



CTEC Discusses Growth, Projects, Safety, and Cybersecurity at Annual Meeting

MORE THAN 250 CENTRAL TEXAS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE members gathered August 15 in the Fredericksburg High School Auditorium for the co-op's 70th annual members' meeting. CTEC Board President James Low welcomed everyone and introduced the 11 members of the board of directors. Retired Central Texas Electric Cooperative employee Joe Brown provided an invocation.

The business of the meeting included the election of three directors to represent their respective districts on the board. Those elected were: W.C. "Dub" Stewart, District 4 (Llano County, fourth term); Charles E. Pearson, District 5 (Gillespie County, fourth term); and James Low, District 6 (San Saba County, second term). The cooperative's bylaws stipulate that a CTEC director's time on the board is limited to four three-year terms.

In a video presentation, Stanley Keese, board treasurer and finance committee chair from Llano County, gave a brief sum-

mary of the financial condition of CTEC. He reported positive and manageable growth for the past year, bringing meter totals to just over 39,000. He said that with construction of new lines and system improvements, the total utility plant in service is now \$214 million.

After providing a breakdown of how revenue was spent in 2016, Keese explained that the net margins for 2016 were \$5.39 million and that \$1.38 million was returned to members in capital credits. "This was by far the largest retirement of capital credits in the history of Central Texas Electric Cooperative, proving once again that membership does have its benefits," Keese said. "Central Texas Electric Cooperative is in excellent financial condition. Looking forward, your co-op will remain strong, with rates that are very competitive and stable."

Jack Asbill, board vice president, gave members an operations report for the past year. He began by addressing the rapid growth in eastern Gillespie County and the need for the addi-



Central Texas Electric Cooperative

Fredericksburg (headquarters)

386 Friendship Lane
Fredericksburg, TX 78624

Llano

1410 E. St. Hwy. 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

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

8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

(325) 247-4191

after business hours

MASON AREA

(325) 347-6314

including McCulloch, Menard and Kimble counties

tion of a substation and transmission lines to help serve that bustling area. “The Texas Public Utility Commission approved the transmission line routing and substation location in late 2015,” he said. “Since that time, right-of-way easements were obtained, and land for the substation was purchased. In early summer of 2017, construction on the Blumenthal substation began and is on schedule to be completed and online by the summer of 2018.” He stressed the importance of this project, as it will drastically improve electric reliability in that area.

CTEC completed a number of other projects in 2016. An additional circuit breaker was added to the Harper substation, which will enable the co-op to split the load on an existing circuit into two circuits, improving efficiency and reliability. Also, a substation transformer was replaced in the Buchanan substation, as the former transformer was showing signs of possible failure. Line work stretching across approximately 40 miles, which was necessary to convert the Kendall substation, also was completed. More than 120 miles of right-of-way were cleared throughout the system, in addition to numerous other line projects.

“By far, the largest project we undertook last year was a new district office in Mason and an operations center in Fredericksburg,” Asbill said. After explaining that the buildings were completed under budget and ahead of schedule, he added, “Our employees who work out of the facilities are already experiencing many of the benefits that were anticipated.”

The video then shared interviews with some of the employees working out of the new facilities.

Asbill continued, “One of the biggest highlights of this report is that during July, the co-op passed one year, or over a quarter of a million hours, worked without



a lost-time accident. Over the past four years, or almost 1 million hours worked, we have only had two minor lost-time accidents. This is quite an accomplishment, considering that we have almost 140 employees who work in a hazardous environment.” He concluded, “Of all the subjects we have discussed tonight, the co-op’s safety record is the thing we are most proud of.”

Doylene Bode, board secretary, addressed the subject of cybersecurity. “Malware and system breaches continue to increase and have gained the attention of mainstream media.” She assured members, “At CTEC, we take a proactive, layered approach to information security and follow best practices to protect our information systems. Protecting your personal information that is stored on our system is a top priority.” She continued, “Employees cannot have access to or see any bank or credit card information of our members. So, our employees can no longer take payment information over the phone. Instead, members can call or be forwarded to a secure, automated system that accepts credit cards and check payments at any time of the day or night.”

