



GENERAL
MANAGER
**BRAD
BIERSTEDT**

Youth Tour Is Back

THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC disrupted lives in countless ways. Many of us shifted to working from home. We stopped getting together with family and friends. And of course, large gatherings were put on hold.

The Government-in-Action Youth Tour was no exception. For the first time in its more than 50-year history, Youth Tour was canceled—for two years running.

But come June, students from across the country will converge once again on Washington, D.C., for this unforgettable experience—with an itinerary that promises to be as exciting and inspiring as ever. And in true Texas fashion, the delegation from the Lone Star State is slated to be bigger than ever before.

All of us in Co-op Country were saddened to see Youth Tour canceled the past two years, but we knew it was the right decision for the health and safety of all those involved. Planning and executing the trip is a massive undertaking that must account for the well-being of more than 150 Texas delegates and 20 chaperones, and the Texas Electric Cooperatives Board of Directors decided that the risk was simply too great.

Thankfully, Youth Tour is back on for 2022, and we at Karnes Electric Cooperative couldn't be more excited to again send a local student on this life-changing trip.

Youth Tour represents one of our most important investments in the future of the communities we serve. Participating students travel to Austin and Washington to learn about the critical role of electric cooperatives, meet their congressional representatives, and gain a deeper perspective on the history and mechanisms of our democracy.

Attendees often return with a renewed commitment to their hometowns, and many have gone on to become teachers, doctors, lawyers, politicians and even co-op employees in those communities.

We are honored to join our fellow Texas electric cooperatives in carrying on the enduring legacy of Youth Tour.

I encourage all eligible high school students to apply. For more information about Youth Tour and how to apply, visit karnesec.org/community/youth-tour. ■



Inspect Outdoor Electrical Equipment

IT'S LEAF-BLOWING SEASON. Is your blower in good shape?

Don't wait to find out until you use it. Same goes for your lawn mower, bush trimmers, rakes and shovels.

Check for:

Worn parts and power cords. If you find them, don't try to eke out one final season. Have the parts repaired or replaced.

Caked-on dirt or sap on blades. A blast of water from your garden hose should loosen and remove it. A stiff-bristled brush can take care of the rest.

Rust. That might take a bit more elbow grease and some steel wool to remove.

Splintered wood on handles and shafts. A light sanding can remove splinters, and an application of linseed oil can prevent the handles from drying out as quickly.

Once you finish your fall chores, clean the tools so they'll be in good shape next year. And store them in a dry, clean place. The electrical parts of tools that get wet while in storage can corrode. ■

Notice of Capital Credit Allocations

CAPITAL CREDITS were allocated in August to Karnes Electric Cooperative member accounts for the year 2020.

After each fiscal year, cooperatives must determine what, if any, margins were made during the year and allocate those margins to members' accounts. Your cooperative's margin is any money left over after all its operating costs have been paid. Since members are co-owners of the cooperative, those margins are allocated to their accounts.

However, those margins, or capital credits, are not paid out yet as cash or credits on your electric bill. Future returns of this amount, in full or part, will be made at the discretion of the board of directors. The board retires capital credits when doing so will not weaken the financial condition of the cooperative.

In the meantime, the funds remain invested in the cooperative, credited to each member's account—regardless of whether the member stays with Karnes EC. That's why it's very important that departing members keep the cooperative informed of their current mailing address—so they can receive capital credits when they are retired in the future.

This article serves as the official notice that capital credits have been allocated for 2020.

To calculate your allocation for 2020, multiply your total electric bill for 2020 by the factor in the table below that corresponds to your account.

