

Our Strength Comes From Working Together



MESSAGE FROM GENERAL MANAGER BRAD BIERSTEDT

COOPERATION—IT'S THE LIFEblood OF ELECTRIC cooperatives and a concept vital to the success of our form of business.

If you've heard the old saying that there is power in numbers, then you understand why Cooperative Principle No. 6,

COOPERATIVE PRINCIPLE

COOPERATION AMONG COOPERATIVES

Cooperatives serve their members most effectively and strengthen the cooperative movement by working together through local, national, regional and international structures.

Cooperation Among Cooperatives, is key for us. Cooperatives serve their members best when they work together.

Karnes Electric Cooperative embraces and relies on Cooperation Among Cooperatives in a number of ways. At the most basic level, electric cooperatives support one another in times of crisis. When a storm or other disaster strikes one of our fellow electric co-ops, we're prepared to offer whatever help we can to restore service as quickly as possible. And if we need help, our neighbors will be there for us.

We also collaborate with other co-ops to better serve our members and communities through programs such as Youth Tour, safety education outreach and employee training.

Electric co-ops in Texas combine forces through Texas Electric Cooperatives, our statewide association, and the results of our efforts are a testament to the power of cooperation. When small organizations wield the strength of a unified movement, they grow in clout, efficiency and economy. When we work together, great things happen.

The power of numbers gives us a louder voice at the state Capitol, so that when legislators make decisions about energy, our members are well-represented. Our culture of safety spreads most effectively when we share safety training resources and expertise through the association's Loss Control program.

We also save money through our TEC membership. The economies of scale created when co-ops combine their buying power lead to lower costs for poles and equipment and even the printing and production costs of this magazine.

Nationally, we join forces with more than 900 electric cooperatives through the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. This group not only has the ears of Washington decision-makers but also represents cooperative interests before regulatory bodies. NRECA also provides us with critical information about new technologies that can help us control costs, improve productivity and deliver superior service.

We also belong to Touchstone Energy, a nationwide electric cooperative affiliation that provides us with communications and branding programs and a host of online tools to help you save on energy costs. Our participation in Touchstone Energy is just another way we extend the benefits of cooperation and bring greater value to you, our members.

Cooperatives work best when they work together, combining forces to leverage better services and lower prices for their members. When we add our voice to a grand chorus of our fellows, our message gets heard.

Local Teen To Represent KEC in Washington, DC

KARNES ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE IS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE SHELBY GREEN AS OUR 2019 Government-in-Action Youth Tour delegate.

Green will be a senior this fall at Strong Oak High School in Poteet. She is the daughter of Phil and Bonita Green. A Texas Brigades cadet, she has participated in numerous extracurricular and political events, including placing first in the 2018 Veterans of Foreign Wars

Voice of Democracy essay contest, and she served as a page at the 2018 state political convention and the Atascosa County political convention. Green is certified in hunter safety, boater safety, CPR and first aid.

She is also very active in the Atascosa County Fair and has received many awards in its arts and crafts division.

The Government-in-Action Youth Tour is a 10-day, all-expenses-paid trip to Washington, D.C. Green will begin her adventure 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. While in Austin, the group will tour the Texas Capitol and the Bullock Texas State History Museum, then board a flight to Washington, where they will join other participants in visiting historical sites, touring our nation's capital and meeting their elected officials. The delegates will visit the U.S. Supreme Court, the Smithsonian Institution, Mount Vernon and many other important national sites. The group will also take a riverboat cruise on the Potomac River.

Green has been selected to participate in the wreath-laying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery. This ceremony honors the men and women who gave their lives serving their country. Green earned this privilege by writing an essay about why she would like to be a part of the ceremony and why it would be significant to her to participate.

Karnes EC is proud to sponsor Green on this educational and fun-filled trip. Her application and essay, *Changing History One Kilowatt at a Time*, show her leadership ability, and after her week in Washington, she will bring home memories to last a lifetime.



