

What You're Missing at the Annual Meeting



**MESSAGE FROM
GENERAL MANAGER CLINT GARDNER**

DID YOU KNOW THAT EVERY COOPERATIVE IS REQUIRED to conduct an annual meeting of its membership? The purpose is to hold the election for the board of directors, share important financial information, occasionally vote on other matters such as bylaw changes—and, of course, give away great door prizes! There's another purpose, though; it's not laid out in the co-op's mission statement, but it's just as important.

Coleman County Electric Cooperative's annual meeting is a community gathering where neighbors can meet new neighbors or catch up with old acquaintances. As our lives get busier with the "errands of life," and more of our interactions with others

occur online via social media, we need to renew the value of face-to-face human connections. Very few organizations are as uniquely positioned as your co-op to bring together all the members of our local communities.

Rural Americans might do a better job of staying connected to our neighbors (in part because we need to), but it is not something we should take for granted. The simple acts of smiling, saying hello and shaking someone's hand truly lift both parties.

Our country and community face many challenges. It feels like our economy has been stagnant for years. Students leave for college and don't return to the area, or businesses close and cut local jobs. Overcoming these challenges will only happen if we come together.

Coleman County EC's annual meeting is designed to take care of



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Cooperatives work hard to improve the quality of life for members in our community.

the important business of your co-op and the equally important business of building a sense of real community. All cooperatives serve economic and social purposes. Although safe, reliable and affordable electric power is crucial to our mission, improving the quality of life for all members is at the core of what we do every day.

If you have not attended the annual meeting in the past, or if it has been a few years, we urge you to take the time to be with your fellow co-op members.

We get out of life what we put into it. Your electric co-op is connected to you by more than just power lines. We are your neighbors, and we look forward to seeing you at 5:30 p.m., July 14, at Coleman High School for your annual meeting.



DAVE SHAFER

National Lineman Appreciation Day

APRIL 10

Thank your co-op's lineworkers for bringing power to you!



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HAPPY EASTER

APRIL 16

Coleman County EC's office will be closed April 14 in observance of Good Friday.



Youth Tour winners Grace Bryan and Shelbi Stephenson are headed to Washington, D.C., in June.

Local Students Win Trip to Washington, DC

IN JUNE, GRACE BRYAN from Winters High School and **Shelbi Stephenson** from Coleman High School will be in Washington, D.C., expanding their horizons by exploring the monuments on the National Mall, shaking hands with elected officials and dancing on a boat on the Potomac River.

Both students were chosen through Coleman County Electric Cooperative’s interview contest, and the prize is a place on the 2017 Government-in-Action Youth Tour, an all-expenses-paid trip to the nation’s capital, June 7–16, with 145 fellow Texas students and 1,700 young adults from around the country.

Youth Tour has been a Texas tradition since 1965, when co-ops—inspired by then-Sen. Lyndon B. Johnson, who encouraged youths to go to Washington to “see what the flag stands for and represents”—began sponsoring teens on this trip. Educating and mentoring young people fits in with co-ops’ missions to support the communities they serve, and since the program’s inception, nearly 4,000 Texans have gone on what many call the trip of a lifetime.

This year, Bryan and Stephenson will begin their adventures in Austin, where winners from across the state are greeted by Texas Electric Cooperatives, the association that organizes the state’s participation in Youth Tour. There, the planned agenda includes a tour of the State Capitol and Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum before boarding a flight to Washington, D.C.

In D.C., the itinerary is jam-packed with sightseeing and meaningful events, including witnessing a wreath-laying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and attending appointments with elected officials. Highlights also include visiting national monuments and historic sites, touring Smithsonian Institution museums, seeing a show at the Kennedy Center and rallying with fellow students from around the U.S. for a day of inspirational leadership speakers.

After their week in Washington, Bryan and Stephenson will bring home memories that will last a lifetime.

For more information about Youth Tour, visit texasyouthtour.com, find the Texas Youth Tour Alumni page on Facebook or ask Coleman County EC for a copy of *Your Tour* magazine.



Coleman County Electric Cooperative

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Operating in Brown, Callahan, Coke, Coleman, Concho, Runnels, Taylor and Tom Green counties

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Power Tip

Warmer weather is here!

Use energy-efficient window treatments or coverings, such as blinds, shades or films, to reduce heat gain in your home. These devices not only improve the look of your home but also reduce energy costs.