Account Type	Factor
Farm (Residential)	0.1022336708
Non-Farm	0.0936955015
Irrigation	0.1075755507
Small Commercial	0.0902529986
Large Commercial	0.0488204187
Industrial Oil & Gas	0.0471667422
Oil Wells	0.1129804995
Public Buildings	0.1115686905

If you have any questions concerning these calculations, contact Tammy Labus at 1-888-807-3952. ■

Karnes Electric Cooperative

CONTACT US

P.O. Box 7, Karnes City, TX 78118
Toll-Free 1-888-807-3952
Web karnesec.org

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
L. Scott McClaugherty IV, District 4
Shirley Hofmann, District 2
David Ross Nieschwitz, District 7

24/7 Outage Reporting

TOLL-FREE
1-888-807-3952

ONLINE
At karnesec.org using your SmartHub account, or use the SmartHub app on your mobile device.

Please be prepared to provide your account number and meter number.

PAYMENT OPTIONS

- Online or via the SmartHub app
- 24-hour pay-by-phone
- Auto bill pay
- Mail
- In person
- Night drop
- Kiosk located at Pleasanton Member Service Center

OFFICE LOCATIONS

Open Monday–Friday, 8 a.m.–5 p.m.

Karnes City Headquarters
1800 N. U.S. Highway 181, Karnes City

Pleasanton Member Service Center
1824 W. Goodwin St., Pleasanton

MISSION STATEMENT

Providing quality service to empower communities and improve lives.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

**National Do
Something Nice Day**
Tuesday, October 5

**International Day
of Rural Women**
Friday, October 15

Halloween
Sunday, October 31

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Karnes EC Members Gather Safely at Annual Meeting

LEROY SKLOSS sat toward the back and off to the side of the auditorium, tranquilly absorbing the proceedings of Karnes Electric Cooperative's annual meeting.

As someone who had spent 42 years as an employee of the co-op, it was something he'd seen countless times before—management updates, director elections, door prizes. He was an integral part of that process for more than two decades, serving as general manager from 1991 until his retirement in 2015.

But, said Skloss, now mayor of Karnes City, "It feels different sitting on this side instead of being up onstage and giving a report."

And that wasn't the only reason the August 9 annual meeting felt different from previous years. For one, it was the co-op's first official gathering since the COVID-19 pandemic forced the cancellation of the 2020 annual meeting. KEC members were given the option to attend two different meeting formats: a walk-through meeting that allowed attendees to visit, grab a gift bag, vote for directors and watch prerecorded video messages without congregating for very long, and a traditional in-person meeting that began at 7 p.m.

The number of board seats up for election also wasn't typical. Instead of the usual two or three seats, six seats were in the running this year because last year's election had to be postponed.

Incumbent directors were reelected to fill all the positions: Shirley Hofmann, District 2; Frank A. Geyer Jr., District 3; Scott McClaugherty, District 4; Paul T. Brysch Jr., District 5; Clif Royal, District 6; and Ross Nieschwitz, District 7.

Another noticeable difference were masks and hand sanitizers. But many of the meeting's important hallmarks didn't change—the smiles, hugs, and happy handshakes between old friends and new acquaintances; expressions of pride in the co-op's mission; and a feeling of camaraderie, especially after coming through a grueling year and a half marred by the coronavirus and a severe winter storm.

In the opening remarks of his video message, General Manager Brad Bierstedt addressed that sense of shared experience.

"I would like to express my appreciation to our board and employees for their hard work and dedicated service and to our members during one of the most difficult years in the history of our electric co-op," he said. "I would never have imagined we would have to deal with a global pandemic and a devastating winter storm in the same year."

Bierstedt described the measures Karnes EC took beginning in March 2020 to follow state and federal public health guidance to help stem the spread of COVID-19. The co-op closed its lobby and conducted business over the phone, through its drive-thru



1. General Manage Brad Bierstedt addresses meeting attendees.
2. Members watch a video update about the past year at Karnes EC.
3. A member votes during the walk-through portion of the annual meeting.
4. KEC employees Esperanza Cumpian and Nick Pacheco help a member register for the meeting.
5. Member service representatives Mandy Turner and Rebecca Mueller guide a member through registration.



and online; several employees began working from home; and the board suspended service disconnections and late fees to help members who were struggling financially.

