



POWERING A BRIGHTER FUTURE

Karnes Electric Cooperative ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Thursday, June 12

Karnes City ISD Performing Arts Center

5:00 p.m. Walkthrough

7:00 p.m. In-Person Meeting

Official Notice of Annual Meeting of Members

In accordance with Article III of the cooperative's bylaws, the annual meeting of the members of Karnes Electric Cooperative is to be held at Karnes City ISD Performing Arts Center, 400 N. Highway 123, Karnes City, TX 78118, at 5 p.m. Thursday, June 12, 2025, to take action upon the following matters:

1. Reports of officers, directors and committees.
2. The election of two (2) directors.
3. All other business that may come before the meeting or any adjournment or adjournments thereof.

In connection with the election of two (2) directors, which is scheduled for this meeting, the members listed have been nominated for directors by the committee on nominations appointed by the board of directors of the cooperative or by petition pursuant to the bylaws. The members of the nominating committee were Russell Osburn, District 1; Chris Turner, District 4; and Larry Yosko, at large.

Each nominee for director must meet the qualifications specified in Article IV of the cooperative's bylaws. The results of the election will be reported at the annual meeting. Each member (as so defined in Article I of the cooperative's bylaws) of legal voting age under the laws of the state of Texas is entitled to one vote, regardless of the number of meters held. The bylaws-required voter qualifications are as follows:

1. The voting member must be the same person holding the membership.

2. If two spouses hold a joint membership they shall jointly be entitled to one (1) vote and no more.

3. Persons casting votes for organizations, i.e., corporations, churches, associations, partnerships, trusts, or other types of associations or businesses, must have on file at the cooperative's office, or in hand, a resolution certified by the appropriate officer naming and authorizing a person, and/or an alternate person, to vote as its authorized representative for such organization.

4. All estates shall be voted by the duly appointed executor, administrator or, if the membership is a joint membership, the joint survivor, or any one of the three. Before any of the three shall be allowed to vote, there shall be on file with the cooperative, or person voting shall have in hand, a duly signed request naming the executor or the administrator or the surviving joint member of the deceased member.

A copy of the bylaws may be obtained from the cooperative's website, karnesec.org.



Larry R. Schendel
Secretary-Treasurer

87th Annual Membership Meeting

Thursday, June 12, 2025 • Karnes City ISD Performing Arts Center

Members can choose between attending a walk-through hand delivery of ballots and viewing of the annual report video or an in-person meeting.

Walk-Through 5–7 p.m.

Walk-through attendees will be able to view co-op informational reports in the auditorium, visit with employees and board members, vote in the directors election, and pick up a gift on the way out. All walk-through participants who register for the meeting will be entered in a drawing to win a door prize. Members do not have to be present to win.

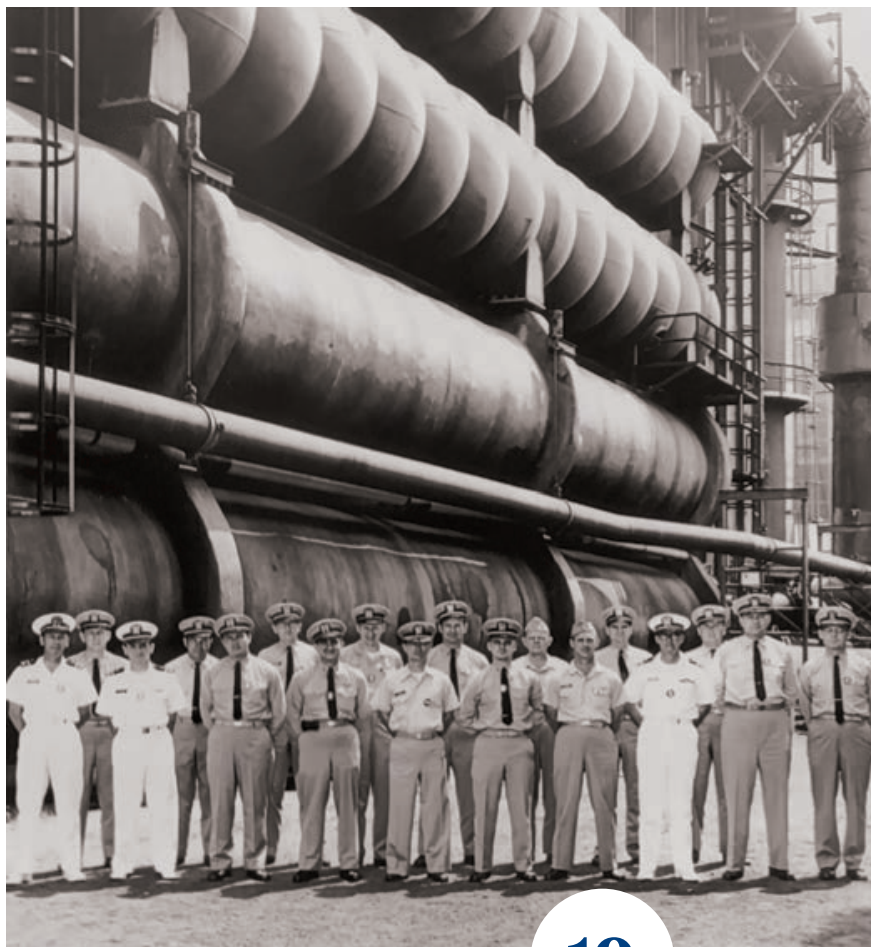
In-Person Meeting 7–8 p.m.

The in-person meeting will be in the traditional format, similar to past Karnes EC annual meetings. Members will have the opportunity to pick up a gift, participate in the business meeting and vote in the directors election. Every member who registers the day of the meeting will be entered in a drawing to win one of many door prizes.

We hope you'll join us as we celebrate 87 years of service!



June 2025



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Johnny takes a break from chomping through a neighborhood outside Austin.
Photo by Eric W. Pohl

ABOVE

Servicemen assigned to the Ordnance Aerophysics Laboratory at Lone Star Steel some 70 years ago.
Courtesy Ladies of Lone Star



A rendering of the planned National Juneteenth Museum in Fort Worth.

Juneteenth Has a Home

MORE THAN THREE years after plans were announced to build a National Juneteenth Museum, Fort Worth officials have made way for the planned 50,000-square-foot museum, food hall, business incubator and theater.

The \$70 million museum of Black history will be built on a plot on the city's Historic Southside, with the city kicking in \$15 million. Opal Lee, the "Grandmother of Juneteenth," gave City Council members two thumbs up.

"Wow, I tell you, I could have hugged everyone, but they've got work to do," Lee told the Fort Worth Report.



TCP Contests and More

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Stay Weather Aware

Hurricane season begins June 1, and experts expect an above-average year.

Not only is your electric cooperative your trusted energy resource, it also offers invaluable information when severe weather threatens.

Stay safe by staying connected to your co-op's advice in these pages and on its website and social media feeds.



FINISH THIS SENTENCE

It's summer, and I'm ready for ...

TCP Tell us how you would finish that sentence. Email your short responses to letters@TexasCoopPower.com or comment on our Facebook post. Include your co-op and town.

Here are some of the responses to our April prompt: **The best view in Texas is ...**

A "Welcome to Texas" sign alongside any highway.

MIKE WEBER
UNITED COOPERATIVE SERVICES
GRANBURY

From my front porch every time my husband blows me a kiss as he passes on his tractor.

SUZY DOSS
PENTEX ENERGY
VALLEY VIEW

The Sabine River bridge in my rearview mirror and the afternoon sun shining in my face. I'm home!

JOHN STOLL
BANDERA EC
MICO

Getting home and seeing my wife and grandkids outside enjoying the spring weather.

RANDY HARDEE
WISE EC
BRIDGEPORT

Visit our website to see more responses.

APRIL 2025 Ode to a Mighty Hunter

“My daughter, Stella, and I are always excited to read through your publication and make collages. This story was especially inspiring for my future entomologist [left].”

MINDY WALKER
JASPER-NEWTON EC
KIRBYVILLE



COURTESY MINDY WALKER

Eyes and Hearts

Honestly, I'm not a bug person [*Ode to a Mighty Hunter*, April 2025]. But I do love dragonflies because they don't stick to me or bite me.

I never realized there were so many different species of them. These photos are incredible!

The close-up of the eyes is kind of scary. But my favorite part was Love on the Wing. They make a perfect heart.

Denise Sims
Bowie-Cass EC
Redwater

Inspiring Flyers, Part II

At 17 my dream was to fly [*The WASPs Who Flew Out of Sweetwater*, April 2025]. I applied twice for acceptance to the WASPs. I counted the days to hear from them.

It wasn't to be. To my disappointment they were deactivated. This led me to

serve in another form of communications, which continued the rest of my working life.

I will be 99 this year. Thanks for the memories.

Wanda Tackett
United Cooperative Services
Desdemona

Lake of Bluebonnets

Nanny's Blessing [March 2025] touched my heart. In the 1950s my grandparents turned two acres of their Walker County property into a Texas wildflower field, predominately with *Lupinus subcarnosus*, the sandyland bluebonnet.

For almost 50 years, those bluebonnets made their property look like a lake, and people often stopped to take photos. To this day the sandyland bluebonnet, with its gentle shade of blue, is my favorite, although, sadly, they seem to be migrating into obscurity.

Jan Lawrence
Sam Houston EC
San Jacinto County



COURTESY OFFICIAL NATIONAL WASP MUSEUM, SWEETWATER, TEXAS

TCP WRITE TO US
letters@TexasCoopPower.com

Editor, Texas Co-op Power
1122 Colorado St., 24th Floor
Austin, TX 78701

Please include your electric co-op and town. Letters may be edited for clarity and length.

 Texas Co-op Power

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 **American MainStreet Publications**



GORGING A PATH

BY PAM LEBLANC

For those hard-to-remove, unwanted plants, goats may be the greatest of all time

IN a steep, overgrown ravine in the Steiner Ranch neighborhood west of Austin, dozens of goats are buzz sawing their way through a thicket of brambles.

The ruminants work through the brush like furry, four-legged locusts, pausing now and then to share a goofy grin accented with slobbery bits of greenery. Their jaws work nearly nonstop, chewing plants along a trail that winds between houses.