Karnes Electric Cooperative

P.O. Box 7, Karnes City, TX 78118

GENERAL MANAGER

Brad Bierstedt

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Paul T. Brysch Jr., President, *District 5*
- Clif Royal, Vice President, *District 6*
- Larry R. Schendel, Secretary-Treasurer, *District 1*
- Frank A. Geyer Jr., Assistant Secretary-Treasurer, *District 3*
- Martin R. Harris Jr., *District 4*
- Shirley Hofmann, *District 2*
- David Ross Nieschwitz, *District 7*

COOPERATIVE OFFICES

Main Office

1007 N. Highway 123, Karnes City

District Office

1824 W. Goodwin St., Pleasanton

Pay your bill and view your account summary at karnesec.org.

Karnes Electric Cooperative is an equal-opportunity provider and employer.

Contact Us

For information and outages during office hours

(830) 780-3952 Karnes City
(830) 569-5538 Pleasanton
1-888-807-3952 Toll-free

To report a power outage after 5 p.m. and on weekends and holidays

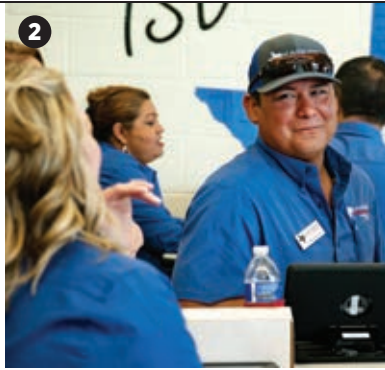
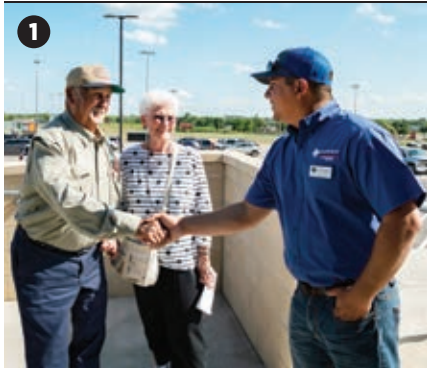
(830) 780-3952

Coy City, Ecleto, Floresville, Gillette, Goliad, Karnes City, Kenedy, Runge, Three Rivers, Tilden and surrounding areas

(830) 569-5538

Charlotte, Christine, Pleasanton, Poteet, Verdi and surrounding areas

FIND US ON THE WEB
karnesec.org



Community Comes Together for Karnes EC Annual Meeting

MANY MEMBERS OF KARNES ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE ARE DEDICATED to attending the annual meeting each June. But perhaps none more so than Gladys and Roosevelt Ellison, who made the hour-and-a-half drive from their home in Poteet to arrive plenty early for the June 3 event. They never miss an annual meeting.

“We’re sure to make it out every year, and we’ve been doing so since the ’70s,” Gladys said.

That day, school was out and summer vacation had begun, leaving the Karnes City Independent School District Performing Arts Center open to host Karnes EC’s annual event. More than 240 members made their way out of the afternoon heat and into the auditorium to reunite with friends, discuss the co-op’s recent growth and consider what the future holds.

Co-op employees, ready to answer questions about the meeting, offered members bottles of ice-cold water. Members greeted one another with big hugs, shared family photos and caught up on local news before the meeting began. Though Karnes EC’s service territory is spread over 12 counties, the sense of community that the co-op nurtures makes every part of the area it serves seem close to home—as demonstrated by the Ellisons.

Yolanda Lott, a Karnes EC member service supervisor, helped manage the registration booth and handed each member a ballot for this year’s board election. One of the Seven Cooperative Principles by which all co-ops operate is Democratic Member Control, the reason behind the annual board elections at the meeting.