“As an essential business, we have a responsibility to you, our members, to continually provide service no matter what the challenge,” Bierstedt said. “We certainly appreciate your patience and support throughout these challenging events. We know that many of our members were and continue to be affected by COVID-19. Our cooperative is doing everything we can to protect and help our members and employees.”

The co-op continues to monitor the pandemic, he said, and as of the meeting, its offices were reopened to the public. Bierstedt also highlighted the 2020 completion of the co-op’s Pleasanton member service center and the nearly complete new headquarters in Karnes City, which he invited members to visit this fall, after staff has moved in.

He went on to explain how the cooperative endured the mid-February polar vortex, which plunged Texas into subfreezing temperatures and brought snow, ice and blistering winds. As several generating plants went offline and electricity demand increased, the Electric Reliability Council of Texas ordered outages across the state grid, “all to avert the catastrophic collapse of the statewide electric system, which would have taken weeks or even months to repair and fully reenergize,” Bierstedt said.

He commended South Texas Electric Cooperative, KEC’s wholesale power provider, for its preparation and foresight.

STEC had weatherized its facilities, which were up and running for the duration of the storm.

“During the event, we were obligated by law to follow the ERCOT directive to shed load from the Texas energy grid to ensure that it could continue to provide power across the state of Texas,” Bierstedt said. “I want to express my appreciation to STEC and all they have done to protect the members of Karnes Electric Cooperative. A lot of utilities didn’t come out so well. A lot of utilities around the state are suffering through it, and their customers will ultimately pay that cost moving forward.”

Karnes EC does not anticipate any significant rate increases resulting from the storm, he said.

“I heard from a lot of members during that storm and after—heard loud and clear—your frustration with the whole situation. And I agree: It was unbelievable,” Bierstedt said. “In the 35 years I have in utility industry experience, I’ve never seen anything quite like that, and I hope I never do again.”

Bierstedt also recognized 15 employees and two directors for reaching milestones in their service to the co-op.

Brysch, board president, addressed attendees with a prerecorded video message, and he too underscored co-op employees’ dedication.

“All of us were frustrated by February’s grid-mandated outages,” Brysch said. “Many of our board members and employees were left in the dark just like you. Our employees answered calls and worked as quickly as they safely could to restore



1. Paul T. Brysch Jr., board president, conducts the official business of the annual meeting.
2. Karnes EC accountant Darlene Woelfel shuffles names for the door prize drawing.
3. Members at Karnes EC's first in-person annual meeting since 2019.
4. Member service representative Yolanda Lott draws names of door prizewinners.
5. Employees wish members a safe drive home as they depart.
6. Information technology systems analyst Clifton Henke chats with a member on his way out of the meeting.

power. We apologize for any inconvenience the outages may have caused.”

In his video message, Larry Schendel, secretary-treasurer, said that Karnes EC experienced a slight revenue decrease but remained in sound financial condition. “KEC’s financial performance remains strong, even in light of the economic impact of the pandemic and the effects of reduced oil and gas production in our service territory,” he said, noting a 5.2% decrease in revenue from 2019 to 2020. “Reduced kilowatt-hour sales in the oil and gas rate class contributed to the decrease in revenue.”

Schendel said that the co-op’s equity remains strong at \$150.9 million, and in 2020, Karnes EC was able to return \$2 million in capital credits to members. Since 1989, the cooperative has returned \$18.2 million to its members.

“I’m happy to say that your cooperative is in excellent financial condition, and that’s a result of your participation and dedication,” he told members.

And as members are dedicated to the co-op, so too is the co-op to its members. One way it shows that dedication is by supporting the youth of the communities it serves, through scholarships and the Government-in-Action Youth Tour.

Kimberly Sanchez, member communications coordinator, introduced this year’s 18 scholarship recipients, each of whom received \$1,500 for school.

Karnes EC typically sponsors one student each year on Youth

Tour, where he or she joins more than 150 other students from across Texas for a 10-day trip of learning and adventure in Austin and Washington, D.C. Unfortunately, the 2020 and 2021 trips were canceled due to the pandemic. “However,” Sanchez said, “we remain hopeful that Youth Tour will resume in 2022.”

