

Sow the Holiday Spirit All Year Long



MESSAGE FROM
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER ROBERT A. LOTH III

CONCERN FOR COMMUNITY, A FOUNDING PRINCIPLE IN THE COOP-erative world, particularly resonates with many of us during the holidays. And it's no wonder, what with all the entreaties to donate time and resources to charitable causes late in the year. We at Central Texas Electric Cooperative encourage our members to give to the causes they hold dear and in whatever ways they can. We'd also like to issue a gentle reminder that many agencies

and organizations struggle to keep afloat at other times of the year, when offerings aren't so abundant.

It's in this spirit and with an unwavering goal of serving our community that Central Texas EC contributes to efforts like food drives and area school events year-round. The holidays are a wonderful time to help those in need, of course, and the spike in giving during the holidays can be immensely helpful. However, many non-profits would benefit greatly from a more balanced approach to giving.

Whether you have a bit of time or money to spare and

whatever your chosen beneficiary, think about spreading out your assistance over the course of the year. Modest, regular contributions of time or financial support to an organization of your choosing can be more sustaining than seasonal giving. Many charities offer monthly donation programs.

Central Texas EC's Operation Round-Up program works just like that. Through small, monthly contributions from many members, we are able to make a big difference year-round in our communities.

It's also worth remembering that thoughtful gestures can have a big impact on those who otherwise may feel left out of holiday festivities. Something as simple as checking in on an ill or elderly neighbor or delivering a special treat or notes of thanks to those who don't get to spend the holidays with their loved ones (including first responders, medical personnel and, often, our own dedicated lineworkers) could warm someone's heart.

However you enjoy the beauty of the season, Central Texas EC wishes you and yours a very merry Christmas and happy holidays.



“There are so many people in the co-ops of Texas who do extraordinary things for other people.”

—**NANCY JOHNSON**, whose **Little Hats, Big Hearts** program builds awareness of congenital heart defects. *Texas Co-op Power*, February 2017

WYATT KCSPADDEN

POWER OF OUR PEOPLE

Let us know about your local hero! Nominate a co-op member in your area who improves the community's quality of life.

Email your nomination to people@texascooppower.com.

Include name, co-op affiliation and a short description of their work in the community.

We'll highlight select nominees in a future issue of *Texas Co-op Power*.

TEXAS CO-OP POWER

Students: Apply Now To Win a Trip to Washington, DC



WASHINGTON, D.C., IS HOME TO MUSEUMS AND memorials, beautiful art and soaring architecture, and, of course, our nation's leaders and lawmakers. Again in 2019, Central Texas Electric Cooperative will send three high school students to discover the many educational and cultural opportunities our nation's capital offers. The Government-in-Action Youth Tour Essay Contest is underway, with essays due January 25 to earn a spot on what truly is the trip of a lifetime. Participation is open to high school students who will have completed their sophomore year by May 2019.

Youth Tour has a packed itinerary over a 10-day trip, with stops including the Washington National Cathedral, Arlington Cemetery, Mount Vernon, the Smithsonian Institution and many more. More than 150 delegates and chaperones from across Texas will participate in Youth Day, where students get to meet their counterparts from all over the country and hear featured speakers who provide insight into the important roles electric cooperatives play in their communities.

Activities also include attending a performance at the

Kennedy Center, going on a Potomac River cruise with dinner and dancing, and meeting elected officials. All expenses for the tour (except personal items such as souvenirs) are paid by the co-op for the three winners. Chaperones are provided by sponsoring cooperatives, and CTEC provides transportation to and from Austin, where the delegation departs from and returns to.

Contest Rules

Essays of 500 or fewer words must be submitted to CTEC headquarters in Fredericksburg by 5 p.m., Friday, January 25, 2019. This year's essay should answer the question: Should electric linemen be considered first responders?

Winning essays are selected by independent judges and will be judged on originality (40 percent), knowledge of topic (30 percent), composition (10 percent), neatness (10 percent) and grammar (10 percent). Two alternates also will be named in the event that a winner is unable to attend the tour. Additional details, information and entry forms are available from your high school and online at ctec.coop.



CENTRAL TEXAS EC
OCTOBER 9

Regular Board Meeting Recap

Meeting called to order and prayer offered.

Approved: Minutes of the September 18 Regular Board Meeting

Approved: September 11–October 1 Membership List and Membership Conversions

Reviewed: Financial and Statistical Reports for Eight Months Ended August 31

Approved: Resolution Authorizing Retirement of Patronage Capital

Reviewed: Board Policy No. 12

Approved: 2019 Board Calendar

Meeting adjourned.



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Power Tip

Got holiday leftovers? When possible, use the microwave to reheat food. Microwaves use as much as 80 percent less energy than a standard oven.

CTEC Hosts Toy Drive

CENTRAL TEXAS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE WILL BE COLLECTING DONATIONS OF NEW and unwrapped toys for children ages 1–17 at the co-op’s Fredericksburg, Kingsland, Llano and Mason offices until mid-December. Individuals who bring in a donation will get a free koozie.

At our Fredericksburg headquarters, CTEC is partnering with the local Rotary Club’s Toys for Tots program, which collects, wraps and delivers Christmas presents to needy children in Gillespie County.

Our Mason office’s toy drive will benefit Bluebonnet Court Appointed Special Advocates. CASA provides and supports trained community volunteers to advocate for the best interests of abused and neglected children in the court system, with the goal of placing children in safe, permanent homes.

CTEC’s Llano staff will deliver toys collected there to the Llano County Brown Santa program, sponsored by the Llano County Sheriff’s Department. For this drive, we ask members to refrain from donating stuffed animals. Gift-wrapping materials such as paper, tape and bows also are needed.