1. Paul Rodriguez greets incoming guests.

2. Richard Garcia awaits guests in the auditorium lobby.

3. Adolfo De La Larza welcomes a familiar face.

4. A member at the registration booth.

5. Members make their way from the parking lot to the performing arts center.

6. Leroy Castillo offers members bottles of ice-cold water.

7-8. Members settle in and converse prior to the meeting.

9. Before taking their seats, members stop by the gift bag table.

10. Members reunite and catch up before the meeting begins.

11. Co-op employees await incoming members outside the performing arts center.

12. Paul T. Brysch Jr., board president, opens the meeting with early-bird prizes.



Board members Larry R. Schendel of District 1 and Martin R. Harris Jr. of District 4 were up for election this year, and both earned the votes to retain their seats for another three-year term.

The meeting also included updates concerning the state of the co-op. Brad Bierstedt, Karnes EC general manager, summed everything up with three talking points: growth, technology and planning.

It's no secret that the Eagle Ford shale formation has played a significant role in boosting the co-op's bottom line in recent years and that the oil and natural gas industry continues to drive the co-op's growth. Karnes EC sold 1.1 billion kilowatt-hours of electricity in 2018, Bierstedt said, an 8.9% increase over 2017 sales.

"Ten years ago, our total sales were 265 million kilowatt-hours," he said. "This significant growth has made Karnes Electric one of the fastest-growing cooperatives in the state, if not the nation."

To keep up with the demand, the co-op has constructed 612 miles of additional line and continues to focus on maintenance. In 2018, the co-op invested \$5.1 million in maintenance,

including wire and pole replacements, right-of-way clearing and pole testing.

The rapid growth has also led to the co-op hiring new employees and a need for updated facilities. Construction on the new Pleasanton member service center began in January and is scheduled for completion in January 2020. The co-op also has purchased a warehouse in Tilden and is in the planning stages of a new headquarters facility in Karnes City.

New technology is being implemented this year for mapping, staking and outage management. The continued rollout of SmartHub, an online portal and app that helps members manage their accounts, was also mentioned. Bierstedt highlighted the co-op's dedicated information technology team, which monitors and protects the co-op's computer and network system from the growing threat of cyberattacks.

Continuing the tradition of Concern for Community, another co-op principle, Karnes EC has sponsored and donated to many community and educational initiatives over the past year. An annual highlight is the co-op's scholarship program.

Karnes EC awarded 10 students \$1,500 scholarships this



1. James Schendel leads the invocation.

2. Randy Ortiz is recognized along with other veterans present.

3. Larry R. Schendel, board secretary-treasurer, presents the co-op's financial report during the meeting.



4. 2019 Karnes EC scholarship recipients. Front, from left: Taylor Voelkel, Serah Blair, Mia Ortiz and Crystal Tam. Back row, from left: Colton McCartney, Shelby Henson, Chelsea Kruse and Laken McAda.

5. Cory Ebrom spins the raffle drum during the prize drawing.



6. Terrell Benton and Kimberly Mueller each received \$750 TEC Loss Control program scholarships.

7. Roosevelt Ellison won a \$50 Amazon gift card.



8. 2019 Youth Tour participant Shelby Green presented her winning essay during the meeting.

year, its 20th providing scholarships to local students. Over the past two decades, the co-op has awarded 220 scholarships totaling \$200,200.

This year's recipients are **Serah Blair**, Jourdanton High School; **Shelby Henson**, Pleasanton High School; **Aileen Krause**, Karnes City High School; **Chelsea Kruse**, Poth High School; **Laken McAda**, Pleasanton High School; **Colton McCartney**, McMullen County ISD; **Mia Ortiz**, Poteet High School; **Erin Soward**, Jourdanton High School; **Crystal Tam**, Kenedy High School; and **Taylor Voelkel**, Karnes City High School.

Terrell Benton and Kimberly Mueller were also recognized for receiving \$750 Texas Electric Cooperatives Loss Control program scholarships.

Shelby Green, this year's Government-in-Action Youth Tour winner, wrapped up the meeting with the heartfelt essay that secured her the opportunity to participate in Youth Tour's

annual wreath-laying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery near Washington, D.C.