As usual, the cooperative held a door prize drawing for its members. The 60 prizes, which members did not have to be present to win, included bill credits, gift cards to local stores, a grand prize \$250 Visa gift card and another \$250 Visa gift card that went to a member who brought their registration card to the meeting.

Door prizes are just one way the co-op shows thanks to its members—because without them, the cooperative would not exist. It’s a communal effort that keeps the cooperative running, as was evident over the trying past year and a half.

“I would like to close by saying thank you to the directors and employees for their hard work on all the projects that we have undertaken to improve service to our membership,” Bierstedt said. “And most of all, thank you to our members for the opportunity to serve you.” ■

TEXAS DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Hurricane Preparedness Guidelines

Hurricane season is June 1–November 30

Preparedness Checklist

- ▶ **Make an evacuation plan.** Find activated evacuation routes at drivetexas.org or by dialing 1-800-452-9292. Call 211 to find out if you live in an evacuation zone.
- ▶ **Sign up for emergency alerts.** Make sure your mobile device is enabled to receive wireless emergency alerts.
- ▶ **Prepare an emergency supply kit.** Learn how to build an emergency kit at ready.gov/build-a-kit.
- ▶ **Review your home insurance policy.**
- ▶ **Register with the State of Texas Emergency Assistance Registry** at stear.tdem.texas.gov or by dialing 211 if you live in an evacuation zone and:
 - Have a disability or medical needs and do not have a car or other vehicle to use in an evacuation.
 - Have a disability or medical needs and do not have friends or family to help in an evacuation.

Information collected for STEAR is confidential.

Hurricane Preparedness Online Resources

Texas Division of Emergency Management: tdem.texas.gov
Texas Department of State Health Services: texasready.gov
American Red Cross: redcross.org
U.S. Department of Homeland Security: ready.gov
Office of Texas Gov. Greg Abbott: gov.texas.gov

DIVISIÓN DE ADMINISTRACIÓN DE EMERGENCIAS DE TEXAS

Preparación para huracanes

La temporada de huracanes es del 1 de junio al 30 de noviembre

Lista de verificación de preparación:

- ▶ **Haga un plan de evacuación.** Encuentre rutas de evacuación activadas en drivetexas.org o marcando 1-800-452-9292. Llame 211 para averiguar si usted vive en una zona de evacuación.
- ▶ **Regístrese para recibir alertas de emergencia.** Asegúrese de que su dispositivo móvil esté habilitado para recibir alertas de emergencia inalámbricas.
- ▶ **Prepare un kit de emergencia.** Aprenda como construir un kit de emergencia en ready.gov/build-a-kit.
- ▶ **Revise su póliza de seguro de hogar.**
- ▶ **Regístrese con el Registro de Asistencia de Emergencia del Estado de Texas** en stear.tdem.texas.gov o marcando el 211 si vive en una zona de evacuación y:
 - Tiene una discapacidad o necesidades médicas y no tiene un auto u otro vehículo para usar en una evacuación.
 - Tiene una discapacidad o necesidades médicas y no tiene amigos o familiares para ayudar en una evacuación.

La información recolectada para STEAR es confidencial.

Recursos en línea para la preparación para huracanes

División de Administración de Emergencias de Texas: tdem.texas.gov
Departamento de Servicios de Salud del Estado: texasready.gov
Cruz Roja Americana: redcross.org
Departamento de Seguridad Nacional de los Estados Unidos: ready.gov
Oficina del Gobernador de Texas Greg Abbott: gov.texas.gov

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Butterfinger Crunch Dessert

- 1½ cups milk
- 1 package (3.4 ounces) instant vanilla pudding mix
- 2 cartons (8 ounces each) nondairy whipped topping, thawed; divided use
- 1 large angel food cake, cubed
- 4 Butterfinger candy bars (2.1 ounces each), crushed

1. Apply cooking spray to a 9-by-13-inch baking dish.
2. In a large mixing bowl, whisk together milk and pudding mix 2 minutes. Let stand 2 minutes until soft set. Stir in 2 cups whipped topping until well mixed, then fold in remaining whipped topping.
3. Layer half of the cake cubes in baking dish, then top with pudding mixture and crushed candy bars. Repeat layers.
4. Cover and chill at least 2 hours before serving.