The goats are here to work, hired hands in an army deployed to reduce the risk of wildfire. A blaze in Steiner Ranch during the hot, dry summer of 2011 destroyed 23 homes, and officials are eager to prevent another disaster.

That's why a homeowners association there teamed with Lake Travis Fire Rescue to hire 100 goats from Rent-A-Ruminant as part of an experimental fire mitigation program. The animals spent a week clearing out brush on 7 hard-to-access acres. After they make a first pass, human volunteers finish the job, cutting down and removing downed trees and other fire fuel.

Goats, proponents say, are cheaper, greener and safer than humans with lawn mowers or herbicides that could work their way into waterways. And they're cute.

"They go where man, machine and chemicals can't go," says Carolyn Carr, co-owner of Rent-A-Ruminant.

Goatscaping, as it's sometimes called, is just one form of modern-day goat employment. Besides putting the animals to work clearing poison ivy from urban hiking trails or tidying up grass growing around solar panels, goats can inject a bit of fun into social activities such as yoga, wine tastings and parties.



Bleating and Eating

Carolyn and her husband, Kyle Carr, own a herd of about 600 goats in Brownwood. They hire their animals out to private landowners, municipalities and businesses. Goats, they say, are an eco-friendly solution to maintaining landscaping projects large and small.

The Carrs' herd is made up of nine breeds of goat. Almost all the animals have names, which are noted on brightly colored tags attached to their floppy ears.

"Goats are great," Carolyn says as they stream out of a trailer and into a cordoned-off area of land at Steiner Ranch. Curious residents have gathered to watch the proceedings.

The Carrs started their business after inheriting an overgrown piece of property in Brownwood, about 80 miles southeast of Abilene. Carolyn joked at the time that they needed a herd of "green grazers" to tidy things up.

It turned out to be a smart suggestion. Kyle's father had been a Xerox salesman, with plenty of connections at municipalities around the state. They quickly learned that many of those cities needed help controlling brushy overgrowth.

Goats can clamber up and down steep slopes and reach awkward spaces that heavy machinery can't access. They also clip vegetation growing along sensitive waterways where herbicides shouldn't be used. Best of all? They love plants that make humans itch or stab them with thorns or assault airways, including green briar, poison ivy, ragweed and blackberries.

LEFT Goats groom the terrain of Steiner Ranch outside Austin.

ABOVE Rent-A-Ruminant owners Kyle and Carolyn Carr manage a herd of about 600 goats that can landscape in hard-to-reach areas.

The Carrs travel the state with their herd, which has trimmed up Hermann Park in Houston, munched invasive species while all but ignoring the lush lawn at the Houston Arboretum, and cut back poison ivy along the Ann and Roy Butler Hike-and-Bike Trail around Lady Bird Lake in downtown Austin.

But not just any goat can make the Rent-A-Ruminant team. Only quiet goats that don't pester people for food can become part of the traveling work crew, Carolyn says.

Sometimes, onlookers set up chairs to watch the goats in action. That's fine with the Carrs, as long as the humans don't distract the animals by feeding or petting them.

"They have a job to do, and this is not a petting zoo," Carolyn says.

Sheep, she says, can do similar work, such as "mowing grass" that grows around rows of sun-collecting panels at solar farms. Both species have their niche—sheep prefer grass over leaves, making them good at keeping lawns and weeds in check. Goats prefer leaves, so they're better at tidying up unruly brush.

In Steiner Ranch, the experiment seems to be working. The HOA and fire department split the \$9,000 tab to hire the goats, and even after a few hours, the difference is obvious.

"We have a lot of area and so much poison ivy," says Debbie Tanner-Jacobs, president of the Steiner Ranch Residential Owners Association.

As a bonus, the goats leave behind a little fertilizer, in the form of their droppings. Goats, Carolyn Carr notes, sterilize seeds that pass through their bodies, so they can't repropagate those pesky plants.



PHOTOS THIS SPREAD: PAM LEBLANC





CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT Krystal Evans of Kyle and a new friend that is not at all sheepish at a Goat Shenanigans event at the Hive coffee shop in Austin. Shirley Marek cuddles a goat at Blue Lotus Winery in Seguin. Kids get to know each other at the Hive. Katie Knox with a baby goat at Blue Lotus.

Kidding Around

San Antonio-based Goat Shenanigans puts goats to work in a different way.

On a crisp afternoon in January, 10 goat enthusiasts convene at Blue Lotus Winery in Seguin, where they sip wine and cuddle a pair of Nigerian dwarf goats, each just three or four weeks old.

Besides happy hours with goats, the company organizes yoga classes, toddler gatherings, movie nights and beer tastings, all in the company of adorable baby goats.

They'll even deliver a "goat gram"—a livelier version of the traditional candy gram—to your home to celebrate a special occasion. A single-goat visit lasts 20–30 minutes, but you can add additional ruminants to the order.

Goat Shenanigans also offers ranch visits. Visitors can pay for a 10-, 30- or 60-minute session on the goats' home turf, on the northwest side of San Antonio.

"Whenever a goat is involved, it's going to be a good time," says Laura Romer, manager of Goat Shenanigans. "The best thing about them is they have different personalities. A cow is a cow, but a goat has its own unique personality. They're very loving, very playful and emotionally intelligent. They bring out so much joy in people."

The goats seem to enjoy their work. Aside from a chorus of high-pitched bleats that sound like out-of-tune harmonicas,

they zoom around an outdoor patio at the winery and accept an overflow of snuggles from their admirers.

"They're not afraid of people," Romer says. "They're motivated by food and love to be cuddled."

Allyson Marek of San Marcos learned about Goat Shenanigans through social media and bought tickets for the wine tasting with goats for herself and her parents for Christmas.

"They're just so cute and mischievous and silly," Marek says as she holds one, a bright-eyed armful of soft hair named Thor with a tongue that sticks out with each bleat. "Oh my gosh, amazing. They're so soft, so chill, so very awesome."

One day, when she has enough land, Marek says, she hopes to own her own herd. She dreams of raising goats for their milk and to make cheese and soap.

Another afternoon, a dozen children and their parents (along with a few adults who can't resist) gather at the Hive coffee shop in South Austin to mingle on an outdoor patio with four animated, beagle-sized baby goats.

"I like how they're kind of like dogs but cuter," says Evelyn Jackson, who has come to the event with her mother, a sister and a friend.

All around Jackson, kids—the human kind—offer the hardworking goats kibble and pet their soft bodies. Two of the goats wander into the coffee shop's garden, where they sample herbs growing in a raised bed. Another hops onto a picnic table and stares down a woman sitting there.

"How can you be upset with a baby goat in your arms?" asks goat wrangler Sarah O'Brien, who is doing her best to keep her charges in line.

You can't. And that's why we need more goats in the workforce. ■

TCP Watch the video on our website and get to know these hardworking and lovable animals.



BY PATTI PFEIFFER

Steel to the Stars

While a consequential steel mill rusts, locals ensure memories shine on

The Lone Star State is known around the world. The town of Lone Star, however, isn't well known—even among Texans.

But it should be. So says a group of 13 volunteers working to bring light to the East Texas town of 1,400 people about an hour southwest of Texarkana. They want to share the rich history of its steel plant, metal from which spanned the skies over Vietnam and the subsurface of the oil industry and deeply impacted the U.S. economy, environment and space exploration.

They call themselves the Ladies of Lone Star, and their goal is plain.

"We want to gather memories and record as much of the history of Lone Star Steel as possible for future generations," Lesley Dalme says.

It all began with an idea about décor.

Randy Hodges, former Lone Star mayor who was technical services manager when his 45-year career at the plant ended with its closing in 2020, proposed adorning the walls of the Lone Star Senior Citizens Center with pictures of the plant. The framed photos caught the attention of locals, and the project was born.



PHOTOS THIS SPREAD: COURTESY LADIES OF LONE STAR

The Ladies of Lone Star collect photos, documents and memorabilia to preserve and showcase the town's shuttered steel mill.



...s take are Robert Russell, E.D. ...
...s, David Childress (inspection),
...s and C.A. Burris.



Narramore and O.N. Cape on the job.



John, Missa and (top of) his cake, the old Mrs. Missa and her crew
who recently are finishing work.



...s Russell and Wilson Martin (an inspector)



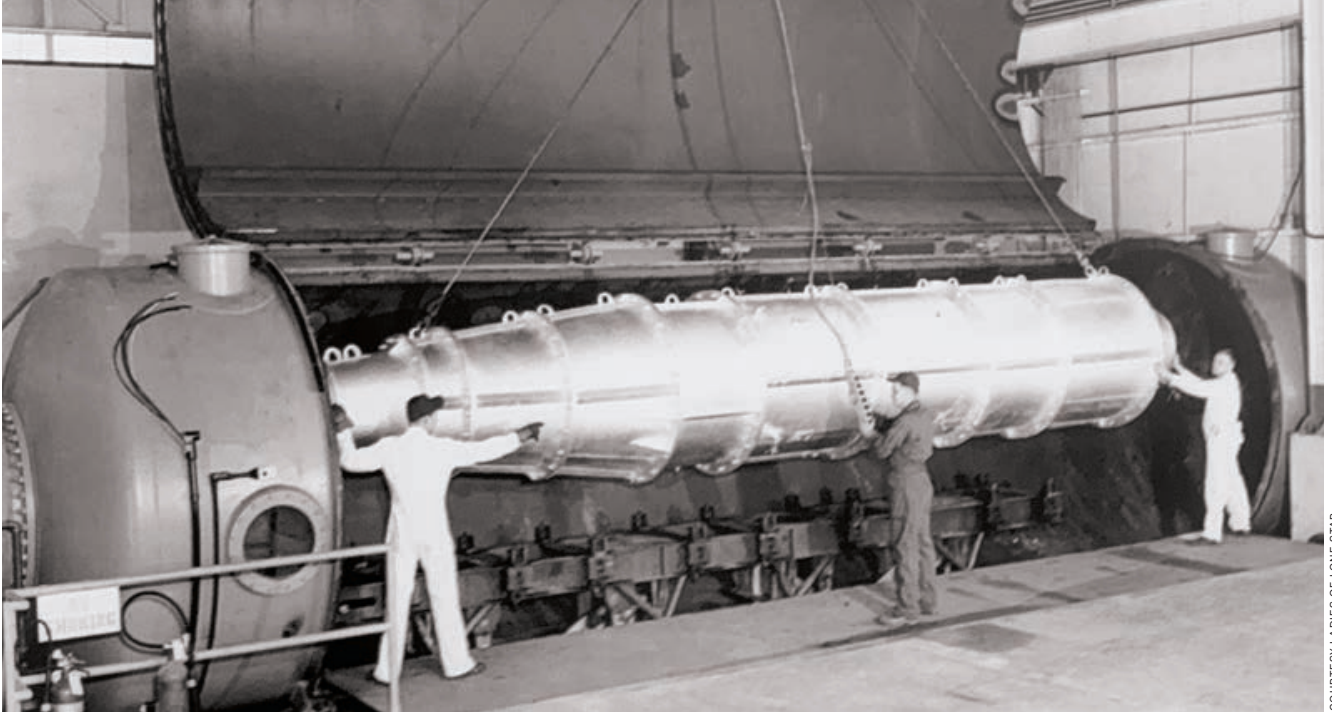
P.E. Moore, Orell Adams, E.E. Williams, G.G. Nickleberry, Alton Harris,
Harold Barber make up another cutoff crew.



