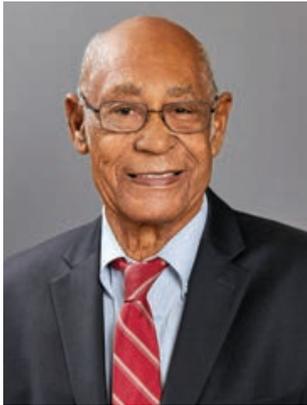


WCEC Board Member Lewis Young Retires

AFTER 39 FAITHFUL YEARS AS A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF directors for Wood County Electric Cooperative, Lewis Young is retiring. Young became the director for District 7, which encompasses parts of Van Zandt and Smith counties, in 1981 and has served as secretary-treasurer and as vice president.



“I have truly enjoyed the years I have spent working with Lewis,” said Pat Lindley, WCEC board president. “He’s always contributed a good common-sense perspective to our deliberations. On behalf of the board, I thank him for his work and his distinguished service to our community.”

Trey Teaff, general manager and CEO, agreed. “I have great respect for Lewis and his years of service to the

cooperative,” Teaff said. “His life experiences made for some interesting and educational conversations. It has been a pleasure for me to know him and work with him.”

Reflecting on his time representing the members of WCEC, Young said, “I have enjoyed every minute I have served as a director of Wood County Electric Cooperative. On cooperative business, I’ve gotten to meet so very many wonderful people, and I’ve gone to states and places I probably never would have otherwise visited. It’s been fun—and eye-opening, too. And I tell you what: It gave me an understanding of electricity and what a valuable resource it is.”

He went on to say that we all can and should count our blessings, especially in rural America. “When I grew up, everything was done by hand,” he said. “Back then, President Roosevelt wanted everybody in the rural areas to have the same services that people had in the city. Thankfully, we have that now.” He also reminisced about the vast technological revolutions that happened during his time on the board.

As a teacher, Young said he and his students would talk about the future and the changes and advances that would take place. “I told them technology is the No. 1 thing.” He laughed and said that when he first stepped into his role at WCEC, records were kept in file cabinets. Over the years, those cabinets have disappeared and have been replaced by computers. Technological advancements also changed metering and almost every other aspect of electric distribution.

“At one of the seminars I attended,” Young said, “I heard a quote: ‘Electricity rules the world.’ I’ve come to believe it’s true. After all, even computers, as important as they have become to us all, don’t work without electricity!”

It’s a realization, he said, that underscores the critical significance of the work and people at WCEC. “It has been one of my richest experiences and greatest pleasures to have been a part of it,” he said. “I thank the members for electing me and trusting me to serve them.”

Debbie Robinson, the co-op’s recently retired CEO and general manager, praised Young. “Lewis has been a steady presence during my entire WCEC career,” she said. “I have valued his guidance, his wisdom and his easy nature. I also have valued his friendship. He’s a multidimensional person, with a love of history, gardening, farming, children, education and many other things. Because of this, he’s easy to talk to, and I’ve come to know him as a valued friend and mentor.”

Young made many contributions as a cooperative director. Part of his legacy melds his background in education, his strong love of kids, his admiration of electric cooperatives and his enjoyment of history.

In 1988, he was one of the leaders and founders of the East Texas Rural Electric Youth Seminar. A teen conference jointly sponsored by nine East Texas electric cooperatives, ETREYS fosters positive ideals and values, team building, leadership, and knowledge of electric cooperatives. Young not only helped develop the program but served as a chaperone for the week-long camp. The teens gravitated toward him, and he maintained contact with many of them for years after their ETREYS experience.

Young is a lifelong Texan, born and raised in Van Zandt County. He graduated from Prairie Creek High School and attended Texas College in Tyler, where he earned his bachelor’s degree. He also served our country in the Army and had a 36-year career in education, teaching middle school reading for the Canton Independent School District. In addition, he served as secretary-treasurer of RPM Water Supply Corporation for 35 years and was instrumental in developing the regional water system.

During his board tenure, Young was actively engaged in continuing education that informed his decisions for the cooperative. He attended formal training with the statewide association, Texas Electric Cooperatives, and the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. Through NRECA, he pursued and earned his Credentialed Cooperative Director certification, which demonstrates understanding and competencies in five core areas of cooperative governance. Following that, he attended advanced classes to earn his Board Leadership certificate through NRECA.

Young and his wife, Clotene, are the parents of two children and three grandchildren. They resided in Ben Wheeler, where they were active in the Prairie Creek CME Church. They will now spend their time in the Dallas-Fort Worth area to be near their son and daughter and their families.

Notice: Call for Nominations for District 7 Director

THE BUSINESS AND AFFAIRS OF WOOD COUNTY ELECTRIC

Cooperative are managed by a board of directors, whose seven members each represent one of the co-op's seven districts. With Lewis Young's retirement, the cooperative is seeking candidates to run for election to the District 7 position. The election results will be announced October 9 at the WCEC Annual Meeting. Directors serve a three-year term and can run and serve for multiple terms.

