

MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT/ CEO

RYAN BARTLETT

Our Team is Bigger Than It Seems

WHEN YOU THINK about Taylor Electric Cooperative, you hopefully think of us as a local business. That's because we are.

Our management team, board of directors and employees live and work right here in the communities we serve. But you may not realize that your cooperative is part of a much larger co-op network that provides value, tools and knowledge that benefit you, the members.

When severe weather is predicted for our region, we may call on our sister co-ops for assistance. Through this connection of mutual aid, we coordinate with them to bring additional trucks, equipment and crews to our area. We work together and share resources to more efficiently restore power to our community. And Taylor EC reciprocates by assisting other electric co-ops when they request help.



Cooperation Among Cooperatives is a foundational principle of the co-op business model, in which co-ops work together to meet big challenges such as power restoration after severe weather.

Cooperation is also essential when it comes to cybersecurity. Training, resources and tools provided by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association strengthen our efforts to combat digital threats.

Taylor EC's ability to tap into the nationwide network and access resources, products and leading practices from other cooperatives ultimately makes our co-op and community stronger.

Voices for Cooperative Power is another great example of the power of cooperation. VCP is a nationwide grassroots network of co-op members that helps our elected officials better understand the many ways your co-op supports you and your community.

Challenges like affordability, energy security and reliability require flexible solutions that empower local utilities like ours to serve their people best.

Diversifying energy sources, collaborating on technologies and balancing progress with reliability are priorities that VCP advocates for in Austin and Washington, D.C.

Communities across the globe have benefited from the lessons learned and experience of co-ops in electrifying the American countryside.

NRECA International has put this knowledge to work, helping provide access to reliable and affordable electricity to 220 million people in 54 countries. This effort is made possible through the support of electric co-ops in Texas and across the country.

Hundreds of lineworkers, engineers and other co-op employees have served as volunteers to bring first-time access to electricity and train local partners to help utilities be sustainable in their own communities.

November is a time for reflection and giving thanks. I'm grateful for our sister co-ops that enable us to better serve you and our broader community.

When electric cooperatives collaborate, we strengthen each other and the communities we serve—and that's something to be truly thankful for this Thanksgiving.

THE SEVEN COOPERATIVE PRINCIPLES

NRECA
America's Electric Cooperatives

5 EDUCATION, TRAINING AND INFORMATION



THE FIFTH COOPERATIVE PRINCIPLE, "Education, Training and Information," states that cooperatives provide education, training and information to their members, elected representatives, managers and employees so they can contribute effectively to the development of their cooperative. Cooperatives also inform the general public about the nature and benefits of cooperation.

At Taylor Electric, this principle is demonstrated through a commitment to keeping members informed, educated and connected to their cooperative. From sharing information about electric safety and energy efficiency to providing updates about system improvements, outages, programs and community initiatives, Taylor Electric works to ensure members have the information they need to make informed decisions about their electric service.

Education and information also play an important role in helping members understand how their cooperative operates. Taylor Electric regularly communicates about cooperative programs, the role of the Board of Directors, annual meetings, capital credits and other aspects of cooperative membership. By providing clear and accessible information, Taylor Electric helps members understand not only the services they receive, but also what it means to be an owner of the cooperative.

The Fifth Cooperative Principle also extends beyond communication with members. Taylor Electric invests in the education and training of its employees and provides opportunities for students and young people to learn about electric cooperatives and the energy industry. Programs such as Youth Tour help introduce students to cooperative principles, leadership and the role electric cooperatives play in their communities.

To learn more about the Seven Cooperative Principles and how Taylor Electric demonstrates them, visit Taylorelectric.com.

Taylor Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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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

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

Check us out at TexasCoopPower.com/taylor

A CULTURE OF SAFETY:
Taylor Electric Recognized for Excellence

AT TAYLOR ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, keeping the lights on is only part of the job. Just as important is ensuring that every employee returns home safely at the end of the day.

That commitment to safety recently earned Taylor Electric recognition at the Loss Control Conference for exceeding the requirements of the Rural Electric Safety Achievement Program (RESAP), one of the highest safety benchmarks available to electric cooperatives. The achievement reflects the cooperative's ongoing dedication to creating a workplace culture where safety is valued and practiced by every employee.

For Safety Manager CJ Thomas, the recognition is a testament to the people who make safety a priority every day.

"Anything we can do that betters our co-op and makes it safer for our employees, works out for everybody," Thomas said. "We did really well [in the RESAP evaluation] because we have always been overachieving. It is just taught that way. Our employees look out for one another because we're a team, and that's what makes accomplishments like this possible."

While RESAP provides an important measure of performance, it is only one piece of Taylor Electric's comprehensive approach to safety. Throughout the year, employees participate in OSHA training, attend weekly safety meetings, and actively engage in conversations about how to make their work safer and more efficient.

Those weekly safety meetings have become an important part of the cooperative's culture. Employees discuss real-world situations and review best practices that help strengthen safety awareness across the organization. The goal is simple: create an environment where every employee feels empowered to speak up, ask questions, and help protect one another.

Another key part of Taylor Electric's success is its Safety Committee. The committee includes Ryan Bartlett, *CEO;* CJ Thomas, *Safety Manager;* David Thomas, *Director of Electric Operations;* Wade Hatch, *Director of Engineering;* Joe Wilson, *Director of Fiber Operations,* as well as three selected employees from the operations department, who serve on a term basis.Together, they bring different perspectives and experiences to the table, helping identify opportunities to improve safety programs and reinforce a culture of accountability.