SERVES 12

TCP Find this and more delicious recipes online at TexasCoopPower.com.

Notice of Proposed Modifications of and Additions to Karnes EC's Tariff for Electric Service

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS of Karnes Electric Cooperative on August 24, 2021, approved the modifications of and additions to the cooperative's tariff for electric service, as summarized below.

The changes in various fees and charges, along with multiple tariff language modifications and the addition of new tariff provisions, are technically rate changes but with two exceptions, as identified, do not change the basic rates for electric service.

A. MODIFICATIONS OR CLARIFICATIONS OF EXISTING RULES AND REGULATIONS. The following changes do not significantly change the Cooperative's revenue if Cooperative members either comply with the Cooperative's rules or do not request or require additional non-electric services. There are many other wording changes or clarifications not summarized below.

103. Service Area Modified

202.1 Seasonal Service Section deleted

202.2 Privately Owned Electric Distribution Systems
Clarified provision

202. QF Distributed Generation Rider Clarified provision

203.1 Residential Service Removed hunting camps, RVs and travel trailers, gate openers, temporary services, stock tanks, fence charges and barns, etc. from eligibility for this rate schedule, and modified other provisions

203.2 All Electric Residential Service Discontinued availability for new members after effective date and modified other provisions

203.3 Small General Service Added eligibility for fence charges, stock tanks, barns, etc. and, some types of subdivision and roadway lighting and modified other provisions.

203.4 Irrigation Service Modified provisions

203.5 Large General Service Modified provisions

203.6 Area Lighting Service Discontinued eight types of fixtures for new installations and added three types of new fixtures, established charges for the new fixtures, and increased the service fees for replacing fixtures, and modified provisions

203.10 Primary Oil and Gas Field Service Modified provisions

203.12 Industrial Service Modified provisions

203.14 Small Power Production and Generation Deleted provision

203.16 Industrial Service Increased eligibility for specified members and modified other provisions

204.1 Power Cost Recovery Factor Modified provisions

205.1 Trip Fees Increased various trip fees from \$50 to \$75 if made during normal business hours, from \$70 to \$125 if made during nonworking hours, and increased miscellaneous service trip fee from \$50 to \$125

205.2 Membership Fee Modified provisions

205.3 Insufficient Payment Fee Modified provisions

205.4 Meter Test Fees Increased single-phase meter test fees from \$50 to \$100 and three-phase meter test fees from \$60 to \$150.

205.9 Temporary Service Modified provisions

205.11 Metering and Meter Reading Fee Modified provisions, established fee for members who will not allow the Cooperative to install standard meters, increased meter reading fee from \$50 to \$75 if made during normal working hours, and established a new fee of \$125 if made during non-normal working hours, deleted requirement for members to read meters

205.13 Tampering with Cooperative's Meters ... Modified provisions, increased fees

206. Service Fee for Multiple Cost Estimates Established fee for member or applicants who request multiple cost estimates for construction

301.1 Application for Electric Service Require applicant to provide information

302. Response for Request for Service Modified provisions

307. Discontinuance of Service and Reconnection of Service Allows disconnect and reconnect of service remotely

307.2.B Allows Cooperative To provide information to credit reporting agencies

307.5 Notice Allows Cooperative to provide notice by automated phone call, text or email

308.2 Procedures When Over Billing or Under Billing Occurs Modified procedures

312. Billing, Payments, Payment Locations, and Terms of Payment Modified provisions

313.9.D Area Lighting Classification Modified provisions

402.4 Meter Reading Modified provisions

Section 6: Distributed Generation Modified provisions



B. NEW TARIFF PROVISIONS The following new provisions do not significantly change the cooperative's revenue if cooperative members either comply with the cooperative's rules or do not require additional nonelectric services.

