

WCEC

invites all members to the

72nd ANNUAL MEETING

NOTICE OF MEETING

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2010

Entertainment 12:30 p.m.

Meeting 2:00 p.m.

Governor Jim Hogg City Park • *Quitman*

The 72nd Annual Meeting of Wood County Electric Cooperative, Inc., will be held at 2 p.m. Friday, October 8, 2010, at Governor Jim Hogg City Park in Quitman. All members are invited and encouraged to attend.

Beginning at 12:30 p.m., there will be entertainment by the crowd-pleasing New Plainsmen. This popular gospel group entertains with energy, tight harmonies and humor,



The New Plainsmen will entertain at this year's meeting.

and has appeared at the National Quartet Convention in Branson, Missouri. This is the group's fourth year to entertain WCEC members at the annual meeting.

This year's election for directors will be by mail-in ballot and include candidates for WCEC Districts 5 and 6. All members should look for their ballot to arrive in the mail soon. Be sure to detach and mail the postage-paid ballot to arrive before October 7. Members who mail in a ballot will automatically be entered into a drawing. Four members will be randomly selected each to receive a \$250 credit toward their electricity bill. Please **DO NOT** drop off or mail your ballot to WCEC with your bill. Only ballots received at the mailing address before 3 p.m., October 7, 2010, will be counted and entered into the prize drawing.

Be sure to save the other half of the card and bring it with you to the annual meeting. This card will be used to prove eligibility in door prize drawings for those present. As always, there will be lots of prizes, with this year's grand prize being a 50-gallon Marathon high-efficiency water heater, graciously donated by Texas Electric Cooperatives.

We hope to see you at the annual meeting!

About the

Board of Directors Elections

Wood County Electric Cooperative's (WCEC) board of directors is composed of seven member-elected persons, each residing in the WCEC district they serve. These board members are all local residents who are members of the cooperative, and they represent the needs of their neighbors and communities. The board meets monthly to determine guidelines for management and to approve policies and procedures.

As a qualification to serve on the board, each candidate must receive electric service from WCEC in the district they wish to serve from WCEC's nine-county service territory. WCEC directors' terms are for three years.

Elections are held annually in alternating districts to allow for a continuity of business knowledge from year to year. WCEC's bylaws contain exact details about director qualifications and the nomination and election processes.

This year's election for directors includes candidates for WCEC Districts 5 and 6. There were no nominations by petition, so there is one candidate running for each district. Both of those candidates are incumbents. District 5 represents the Quitman region, while District 6 represents the Grand Saline area. All members, no matter the district they reside in, vote for candidates from each district.



Cathy Roberts
Board Member, District 5

Cathy Roberts is a native Texan and spent her preschool years in Edna, moving to Mineola while in elementary school. She graduated from Mineola High School and attained her master's degree in public health nutrition from Columbia University Teachers College. Since 1985, she has worked in the family title insurance business. She is president of Don Roberts Abstract & Title Company, a three-generation Wood County land and title company. Cathy is a closer and escrow agent and staffs the Mineola office of the company. Cathy has been a WCEC board member since 1991, and during that tenure has achieved the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's highest certification of Credentialed Cooperative Director (CCD), which demonstrates understanding and competencies in five core areas of cooperative governance. She and her husband, Richard, have two children and reside in Quitman.



Jane Roberson
Board Member, District 6

Jane Roberson is a native Texan and lifelong Grand Saline resident. She graduated from Grand Saline High School and attended Tyler Junior College and the University of Texas at Austin, graduating with a bachelor's degree in education. She has been an educator for 18 years. She taught in Grand Saline for the first 13 years of her teaching career. She is currently employed by the Mineola Independent School District where she has been an early childhood education teacher for five years. Jane has been a WCEC board member since 1993, and during that tenure she has achieved the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's highest certification of Credentialed Cooperative Director (CCD), which demonstrates understanding and competencies in five core areas of cooperative governance. She is the mother of one daughter and resides in Grand Saline.

Win a Marathon!

No, we are not asking our members to run a race. But we are offering all a chance to win a Marathon! All members attending the annual meeting will have one chance to win a 50-gallon Marathon high-efficiency water heater donated by Texas Electric Cooperatives Utility Supply & Service. For the lucky winner, a new Marathon, with its lifetime warranty, should be the last water heater ever installed in their home. More importantly, the winner will benefit from a lifetime of savings on energy bills because of the efficient nature of this heater. Marathon's trademarked, thick Envirofoam insulation allows heat loss of only 5 degrees Fahrenheit in 24 hours, so water inside stays hot.

Marathon heaters also claim the lowest total cost of ownership, not only because they are so efficient but also because of their renowned durability, which eliminates the cost of buying and installing a new water heater every 10 years, which is the national average.

Another happy little advantage of the Marathon is that it does not have an anode rod. Why is that important? Anode rods found in conventional steel heaters interact with the sulfates found in many water systems. This reaction is the cause of that rotten-egg smell. With Marathon, since there's no anode rod, there's no ugly smell.