...s are finishing crew members Johnny Pettit, Jerry
Smith, B.C. Dobby, J.M. Howard, Jr., W.J. McCarty

Photos and Text by Dave Lewis

EDITOR'S NOTE:—Due to mill scheduling requirements, some employees have been pictured more than once while working on different crews. There may also be some who participated in the record-setting finishing turns who aren't pictured. However, everyone involved is credited with the team effort required to set such records.



COURTESY LADIES OF LONE STAR



JAY PATRICK

CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT Several volunteers from the Ladies of Lone Star in the mill's chapel, the site of hundreds of plant employees' weddings over the years. A wind tunnel that could simulate the vacuum of space using blast blowers. Randy Hodges, the former mayor of Lone Star who worked at the plant for 45 years, with his father's hard hat. From left, former mill worker Bruce Shimpock and Lesley Dalme and Lanita Goodrum of Ladies of Lone Star look over artifacts.

I sat down with three members of the Ladies of Lone Star as well as Hodges and John Shivers, a former plant manager and vice president. For nearly two hours in the chapel on the grounds of the shuttered plant, I listened and learned about the steel industry, the plant's history and the impact it had on people, places and events far and wide.

The plant was built with federal funding during World War II in the small town of Lone Star, selected because of its strategic location. Nearby are ore, limestone and coal—the three essentials for steel production—and the Port of Houston is driving distance.

While the 600-acre plant came about because of the war, steel didn't start rolling out until the mid-1940s, after the war's end. In the early 1950s, the oil industry began booming and with it the market for pipe.

"An idea came about to buy surplus war project product

to manufacture oil pipe," Shivers says. "It took two years to adjust production and install necessary mills at a cost of \$76 million. The oil industry fluctuated, going from boom to bust. Likewise, LSS profited hugely and suffered severely."

LSS also played a role in the Vietnam War.

"We would make large-diameter tubes to be used as bomb casings, which would be cut to bomb length, shipped by rail or truck to an ammunition plant in Karnack, filled with ammo, a fin was attached, then they would be transported to the Port of Houston," Shivers says.

The steel mill had a wind tunnel that could simulate the vacuum of space using blast blowers. Known as the Ordnance Aerophysics Laboratory, the highly secure site operated from 1945 to 1968 and employed hundreds of scientists, technicians and engineers. Department of Defense contractors conducted thousands of tests for supersonic jet engines, guided missiles and spacecraft components for the military and NASA.

"The facility was well-known around the community, but because of security, it was not known around the country," Hodges says. "They researched and designed rocket engines here, including components used for the Saturn rocket. They would bring equipment in on a bread truck, and once inside the plant, securely situated behind closed metal doors, the bread truck doors would open, and parts would be unloaded."

Members of the project liked the area so much, amid the verdant Pineywoods and alongside the 1,500-acre reservoir



COURTESY LESLEY DALME

“We want to gather memories and record as much of the history of Lone Star Steel as possible for future generations.”

built for the steel plant, many of them stayed and went to work for LSS.

They brought with them a wealth of knowledge and talent that led to industry innovations. For example, a device that scrubbed smokestack emissions was developed at LSS, Shivers says.

“It cleaned better than anything on the market,” he says. “We sold it to other cities—Houston, Shreveport—a nuclear facility in Georgia, and other customers in the U.S. and abroad.”

However, economic downturns in the 1980s plagued the steel industry. In 1989, Lone Star Steel filed for bankruptcy.

“Our labor contract expired, and we worked two years without one,” Shivers says. “We just kept going, no contract and no complaints. It took a couple of years, but we came out of bankruptcy and paid off 85% of the debt, and a few years later were profitable again.”

In 2007, U.S. Steel purchased the plant for more than \$2 billion. Nine years later the mill was idled and then completely shuttered in 2020. At the height of production, the company reportedly employed more than 6,000. Now, other than security personnel, the facility is vacant. Equipment sits silent while rust and dust mount.

The Ladies of Lone Star are dedicated to preserving documents dating to the early 1940s and photographs showcasing the plant’s long and vibrant history. They also have begun meeting with former employees, recording and then transcribing their stories to be compiled into a book chronicling the mill’s story.

“The plant is being dismantled, and eventually it will be no more,” says Lanita Goodrum, one of the volunteers. “And it’s even more important that people know what made Lone Star, what those men did in that plant and the impact it had on our nation.”



JAY PATRICK

When our time together winds down, Hodges, who started at the steel plant in 1974, offers a trip to the senior center—an invite I eagerly accept. As we walk by each photo on the walls, he enthusiastically explains the images.

“I worked with World War II vets, young men with families—our plant was filled with people like that, hardworking parents who had to make a living regardless of the long hours, the hard and dangerous work,” he says. “In a world that was so divided, we were working for a common cause.”

On top of a piano is something that goes beyond mere nostalgia—Hodges’ father’s hard hat from his long career at the plant. “His first paycheck in 1953 is what paid for my mother to go and me to be born at a hospital,” Hodges says. “It was more than a job and career. We were family.”

And it was a family that survived, thrived, accomplished a lot and had an enormous impact. They are proud of LSS, still—its impact of 80 years, from Earth to the heavens, the industries it changed from oil to aerospace, and the lives it touched.

As Shivers says, “Our footprint ranges far beyond this steel plant.” ■

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2024 ANNUAL REPORT

Powering a Brighter Future



GENERAL
MANAGER

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KARNES ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE'S board of directors and employees are honored to invite you to our 87th annual meeting. The annual meeting provides a forum to participate in the cooperative's business through the election of directors. Additionally, the annual meeting provides an opportunity to meet your cooperative team and learn about Karnes EC's activities and goals.

We thank you, our member-owners, for entrusting us with the responsibility of providing quality service to empower our communities and improve lives. This is a responsibility that your KEC team is dedicated to delivering with excellence, and we remain humbly blessed to have the opportunity to brighten the future of the members we serve.



PRESIDENT

PAUL T.
BRYSCH JR.

This past year brought about many transitions affecting your cooperative. With this change also came the opportunity to invest in the growth of our greatest asset—our team. By focusing on team development and collaborative operations, we

were able to thrive under these changing conditions and deliver growth in safety performance, system improvements, storm response, and member satisfaction and sales, while hitting our financial targets. These results are a testament to the skill and dedication of our team.

Empowering Communities

In 2024, KEC grew by 433 consumers and 45 miles of energized line. This contributed to a 10.5% increase in sales, with annual sales totaling 1.5 billion kilowatt-hours. As you will see in the financial report, the cooperative remains financially strong.

Based on this financial position, the board of directors authorized a total of \$1,022,700 in capital credits to be returned to our members in 2024. This increased the total amount of capital credits returned to KEC members since 1989 to \$24,444,881.95.

In 2024, the average residential rate paid by our members, based on a monthly usage of 1,000 kWh, was 10.3 cents per kWh, as compared to 11.1 cents per kWh in 2023. This is a competitive rate when compared to the statewide average of 15.3 cents per kWh. The lower rate in 2024 is primarily driven by lower natural gas prices, reducing the cost of wholesale power, which makes up 77.7% of KEC's operating expenses.

To manage competitive rates and ensure adequate generation supply and transmission infrastructure to meet system growth, we are working closely with South Texas Electric Cooperative and San Miguel Electric Cooperative, our generation and transmission suppliers, to strategically plan for the future

and capitalize on growth opportunities.

These efforts have included pursuing opportunities through the federal government's Empowering Rural America program, evaluating available generation technologies and monitoring new generation being developed through the Texas Energy Fund. This also includes working with cooperatives across the nation to advocate for the interests of our members at both the state and national level to protect the reliability and affordability of our service.

Cost of Service

The team's effort to minimize operating costs through more efficient processes and alternative material supply options has helped offset the impact of the continuing increases in the costs of labor, materials, insurance and other services necessary to deliver safe and reliable electricity.

In just the past five years, the cost of materials for construction and maintenance has increased drastically. These increased costs have outpaced revenue growth, resulting in declining margins. These margins are needed to cover the cost of system improvements required to meet growth demand and maintain reliability.

This prompted an update to the financial forecast in 2024, which identified the need to conduct a cost-of-service study in 2025. This cost-of-service study will determine the amount of rate increase required and when the increase needs to be implemented.

In support of accurately evaluating the cost of service, the team completed a capital credits analysis and a 2025–26 work plan update.

These strategic initiatives assist staff in preparing for the future needs of the cooperative, to ensure KEC can continue to deliver service excellence while remaining financially strong.

Quality Service

We are dedicated to our mission of providing quality service that improves lives. This is achieved through a focus on safety, improving reliability and exceeding member expectations.

The cooperative remains committed to providing the tools, equipment, training and time required to complete each job safely. It is a pleasure to see this attitude and hard work pay off as the team was recognized for achieving zero lost time incidents in 2024 and for surpassing 1 million hours worked without a lost-time incident.

To continually improve system reliability and performance, maintenance programs were implemented to optimize the capabilities of intelligent devices such as reclosers.