Per WCEC's bylaws, there are two ways for a member to become a director candidate: via nomination by the elections committee or by submitting a valid petition with the signatures of at least 100 cooperative members. Members interested in serving as a director should call the WCEC office to request a director candidate package to be filled out and returned by August 10.

No matter how a potential candidate is nominated, the cooperative's bylaws also provide that it is the job of the elections committee to certify that all potential candidates meet all the criteria and that the nomination complies with the bylaws. Accordingly, a member desiring to be nominated may not be included on the director election ballot if the election committee determines that they do not meet the qualifications identified in the bylaws or that their petition is not valid.

Qualifications to be considered for placement on the ballot, per Article V of WCEC's bylaws, include:

No person shall be eligible to become or remain a director of the cooperative who:

(a) is not a member in the area served or to be served by the cooperative and of the district he or she is to represent;

(b) is regularly, directly and substantially employed by or financially interested in a competing enterprise or a business selling goods or services to the cooperative, or a business primarily regularly engaged in selling electric or plumbing appliances, fixtures or supplies to the members of the cooperative;

(c) is not a resident of the district they represent; or who does not purchase all electric energy used at their residence where they actually live and reside from the cooperative. A resident of a district is an individual who resides and is registered to vote with an address located in the district;

(d) is an employee or has been a former employee of the cooperative within the seven years prior to the election at which such member is to be placed on the ballot;

(e) has not been a member of the cooperative for a period of 24 consecutive months, preceding the election;

(f) has been convicted of a felony or a crime of moral turpitude in this state or any other state;

tude in this state or any other state;

(g) who is a close relative of an employee of the cooperative;

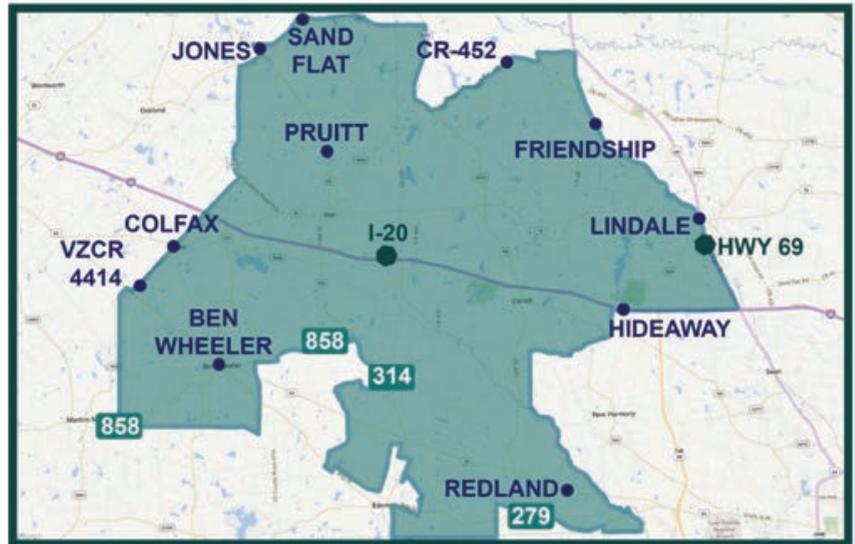
(h) does not have the capacity to enter legally binding contracts; or

(i) is a close relative of an existing director of the cooperative.

For purposes of these bylaws, "close relative" shall include an individual who:

(a) is either related by blood, law or marriage, including half, step, foster and adoptive relations, a spouse, child, grandchild, parent, grandparent or sibling; or

WCEC District 7



(b) resides in the same residence.

When a membership is held jointly by a husband and wife, either one, but not both, may be elected a director, provided however that neither one shall be eligible to become or remain a director or to hold a position of trust in the cooperative unless both shall meet the qualifications hereinabove set forth. Nothing in this section shall or be construed to affect, in any manner whatsoever, the validity of any action taken in any meeting of the board of directors.

Completed packages and petitions, including all member information and a background check authorization form, must be delivered or mailed to the attention of WCEC Elections Committee, 501 S. Main St. Quitman, TX 75783, for receipt no later than 5 p.m. August 10.

An elections committee comprised of members will verify all potential candidates' qualifications, as well as petition signatures, and will announce the qualified director candidates.

Complete details may be found in the governing document, Article V of WCEC's bylaws, which is available on wcec.org.

Current Contact Information Means Better Service

AT WOOD COUNTY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, WE ARE CONSTANTLY STRIVING TO IMPROVE our efficiency so we can provide the most reliable electric service possible for our members (that's you!).

We rely on data for nearly every aspect of our operations, which is why we need your help. By making sure we have your most accurate and complete contact information, we can continue to provide the high level of service that you expect and deserve. Accurate information enables us to improve customer service and enhance communications for reporting and repairing outages. It also allows co-op members to receive information about other important programs, events and activities.



Up-to-date contact information can potentially speed up the power restoration process during an outage. For example, the phone number you provide is linked to your service address in our outage management system. This means that when you call to report an outage, our system recognizes your phone number and matches it with the location of your home. Accurate information helps our outage management system predict the location and possible cause of an outage, making it easier for our crews to correct the problem.

