

A Celebration of Members



MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT/CEO RYAN BARTLETT

THE 80TH ANNUAL MEMBER MEETING OF TAYLOR ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE was held April 18 at the Abilene Convention Center. I want to personally thank the entire membership for a remarkable 80th annual meeting. We had a strong attendance of engaged members bound together in fellowship and sharing in this truly historic moment. The significance of this event isn't lost on me, and I am honored to be president and CEO in our 80th year serving our membership. This will be the best year yet for your local electric cooperative!

The annual meeting began with presentations from our elected officials and representatives. Sarah Conley, representing U.S. Rep. Jodey Arrington, read a statement from Rep. Arrington and then presented the membership with a flag that was flown over the U.S. Capitol. On behalf of state Rep. Stan Lambert of House District 71, a resolution was read recognizing the cooperative's service to Abilene and surrounding communities. Taylor EC members then received a Texas state flag that was flown over the state Capitol in Austin. Mayor Anthony Williams then proclaimed April 18, 2019, as Taylor Electric Cooperative Day. Finally, the Abilene Chamber of Commerce Red Coats hosted a ribbon-cutting to mark the momentous occasion. It was a humbling display of our cooperative's impact and a testament to the years of extraordinary leadership from our board of directors.

The meeting continued with a brief update from our board chairman, Cecil Davis, and a financial update from David McFall, secretary-treasurer. We are proud to report our cooperative continues to grow and thrive. Members received door prizes and lunch and voted for their board representatives.

What struck me most, however, about our 80th annual meeting was the fellowship and camaraderie of the members. So much has changed over the past 80 years, but the spirit and humanity of our members have not. Through Operation Round-Up, our members gave \$72,500 to local volunteer fire departments, and each department was presented with a check during the meeting. Additionally, the board of directors approved over \$1 million to be returned to the membership in the form of capital credit checks.

With the board of directors' leadership and our members' dedication to the cooperative vision, we have an exciting future ahead of us. The board continues to seek new technologies and innovations that will improve the quality of life for our members. We continue updating our system to improve reliability, and our fiber internet presence continues to grow, providing more members with high-speed internet every day.

The future promises boundless opportunities for our cooperative, and I am humbled to be a part of our rich history while leading a team that stands ready to provide local, unparalleled service to our membership.



Congratulations to Our Schlitterbahn Prizewinner

YOU MAY HAVE NOTICED A SPECIAL giveaway Taylor Electric Cooperative promoted recently in honor of *Texas Co-op Power's* 75th anniversary. As we reach the midpoint of this celebratory year, we'd like to congratulate the winner of five season passes to Schlitterbahn:

Linda Barfield of Abilene. Enjoy this fun summer excursion on us!

To our members who didn't win, don't worry—there are still plenty of opportunities to try your luck. We have more prizes up our sleeves as we celebrate with you for the remainder of 2019. Every month, members of Taylor EC will have a chance to win a uniquely Texan treasure.

These giveaways complement some other commemorative features *Texas Co-op Power* showcases this year. We have print and video versions of recipes pulled from the archives and updated for modern tastes, a 12-month Hit the Road series with *The Daytripper's* Chet Garner and thought-provoking Currents timelines each month that mark significant events spanning the magazine's history, across a broad swath of topics.

Amid the anniversary festivities, don't forget our themed monthly recipe and photography contests, which we hope you take advantage of, too. We can't wait to see the fruits of our members' creativity.

Power Lines and People Don't Mix



POWER LINES CAN BE DEADLY IN CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES. TAYLOR ELECTRIC COOP-erative does our best to maintain our lines properly so they stay a safe distance overhead, but occasionally people and power lines intersect. That's why it's important to know what to do in case that ever happens to you.

Downed Power Lines

Downed electric lines may cause serious injury or death if contacted. All downed lines, including telephone and cable television lines, must be considered energized and should be avoided. **If you encounter a low-hanging or downed power line:**

- ▶ Stay away and keep other people away; do not approach downed wires.
- ▶ Call 911 and Taylor EC.
- ▶ If someone is in contact with the power line, do not attempt to rescue them

because you could become a victim as well.

Car Accidents

If you're in a car accident involving a power line, the safest thing to do is stay in your vehicle until help arrives. The metal parts of the car might be energized, and if you touch the outside of the car and the ground at the same time, you could get shocked. Stay put until authorities say it's safe to exit the vehicle.

If you absolutely must leave the vehicle due to a safety concern such as fire, hop out with your feet together, making sure to land on both feet at the same time. Be careful not to touch the vehicle and the ground at the same time. Continue carefully hopping with your feet together in short hops until you're as far away as possible.

Never approach or touch a vehicle with a downed power line on it.

Storms

Extreme weather may reduce or eliminate the normal space between energized electrical lines and the ground. Whether the line is dangerously low or on the ground, call us immediately, stay away and keep others away until repairs are made.