If you ask Karnes EC members what brings them back to the annual meeting every year, the door prizes are a popular response. And though the Ellisons scooped up one of the many prizes given away during the drawing, they emphasized their reason for making the trip every year is catching up with the community they've grown to love.

"Seeing people year in and year out is what it's all about," Gladys said with a big smile.

And though the area is developing and growing, the sense of community remains. That, along with low-cost, highly reliable electricity, is why the cooperative has thrived for 81 years.

"Thank you to our members for the opportunity to serve you," Bierdstedt said as he bid farewell to members.

TEXAS DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Hurricane Preparedness Guidelines

Preparing for Hurricane Season: June 1–November 30

EVACUATION PLANNING: When a hurricane threatens, listen for instructions from local officials. If they call for an evacuation in your area, get going without delay.

- ▶ **Discuss evacuation plans** with your family **before** hurricane season, June 1–November 30. Make a checklist of what you need to do before you leave town and review it.
- ▶ **Monitor NOAA Weather Radio**, local TV and radio broadcasts during storm season.
- ▶ **Prepare an emergency supply kit** that includes a radio, flashlight, extra batteries, extra eyeglasses, bottled water, nonperishable food, dry clothes, bedding, insurance information, important documents, medications, copies of prescriptions and special products for babies, seniors, medically fragile family members and pets.
- ▶ **Learn evacuation routes** before storm season. When there's a hurricane in the Gulf, keep your gas tank as full as possible. Expect traffic delays in an evacuation.
- ▶ **Register with the State of Texas Emergency Assistance Registry online at stear.dps.texas.gov or dial 211 to register if you have a disability or medical needs, or if you simply do not have transportation.** Gulf Coast residents in evacuation zones who have a disability or medical needs who do not have friends or family to help or do not have transportation should register with STEAR in advance.

DIVISIÓN DE ADMINISTRACIÓN DE EMERGENCIAS DE TEXAS

Directrices para Huracanes

Preparando para la temporada de huracanes durante el 1 de junio hasta el 30 de noviembre

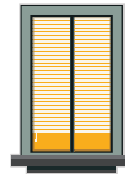
EVACUACIÓN EN CASO DE HURACÁN: Cuando exista una amenaza de huracán, escucha las instrucciones de funcionarios locales. Cuando llamen para una evacuación en su área, sálgase del área lo más pronto posible.

- ▶ **Discute los planes de evacuación** con su familia **antes** de la temporada de huracán, que empieza el 1 de junio hasta 30 de noviembre. Haga una lista de lo que usted debe hacer antes de salir de la ciudad y revísela.
- ▶ **Escuche la radio** y televisión durante la temporada de huracanes.
- ▶ **Prepare un equipo de emergencia** que incluya una radio, linterna, repuesto de baterías, anteojos extras, agua embotellada, alimentos no perecederos, ropa extra, ropa de cama, información de seguro, documentos importantes, medicinas, copias de recetas medicas y productos especiales para bebés, las personas mayores, miembros de la familia médicamente frágiles y mascotas.
- ▶ **Aprenda sus rutas** de evacuación antes de la temporada de huracanes. Cuando hay un huracán en el Golfo, mantenga el tanque de gasolina lleno. Esté consiente de que habrá demoras de tráfico.
- ▶ **Puede regístrase con el State of Texas Emergency Assistance Registry vía su sitio web, stear.dps.texas.gov, o llamando al 211 para registrarse si usted tiene una discapacidad o necesidades médicas o si simplemente no tiene transporte.** Los residentes de la Costa del Golfo en zonas de evacuación con una discapacidad o necesidades médicas quienes no tienen amigos o familiares para ayudarles o no tienen transporte deben registrarse con STEAR por adelantado.

ISTOCK.COM | © HARVEINO

Summer Energy-Saving Tips

Costs associated with cooling your home can make up a large portion of your summer electric bills. Stay cool and save money with these energy efficiency tips!