The cooperative's dedication to safety has translated into meaningful results. At the safety conference this year, Taylor Electric was also recognized for achieving an entire year with no lost-time accidents, a significant accomplishment in an industry where employees face unique challenges while working to provide reliable service.Behind that achievement are employees who make safety-conscious decisions every day.

"Our committment to zero is really what we are focused on," Thomas said. "Part of that commitment is making sure we do our jobs safely and responsibly. When everyone goes home safely at the end of the day, that's our greatest success."

For the members and communities Taylor Electric serves, these recognitions represent more than awards. They reflect a cooperative that is committed to caring for its employees, investing in continuous improvement, and maintaining standards that go beyond what is required.

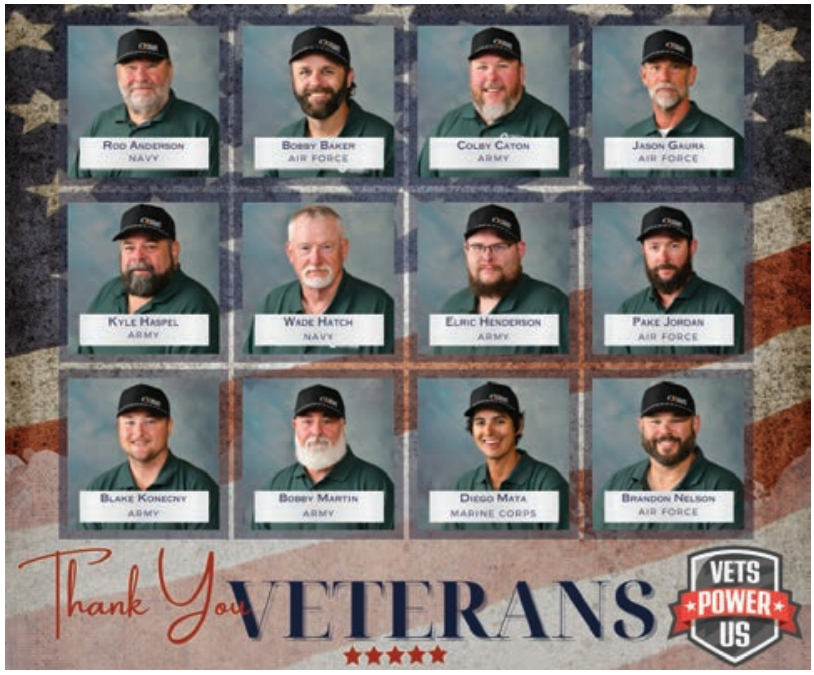
As Taylor Electric looks to the future, safety will remain at the heart of its mission. Through programs like RESAP, ongoing training, employee involvement, and strong leadership support, the cooperative continues to build on a culture that values both service and safety.

Because at Taylor Electric, taking care of people, whether employees, members, or communities, has always been the cooperative way.





Representatives of Taylor Electric Cooperative were awarded at the Texas Electric Cooperative (TEC) Annual Loss Control Conference and Exhibit Show.



Co-ops Value Veterans

At electric cooperatives, we know that veterans and their families are an asset to our communities. This Veterans Day—November 11—Taylor Electric Cooperative thanks those who have served our country and wants to spread the word that electric cooperatives need veterans to help power Texas. Taylor Electric is a proud member of the "Vets Power Us" initiative, supporting veterans and their families through employment.

Electric co-ops are not-for-profit, community-focused organizations that deliver safe, reliable and affordable energy to their member-owners. Unlike investor-owned utilities, co-ops are owned by those they serve and prioritize members' interests—not profits—above all else. This fundamental difference shapes every decision made by electric co-ops and provides employees with a unifying sense of purpose.

No matter which branch of the military you served with, there are three areas in which America's electric cooperatives can resonate with you as a veteran. Co-ops are:

Mission-driven. Our purpose is to power communities and empower members to improve the quality of their lives. This mission enables every co-op worker to perform their duties with a unified sense of purpose.

Using advanced technology. From cybersecurity and broadband to the many facets of electrification and turning data into actionable insights, technology plays a major role at electric cooperatives.

Operating in challenging circumstances. To power over 22 million homes, businesses, schools and farms, America's electric cooperatives work diligently to maintain service for their members no matter the challenges. Co-ops continue to do all they can to keep the lights on throughout hurricane season, during ice storms and floods, and amid global health and economic crises.

A wide variety of skills are required to keep operations running smoothly. Veterans can put their skills to work in jobs such as construction, equipment operation, engineering, member services, communications, human resources, software analysis, cybersecurity and more. Check out job listings at careers.electric.coop to explore career opportunities at electric co-ops across the U.S.

CAR ACCIDENTS AND WEATHER are the main causes of downed power lines. But even on the ground, lines can carry an electric current strong enough to cause serious injury or death.

Here are some rules to follow around downed lines:

If you see a downed power line, move away from the line and anything touching it.

The proper way to move away from the line is to shuffle away with small steps, keeping your feet together and on the ground at all times.

If someone is in direct or indirect contact with the downed line, do not touch the person. Call 911 instead.

Don't try to move a downed power line or anything in contact with the line.

Don't drive over downed power lines.

If you're in your car and it is in contact with a downed line, stay in your car and call 911.

Taylor EC encourages you to always practice safety.



PHOTO: MICHAEL BALLEW | SOUTHWEST TEXAS EC