Taylor Electric Cooperative

226 County Road 287 • P.O. Box 250
Merkel, TX 79536

PRESIDENT/CEO

Ryan Bartlett

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Cecil Davis, Board Chairman, Zone 1
Leland Robinson, Board Vice Chairman, Zone 1
David McFall, Secretary-Treasurer, Zone 2
Garland Carter, Zone 2
Richard Petree, At-Large
Kathryn Rainey, Zone 3
Gay Simmons, Zone 3

HANDY WAYS TO PAY YOUR BILL

Online

taylorelectric.com

Taylor Electric App

Available on your Apple or Android device

By Phone

(325) 793-8500

Visa, Mastercard, checks accepted.

Payments credited immediately.

In Person

Main office hours:

7:30 a.m.–5:30 p.m., Monday–Friday

226 CR 287, off I-20, west of Abilene Wells
Lane exit 274 between Tye and Merkel

Abilene office hours:

7:30 a.m.–5:30 p.m. Monday–Friday

7966 Highway 83, Abilene 79602

Visa, Mastercard, checks, cash and money
orders accepted.

Payments credited immediately.

Drop Box

Main office drop box at front gate: 24/7

Abilene office drop box (next to first
door on the left): 24/7

Checks and money orders accepted.

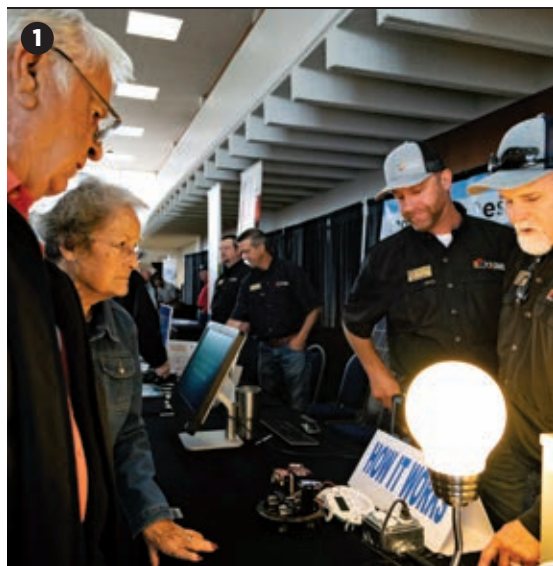
Payments credited next business day.

Pay Stations

- **United Supermarket**, 521 S. Access Road, Clyde
- **Food Plaza #4**, 109 S.E. Fifth St., Cross Plains
- **Cash Saver**, 155 Sayles Blvd., Abilene
- **United Supermarket**, 2160 Pine St., Abilene
- **Check Express**, 906 E. Broadway Ave., Sweetwater

Cash, checks, money orders and debit
cards accepted.

Payments credited next business day.



Annual Meeting Marks 80 Years of Unrivaed Service to Taylor EC Members

A BANNER PROCLAIMING “80 YEARS OF PEOPLE POWER” CAP-tured the spirit of Taylor Electric Cooperative’s 80th annual meeting April 18 at the Abilene Convention Center. Despite the historic moment at hand, the co-op’s members and co-op staff followed through on the traditional activities of the annual meeting, including visiting to catch up with friends and taking care of the co-op’s business.

One of Taylor EC’s bucket trucks, with its bucket extended to full height, served as a landmark to guide members into the convention center. Co-op staffers greeted early arrivals before lunch and presented members with capital credits checks and

a gift bag of mementos.

Members then were directed to the exhibit fair, which was filled with a variety of vendors, many health- and co-op-related. Taylor EC employees explained co-op services to members, including Access Fiber, Taylor EC’s fiber internet service announced last year and now available to members.

The rollout of Access Fiber marks yet another way Taylor EC has fulfilled its mission to meet members’ needs over its 80-year history. A few members at the meeting shared memories of the co-op’s earliest days that attest to that enduring achievement.



1. Scott Adair and Chris Jenkins explain a metering display to members.

2. Members receive trinkets from Chad Sipe and Rusty Holloway, seated, at the maintenance booth.

3. Members enjoy cooperative and health fair booths prior to the meeting.

4. Taylor EC retirees Richard Eyrse, left, and Ricky Elliott visit with Rusty Holloway, seated.

5. Willie Wiredhand entertains the Hawley first-grade class before they lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

6. Lisa Harris sorts through capital credits checks.

7. Kerry Anderson registers a member for the meeting.



“I was 5 years old when we first got electricity to our home,” said Mary Neil Elliot, a longtime Taylor EC member and resident of the Abilene area. “I remember I was so excited to have a real refrigerator instead of an icebox.”

Elliot praised the co-op for installing poles and running lines to her current home when it was built in 1965. “They’ve been good to us,” she said, emphasizing the consistently attentive service. “I think that’s a big part of why they exist today and are celebrating 80 years.”

