

GENERAL
MANAGERERIC
HALFMANN

What It Means To Be a Member

WHETHER YOU REALIZE it or not, you're a member and an owner of Karnes Electric Cooperative.

When you receive a capital credits check in the mail, that's a payment owed to you as an owner. When you cast a ballot in our board of directors elections, that's a chance to participate in the democracy of the cooperative model.

When you gather with family and neighbors each year at Karnes EC's annual meeting, that's another perk of membership and an opportunity to engage directly with your co-op's leaders.

October is National Cooperative Month, when we celebrate the benefits of co-op membership.

You can be a member of many institutions—a gym, 4-H club, food-of-the-month club, the list goes on and on. But being a member of a cooperative is different. When you're a member of a co-op, you're also an owner.

When you signed up to get electric service from Karnes EC, you "bought" a stake in our business; and just like any stakeholder, you're offered the benefits of membership.

That means we're not turning a profit on your need for electricity. Our bottom line is providing you with safe, reliable and affordable electricity, which demands that we think about expenses, overhead and other aspects of daily business. But when we have money left over at the end of the year, we send it back to you and all your fellow members.

Whether we return capital credits to you in the form of a bill credit or a check, you have a say in where that money goes. Returning capital credits to you is a major benefit of co-op membership.

As your local electric co-op, we have the privilege of being a vital part of the community we serve. When we think about membership, we think about all the ways we can give back to you, our members.

This October, I want to thank you for being a member—because without you, there is no co-op. Thank you for taking an interest and being an active member in the co-op that you own. ■



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Target Safety When Hunting

THIS HUNTING SEASON, Karnes Electric Cooperative encourages hunters to be aware of electrical equipment and take necessary precautions. Keep these safety tips in mind as you enjoy the great outdoors.

- ▶ Take notice of posted warning signs and keep clear of electrical equipment.
- ▶ Do not shoot at or near power lines or insulators.
- ▶ Know where power lines and equipment are located on the land where you hunt.
- ▶ Be especially careful in wooded areas, where power lines might not be as visible.
- ▶ Don't place deer stands on utility poles or climb poles—energized lines and equipment can conduct electricity through anyone who comes into contact with them, causing shock or electrocution.
- ▶ Do not place decoys on power lines or other utility equipment; any nonelectrical equipment attached to a pole can obstruct and pose a serious hazard to our line crews. ■