ago," Ivy recalls, "and I said, 'Johnny, why don't you write a song about London?' 'Well,' he said, 'Billy, I just might do that.' So a few weeks later, I got a phone call from him and he said 'Billy, you need to sit down and listen to this,' and he took his guitar and he sang this song over the phone. I cried, I was so honored."

Over the years, walls in the dance hall have been torn out, and buildings that were erected on both sides have been incor-



porated into the original structure. When Ivy took over, there wasn't even a working men's restroom. An exit door read "Men" and opened up to the great outdoors, where gentlemen took care of business near a large tree. Though the tree is now gone, the memory of that time has not been forgotten. When Ivy added a functional men's room, she included a hand-painted oak tree mural in honor of the previous facilities.

Not too much else has changed, though, and stepping into the hall is like stepping into a piece of living Texas history. Just past one of the pool tables, a few men sit at the rock bar, beers in hand as they swap stories. Above their heads is a hand-carved replica of the hall and surrounding buildings along London's main street. Off to the side, several patrons warm up by the inviting stone fireplace while some play pool as others watch and socialize.

But the main attraction is the parquet dance floor that's seen countless pairs of boots over the years. As the band plays, young and old alike take to the dance floor, keeping a time-honored Texas tradition alive.

## THE BALLAD OF LONDON HALL

By Johnny Bush

Written for Billy Ivy

Deep in the heart of Texas  
There's a place where people go  
To dance the waltz and scottish  
And the cotton-eyed joe

It's been like this every Saturday night  
For a hundred years or more  
They two-step with their baby  
'cross the London Dance Hall floor

*Bridge*

Every Saturday night in Texas  
People come from near and far  
To hear twin Texas fiddles  
And a steel guitar

Playing songs of Price and Willie  
Johnny Bush and Darrell McCall  
As they two-step with their baby  
'cross the floor at London Hall

Sometimes I watch the dancing crowds  
And take a two-step back in time  
I can hear the ghost of Bob Wills' fiddle  
And chills crawl up my spine

Adolph Hofner and the Wranglers play  
And Ernest Tubb and the Troubadours  
As a cowboy glides his lady  
'cross the London Dance Hall floor

*Repeat bridge*

Many great names have graced  
the stage  
And I'm proud that one is mine  
Just to stand and perform where  
legends played  
Blows away my mind

And like the Texas top hands  
Jimmy Heap and many more  
I'll keep playing as they two-step  
Across the London Dance Hall floor