Low returned to discuss CTEC’s commitment to improving communications. “Today, we use four main tools to communicate with our membership: the *Texas Co-op Power* magazine,

the CTEC website, our Facebook page and local newspapers,” he said. “Be assured that we will not rest on our laurels but continue to provide you with reliable, low-cost electricity and customer service that is second to none.”

Following the video report, Loth announced that the board recently decided to rotate the annual meeting location between Fredericksburg, Llano and Mason. The annual meeting in 2018 will be held in Llano with Mason to follow in 2019. The annual meeting will return to Fredericksburg in 2020.

Loth then acknowledged the 25 scholarship recipients for 2017 who will receive \$1,000 each. He explained that in 1997, a bill was passed that allowed co-ops to put unclaimed capital credits, previously collected by the comptroller’s office for the state’s general fund, to use for student scholarships.

Loth then gave special recognition to seven employees with extended tenure at the cooperative, combining for a total of 230 years of dedicated service.

As at all CTEC members’ meetings, a question-and-answer session was included, providing members an opportunity to voice questions and comments.

The meeting ended with a drawing for more than \$3,000 in door prizes that all were donated by Central Texas Electric Cooperative’s generous suppliers.

Annual Meeting Prizewinners

Frances Heimann	\$100 Cabela's gift card
Eileen Boyd	\$100 Walmart gift card
John and Caroline Stafford	Igloo Trailmate All-Terrain cooler
Willow City Fire Department	\$100 Academy gift card
Roger and Ilene Crenwelge	\$100 Academy gift card
Willow City Community Club	\$100 Academy gift card
Cal Paranteau	\$50 Bass Pro Shops gift card and soft rifle case
Don and Linda Adams	\$50 Bass Pro Shops gift card and multi-bit power driver
Jerald D. Blount	\$50 Bass Pro Shops gift card and LED pocket light
Randy Nagel	\$50 Visa gift card and duffel bag
Calvin Kuhlmann	\$50 Visa gift card and soft-sided cooler
Gillespie Air Services Inc.	\$50 Visa gift card and stadium blanket
William and Sylvia J. Dame	\$50 Visa gift card and stadium blanket
Rosie Meurer	Camo LED cliplight and Yeti 30-ounce Rambler
Keller Equipment Company	Camo LED cliplight and Yeti 20-ounce Rambler
Stanley Ernst	Camo LED cliplight and Yeti Colster koozie
Douglas O. Allen Jr.	Husky LED worklight, camo gloves and multi-bit power driver
Dolores Roos	\$75 Tractor Supply gift card
Craig L. and Denise A. Coulter	\$250 gift certificate for Char-Broil electric grill
Willow City Emmanuel	
Gospel Church	\$75 Sutherland's gift card
Charles E. Morrison	\$75 Sutherland's gift card
Sherry Behrends	\$75 Tractor Supply gift card
Murray and Joselyn McDonald	\$75 Tractor Supply gift card
Cherry Spring Community Club	\$75 Lowe's gift card
Henry D. Sauer	\$75 Lowe's gift card
Fred and Judy Nardini	\$100 Cabela's gift card
Lester Petsch	\$100 Amazon gift card
Thomas Hammer	\$100 Best Buy gift card
David W. and Judy R. Barnett	\$100 Bass Pro Shops gift card
Margaret Holland	\$100 Bass Pro Shops gift card
Thomas Kaderli	\$75 Home Depot gift card
Pecan Creek School	\$75 Home Depot gift card
Katherine and Phillip H. Wolf	\$50 Walmart gift card and camo gloves
Donald Weed	\$50 Walmart gift card and LED pocket light
Ronald Ersch	Yeti Hopper 20 cooler
Glenn P. Hayes	Yeti Hopper 20 cooler

Names Drawn in Proxy Contest

AFTER THE ANNUAL MEETING, A DRAWING was held among names of the 1,104 members who submitted their proxy cards to the auditor's office by the deadline. The 10 members whose names were drawn each will receive a \$50 electric bill credit.