Elliot’s story is not uncommon for Taylor EC members. The co-op recognized and documented many other members’ stories and shared many anecdotes on Facebook over the 80 days leading up to the meeting. In addition to accounts from members, the 80 Days of People Power campaign highlighted employee contributions to the co-op’s success.

As members settled into the meeting area, Betty Rose’s Little Brisket coordinated with student volunteers from Merkel, Hawley and Wylie high schools and Abilene Christian School

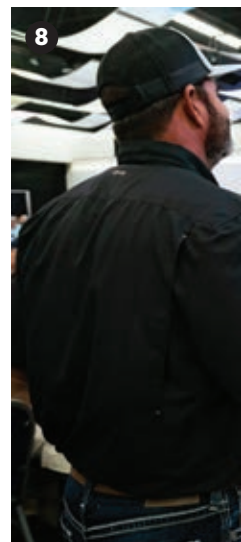
to serve the crowd a barbecue lunch.

To formally start the meeting, the Dyess Air Force Base honor guards performed the presentation of the colors, placing the flags of Texas and the United States on the stage. The Wylie High School choir sang the national anthem, and Hawley Elementary School first graders led the Pledge of Allegiance.

State Reps. Jodey Arrington and Stan Lambert sent representatives to acknowledge the co-op on its significant anniversary. In recognition of the 80-year milestone, Rep. Arrington’s emissary presented Taylor EC with a Texas flag that had flown over the state Capitol.

The Abilene Chamber of Commerce commemorated the day with a ribbon-cutting, and Abilene Mayor Anthony Williams followed the flag presentation with a proclamation announcing April 18 as Taylor Electric Cooperative Day.

“Taylor Electric Cooperative has played a distinctive role in the history of the Abilene, Texas, area,” Williams said.



“The legacy of innovation and service excellence is to be commended.”

Ryan Bartlett, Taylor EC president and CEO, took the stage to update members on the state of the co-op and its 80 years of history with a comprehensive video that included former and current employees, loyal members, community leaders and Bartlett himself as they explained the advances and growth Taylor EC now celebrates.

Bartlett explained that the co-op’s performance is based on the quality of its members and committed employees who keep things running smoothly. “I’ve had the privilege to help assemble some of the best talent that we’ve had here at Taylor Electric in many, many years,” he said. “I guarantee you I’ve

got the best team out there, and we are ready to answer the call.”

Taylor EC’s reputation goes beyond providing affordable and reliable electricity, and the video touched on every facet of the co-op’s commitment to its members and the community, including its culture of giving.

“I love getting to see Taylor Electric’s name on various events that our nonprofits host in town,” said Katie Alford, president and CEO of the Community Foundation of Abilene, in the video. “That makes me proud to know that I’m part of an organization that is supporting the efforts that are being made to make lives better here in Abilene.”

Operation Round-Up is a critical part of the co-op’s culture



1. Members are seated in the main hall under Taylor EC's cooperative value banners.

2. Abilene Mayor Anthony Williams presents President and CEO Ryan Bartlett with the Taylor Electric Day proclamation.

3. Board Chairman Cecil Davis opens the meeting.

4. Board member Kathryn Rainey presents an Operation Round-Up check to Cottonwood VFD.

5. Rusty Holloway spins the tumbler for door prizes.

6. Bartlett accepts a flag and statement from Sarah Conley of U.S. Rep. Jodey Arrington's office.

7. Abilene Chamber of Commerce Red Coats host a ribbon-cutting ceremony with Bartlett, Board Chairman Davis, center, and Mayor Williams.

8. Joe Wilson carries a door prize to a lucky winner.

9. Students from four Taylor EC member schools serve lunch.

of giving back. Members choose to round up their monthly bills to the nearest dollar, and those funds go to support area nonprofits. Every year at the annual meeting, funds collected from Operation Round-Up are distributed to local volunteer fire departments. This year, the members of Taylor EC donated a total of \$72,500 to 26 volunteer fire departments.

John Eichelmann, vice president of member services for Golden Spread Electric Cooperative, the generation and transmission co-op that provides the power that Taylor EC distributes, presented a video documenting Golden Spread EC's diverse energy portfolio. The co-op's natural gas-powered generators and wind power assets continue to keep costs down, allowing Golden Spread EC to pass savings along to member

co-ops. These savings contributed to Taylor EC's 2018 margins.

Election results wrapped up the business portion. Directors Leland Robinson, Zone 1; Garland Cater, Zone 2; and Kathryn Rainey, Zone 3, were reelected to three-year terms on the board.

Throughout the meeting, many door prizes were given away and members stayed until the very end for the drawing of grand prizes, two \$800 bill credits. The big prizes went to Jessica Jeter and Cassie Jarrett.

In addition to conducting co-op business, holding board elections and sharing a meal at the annual meeting, Taylor EC reaffirmed its status as an indispensable provider of essential support to its 11,000 members and surrounding community.