

CEO CORNER



Ryan Bartlett,
President / CEO

October Is National Cooperative Month

EVERY OCTOBER, cooperatives from all sectors across the country celebrate National Cooperative Month. The purpose of this annual celebration is to recognize the cooperative difference and remind you, the members of our co-op, about Taylor Electric Cooperative's purpose.

I must admit that occasionally, I have been somewhat cynical of PR "holidays" that fill up social media, but National Cooperative Month has a genuinely special purpose that's near and dear to me.

This month is all about celebrating co-ops' unique business model, based on the Seven Cooperative Principles: Voluntary and Open Membership; Democratic Member Control; Members' Economic Participation; Autonomy and Independence; Education, Training and Information; Cooperation Among Cooperatives; and Concern for Community.

For co-op employees and members who are familiar with the principles, the month of October is a great opportunity to renew our connection to each other and the purpose of our co-op. Taylor EC's main purpose is to provide safe and reliable electricity to our members. But we also offer many other programs and services to our members.

In the U.S., there are more than 30,000 co-ops in many industries. These diverse yet connected businesses join together this month to educate members—and nonmembers—about the community of cooperatives.

There are more co-ops in our local community than most people realize. Co-ops are even represented on the shelves at our local grocery stores, such as Land O'Lakes, Welch's, Organic Valley, Cabot Creamery, Sunkist, Ocean Spray and many more.

In fact, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, more than 350 million people belong to a co-op in the U.S. alone, and co-ops employ more than 2 million Americans and generate more than \$700 billion in annual revenue.

The Seven Cooperative Principles speak to the heart of why we must take every opportunity to celebrate and teach others about the cooperative business model. So plan your own co-op celebration by purchasing co-op products, do business with co-ops right here in our community and be an active member of Taylor EC.

One of the best ways to support us and the cooperative business model is to attend our annual meeting. Mark your calendar for April 17, 2025. We look forward to seeing you there.



TAYLOR
ELECTRIC
COOPERATIVE

CEO CORNER



Cast Your Vote November 5th

TEXAS ELECTRIC cooperatives' top priority is providing members with safe and reliable energy. But this job requires more than stringing and maintaining power lines. It requires political engagement.

That may seem far removed from our core mission, but it's absolutely essential to the services cooperatives provide.

That's why electric co-ops in Texas and across the country encourage all co-op members to participate in national, state and local elections.

Your cooperative also works to educate political candidates and elected officials about the important role electric co-ops play in their local communities. Decision-makers across the political spectrum trust us because of the work the co-op family has put into political engagement.

As co-ops, the civic virtue of voting is in our DNA. We show Concern for Community—one of the Seven Cooperative Principles—through participation in our democracy.

Voting is central to American democracy—because when we all get involved, we can make things happen. We hope you will commit to casting your ballot November 5. You can also cast your vote during early voting October 19–November 1.

To learn more about the upcoming elections and access resources that can help you stay informed, visit vote.coop.

Taylor Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

CONTACT US

226 County Road 287, Merkel, TX 79536

P.O. Box 250, Merkel, TX 79536

Phone (325) 793-8500

Web taylorelectric.com

President/CEO

Ryan Bartlett

Board of Directors

Cecil Davis, Board Chairman, Zone 1

Kathryn Rainey, Board Vice Chairman, Zone 3

David McFall, Secretary-Treasurer, Zone 2

Craig Bessent, Zone 1

Garland Carter, Zone 2

Richard Petree, At-Large

Gay Simmons, Zone 3

24/7

Outage Hotline

For information and to report outages, please call us.

LOCAL

(325) 793-8500

HANDY WAYS TO PAY YOUR BILL

ONLINE

taylorelectric.com

TAYLOR ELECTRIC APP

Available on your Apple or Android device.

BY PHONE

(325) 793-8500. Payments credited immediately.

IN PERSON

Hours Monday–Friday, 7:30 a.m.–5:30 p.m.

Merkel 226 CR 287, Merkel 79536

Abilene 7966 Highway 83, Abilene 79602

Payments credited immediately.