- Cade Schwethelm General LLC** of Kerrville
- R.G. Wierusheske** of Buchanan Dam
- Charlotte L. and Guy Hastings** of Kingsland
- Shannon T. Gold** of Fredericksburg
- Floyd Kothmann** of Valley Spring
- Allen R. King** of Kingsland
- Maria T. Emert** of Kingsland
- Gerard E. Sultenfuss** of Garden Ridge
- Edwin Ellis** of Midland
- Thomas D. Jones** of Kerrville

CTEC appreciates the cooperation of all members who participated in the voting process of the annual membership meeting, making it a success once again. Congratulations to these lucky members!

Thank You to the Prize Donors

- Anixter Power Solutions
- Creative Awards
- Dealers Electric Supply
- FAPCo
- Insurance Network of Texas
- Irby Electrical Distributors
- James Power Line Construction
- KBS Electrical Distributors
- National Tree Expert Co.
- The Okonite Company
- RJ Trading Group
- Schneider Engineering
- Techline
- Texas Electric Cooperatives
- Texas Utility Inspection Services
- WESCO Distribution



Three Members Elected to Board of Directors



W.C. "DUB" STEWART
District 4



CHARLES E. PEARSON
District 5



JAMES LOW
District 6

THREE CENTRAL TEXAS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE MEMBERS WERE ELECTED TO DIRECTOR seats at this year's annual membership meeting. They were: W.C. "Dub" Stewart of Sunrise Beach to represent District 4, Llano County; Charles E. Pearson of Fredericksburg to represent District 5, Gillespie and Blanco counties; and James Low of Cherokee to represent District 6, San Saba County.

Board Officers Named

THE CENTRAL TEXAS ELECTRIC COOP-erative Board of Directors convened an organizational meeting after adjournment of the annual member meeting in Fredericksburg. Board officers elected for 2018 were:

W.C. "Dub" Stewart from Llano County, President

Allen Goodwin from Kendall County, Vice President

Doylene Bode from Gillespie County, Secretary

Tim Lehmborg from Gillespie County, Treasurer

Spooky—But Safe

TO HELP ENSURE THAT ADULTS AND CHILDREN HAVE A SAFE holiday, Central Texas Electric Cooperative offers these Halloween safety tips:

For Parents

- ▶ A parent or responsible adult always should accompany young children on the neighborhood rounds.
- ▶ If older children are going out alone, plan and review a route that is acceptable to you.
- ▶ Agree on a specific time when children should return home.

For Costumers

- ▶ All costumes, wigs and accessories should be fire-resistant.
- ▶ If children will be out after dark, use reflective tape on their costumes and bags to make sure they are visible.

For Trick-or-Treaters

- ▶ Travel only in familiar, well-lit areas and avoid trick-or-treating alone.
- ▶ Do not eat any treats until you return home and your parents can inspect your haul.
- ▶ Only approach homes with a porch light on.



- ▶ Never enter a home or car for a treat.

For Drivers

- ▶ Watch for children walking on roadways, medians and curbs.
 - ▶ Enter and exit driveways and alleys carefully.
- Children and adults are reminded to put down electronic devices, keep heads up and walk—don't run—across streets.



PAT STAHL
40 years



LARRY TATSCH
35 years



GLEN DAVIS
35 years



FRANK WOOTEN
35 years



TIM CHEW
35 years



CRISSY SEGNER
25 years



DEANA STAFFORD
25 years

Employees Recognized at Annual Meeting

For their years of faithful service to Central Texas Electric Cooperative members, 19 tenured employees were recognized at the annual meeting in Fredericksburg. These employees work hard to make your co-op run smoothly, so when you run into them at the store, church or a school function, give them a well-deserved pat on the back!

