



MESSAGE  
FROM  
PRESIDENT/  
CEO

**RYAN  
BARTLETT**

## By the Community, for the Community

**I**F YOU'RE A FREQUENT READER of these columns, you've read a lot over the years about why and how Taylor Electric Cooperative is different—because those differences are at the root of all that we do. Our business model sets us apart from other utilities because we adhere to guiding co-op principles that reflect core values of integrity, transparency and service to the greater good.

Taylor Electric was built by local people who worked together to bring electricity to our area. We exist to provide safe, reliable and affordable energy to you, the members of the co-op. But equally important is our mission to enrich the lives of the members we serve. As a co-op, we're well-suited to meet the needs of the community because we're locally governed. Our leadership team and employees live right here in the community. Our board of directors, which helps set long-term priorities for the co-op, is made up of members just like you. These directors are elected to represent your voice in the boardroom.

Our members have a valuable perspective. That's why we continually seek your input. Whether through community events, our social media channels or the annual meeting, we want to hear from you.

Our close connection to the community ensures we get a first-hand perspective on local priorities, enabling us to make more informed decisions on the future of the cooperative and its long-term investments.

Because we're a co-op, the money you spend on electricity stays in the community. We don't have far-off shareholders hoping to turn a profit. We're owned by members, and any money we collect beyond what's needed to maintain and operate our system is returned to you in the form of capital credits.

Another feature that sets our co-op apart from other utilities is one of our core principles: Concern for Community. We give back by partnering with other local organizations, gifting the local volunteer fire departments through Operation Round Up, and offering scholarships to students in our service area. Ultimately, the larger community benefits from these programs because of you and your neighbors. You empower the co-op through your membership and through your participation in and support of these programs.

I hope you'll think of Taylor Electric as not just your energy provider but instead as a local business that supports this community and powers economic development and prosperity for the people.

We'll continue to learn from our members about their priorities so that we can better serve you—because your electric co-op was built by the community, for the community.



### POWER TIP

Avoid heating up the fridge by inserting hot food. Let it cool to as close to room temperature as is safe for the food or recipe before putting it in the fridge.

JOSE ARAUJO | ISTOCK.COM



### DID YOU KNOW?

Electric cooperatives return over \$1 billion to their members annually as not-for-profit organizations.

KUZMIK\_A | ISTOCK.COM



**TAYLOR**  
—ELECTRIC—  
COOPERATIVE



MAKSYM BELCHENKO | ISTOCK.COM

# CELEBRATE YOUR COOPERATIVE DURING OCTOBER

Did you know electric cooperatives follow a business model that’s different from most utilities, stores and organizations?

The cooperative business model means, in part, that Taylor Electric Cooperative belongs to you—the consumer who buys electricity from it. Because each consumer of the utility is also an owner—or a member—each consumer has a say in the way the co-op operates.

For example, your cooperative has a board of directors. Each director is also a member-owner (like you), and each is elected by the other member-owners, often during an annual meeting, where you can learn about what your co-op is doing and offer your input to its leaders.

Co-op membership has other benefits, including getting a return on your investment through capital credits. Cooperatives, unlike investor-owned utilities, are not-for-profits and are operated in a fashion such that any margins or revenue remaining after all expenses have been paid are returned to members in the form of capital credits.

As an electric cooperative, our top priority is always to provide safe, reliable, affordable energy to you, the consumer-members we serve. Because we’re a co-op, our mission is to enrich the lives of our members and serve the long-term interests of our local community. One of the seven principles that guides all co-ops is Concern for Community. This principle is the essential DNA of Taylor Electric, and it sets us apart from other electric utilities.

October is National Co-op Month, and electric cooperatives across the country are celebrating the essential role we play in serving a special community like ours. Electric cooperatives have been lighting up rural homes for nearly 90 years. In October, National Co-op Month gives anyone whose electricity comes from a cooperative a reason to celebrate.

## Taylor Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

### CONTACT US

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David McFall, Secretary-Treasurer, Zone 2  
Craig Bessent, Zone 1  
Garland Carter, Zone 2  
Richard Petree, At-Large  
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**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](http://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 near the entrance of the building.  
**Abilene** office next to the first door on the left.  
Payments credited next business day.

**NOTICE**  
Effective June 1, 2024, all credit/debit card transactions will be assessed a 2.45% convenience fee.

**VISIT US ONLINE**  
[taylorelectric.com](http://taylorelectric.com)



Check us out at  
[TexasCoopPower.com/taylor](http://TexasCoopPower.com/taylor)

# A Taylor Electric Tradition

## SERVING OUR MEMBERS BEYOND THE METER

Each August, before the first bell rings, teachers and staff across the Big Country gather for in-service days—finalizing lesson plans, preparing classrooms, and gearing up for the busy year ahead. At Taylor Electric Cooperative, we're proud to be part of that tradition by providing lunch to the educators at our member schools: Abilene Christian School, Merkel ISD, Hawley ISD, Trent ISD, and Wylie ISD.

It's something we look forward to each year because it gives us the chance to say two simple words: thank you.

### WHY WE DO IT

For Taylor Electric, these meals are about more than food. They represent appreciation, community, and the cooperative spirit. As Ryan Holmes, Key Account Manager at Taylor Electric, explained:

“The reason we do this is so we can say thanks, it’s an opportunity for us to show appreciation to our member schools, the job that they do each and every day for the students that come to their school. It’s a great opportunity for our people to serve them and for our members to see how much the co-op cares about the people they serve.”

By serving lunch, our employees get the chance to connect face-to-face with the teachers and staff who pour so much into our communities. It’s a small gesture with a big meaning.

“The lunch from Taylor Electric is always greatly appreciated.”

—KEITH PORTER, HAWLEY HIGH SCHOOL AG TEACHER

### TEACHER'S PERSPECTIVE

For the teachers, the tradition carries its own significance. Keith Porter of Hawley ISD shared with us:

“Starting the year with a meal from Taylor Electric reminds us that our community is behind us. It’s a busy week during in service, so the meal is greatly appreciated.”

Hearing those words reminds us why this tradition is worth continuing. A simple meal can provide encouragement and set a positive tone for the year ahead.



COMMUNITY AT THE HEART

Taylor Electric was founded on the principle of service. While our job is to provide safe, reliable electricity, our mission goes beyond the meter. We believe in supporting the people and institutions that make our communities strong—and our schools are at the heart of that.

That’s why we continue this tradition each year. It’s not just a meal—it’s a way to invest in the educators who invest so much in the next generation.

As the 2025–2026 school year begins, we are proud to stand with our member schools. We’ll continue to find ways to show up, lend a hand, and be more than a power provider. Because at Taylor Electric, we serve members who are our neighbors and friends.