Additionally, \$10,467,988 in work plan new connections, system improvements and maintenance projects were completed. This included the construction of 536 new connections, installation of 2,297 new poles, inspection of 5,879 poles and replace-

ment of 689 deficient poles. To support these improvements, 369 miles of rights-of-way clearing and tree trimming were completed.

Progress also continues on the construction of the Loxley substation in north Atascosa County, which is scheduled to be energized in the fourth quarter of 2025. Completing the construction of the backbone lines required to interconnect the Loxley substation with existing infrastructure is a top priority in 2025, along with a system improvement project out of the Rossville substation. The work plan projects are vital to enabling growth and improving reliability.

System reliability extends into business processes and technology infrastructure. Mobile staking was implemented to optimize the new connection process. The geographical information system licensing was restructured to reduce cost, and the GIS model is being enhanced to enable the implementation of operational analytics that will reduce outage response time and the cost of system analysis.

To support the demands of a growing system, data center switches were upgraded, and the Ethernet link bandwidth capacity was increased. These investments support a robust technology infrastructure and cybersecurity posture, which is a priority for delivering quality service.

Exceeding Expectations

To measure KEC's performance in meeting member expectations, an American Consumer Satisfaction Index survey was completed in 2024.

The co-op's ACSI score improved to 89, up from a score of 85 in 2021. This exceeded the average co-op and investor-owned utility scores of 78 and 74, respectively, and reflects our ongoing commitment to enhancing the member experience through improved service delivery, responsiveness and innovation.

In addition to this accomplishment, we expanded our member interaction-based surveys, integrating them into three additional touchpoints. The additional feedback enables us to better understand and address members' needs and preferences. Thank you for taking the time to respond to these surveys.

In tandem with these efforts, we launched a new membership agreement with an updated service addendum. We also refreshed our website, completing a redesign of the homepage and updating content, which creates a more user-friendly online experience.

Concern for Community

Our dedication to brighten the future extends beyond the distribution of electricity and into supporting our local community and other electric cooperatives.

As part of our local community support, we award scholarships to graduating students pursuing higher education. We are proud to announce that in 2024, we awarded \$2,500 scholarships to 20 students across our service area.

In 2024, we also supported more than 70 charitable and community organizations, and our employees participated in more than 30 community outreach events.

This support included partnering with CoBank, one of our financial lenders, through their Sharing Success program. Through this program, we proudly awarded \$3,000 to the Safer

Path Family Violence Shelter, \$3,500 to the Bountiful Blessings Food Pantry and \$3,500 to the Basket Food Pantry in Karnes County. CoBank generously matched each donation.

Improving Lives

We know access to reliable electricity is foundational to improving the quality of life. Our team works hard every day to prepare the system for damaging storms and reduce the likelihood of power outages.

We know that power outages still occur, and we remain prepared to answer the call, day or night, in clear skies or adverse conditions, to safely restore power as quickly as possible. We appreciate your understanding when outages occur, and we want you to know that there's a dedicated team working swiftly to respond.

KEC was fortunately not impacted by the widespread storm devastation that impacted many cooperatives across Texas in 2024. When these co-ops called for assistance, our team answered the call.

In May 2024, we had linemen travel to northeast Texas to assist with restoration following a storm. Then again in July, following the landfall of Hurricane Beryl, linemen went to assist. We're proud of our crew for making this sacrifice and using their talents to serve those in a time of need.

Electric cooperatives were formed to provide reliable electric service, and mutual aid among the cooperative community embodies the sixth cooperative principle of Cooperation Among Cooperatives. Since the creation of electric cooperatives, like the communities they serve, cooperatives rely on each other to assist in times of need.

By sharing resources, co-ops significantly enhance capabilities, enabling a more efficient response. By participating in mutual aid efforts, we grow our network of support and gain experience and knowledge that improves our own operations.

The successes of 2024 reflect the collective effort and dedication of the KEC employees and board of directors. With a renewed focus on innovation, growth and member satisfaction, we are well positioned to continue delivering exceptional value.

We hope you will join us at this year's annual meeting June 12. Once again, we're offering members a choice between a walk-through option with—hand delivery of ballots and viewing of the annual report video beginning at 5 p.m. prior to the meeting—and in-person attendance at the 7 p.m. meeting.

Whichever choice you make, we look forward to seeing you.



Paul T. Brysch Jr.



Eric Halfmann

Statement of Income and Patronage Capital

AS OF DECEMBER 31	2024	2023
OPERATING REVENUES		
Residential	\$ 22,774,679	\$ 24,660,536
Irrigation	3,566,183	3,816,565
Commercial and Industrial	93,617,948	92,635,403
Rent From Electric Property and Other Electric Revenue	39,528	19,849
Other	541,103	643,606
Unbilled Revenue	1,001,000	(2,417,000)
Total Operating Revenue	\$121,540,441	\$ 119,358,959
OPERATING EXPENSES		
Purchased Power	\$ 93,435,604	\$ 91,949,247
Distribution—Operation	3,338,904	2,825,350
Distribution—Maintenance	4,086,886	3,922,338
Consumer Accounts	2,256,565	1,803,113
Administrative and General	5,362,042	5,137,536
Depreciation and Amortization	10,589,582	9,923,554
Taxes	193,575	314,624
Other Interest Expenses	224,948	65,889
Total Operating Expenses	\$119,488,106	\$ 115,941,651
OPERATING MARGINS		
Before Fixed Charges	\$ 2,052,335	\$ 3,417,308
Interest on Long-Term Debt	(758,090)	(800,525)
After Fixed Charges	\$ 1,294,245	\$ 2,616,783
Capital Credits—G&T	7,001,620	7,467,329
Capital Credits—Other	391,984	757,863
Net Operating Margins	\$ 8,687,849	\$ 10,841,975
NONOPERATING MARGINS		
Interest Income	\$ 438,418	\$ 448,241
Other Nonoperating Income	(8,004)	(83,672)
Net Nonoperating Income (Loss)	\$ 430,414	\$ 364,569
Net Margins	\$ 9,118,263	\$ 11,206,544
NET MARGINS		
Patronage Capital—Beginning of Year	\$169,666,508	\$ 157,777,141
Unbilled Revenue Transferred to Other Equities	(1,001,000)	2,417,000
Patronage Capital Retired	(1,022,700)	(1,734,177)
Patronage Capital—End of Year	\$176,761,071	\$ 169,666,508



MESSAGE
FROM
SECRETARY-
TREASURER

LARRY R.
SCHENDEL

To the members of
Karnes Electric Cooperative,
Karnes City:

The accounting firm of Bolinger,
Segars, Gilbert & Moss LLP
performed an audit of our
financial statements for the
year ended December 31, 2024.

We received a clean opinion on
that audit. The complete audit
report is on file at the head-
quarters office of Karnes Electric
Cooperative.

Larry R. Schendel
Secretary-Treasurer
Karnes Electric Cooperative

Balance Sheet

YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31

2024

2023

ASSETS

UTILITY PLANT AT COST

Electric Plant in Service	\$366,058,948	\$ 346,402,675
Construction Work in Progress	5,889,939	2,438,780
Aid to Construction	(194,824,909)	(183,889,933)
	\$ 177,123,978	\$ 164,951,522
Less: Accumulated Provision for Depreciation	51,555,896	41,950,068
	\$125,568,082	\$ 123,001,454

OTHER PROPERTY AND INVESTMENTS AT COST OR STATED VALUE

Investments in Associated Organizations	\$ 68,696,102	\$ 61,528,092
Other Investments	337,214	375,457
	\$ 69,033,316	\$ 61,903,549

CURRENT ASSETS

Cash—General	\$ 9,521,085	\$ 11,487,890
Short-Term Investments	3,000,000	3,000,000
Accounts and Notes Receivable (Less Allowance for Uncollectibles of \$36,710 in 2024 and \$118,106 in 2023)	7,014,746	6,916,718
Unbilled Revenue	9,684,000	8,683,000
Materials and Supplies at Average Cost	8,808,428	8,518,215
Other Current and Accrued Assets	259,007	230,493
	\$ 38,287,266	\$ 38,836,316
Total Assets	\$232,888,664	\$223,741,319

EQUITIES AND LIABILITIES

EQUITIES

Memberships	\$ 73,170	\$ 91,615
Patronage Capital	176,761,071	169,666,508
Other Equities	10,021,398	9,014,044
	\$186,855,639	\$178,772,167

LONG-TERM DEBT

RUS Mortgage Notes Less Current Maturities	\$ 358,307	\$ 415,883
FFB Mortgage Notes Less Current Maturities	9,081,901	9,506,108
CFC Mortgage Notes Less Current Maturities	5,050,530	5,210,513
CoBank Mortgage Notes Less Current Maturities	3,538,964	4,110,382
	\$ 18,029,702	\$ 19,242,886

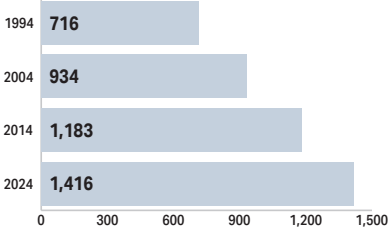
OTHER LONG-TERM LIABILITIES

Deferred Compensation	\$ 43,257	\$ 81,700
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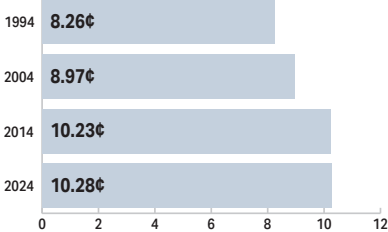
CURRENT LIABILITIES

Current Maturities of Long-Term Debt	\$ 1,206,000	\$ 1,164,000
Accounts Payable	541,393	295,334
Accounts Payable—Purchased Power	7,521,960	6,500,709
Consumer Deposits and Prepayments	4,435,473	4,554,010
Accrued Taxes	778,489	744,906
Other Current and Accrued Liabilities	1,013,555	894,461
	\$ 15,496,870	\$ 14,153,420
Deferred Credits	\$ 12,463,196	\$ 11,491,146
Total Equities and Liabilities	\$232,888,664	\$223,741,319

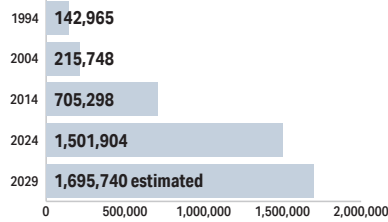
Average Monthly KWh Usage per Consumer (Residential Classification)