104 Purpose and Scope Authorizes general manager to grant minor variances to rules and regulations.

202.5 KW Demand Charge for Distributed Generation Imposes a demand ratchet charge for demand metered members who install distributed generation.

205.1.C.2 Disconnection and Reconnection Utilizing the Cooperative's Advanced Metering Infrastructure System Authorizes use of System to disconnect or reconnect service and establishes a fee of \$75 for reconnection

205.1.C.3 Disconnection and Reconnection of Service for Members Participating in Prepay Plan Specifies that no fee will be charged for participating members.

307.7 Postponements of Disconnection Specifies procedures for temporary medical emergency, chronic condition residential and critical care residential members.

307.9 Reconnection of Service Authorizes reconnection of service using the cooperative's advanced metering infrastructure system.

311. Prepay Plan Establishes the prepay plan and defines procedures.

412. Advanced Metering Infrastructure System Defines the system.

C. REASSIGNMENT OF MEMBERS TO DIFFERENT RATE SCHEDULES

In two instances, as described below, members are moved from one rate schedule to another, and these members will experience an increase in rates.

Members moved from Residential Service to Small General Service

Approximately 3,639 members are moved from Residential Service to Small General Service since they are not eligible for service under the Residential Service schedule. These members consist of hunting camps, RVs and travel trailers, temporary services, gate openers, barns, fence charges, stock tanks and other similar types of services. As a result of this reassignment, the affected members will experience an average monthly increase of approximately \$3.14 per member. The total annual increase for all members reassigned to Rate 3 is approximately 6.99% or approximately \$132,948.

Members moved from Rate 11 Oil and Gas Field Service to Rate 9B Oil and Gas Field Service Only two members are currently receiving service under Rate 11 Oil and Gas Field Service—Demand Metered, and these members will be reassigned to Rate 9B Oil and Gas Field Service—Three Phase. The combined increase for these two members will be approximately \$3,241.34, or approximately 8.76%.

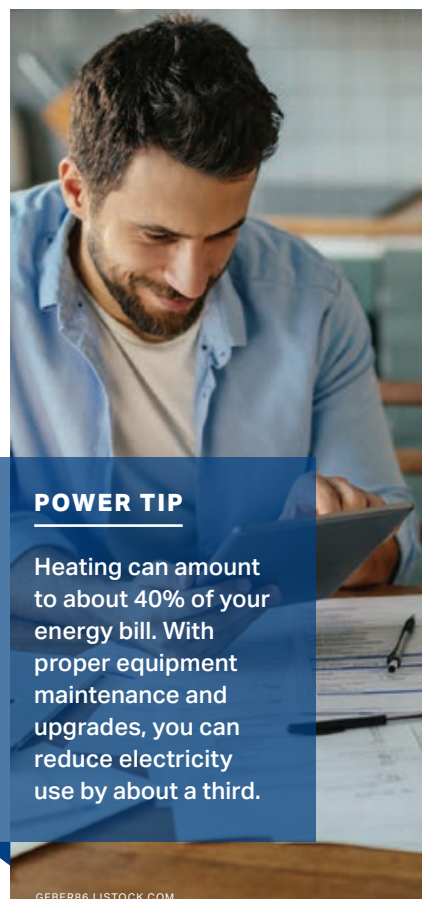
The Cooperative's Tariff for Electric Service is available at the Cooperative's offices, located at 1824 W. Goodwin St. in Pleasanton and 1800 N. Highway 181 in Karnes City. Inquiries may be directed to the cooperative's office at 1-888-807-3952.

These tariff changes shall be effective on and after the 31st day this notice is published by *Texas Co-op Power* and mailed to cooperative members. ■



DID YOU KNOW?

Texas Co-op Power has an online gift store. Find TCP merchandise like calendars, posters and cookbooks. Visit TexasCoopPower.com and click the Shop tab.



POWER TIP

Heating can amount to about 40% of your energy bill. With proper equipment maintenance and upgrades, you can reduce electricity use by about a third.