CTEC EMPLOYEES REACHING A FIVE-YEAR MILESTONE OF EMPLOYMENT THIS YEAR

40 YEARS
Pat Stahl

35 YEARS
Larry Tatsch
Glen Davis
Frank Wooten
Tim Chew

25 YEARS
Crissy Segner
Deana Stafford

20 YEARS
Rodney Pressler
Michelle Mynatt
David Gardner

15 YEARS
Clyde Cavness
Laura Parson

10 YEARS
George Page
Dennis Ransleban

5 YEARS
Bill Capps
Jeromy Morrison
Ronald Ersch
Regena Gray
Bryan Smith



**ELECTRIC
CO-OPS
COMMIT**
Co-op Month 2017



Central Texas Electric Cooperative Is Committed To Serving Our Members

Celebrate Co-op Month This October
#coopmonth

COOPERATIVES ARE:
VOLUNTARY • DEMOCRATIC • EQUITABLE • INDEPENDENT • INFORMATIVE • COLLABORATIVE • COMMUNITY

Right Trees, Right Place, Right Result

WHETHER PLANTING TREES TO CELEBRATE ARBOR DAY—THIS year, Friday, November 3, in Texas—or to provide a wind break, reduce carbon in the environment or beautify the landscape, your electric cooperative reminds you of the importance of planting tall-growing trees safely away from power lines. Trees that grow too close to electric lines can create shock and fire hazards as well as power outages.

Take the time to research tree selections by consulting your local arborist, tree nursery or cooperative experts, who can help in designing a beautiful, shade-filled yard with trees that are appropriate for each area of the landscape but won't grow to interfere with the electric supply.

Trees help combat the effects of pollution by absorbing carbon dioxide. When trees grow, they take energy from the sun and combine it with carbon from the air to photosynthesize.

They remove carbon from the air and sequester, or store, it in their biomass and in the ground. This makes trees a natural "carbon sink," or living source of carbon reduction. Some trees are better suited for this task than others, and tree species that grow quickly and live long are ideal carbon sinks, according to the U.S. Department of Energy.

Choosing the right tree for the right place is crucial, especially when it comes to power lines. Trees and wood conduct electricity and can create a safety hazard if grown close to electric lines. Power outages or momentary interruptions can occur when branches come into contact with overhead lines. Electrical arcing and sparking from a wire to a nearby branch also can cause a fire.

Another concern is the safety risk when children climb trees near power lines. Accidental contact between electric wires and a child via a tree limb can be fatal. Parents and caregivers are urged to teach children to avoid not only trees near power lines but also padmount transformers and other equipment serving underground lines.

If you have trees that appear to be growing into power lines, contact your electric cooperative. Never try to prune them yourself. Your co-op has—or can recommend—skilled professionals trained to safely prune and trim trees for electric line clearance.

To avoid future electrical hazards, remember these safe planting tips:

- ▶ Consider the mature heights of trees. Never plant near a power line any tree that could grow to 25 feet or taller. Tall-growing trees should be planted a minimum of 20 feet away from power lines, and 50 feet away to avoid future pruning. A mature height of less than 15 feet is recommended for trees planted near power lines.

- ▶ Do not plant near underground utility services. Tree roots can grow to interfere with underground pipes, cables



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and wires. Future repairs to these facilities also could damage the health and beauty of nearby plants and trees.

- ▶ Keep areas around electric meters, transformers and other electrical equipment free of any vegetation that could limit utility service access.

- ▶ Before digging, call 811 to have them mark the location of underground utilities so that accidental contact, damage and injuries can be avoided.

There are many beautiful varieties of tall trees, low-growing trees and shrubs that provide color, screening and shade, and enhance the quality of life in our communities and environment. Consider the types of trees that coexist well with power lines and the environment before you start planting.