DROP BOX

Merkel office. Located near the entrance of the building.

Abilene office. Located at the southeast portion of the parking lot. Payments credited next business day.

PAY STATIONS

- Cash Saver, 155 Sayles Blvd., Abilene
- United Supermarket, 2160 Pine St., Abilene
- Check Express, 906 E. Broadway Ave., Sweetwater

Payments credited next business day.

NOTICE

Effective June 1, 2023, all credit/debit card transactions will be assessed a 2.45% convenience fee.

VISIT US ONLINE

taylorelectric.com



Check us out at

TexasCoopPower.com/taylor



Strengthening Communities: Taylor Electric's Commitment to the Schools We Serve

IN THE HEART OF EVERY VIBRANT COMMUNITY lies a spirit of collaboration and mutual support. Taylor Electric Cooperative is dedicated to serving its members and fostering community well-being. This commitment extends beyond our immediate operations to encompass the educational institutions that shape the future generation.

Cooperatives, by their very nature, prioritize the needs and aspirations of their members. This commitment often extends to supporting local schools, recognizing the pivotal role education plays in shaping not only individual lives but also the fabric of the community itself. Whether it's through direct financial contributions, volunteer initiatives, or collaborative programs, Taylor Electric is forging meaningful partnerships with schools to enhance educational outcomes and enrich the learning experience of the students in our community.

BUILDING BRIDGES: PARTNERSHIPS THAT MATTER

One way the cooperative is making a significant impact in its community is through its participation of the Rural Electric Youth Tour. Students that attend the schools Taylor Electric serve as well as members of Taylor Electric are eligible to apply for Youth Tour and are selected to represent the co-op on a tour of our nation's capital. There they receive leadership development and training that they will carry with them into adulthood. This year Taylor Electric Cooperative sponsored five students from surrounding schools including Merkel ISD, Hawley ISD, and Wylie ISD.

EMPOWERING EDUCATORS: PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND BEYOND

Taylor Electric's mission to support educators extends beyond financial support.

We want to equip teachers with services we can provide to them in their classrooms, but also ensure they are recognized for the hard work

and dedication they provide to the students in our community.

Each year Taylor Electric Cooperative provides a catered lunch to the teachers of the schools we serve including Merkel, Wylie, Trent, Hawley, and Abilene Christian Schools.



LOOKING AHEAD: GROWTH AND OPPORTUNITY

As cooperatives continue to evolve, so does their approach to community engagement. The focus is shifting toward sustainable impact, ensuring that educational initiatives are not only effective in the short term but also contribute to long-term community growth and resilience. This approach underscores the cooperative principle of concern for community, where every decision and action is guided by a commitment to the well-being of all members.

In conclusion, the cooperative movement's dedication to supporting surrounding local schools exemplifies the power of collective action in fostering vibrant communities. By investing in education, cooperatives are not only securing a brighter future for young learners but also nurturing a community spirit that transcends generations. As we look to the future, let us celebrate and emulate the cooperative ethos of collaboration, compassion, and community building—one school, one student, and one cooperative at a time.



Taylor Electric Employees served teachers in the surrounding areas to thank them for the commitment and dedication they have to our future generation.

Scholarship 2025

AS A RESULT OF TAYLOR ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE'S dedication and commitment to the community and education, the cooperative has awarded over \$100,000 to local students through the membership scholarship program.

The Taylor Electric Cooperative scholarship and lineperson program provides scholarships to local students each year. Scholarships will be sent directly to the university, college or vocational institution of each student's choice. Applicants pursuing college and/or vocational-technical degrees will receive equal consideration.

Eligibility:

- Student must be an enrolled high school senior
- Student and parent or legal guardian must live in a permanent residence powered by Taylor Electric Cooperative



Applications are now available for the 2025 scholarship program.

Application deadline: January 16th.

To apply for either scholarship visit our website at TaylorElectric.com or follow the QR code to the scholarship applications.



Students represented Taylor Electric Cooperative at the Rural Electric Youth Tour this summer in Washington DC