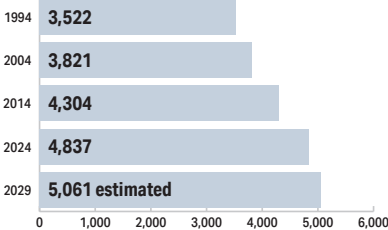
Average Monthly KWh Cost per Consumer (Residential Classification)



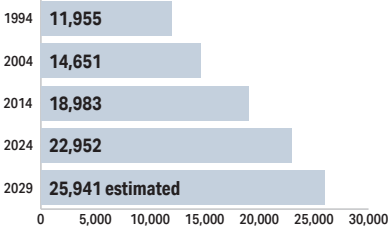
Annual KWh Sales (In Thousands)



Miles of Line



Number of Meters



Where Your Dollar Went



YEAR	PURCHASED POWER	OPERATIONS AND MAINTAINING SYSTEMS	DEPRECIATION	INTEREST	TAXES AND INSURANCE	MEMBERS' CAPITAL CREDITS AND MARGINS
2001	66.7¢	16.0¢	7.5¢	4.9¢	2.0¢	2.9¢
2002	63.8¢	14.8¢	7.3¢	4.0¢	2.4¢	7.7¢
2003	65.0¢	15.8¢	7.4¢	3.7¢	2.4¢	5.7¢
2004	69.0¢	15.5¢	7.3¢	3.7¢	2.4¢	2.1¢
2005	70.5¢	13.3¢	6.4¢	4.1¢	2.1¢	3.6¢
2006	70.8¢	13.4¢	6.0¢	4.4¢	2.0¢	3.4¢
2007	70.6¢	14.8¢	6.5¢	5.1¢	1.8¢	1.2¢
2008	76.4¢	12.2¢	5.5¢	4.3¢	1.5¢	0.1¢
2009	70.7¢	12.2¢	5.3¢	4.4¢	1.4¢	6.0¢
2010	67.9¢	13.0¢	5.4¢	4.3¢	1.4¢	8.0¢
2011	67.2¢	14.1¢	5.3¢	4.0¢	1.4¢	8.0¢
2012	66.2¢	14.6¢	5.2¢	3.7¢	1.4¢	8.9¢
2013	69.4¢	12.7¢	4.3¢	2.6¢	1.1¢	9.9¢
2014	70.5¢	10.8¢	3.1¢	1.8¢	1.0¢	12.8¢
2015	67.6¢	9.4¢	4.0¢	1.6¢	1.1¢	16.3¢
2016	68.3¢	9.3¢	5.2¢	1.3¢	1.1¢	14.8¢
2017	68.8¢	9.4¢	5.3¢	1.1¢	1.1¢	14.3¢
2018	69.8¢	9.0¢	5.2¢	1.0¢	1.0¢	14.0¢
2019	69.1¢	9.8¢	5.5¢	1.0¢	1.0¢	13.6¢
2020	72.5¢	11.4¢	6.5¢	1.0¢	1.5¢	7.1¢
2021	74.0¢	14.9¢	8.2¢	0.7¢	1.4¢	0.8¢
2022	78.0¢	9.3¢	7.0¢	0.6¢	1.1¢	4.0¢
2023	76.3¢	11.4¢	8.3¢	0.7¢	1.2¢	2.1¢
2024	76.2¢	12.3¢	8.6¢	0.8¢	1.1¢	1.0¢

Where Your Revenue Came From

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Farms and Ranches	14.3%	14.4%	14.2%	15.2%	14.5%	12.4%	12.1%	11.3%
Towns and Subdivisions	7.7%	8.0%	7.9%	8.5%	8.5%	8.2%	8.1%	7.6%
Irrigation	2.6%	2.5%	2.5%	3.2%	2.5%	3.6%	3.1%	3.0%
Small Commercial	7.6%	7.6%	7.8%	7.5%	7.2%	9.3%	9.3%	9.0%
Large Commercial	42.5%	41.5%	41.2%	41.9%	41.9%	42.9%	42.5%	43.5%
Public Buildings	0.1%	0.2%	0.2%	0.1%	0.2%	0.1%	0.2%	0.1%
Oil Wells	24.7%	25.3%	25.7%	23.3%	24.7%	23.0%	24.2%	25.0%
Other Revenue	0.5%	0.5%	0.5%	0.3%	0.5%	0.5%	0.5%	0.5%
TOTAL	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Employees

NAME	TITLE	YEARS OF SERVICE
Jacob Asebedo	First-Class Lineman	7
Sonny Barrientez	Serviceman	29
Jesse Benavides II	Operations Manager	9
Jennifer Berger	Member Service Representative II	4
Madelyn Braudaway	Assistant Staking Coordinator	1
Leroy Castillo	Warehouse Coordinator	6
Esperanza Cumpian	Member Service Representative II	16
Fredrick Currie	Line Locate Coordinator	18
Adolfo De La Garza	Warehouse Materials Handler	32
George De Los Santos Jr.	Second-Class Lineman I	3
Jessica De Los Santos	Member Service Representative I	2
Cory Ebrom	Purchasing Agent	22
Joe Escandon	Construction Foreman	26
Michael Espinoza	First-Class Lineman	3
Rebecca Frazier	GIS Technician	10
Suzanne Friesenhahn	Consumer Accounting Representative	13
Pedro Garcia	Operations Supervisor	21
Richard Garcia	Staking Foreman	14
Daniel Garza II	Staking Technician I	Less than 1
Alejandro Gonzales	Pleasanton Warehouse/Work Order Coordinator	3
Leslie Gonzales	Member Service Representative II	3
Justin Gray	Serviceman	15
Eric Halfmann	General Manager	2
Kole Hamilton	Second-Class Lineman I	3
Jared Helms	ROW Assistant	1
Clifton Henke	Technology Manager	8
Bart Homeyer	Apprentice Lineman I	3
Shayne Hons	Equipment Operator	Less than 1
Trentyn Hosek	Apprentice Lineman I	1
Troy Hughey	Second-Class Lineman I	3
Emelia Janysek	Executive Assistant	23
Patrick Janysek	Construction Manager	38
Cody Jarzombek	Mechanic II	3
Justin Jarzombek	Staking Technician II	6
Steve Jonas	Apparatus and Maintenance Technician	25
Hunter Jurgajtis	Operations Supervisor	10
Teren Jurgajtis	Maintenance Foreman	19
Glenn Kelley	Aerial Bucket Operator	15
Christopher Knight	Distribution Services Manager	11
Russell Korzekwa	Engineering Manager	24
Barbara Kotzur	AMI Support Specialist	18
Thomas Kowalik Jr.	Building/Grounds Maintenance Technician	4
Nathan Krudwig	Second-Class Lineman I	3
Tammy Labus	Finance and Accounting Manager	40

Service Awards

NAME	TITLE	YEARS OF SERVICE
Tammy Labus	Finance and Accounting Manager	40
Steve Jonas	Apparatus and Maintenance Technician	25
Sonya Sizemore	Dispatcher	15
Justin Gray	Serviceman	15
Glenn Kelley	Aerial Bucket Operator	15
Alicia Sandoval	Work Order Clerk	10
Rebecca Frazier	GIS Technician	10
Amanda Turner	Billing Coordinator	10
Cody Salas	Aerial Bucket Operator	10
Alfredo Lopez	Serviceman	10
Hunter Jurgajtis	Operations Supervisor	10
Xavier Ribble	IT Technician II	5
Kimberly Sanchez	Member Communications Coordinator	5
John David Saucedo	Second-Class Lineman I	5

NAME	TITLE	YEARS OF SERVICE
Jesse Ledesma Jr.	Apprentice Lineman I	1
Alfredo Lopez	Serviceman	10
Hector Lopez	Assistant Fleet Shop Foreman	23
Charles Luttrell	Second-Class Lineman I	6
Robison Lyman	IT Technician I	1
Kaleb Martinez	Groundman	Less than 1
Rebecca Mueller	Lead Member Service Representative	29
Randy Ortiz	Maintenance Foreman	13
Ernest Pacheco	Serviceman	37
Kevin Palermo	First-Class Lineman	14
Donna Pawelek	Staking Coordinator	39
Gary Pawelek	First-Class Lineman	34
Tosha Pennington	Dispatcher	4
Irma Pesqueda	Member Service Representative II	4
Brenda Quintanilla	Operations Coordinator	23
Nicolas Quintanilla	Accountant I	3
Candace Reynolds	Accountant II	8
Xavier Ribble	IT Technician II	5
Paul Rodriguez	Serviceman	14
Andrew Rojas	Apprentice Lineman II	3
Clinton Royal	Serviceman	27
Cody Salas	Aerial Bucket Operator	10
Jacob Sanchez	GIS Field Technician	8
Kimberly Sanchez	Member Communications Coordinator	5
Alicia Sandoval	Work Order Clerk	10
John Saucedo	Second-Class Lineman I	5
Tommy Shoemake	Staking Technician II	4
Sonya Sizemore	Dispatcher	15
Steve Stanley	Aerial Bucket Operator	9
Zachary Swierc	Operations Engineer	2
Megan Thompson	Business Development Coordinator	3
Rudolfo Torres	Construction Foreman	19
Amanda Turner	Billing Coordinator	10
Christopher Vajdos	Meter Technician	13
Vanessa Villanueva	Lead Member Service Representative	4
Jason Vyvelecka	Fleet Shop Foreman	1
Bonnie Wiatrek	Human Resources Coordinator	41
Darlene Woelfel	Senior Accountant	41
Robert Zuniga	Safety Coordinator	9

Annual Meeting Program

Thursday, June 12 • 7 p.m. • In-Person Meeting

1. Call Meeting to Order

2. Invocation

3. Welcome Address

4. Introduction of Guests

5. Secretary's Report of Number Present/Reading of Official Notice

6. Approval of 2024 Annual Meeting Minutes

7. Election of Directors
8. Naming of Canvassing Committee

9. Treasurer's Report

10. Annual Management Report

11. Unfinished Business

12. New Business

13. Report of Election

14. Adjournment of Meeting

15. Drawing of Attendance Prizes

2024 Minutes

Karnes Electric Cooperative, Inc., Annual Membership Meeting
Karnes City, Texas • June 11, 2024

THE ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP Meeting of Karnes Electric Cooperative, Inc. (KEC) was held at the Karnes City ISD Performing Arts Center in Karnes City, Texas, on Tuesday, June 11, 2024. KEC Board President Paul T. Brysch, Jr. Called to Order the Annual Meeting at 5:30 p.m. and announced that the walkthrough phase of the meeting would now begin. Members present during this phase of the meeting were allowed to cast their vote in the Director Election and view a prerecorded President's Welcome Address, Treasurer's Report and Annual Management Report.