Finally, our Kingsland office will be collecting donations for the Kingsland Volunteer Fire Department’s toy drive. This nonprofit organization serves families in need in the Highland Lakes area.



2018 Capital Credit Retirement

\$1.2 million to be distributed to members in December

WHEN AN ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE PROVIDES YOUR ELECTRICITY, YOU ARE MORE THAN just a customer—you are a member and owner. As part of that relationship, you will periodically receive money back in the form of capital credit refunds.

Each year, Central Texas Electric Cooperative allocates margins (funds remaining after expenses have been paid) to your capital credit account based on your share of the revenue that was generated that year. This capital allows CTEC to finance operations, construction projects, and power restoration after outages, with the intent that the money will be repaid to members in later years when the cooperative is financially able to do so.

Since 1965, CTEC has returned more than \$15 million in capital credit refunds to its members. This month, CTEC will retire over \$1.2 million to its members. The retirement process established by the co-op's bylaws returns capital credits to all co-op members and emphasizes payout of the oldest unretired capital credits. The process also returns a larger share of capital to those members who have paid larger bills and consequently contributed more capital over the years.

Active members (those currently receiving electric service from CTEC) will have their 2018 capital credit retirement applied as a credit to their December bill. Inactive members who are entitled to a refund of \$10 or more will be mailed a check. To save postage and processing fees on inactive accounts, refunds of less than \$10 will be accumulated from year to year until the \$10 threshold is reached. Capital credit refunds cannot be successfully delivered to you if the co-op is not kept abreast of address changes, so please keep us informed of your current address.

If you have questions regarding capital credits, please refer to our website, ctec.coop, or contact us at (830) 997-2126 or 1-800-900-2832.

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*
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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)

Capital Credit FAQs

Will the total capital credit amount be returned to me after I terminate electric service?

Early retirement of capital credits is not allowed when electric service is terminated. When capital credits are retired, or paid back, inactive accounts are included in the retirement calculation until their balances are fully refunded.

Retirements will be issued subject to the \$10 minimum check limitation. Capital credit refunds cannot be delivered correctly if the co-op is not aware of address changes, so please keep Central Texas Electric Cooperative informed of your current address.

My relatives are deceased. How can we handle an estate?

Heirs of an estate can choose to close out the capital credit account of a deceased member by opting for an estate retirement. With this option, the capital credit balance is retired at a discount, and a check is issued to the heirs. More information about estate retirements is available from CTEC at (830) 997-2126 or 1-800-900-2832.

What happens when capital credit checks are not cashed?

CTEC keeps a record of all capital credit checks that are not cashed. Claims on these accounts can be made indefinitely, but after three years, unclaimed amounts must be transferred to the Texas Unclaimed Property fund. Some of these unclaimed funds are returned to the co-op to be used for scholarships, economic development and energy efficiency assistance.

Using these proceeds, the Central Texas Electric Scholarship Fund supports higher education for co-op members and their families who live in the co-op’s service area. These funds also can be used to promote economic development and provide energy efficiency assistance in the co-op’s service area.

Can I donate my capital credits to Operation Round-Up or the CTEC Scholarship program?

Yes, you can! Each of these programs is designed to give back



to the communities in which we all live. Operation Round-Up is a program that provides grants to charitable causes and non-profit civic organizations within the co-op’s service territory. It is administered by a volunteer board of directors, and all funds are kept separate from co-op funds.

The CTEC Scholarship program uses unclaimed capital credit funds to award student scholarships to co-op members or their family members (whose primary residence is served by CTEC) for full-time study at an accredited postsecondary school in Texas.

Active members can find their 2018 capital credit retirement as a credit on their December bill.

Power Cost Pass-Thru	1073 kWh @ 0.0520	55.80
Transmission Cost Pass-Thru	1073 kWh @ 0.0090	9.66
Distribution Energy Charge	1073 kWh @ 0.0252	27.04
Distribution Access Charge		27.50
Capital Credit Retirement		-15.74
Operation Round-Up		0.74
Total		105.00



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Merry Christmas

Central Texas Electric Cooperative will be closed Monday–Tuesday, December 24–25, for Christmas and Tuesday, January 1, for New Year’s.

Avoid the 12 Dangers of Christmas

WHILE THE HOLIDAYS ARE A JOYOUS TIME OF YEAR, THEY ALSO CAN BE HAZARDOUS IF simple safety precautions aren’t taken. Learn from the mistakes of the naughty Christmas elf as you and your loved ones celebrate the holiday season.

1. Keep decorations at least 3 feet away from any open flame or heating element.
2. Carefully inspect holiday light strings each year and discard any with frayed cords, cracked lamp holders or loose connections.
3. Do not run cords under carpets, rugs or furniture or out of windows.
4. Do not overload outlets and do not string multiple extension cords together.
5. Sometimes less is more—be careful not to overdecorate.
6. Always turn off decorations when you’re sleeping or leaving your home.
7. Keep your natural Christmas tree hydrated. Water it daily and dispose of it quickly after the holidays or when it gets dry.
8. When hanging outdoor lights, keep electrical connectors off the ground and away from metal rain gutters. Use plastic clips instead of metal nails or tacks to hold them in place.
9. Use an outdoor timer certified by CSA International to switch lights on and off. Lights should be turned on after 7 p.m. to avoid electricity peak load times.
10. Test your home’s smoke alarms monthly to make sure they work, and install smoke and carbon monoxide alarms on every level of your home—especially near sleeping areas.
11. Keep batteries safely stored in their packaging; they can be deadly if swallowed.
12. Never toss anything but logs into your fireplace. Evergreens burn too hot and increase fire risk, and burning wrapping paper can create hazardous fumes.



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Did You Know?

In 1900, it could cost as much as \$300 (around \$9,000 today) to pay for lights, a generator and a wireman’s services to illuminate a Christmas tree with electric lights.