

Your Annual Meeting

A time to connect and contribute



MESSAGE FROM GENERAL MANAGER CLINT GARDNER

YOU LIKELY ALREADY KNOW OF SEVERAL GOOD REASONS TO ATTEND the annual meeting—to hear about the latest goings-on at Coleman County Electric Cooperative, get a barometer of its financial health, vote on co-op leadership and other business matters, and, if you're lucky, win a door prize. Some of the meeting's less tangible benefits may not have occurred to you, though.

In our fast-paced, hyperconnected world, casual human interaction has become strikingly unusual. We encounter automated phone menus when accessing many services, schedule appointments online, use apps to order groceries and summon dog walkers, and even keep up with many loved ones and friends almost entirely through social media. While these technological innovations afford convenience and bridge gaps in geography, enabling us to maintain ties that otherwise may fray, the increasing relegation of socializing and errand running to the digital realm can leave us feeling, ironically, disconnected. We may have more "friends," but those

friendships are perhaps shallower in nature than relationships nurtured in real life.

Here's where Coleman County EC's annual meeting comes in. It presents a unique opportunity for neighbors to gather with one another and connect over conversation and snacks. To some of our younger or newer members, the idea of a community gathering like this may seem quaint, but the face time and fellowship with your fellow members represent a key part of the cooperative

difference—that we're not a faceless, monolithic entity you encounter only through billing statements each month. We're neighbors who all share in the co-op's success and progress.

We live in divisive times. A momentary, warm, in-person interaction provides a boost that the pings of likes and shares within an online echo chamber simply can't duplicate. Our shared investment in the workings of the co-op benefits each of us, and enhancing our community's quality of life is something we all can agree on.

Whether you are a longtime attendee, have never attended an annual meeting or fall somewhere in between, I urge you to pencil in July 19 this year and work together with us to make your electric cooperative the best it can be. Your presence and input enable us to do the best we possibly can for our members and our community.

We look forward to seeing you at this year's annual meeting.

Early Retirement of Patronage Capital

THE RETIREMENT OF PATRONAGE CAPITAL is an essential part of operating a cooperative. On January 1, Coleman County Electric Cooperative began offering an option for early retirement of patronage capital for former patrons whose services have been disconnected and when the financial condition of CCEC would not be impaired by doing so. Since such retirements will occur prior to when patronage capital would generally be retired, early retirements will be on a discounted basis. We will continue to retire patronage early to estates of deceased members at a discount in the same manner as we have in the past.

If you are interested in learning more about any of the procedures for discounted early retirements, please contact the office at 1-800-560-2128 or (325) 625-2128 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m.



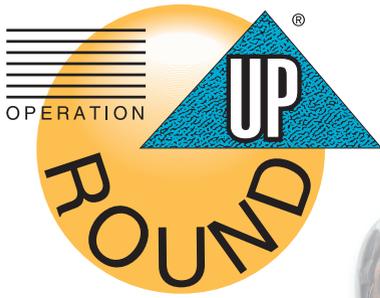
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Power Tip

Dry towels and heavier cottons separately from lighter-weight clothing. You'll spend less time running the dryer for lightweight items and save energy.



*Making a big difference
with small change.*



Help Coleman County EC support the community by rounding up your bills up to the nearest dollar.

Operation Round Up Coming Soon

IT STARTED AS A SIMPLE IDEA 27 YEARS AGO AT A CO-OP IN SOUTH CAROLINA: ROUND UP participating members' electric bills to the next whole dollar, and use the proceeds to do good work in the community. Today, hundreds of electric co-ops throughout the country use this method to help members and organizations close to home. Coleman County Electric Cooperative has decided to join this movement.

All co-ops adhere to the Seven Cooperative Principles, including Concern for Community. The Operation Round Up program perfectly embodies this core value. The average co-op member donates \$6 annually, with a maximum possible contribution of \$11.88 per year. This may not seem like a large amount, but when combined with contributions from 4,600 other members, it can have a significant impact.

Once Operation Round Up is implemented, every member will be enrolled automatically. The program is always voluntary, however, and members can change their minds about participating at any time and notify CCEC to stop rounding up their bills. Once folks see the good work the program does in their community, they almost always keep contributing.

Over the years, co-ops have collected and distributed millions of dollars for a wide range of causes. Such causes may include helping a family in need after a house fire, assisting a food pantry or providing funds so that the local fire department can get needed equipment—or dozens of other humanitarian efforts that bring electric co-ops even closer to the communities we serve.

While each co-op must respond to the needs of its members, one of the great attributes of cooperatives is their willingness to share information about programs that have succeeded. Operation Round Up exemplifies the generosity of the cooperative spirit.

Coleman County EC is pleased to join Operation Round Up very soon and welcomes your participation. Please contact your co-op at (325) 625-2128 with any questions or to share with us additional avenues we should explore to serve you and your neighbors.

Coleman County Electric Cooperative

3300 N. Highway 84 • P.O. Box 860
Coleman, TX 76834

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

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Contact Us

CALL US AT

(325) 625-2128 local

1-800-560-2128 toll-free

AFTER-HOURS EMERGENCY

1-800-560-2128 toll-free

FIND US ON THE WEB

colemanelectric.org



DAYLIGHT
SAVING TIME

begins at 2 a.m., Sunday, March 10.
Remember to set your clocks
ahead one hour when you go to
bed Saturday.