At 7:00 p.m., Mr. Brysch announced the continuation of the Annual Meeting with the invocation given by Minister James Schendel. Mr. Brysch then led the Membership in the presentation of the National Anthem followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Brysch then introduced the prerecorded President's Welcome Address. In his address he welcomed all in attendance, introduced the Board of Directors and thanked them for their leadership and dedicated service to the Cooperative. He mentioned that a cost-of-service study was completed in 2023 to evaluate the Cooperative's revenue needs and at this time there is no immediate need for a cost increase. He commented on how we continue to work closely with our wholesale power supplier, South Texas Electric Cooperative, to manage generation resources and ensure that we get the best possible savings for our members. Mr. Brysch discussed the retirement of Brad Bierstedt at the beginning of the year and welcomed Eric Halfmann the newly appointed General Manager. He concluded his message by thanking the membership for their attendance and support.

Mr. Brysch then called on General Manager Eric Halfmann for the Introduction of Guests. Mr. Halfmann recognized all past and present military personnel in attendance and introduced special guests.

Secretary-Treasurer Larry R. Schendel was now given the floor to present the Secretary's Report on Number Present and announced that 219 members were present at the Annual Meeting as indicated by registrations submitted at check-in and that a quorum was present. He then turned the floor back over to Mr. Brysch. For reporting purposes, the final number of registrants was 226 at the close of registration.

Mr. Brysch asked those in attendance if they wished to dispense with the Reading of Official Notice of the Annual Meeting that was published in the June 2024 issue of *Texas Co-op Power* magazine, which was mailed to the membership on May 29, 2024, or have it read now. A motion was made and seconded to dispense with the Reading of Official Notice of the Annual Meeting. Motion carried.

Mr. Brysch then asked those in attendance if they wished to dispense with the reading of the minutes from the June 13, 2024, Annual Meeting, published in the June 2024 issue of *Texas Co-op Power* magazine or have them read now. A motion was made and seconded to dispense with the reading of the minutes and approve them as published. Motion carried.

Counsel for the Cooperative, Melissa Sykes, with the law firm of McGinnis Lochridge LLP was then given the floor to conduct the Election of Directors. She summarized Article IV Section 5 of the Bylaws explaining the nomination process for directors. She recognized the Nominating Committee who met on Wednesday, April 3, 2024, and nominated the candidates for districts 2,5, and 6.

Mrs. Sykes then informed the Members that the incumbent directors were nominated for election by the Committee for District No. 2, District No. 5, and District No. 6 and there were no nominations by petition.

Mrs. Sykes then named the members appointed to serve on the 2024 Canvassing Committee and instructed all the voting members to mark their ballots.

The ballots were collected by the Canvassing Committee, who then retired to count the votes.

Mr. Brysch then introduced the prerecorded 2023 Treasurer's Report presented by the Secretary Treasurer Larry R. Schendel. Mr. Schendel reported that the Cooperative remains financially sound, ending the year with a very strong equity ratio and operating margins of \$2,616,783 and finished the year with total assets of \$223,741,318. He shared that the Cooperative refunded capital credits totaling \$1,707,279 increasing the total amount of capital credits returned to members since 1989 to \$23,422,181. He concluded by reporting that the Cooperative's rates continue to be very competitive, and the Cooperative is in excellent financial condition.

Mr. Brysch then called on General Manager Eric Halfmann to give the Annual Management Report. Mr. Halfmann expressed his appreciation to the Board and Employees for their hard work and dedicated service. He thanked the membership for the opportunity to serve and become a part of the Cooperative family.

He then introduced the prerecorded Annual Management Report, which covered supply chain issues, and the critical role electric co-ops play in Regulatory and Market Reform affairs. He highlighted the strain on the Texas grid due to increased electrical demand, increased renewable generation, and proposed regulation that threatens reliability. Mr. Halfmann stated how the co-op team will be actively engaged in regulatory and market reform affairs representing the members' interest.

Mr. Halfmann announced the Cooperative's growth, with 441 new meters installed and 37 miles of new energized line. Sales for the year totaled 1.36 billion kilowatt hours leading to a 4.3% increase.

Mr. Halfmann then discussed the significant milestones achieved from work plan projects. The projects included new distribution line construction, voltage conversions, service capacity increases, pole replacement, system sectionalizing and wire replacements. He discussed the implementation of the Cooperative's lineman apprentice progression program and completion of the construction of field training facilities. He stated the pole inspections exceeded 6,300 resulting in the replacement of 989 poles. Mr. Halfmann reported the total miles cleared from right of way crews included 252 to aid in the number of service interruptions. He discussed the Cooperative's improvements to enhance system resilience by investing in advanced metering infrastructure upgrades and fortifying cyber security defenses through upgrading data center servers and safeguarding backup data. Mr. Halfmann also discussed the addition of service descriptions in outage notifications to Cooperative members, member interaction-based surveys, and the ACSI survey planned for 2024. Mr. Halfmann then expressed

appreciation to all members who take the time to respond to surveys and help the Cooperative continually improve service.

Mr. Halfmann then introduced Kimberly Sanchez, Member Communications Coordinator.

Mrs. Sanchez then reported on the Cooperative's concern for the communities it serves and stated that the Cooperative partnered with the CoBank Sharing Success Program. She announced that the Cooperative awarded donations to three organizations, with CoBank generously matching each donation for a combined total of \$20,000 in community support. The recipients included Cowboy's Ranch, Courage Ranch and NRECA International.

Mrs. Sanchez then reported that since 1998, the Cooperative has awarded a total of 288 scholarships, totaling \$322,200. She then recognized the following twenty (20) winners of \$2,500 scholarships for 2024:

Cayla Albers	Falls City ISD
Paul Bernal	Pleasanton ISD
Evelynn Caraway	Pleasanton ISD
Ariana Coolidge	McMullen County ISD
Marti Ducote	Jourdanton ISD
Wendy Fuentes	Poteet ISD
Kaylie Garcia	Kenedy ISD
Rosemary Garcia	Pleasanton ISD
Julia Johnson	Karnes City ISD
Jayden Jones	McMullen County ISD
Halleigh Kopecki	Poth ISD
McKenzie Lutz	Jourdanton ISD
Tyler Martinez	Poteet ISD
Logan Pawelek	Poth ISD
Samantha Saenz	Falls City ISD
Caden Soliz	Three Rivers ISD
Kevin Tam	Kenedy ISD
Ryan Trudeau	McMullen County ISD
Riley Turner	McMullen County ISD
Kiley Wiechring	Pleasanton ISD

Mrs. Sanchez announced the 2024 Government-in-Action Youth Tour winners, Ryan Bailey from Pleasanton ISD and Kianna Cruz from Jourdanton ISD. Mrs. Sanchez concluded her presentation by explaining how the Cooperative has made an impact in the community by partnering with local schools and organizations.

Mr. Halfmann then underscored the Cooperative principle of 'Concern for Community', emphasizing its reach beyond our local service territory. In 2023, the Cooperative joined several south Texas cooperatives alongside NRECA International. Mr. Halfmann then introduced the two linemen from the Cooperative who volunteered on this project, Randy Ortiz and Glenn Kelley, who then shared their experiences in providing electrification in a rural village in Matasano, Zapaca in the Republic of Guatemala. Randy and Glenn detailed the scope of the project and explained their struggles with the terrain and challenging weather conditions. Mr. Halfmann recognized and thanked Randy Ortiz and Glenn Kelley for their excellent service to the cooperative purpose.

Mr. Halfmann then recognized the following employees and directors for their dedicated service to the Cooperative:

Leroy Castillo	Warehouse Coordinator	5 Years
Justin Jarzombek	Staking Tech II	5 Years
Charles Luttrell	Second-Class Lineman I	5 Years
Christopher Knight	Distribution Services Manager	10 Years
Pedro Garcia	Operations Supervisor	20 Years
Bonnie Wiatrek	Human Resources Coordinator	40 Years
Darlene Woelfel	Senior Accountant	40 Years

Mr. Halfmann then recognized and expressed gratitude to the retirees for their dedicated service to the Cooperative.

Mr. Halfmann concluded his report by thanking all the Cooperative employees for their hard work and dedication, the Board for their service, and the Members for the opportunity to serve them.

Mr. Brysch then opened the meeting up for Member comments. Members were asked to limit their comments to five minutes or less. There were no comments from the Members.

Mr. Brysch then asked if there was any Unfinished Business to come before the meeting. There being none, Mr. Brysch asked if there was any New Business.

There being none, Mr. Brysch then called upon Mrs. Sykes for the Report of Election. She reported the official election results:

District No. 2	Boyd Vaughan	169
District No. 5	Paul T. Brysch, Jr.	177
District No. 6	Clif Royal	173

There being no further business, upon motion made, seconded, and carried, the meeting adjourned.

Mrs. Sanchez then conducted the drawing for door prizes, which included a combination of twenty-six (26) gift cards, (1) tool set, (1) Apple watch, (1) smart TV, (1) Pit Boss grill, and a \$250 bill credit for those registrants that brought in their preprinted registration card.



Paul T. Brysch Jr.
President



Larry R. Schendel
Secretary-Treasurer

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SCAN ME



Amazing Grace Danforth

The trailblazing doctor was a champion of women's rights

BY CLAY COPPEDGE • ILLUSTRATION BY STEPHANIE DALTON COWAN

THE DALLAS *Daily Times-Herald* tried to compliment Dr. Grace Danforth by saying she was “a woman with a man’s mind,” but the pioneering physician had a mind all her own.

Danforth was the first woman accepted as a member of the Dallas County Medical Association, the first woman to practice medicine in Williamson County and a founding member of the Texas Equal Rights Association.

