

# Give Thanks for the Comforts of Electricity



## MESSAGE FROM GENERAL MANAGER CLINT GARDNER

**EVERY THANKSGIVING, WITH FAMILY GATHERED** around the table, we take turns sharing what we're thankful for. Some of these expressions of gratitude may seem trivial, while others may be humorous or deeply touching.

I always walk away from the table—slowly, after overindulging—and wonder why we do that only once a year. Are we really only appreciative when the calendar tells us we should be?

of Coleman County Electric Cooperative. While some days aren't easy, knowing that the work we do here at your electric cooperative makes our members' lives better is richly satisfying.

Nowhere in the business world will you find a more dedicated and hardworking group of employees. Our linemen risk life and limb every single day in their efforts to keep power

flowing to each and every home and business on our system. Other employees provide critical behind-the-scenes support to make sure everything runs smoothly.

Working in this business, I learned quickly not to take for granted a constant supply of electricity and to be grateful for the convenience and comfort it provides. While it's never convenient to be without power, it does give us a moment to reflect on just how much we rely on this invisible servant. Sometimes, it's just a convenience we miss, like hot popcorn made in three minutes in a microwave. Other times, the absence of electricity could be life-threatening, such as when it's not available to power a breathing machine or other vital medical equipment.



I suspect we let the hustle and bustle of day-to-day life get in the way of taking time to appreciate how blessed we are—and expressing to those responsible for those blessings how much we appreciate them.

Like most of you, when asked what I'm grateful for, I'll say something like, "I'm grateful for family, friends, a comfortable bed to sleep in, good health and a home to shelter my family."

But that's an awfully short list for someone who has so much. I'm fortunate to have a job that I love—general manager

When the power does go out, I'm grateful we have skilled crews available 24/7 to fix the problem as well as understanding members who patiently await repairs.

Author William Arthur Ward is credited with saying, "Feeling gratitude and not expressing it is like wrapping a present and not giving it."

I'm going to do my best throughout the year to make sure every gift I wrap gets delivered.

I wish you and your family a richly blessed Thanksgiving.

# Be Prepared To Vote Every Election Day

**WHILE THE NEXT PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION ISN'T UNTIL 2020, THERE ARE COUNTLESS** state and local elections between now and then that can have a major impact on life in our local communities. That's why Coleman County Electric Cooperative remains engaged in a national get-out-the-vote campaign called Co-ops Vote. We invite you to join us.

Co-ops Vote is a nonpartisan project of America's electric cooperatives designed to encourage co-op members to vote and support their co-ops and their community when they go to the polls. As a nonpartisan effort, the program does not endorse or recommend candidates for election.

Co-ops Vote was launched in 2016 to reverse a troubling trend: In the 2012 elections, voter turnout in rural areas declined by 18 percent—twice the voter drop-off seen nationally. More than 700 electric co-ops in 47 states responded by joining the Co-ops Vote program to increase voter engagement in the communities they serve, and it was a tremendous success. Rural voter turnout in 2016 increased by more than a half-million Americans. Together, we grew our political influence and encouraged lawmakers to pay more attention to the issues affecting rural Americans.

We must harness this momentum and ensure that Co-ops Vote continues to thrive.

More than 1,000 local and state elections will be held this year. Unfortunately, these "smaller" elections often are ignored by the majority of voters. Many people see these "smaller" elections as less important than national elections. In reality, state and local elections have an even greater impact on local communities because the candidates are running on local issues—issues that are closer to voters' everyday lives than many national issues.

Visit [vote.coop](http://vote.coop) to join and learn more. And by all means, make sure you cast your ballot November 6—and every election day.



## 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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## Contact Us

### CALL US AT

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**1-800-560-2128** toll-free

### AFTER-HOURS EMERGENCY

**1-800-560-2128** toll-free

### FIND US ON THE WEB

**[colemanelectric.org](http://colemanelectric.org)**



## Veterans Day November 11

We salute all veterans who have served to help preserve our freedom.

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## Happy Thanksgiving

We wish you and yours a wonderful Thanksgiving. In observance of the holiday, our offices will be closed Thursday–Friday, November 22–23.

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## Power Tip

Spending more time in the kitchen during the holiday season? Here's one way to be more energy efficient: Unplug small kitchen appliances when not in use.

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