While we always do our best to maintain service, we occasionally plan outages to update, repair or replace equipment. In these instances, we can provide advance notification to affected members through automated phone messages, text messages or email—but only if we have your updated contact information and communication preferences.

Keeping the co-op updated with your information also helps us when there's a question about energy use or billing. Emails and text messages are also used to notify registered members of any changes in co-op event details. In addition, discrepancies on your account can be taken care of promptly if Wood County EC has accurate account information.

Many of you have been members of the co-op for years, and it's likely that your account information hasn't been updated for some time. Many members now use a cellphone as their primary phone service, and we might not have that number in our system.

We will never share this information with any third parties. It is only used by Wood County EC to send important information to you. Please take a moment to confirm or update your contact information through our website or by phone. By doing so, you help us improve service and efficiency so we can better serve you and all members of the co-op.



Head Outdoors Safely

WHEN THE WEATHER WARMS UP, Gardeners and do-it-yourselfers head outdoors. If that includes you, here are five tips for working safely with and around electrical equipment.

1. Look up before setting up a ladder to paint or climb on the roof. Your ladder should not come within 10 feet of an overhead power line. Touching a power line with anything puts you at risk of injuries or worse.

2. Unplug your power tools when you're finished using them. A plugged-in tool could overheat and cause a fire. Unplugging saves energy because anything that's plugged in continues to draw some electricity, even when it's not in use.

3. Don't use damaged tools, even if they still work. Tools with frayed power cords or cracked parts are dangerous.

4. Water and electricity do not mix. Don't use your hose while you have power tools plugged in nearby. If the grass, garage or patio is wet, don't use an electric tool while standing in or on it.

5. Teach your children how to work and play safely around electricity. Caution them about climbing trees or flying drones too close to power lines. Remind them to never touch a power line in the air or on the ground with anything.

Reminders for National Electrical Safety Month

EVERY DAY, WE RELY ON ELECTRICITY TO POWER OUR HOMES AND OFFICES. HOWEVER, it can be easy to take for granted the safety of electric appliances and equipment and power lines. May is National Electrical Safety Month—a great time to raise awareness of how to avoid electrical hazards.

Indoors

- ▶ Check electric cords for fraying or cracking. Replace cords that may be damaged, and don't overload electric outlets.
- ▶ Extension cords are intended to be temporary. If you find yourself using extension cords regularly, have an electrician add outlets where you need them.
- ▶ Don't run cords under carpets or rugs and don't tack or nail cords to walls or floors.
- ▶ Keep electric appliances and tools away from water. Never reach for or unplug an appliance that has fallen into water; instead, turn the power off at the breaker before you unplug the appliance or remove it from the water.
- ▶ Never put anything other than an electrical plug in an outlet. Use outlet covers or caps to protect children.
- ▶ Keep your home's electrical system in good repair. Contact a licensed electrical contractor if you have flickering lights, sparking or nonfunctioning outlets, or need wiring repairs or upgrades.

Outdoors

- ▶ Never touch downed power lines.
- ▶ Always call 911 or your electric cooperative if you see lines down.
- ▶ Watch for overhead lines every time you use a ladder, work on roofs or in trees, or carry long tools or tall loads. Keep kites, drones and metallic balloons away from power lines.
- ▶ Know what's below before you dig. Call 811 three days in advance of your project to have underground utility lines, pipes and cables marked for free.
- ▶ Avoid planting trees underneath power lines or near utility equipment.



MAY HOLIDAYS

Cinco de Mayo

Tuesday, May 5

Mother's Day

Sunday, May 10

Memorial Day

Monday, May 25

Our offices will be closed in observance of Memorial Day.

NATHANINI | ISTOCK.COM



Wood County Electric Cooperative

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Quitman, TX 75783

CEO/GENERAL MANAGER

Trey Teaff

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Pat B. Lindley, President, *District 1*
Cathy S. Roberts, Vice President, *District 5*
Jane Roberson, Secretary-Treasurer, *District 6*
Burke Bullock, *District 2*
Kenneth Langley, *District 3*
Brent Glenn, *District 4*
Lewis D. Young, *District 7*

Contact Us

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info@wcec.org

OUTAGE HOTLINE

1-866-415-2951

FIND US ON THE WEB

wcec.org

MEMBER BENEFITS AND SERVICES

- Online account access and bill payment
- Paperless E-Bill services
- Free bill-paying app
- Visa, Mastercard and Discover accepted
- SmartPower prepay electric system
- Scholarships and youth programs
- Safety and energy conservation programs

MOBILE CONVENIENCE CENTER

Monday, First Methodist Church, *Van*
Tuesday, Family Dollar, *Mount Vernon*
Wednesday, City National Bank, *Hawkins*
Thursday, Brookshire's, *Winnboro*
Friday, Economy Drug, *Grand Saline*

WOOD COUNTY
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE



Your Touchstone Energy® Partner