Danforth was also a member of the Woman’s Christian Temperance Union, which made her death from a drug overdose all the more puzzling.

Born in Wisconsin in 1849, she lived

most of her life in Texas, moving with her family to northeast Texas as a young child.

For a while it appeared she would follow in her father’s footsteps as a traveling music teacher, but she found the classroom too confining. She considered bookkeeping and pharmacy before deciding on medicine, studying at the Woman’s Medical College of Chicago, where she first became involved in the campaign for women’s voting rights.

She returned to Texas as a licensed physician and dedicated suffragist.

By 1889, she was practicing medicine in the small town of Granger, north of Austin, at a time when there were only

a few thousand female doctors in the U.S. She organized local suffrage groups and promoted their activities. She advocated for inviting visionary suffragist Susan B. Anthony to Texas.

We know now that Danforth suffered from cluster headaches, which are uncommon, unpredictable and debilitating. And even though Danforth may have prescribed laudanum, a tincture of opium dissolved in alcohol, to treat pain and other ailments in her patients, she didn’t take it herself.

It’s possible she only took it once, on the night of her 46th birthday, February 21, 1895, when she died of an overdose. Stories about her death vary. Some say she overdosed on the drug antipyrine; others say laudanum.

Armies and expeditions of the day didn’t leave home without laudanum. Lewis and Clark took the drug, along with some raw opium, on their voyage of discovery. Doctors in the 19th century prescribed laudanum for nearly everything: colds, meningitis and even heart diseases.

Laudanum, it seems, never failed to make patients feel better. Unless it killed them.

Wayne Bethard, a pharmacist and historian in Texas, wrote in his book *Lotions, Potions, and Deadly Elixirs* that laudanum, like today’s opiates, lowers a patient’s pain threshold. Over time it takes more medicine to treat the same pain, but someone who doesn’t take narcotic pain medication has no tolerance to the drug. A dose large enough to calm a cluster headache could be fatal.

“Dr. Danforth was one of the most remarkable women in Texas,” the *Daily Times-Herald* wrote the day after her death. She was buried in the Granger City Cemetery.

“There was a great prejudice existing against her sex entering the learned professions, and it is not likely she got much practice,” the newspaper wrote. “But she was a woman of a vigorous and active mind, and she soon took a leading part in all reforms.” ■

Summer Pastas

We say summer, but you'll be turning to these dishes all year

BY VIANNEY RODRIGUEZ, FOOD EDITOR

A pan of homemade lasagna bubbling away in the oven is so dreamy, but this food editor is busy, so I'm busting out a skillet to re-create the dream in under 30 minutes on the stovetop. I finish by quickly broiling the cheese—an optional step but so worth it.

Turkey Skillet Lasagna

2 tablespoons olive oil
1 pound ground turkey
½ medium onion, diced
2 cloves garlic, minced
1 jar marinara sauce (24 ounces)
1½ cups chicken broth
1 cup sliced fresh mushrooms
10 uncooked lasagna noodles, broken into 2-inch pieces
1 cup ricotta cheese
¼ cup grated Parmesan cheese
1 teaspoon Italian seasoning
1 teaspoon salt
1 cup shredded mozzarella cheese

1. Heat olive oil in a 12-inch oven-safe skillet over medium-high heat. Add ground turkey and onion. Break up turkey with spoon and cook until turkey is fully cooked, about 8 minutes. Stir in garlic and cook an additional 2 minutes.
2. Add marinara sauce and broth. Bring to a boil.
3. Add mushrooms and lasagna noodles and stir to separate noodles. Return to a boil, then reduce heat, cover and cook 10–12 minutes or until noodles are tender, stirring occasionally. If using broiler, pre-heat it while the noodles cook.
4. In a bowl, stir together ricotta, Parmesan, Italian seasoning and salt.
5. Dollop cheese mixture by the spoonful on top of pasta. Cover and cook 5 minutes, until cheese is warmed through. Uncover skillet and top with mozzarella. If desired, broil 3 minutes or until cheese is melted and lightly browned. Serve warm.

SERVES 6

TCP Follow Vianney Rodriguez as she cooks in Cocina Gris at sweetlifebake.com, where she features a recipe for Queso Mac and Cheese.





Summer Corn Pasta Salad

NANCY GRIFFITH
BANDERA EC

Griffith's dish is a tasty combination of fresh veggies and pantry staples, making it a new addition to my list of rotating meal plans. As the pasta cooks, I can quickly chop up the veggies, and the dressing is a snap to whisk together. I served it with baked chicken, but it would also be amazing with fried chicken or baked salmon.

- 16 ounces uncooked rotini
- ½ cup red wine vinegar
- ½ teaspoon dried oregano
- ½ teaspoon ground cumin
- ½ teaspoon salt
- ½ teaspoon ground black pepper
- ½ cup avocado oil
- 1 can black beans (15 ounces), rinsed and drained
- 1½ cups corn kernels
- 2 tomatoes, diced
- 1 red bell pepper, diced
- ½ cup sliced black olives
- ¼ cup chopped fresh cilantro
- ½ cup diced green onions
- ¼ cup diced red onion

1. Cook rotini according to package directions.
2. In a large bowl, whisk together vinegar, oregano, cumin, salt and pepper. Whisk in avocado oil.
3. Add rotini to the dressing and stir to coat. Stir in beans, corn, tomatoes, bell pepper, olives, cilantro, green onions and red onion until thoroughly combined.
4. Cover and chill until ready to serve.

SERVES 8

CONTINUED ON PAGE 28 >



\$500 WINNER

Pickle Popper Pasta Salad

PATRICIA STEHLING
CENTRAL TEXAS EC



Pickle pasta, where have you been all my life? The way I devoured this pasta—it's so, so good and even easier to whip up. I mean, c'mon—pickles, ranch and bacon ... winner, winner.

- 12 ounces uncooked large elbow macaroni
- 1 cup mayonnaise
- ½ cup sour cream
- ¼ cup pickle juice
- 2 tablespoons ranch seasoning
- ¼ cup diced dill pickles
- 8–10 slices bacon, cooked and crumbled
- 2 cups cherry tomatoes, quartered
- 2 tablespoons fresh dill, minced (optional)

1. Cook macaroni according to package directions and allow to cool.
2. In a large bowl, stir together mayonnaise, sour cream, pickle juice and ranch seasoning.
3. Add macaroni, pickles, bacon and tomatoes and stir until well combined.
4. Serve garnished with fresh dill, if desired.

SERVES 6–8

TCP \$500 Recipe Contest

TURKEY TIME DUE JUNE 10

We're already thinking about the holidays, and you could win \$500 if you do too. Tell us about your main dish or what you do with that mountain of leftover turkey. Enter by June 10.

UPCOMING: HOLIDAY BREAKFAST DUE JULY 10





Pasta With Prosciutto and Peas

KERRI RUSS
TRINITY VALLEY EC

I appreciate a pasta dish with texture. I want it to be crispy or crunchy, and this pasta gives it to me. I enjoyed this dish when I first made it but even more the next day for lunch.

12 ounces uncooked fusilli
10 ounces frozen peas
4 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil,
divided use

3 ounces prosciutto, diced
2 cloves garlic, thinly sliced
1 tablespoon lemon juice
½ teaspoon salt
½ teaspoon ground black pepper
1 cup grated Parmigiano-Reggiano
cheese, divided use
½ cup chopped fresh parsley,
divided use

1. Cook fusilli according to package directions and set aside.
2. Steam peas according to package directions and drain.
3. In a skillet, heat 1 tablespoon olive oil over medium-high heat. Add prosciutto to the skillet in a single layer and fry until crispy. Place on paper towels to drain.
4. Add remaining 3 tablespoons olive oil to skillet, along with garlic. Cook until garlic begins to brown.
5. Pour garlic mixture into a large bowl, and add prosciutto, fusilli, peas, lemon juice, salt and pepper to bowl. Stir to coat.

Water Wise

BY VIANNEY RODRIGUEZ

Next time you're making spaghetti or fettuccine Alfredo, don't toss the water used for cooking pasta. Save a few cups before draining and reap the tasty benefits. It's loaded with rich starch from the pasta. Adding a cup or so of pasta water can help emulsify any sauce. It enhances flavor absorption, prevents pasta from drying out and helps sauce cling to pasta.

6. Stir in ¾ cup Parmigiano-Reggiano and ¼ cup parsley.
7. Serve garnished with remaining ¼ cup Parmigiano-Reggiano and ¼ cup parsley.

SERVES 4

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COURTESY CHET GARNER

Enter the Bare Cage

Lace up for an eerie hike among former zoo pens in this boomtown

BY CHET GARNER

THE CAGES WERE all empty—at least what was left of them. But that didn't stop me from having the strange feeling that something was watching me as I hiked through the remnants of an abandoned zoo just outside Cisco.

This small town is about 100 miles west of Fort Worth and boasts a couple claims to fame. First is the Mobley Hotel—the initial hotel purchased by Conrad Hilton, in 1919—and second is an infamous 1927 bank robbery led by a man dressed as Santa Claus.

And third is the old zoo nature trails on the banks of Lake Cisco.

The zoo was built in 1923, during the height of an oil boom. It was to be the crown jewel of a tourist camp that also included a huge swimming pool just below the newly formed lake.

At its peak, the zoo had a number of cages built into the sandstone cliffs and held a strange menagerie of animals, including a bear, deer and flamingo. Sadly, its heyday was short-lived as animals died under “unusual circumstances,” and by the 1930s, everything was abandoned.

For decades, the ruins of the zoo were known to only a few, and it seems most of them were graffiti artists. It wasn't until 2021 that a local nonprofit got permission to clear the paths, haul out the garbage and turn the old zoo into a public nature trail.

Walking the paths and peering into the old cages makes for an interesting, albeit creepy, nature walk. Pieces of rusted metal mark the outlines of the former enclaves. The only sounds you'll hear are the wind and the occasional bird or squirrel scampering up a tree.

But it isn't hard to imagine the growls of bears and howls of monkeys or those beady little eyes peering back at you. ■

ABOVE The empty habitats of an abandoned zoo embolden Chet.

TCP Watch the video on our website and see all Chet's Texplorations on *The Daytripper* on PBS.