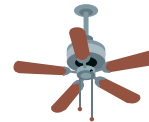


NO-COST TIPS

Close blinds and drapes during the day to keep heat out.



Set your thermostat to 78 degrees when you are home. Set it to a higher temperature when you're away.



Turn off lights and ceiling fans when you leave a room.



LOW-COST TIPS

Plant trees and shrubs to shade the exterior of your home.



Replace disposable air filters (or clean permanent filters) once a month to maximize efficiency.



Use solar lighting to brighten up your outdoor space. Solar lights are easy to install and low maintenance and provide free electricity.



Karnes EC Awards Scholarships



SERAH BLAIR



SHELBY HENSON



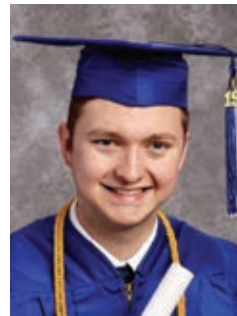
AILEEN KRAUSE



CHELSEA KRUSE



LAKEN MCADA



COLTON MCCARTNEY



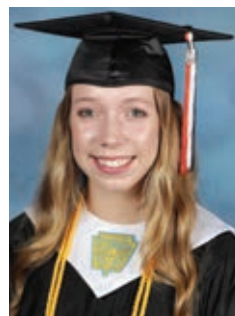
MIA ORTIZ



ERIN SOWARD



CRYSTAL TAM



TAYLOR VOELKEL

KARNES ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE IS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THE recipients of its \$1,500 scholarships for graduating high school seniors from the Karnes EC service area. Eligible students must be a child of an active member receiving electric service from Karnes EC and have the desire to further their education.

This award will assist these students in making their dreams, goals and plans a reality. This year, the following 10 recipients were chosen from a field of highly qualified candidates:

- Serah Blair**, Jourdanton High School
- Shelby Henson**, Pleasanton High School
- Aileen Krause**, Karnes City High School

- Chelsea Kruse**, Poth High School
- Laken McAda**, Pleasanton High School
- Colton McCartney**, McMullen County ISD
- Mia Ortiz**, Poteet High School
- Erin Soward**, Jourdanton High School
- Crystal Tam**, Kenedy High School
- Taylor Voelkel**, Karnes City High School

Karnes EC congratulates these students on their accomplishments and for receiving these scholarships. Congratulations and best wishes for the future endeavors of each and every senior in the class of 2019.



IMAGEDPRO | ISTOCK.COM



MARCCOPHOTO | ISTOCK.COM

Power Tip

EVERY DEGREE = DOLLARS

Don't let summer heat burn your budget. When home, set your thermostat to 78. Going out for the day? Turn your thermostat up 10–15 degrees to cut your electricity bill by up to 15%.

Tornado Safety

TEXAS CONSISTENTLY RANKS IN THE TOP 5 WHEN IT COMES TO THREATS FROM TORNADOES, and spring is the most likely season for them to occur. But tornadoes can and do occur all year long, so you should never take the associated risks for granted, no matter what month it is.

Practice and Prepare

Know where you'll meet your family during a tornado (and after). Practice a tornado drill annually. Keep a weather radio in your storm shelter along with safety supplies.

Know the Signs

Look for swirling clouds and watch for quick wind shifts or stark calm after heavy rain. Listen for a loud roar or rumble that doesn't fade.

Seek Shelter

Go to your basement, a small interior room or under stairs on the lowest floor of the house. If you live in a mobile home, get out and look for a stable building. If outside, find low ground—away from trees and cars—and lie facedown with your arms protecting your head.

After the Storm

Stay away from downed power lines and avoid flooded areas—power lines could be submerged and still live with electricity. Don't enter seriously damaged buildings and avoid using matches and lighters in case of gas leaks.



SARA_WINTER | ISTOCK.COM

HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY

Thursday, July 4