As important, Marathon's are high-tech tough. The poly-

butene inner tank cannot corrode, so it stands up to "brutal well water" conditions. Also, the filament-wound fiberglass inner tank is the strongest tank in the residential water heater industry. The heaters also have commercial-grade components that resist failures and a "car-bumper tough" exterior that defies dents. These units also offer more complete draining with their bowl-shaped tank bottom.

Also, if you choose a Marathon, it comes with all of the parts needed to install it—so there is no extra-parts cost. And, best of all, Marathons are manufactured in the USA!

For those not lucky enough to be the grand prizewinner, you can create your own luck—and utility savings—by purchasing your own Marathon in a size that suits your family's needs. Texas Electric Cooperatives Utility Supply & Service division stocks the full line of Marathon water heaters for homeowners and contractors, and they deliver to your doorstep with friendly, courteous service. Just call 1-866-390-4832.



THERE'S ONLY ONE WATER HEATER AS FAITHFUL AS THE MARATHON.

Marathon WATER HEATERS **The New Old Faithful**

Old Faithful and Marathon provide hot water dependably, year after year, without a worry. But one is owned by the government.

Fortunately, Marathons are available from electric utilities. So now you can have your very own "Old Faithful" efficiently providing hot water for a lifetime.

Call Texas Electric Cooperatives to inquire about a Marathon purchase.

1-866-390-4832

Help Us Keep Your Rates Lower

Most of you probably don't give much thought to electricity. You flick a switch, and it's there. It helps light your house, cook your meals, and keep you comfortable. That's how we at Wood County Electric Cooperative (WCEC) want it to be. We know electricity powers both your conveniences and necessities, and you have enough on your mind without worrying about your electricity.

Granted, you might have some concern about your electricity bills, as we are all affected by rising costs everywhere. This is one area where your involvement as a member-owner of WCEC can help shape the bottom line and positively influence the rates you pay.

Every month in these pages of Texas Co-op Power, and anytime on our Touchstone Energy partner website, www.togetherwesave.com, we share with you ways to use electricity more efficiently and help you save money. We are interested in helping you manage your energy costs.

It might seem counterintuitive that an electric provider would encourage customers to use less power. But we're not in this for the money. WCEC is a non-profit entity. After paying all the operational obligations, we invest our margins in infrastructure or return it to you in the form of capital credits. We don't have outside investors interested solely in profits. For example, this year the board of directors elected to return \$1 million to the members for 2010. These capital credit checks will be sent to all eligible members in December, as is customary.

You, the members, are our only stockholders. When the co-op thrives, you are the beneficiaries—nobody else. But this business model also places more responsibility on you than what customers of for-profit companies have.

Your involvement in the cooperative is crucial, whether through feedback that helps us make our service better or your vote at our annual meetings to elect the board members who make decisions about the co-op's future.

Your cooperation also can help us keep expenses down and your power costs lower in other ways. One way you can help is to allow crews to access your property to trim trees and perform other necessary maintenance. Clearing limbs that encroach on power lines helps keep reliability high and reduces repair expenses. Fallen limbs and trees are a major cause of power failures and line damage, especially during a storm.

You can also help by keeping an eye out for trouble. Theft of copper from our lines and theft of the electricity they deliver is a problem for cooperatives across the state. These thieves are stealing from YOU. And, lost revenue and repair costs add to our expenses, which are spread amongst all of our members. If you see anything suspicious, please report it to our office at 1-800-762-2203 or to local law enforcement. Also, reports can be made anonymously through your local Crime Stoppers.

At WCEC, our mission is to bring to you reliable power at the lowest possible price. You, our members, can help us reach that goal.



Wood County Electric Cooperative wishes all members a safe and happy holiday.

HELP STOP COPPER THEFT

Copper theft can disrupt the flow of electricity, create electrical hazards, slow down construction projects, and create a very dangerous situation.

Would-be thieves are in severe danger and when they cut locks or chain link fencing surrounding an electric substation, they leave a highly dangerous area exposed for inquisitive children and animals.

Stealing material from an electric substation or utility pole can cause not only serious injuries and death, but also extensive outages, fires and explosions.

Wood County Electric Cooperative encourages you to be aware of this kind of theft and to alert us or law enforcement officials immediately if you see or suspect suspicious activity around cooperative facilities. It poses safety issues and is also a very costly problem for us all.

Here are some tips to help safeguard against electrical dangers and prevent copper theft:

- Never enter or touch equipment inside a substation; never touch a power line or anything touching a power line.
- If you notice anything unusual with electric facilities, such as an open substation gate, open equipment, hanging wire, etc., contact WCEC immediately.
- If you see anyone near electric substations or electric facilities other than what appears to be utility personnel or contractors, contact us or law enforcement.
- Store tools and wire cutters in a secure location and never leave them out while away.
- Help spread the word about the deadly consequences that can result from trying to steal copper.
- Call your local Crime Stoppers if you have information that will lead to arrest and conviction of a copper thief and you could earn money.

Criminal conviction is more possible than ever, as WCEC has employed a specialized "DNA" marking technique to prove ownership of our copper lines and property.