Know Before You Go

Call ahead or check an event's website for scheduling details, and check our website for many more upcoming events.

JUNE
7

Brenham Highwaymen Show: The Great American Outlaws, (979) 337-7240, thebarnhillcenter.com

Grapevine Dairy Day, (817) 410-3185, grapevinetexasusa.com

13

Fredericksburg [13–14] Craft Beer Festival, fbgcraftbeerfestival.com

14

East Bernard Czech Kolache-Klobase Festival, (979) 533-1902, kkfest.com

El Campo Kids Fishing Tournament, (979) 275-1600, eclostagoon.com

Slaton Texas Air Museum Airshow, (806) 779-7332, thetexasairmuseum.org

Granbury [14–15] Lone Star Street Rod Association State Run, (817) 573-5548, visitgranbury.com

Terrell [14–15] North Texas Antique Tractor and Engine Club Show and Pull, (214) 497-1611, north-texas-antique-tractor-and-engine-club.net

16

Denton [16–21] Juneteenth Celebration, (940) 735-6311, dentonjuneteenth.com

21

Freeport Fort Velasco Day, (979) 233-0066, freeportmuseum.com

26

Luling [26-29] Watermelon Thump, (830) 875-3878, watermelonthump.com

28

Teague Putt Fore a Purpose, (903) 389-5792, fairfieldtexaschamber.com

Belton [28, July 2-5] 4th of July Celebration, (254) 939-3551, beltonchamber.com

Llano [28-Sept. 28] Canvas and Quilts: The Art of Ira and Kathy Kennedy, (325) 247-4839, llanofineartsguild.com

JULY

3

Waxahachie [3-4] Grape Myrtle Festival, (469) 309-4045, waxahachiecvb.com

4

Carthage Lake Murvaul Fourth of July Celebration, (903) 693-6562, panolacountytexas.com

Corsicana Freedom Festival, (903) 654-4874, visitcorsicana.com

Grapevine 4th of July Extravaganza, (817) 410-3185, grapevinetexasusa.com

Port Arthur Fireworks on the Seawall, (409) 985-7822, visitportarthurtx.com

Tomball July 4th Celebration & Street Fest, (281) 290-1035, tomballtx.gov

Granbury [4-6] Hometown 4th of July Celebration, (817) 573-1622, granburrychamber.com

TCP Submit Your Event

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Family Vacation

Whether going overseas or just over yonder, these readers love picnicking, beach combing, hiking, riding the rivers and cheering on their favorite teams as a family. Now pile in the family van, and let's have some fun!

CURATED BY GRACE FULTZ

1 BLAIR RINCONES, PEDERNALES EC

"The first time our kids experienced the Gulf Coast, the heart-shaped sunset made it truly a magical experience."

2 TARYN JENKINS, TRINITY VALLEY EC

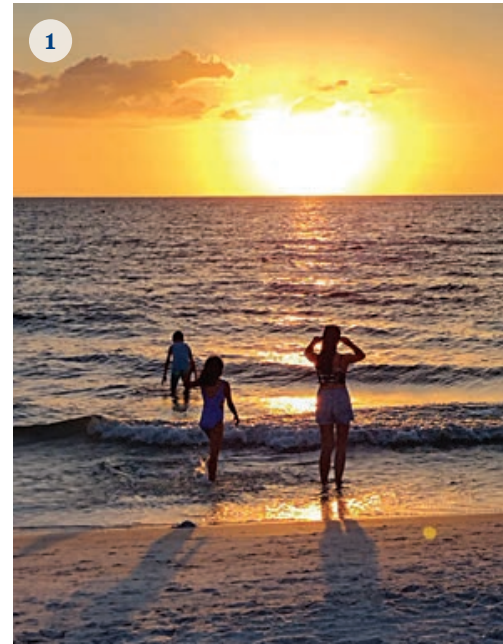
"A beach trip before a college send-off."

3 ELIZABETH WEBB, CHEROKEE COUNTY EC

"Climbing up to the summit of Enchanted Rock."

4 DANICA PETERS, PEDERNALES EC

"Summer lake days and jumping off the boat."



Upcoming Contests

DUE JUN 10 **Heroes**

DUE JUL 10 **Abstract**

DUE AUG 10 **Country Life**



Enter online at TexasCoopPower.com/contests.

TCP See Focus on Texas on our website for many more Family Vacation photos from readers.





Cutting Through

Sometimes it takes a chain saw to get through the undergrowth of life

BY PATTI JONES MORGAN
ILLUSTRATION BY
HEATHER GATLEY

ONE MORNING AS I walked along a nearby lane, a chain saw's rough growl cut through the early morning peace. Startled, I discovered its source was a trim-looking man bent almost double, systematically attacking dense undergrowth along his fence line.

"Good morning!" I called out.

Finally hearing my voice over the sound of the machine, the man straightened up. "Good morning!" he replied.

"You have a lot of work there!" I called back.

He took my greeting as a welcome excuse to take a break and struggled to disengage from a tangle of old wire fencing, clinging branches and thorny tendrils. Over time, they had wound around the trees and bushes, roots, and fence posts to create a near impenetrable barrier.

Slipping off the mask that had been protecting him from clouds of wood shavings and dust, he tipped back his broad-brimmed hat with a friendly smile. He had just bought the 10 acres, he explained, and planned to build a house on it for him and his wife.

"A lot of wires, mostly rusted, and old brush have wrapped around the fence posts," he said, waving at the stringy assortment of tethers once intended to define the acreage and warn away trespassers.

Left uncontrolled, however, nature had ravenously begun converting old and new companions into little more than an unmanageable thorny fortress. No wonder wire cutters and a chain saw were needed to hack through the knots and reveal what lay hidden.

We bid our goodbyes after the neighborly visit, and the chain saw resumed its noisy attack on the underbrush jungle.

But not before I saw my own tangle—of old literary aspirations in need of similar treatment. The cacophony inspired me to clear out yesterday's words and give light, air, time and space to new ones.

A long sweltering summer arrived, partnered with the pandemic. My neighbor's sporadic chain saw activity diminished to rock gathering and wheelbarrow work.

Curious neighbors, eager to chat, began stopping by. Robert Frost's oft-quoted line from his poem *Mending Wall* sprang to mind: "Good fences make good neighbors." A conversation hub during those communication-cramped months, the gathering place had served us all well.

Completed, his low rock wall continued to speak simply about what mattered: people, purpose and permanence.

It spoke my language too. Half-hidden beneath my writing clutter lay the lyrical sounds and familiar rhythms of my old love, poetry. Revealed anew, its purpose suddenly mattered more than ever.

The chain saw's discordant sound that first morning had, it seemed, pealed an unexpected welcome. Its clarion call was sweet music to my ears. ■

Member Registration Card

Karnes Electric Cooperative
87th Annual Membership Meeting
Thursday, June 12, 2025

Walk-Through 5–7 p.m. | In-Person Meeting 7–8 p.m.
Karnes City ISD Performing Arts Center
400 N. Highway 123, Karnes City, TX 78118



Join us for our annual meeting and take advantage of your chance to win exciting door prizes.

GRAND PRIZE:
\$250 BILL CREDIT!

The first 350 members who register will receive a \$25 bill credit.

Please tear off this card and bring it with you to the annual meeting.
It serves as your registration card and ticket for prize drawings.

KARNES ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Official Voting Representative Credential

If you are the designated representative of a member company, corporation, firm, organization or estate, you will need this completed form to cast that member's vote. The form must be signed by an officer or executor of the member company, corporation, firm, organization or estate, and the title must be designated.

Please print or type your information below.

FIRM

ACCOUNT NUMBER

ADDRESS

The following are hereby certified as official voting representatives of the above member-organization to represent it at the annual meeting, any specially called meeting or for any vote brought to the membership of the cooperative. We understand that the alternate is certified to act only in the absence of the voting representative.

VOTING REPRESENTATIVE

ALTERNATE

SIGNED

TITLE

DATE

This form remains valid until Karnes EC is notified of any change.

Registration Card

For use at the 2025 Annual Membership Meeting



87th Annual Membership Meeting

Please bring both parts of this card with you to the 87th Annual Membership Meeting. You can exchange this portion of the card for a gift at the meeting.

I hereby certify that I am a member of Karnes Electric Cooperative in personal attendance at the above meeting. I understand that only a member present is eligible to vote and receive an attendance prize.

MEMBER SIGNATURE

MEMBER PRINTED NAME

Please tear off this card and bring it with you to the annual meeting. It serves as your registration card and ticket for prize drawings.

Board of Directors



Paul T. Brysch Jr.
President



Clif Royal
Vice President



Larry R. Schendel
Secretary-Treasurer



Frank A. Geyer Jr.
Asst. Secretary-Treasurer



Boyd Vaughan

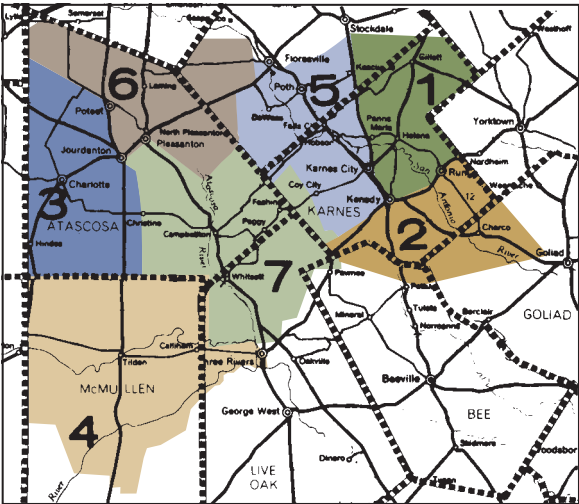


L. Scott
McClagherty IV



David R. Nieschwitz

Director Districts



Director Nominees

- DISTRICT 1**
Larry R. Schendel
- DISTRICT 4**
L. Scott McClagherty IV

DISTRICT	DIRECTOR	TERM EXPIRES
1	Larry R. Schendel	2025
2	Boyd Vaughan	2027
3	Frank A. Geyer Jr.	2026
4	L. Scott McClagherty IV	2025
5	Paul T. Brysch Jr.	2027
6	Clif Royal	2027
7	David R. Nieschwitz	2026