





**WOOD COUNTY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE**

# 75<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MEETING

**Friday, October 11, 2013 • Noon**  
Governor Jim Hogg City Park, Quitman

- The Quebe Sisters Band . . . . . 12:00–1:45 p.m.**
- Business Meeting . . . . . 2:00 p.m.**
- Prize Drawings . . . . . After the meeting**

**As always, the employees and staff of WCEC look forward to visiting with our members!**

Before the annual meeting, we'll be having an open house for members to tour our new administration facility.

## OPEN HOUSE

**Friday, October 11, 2013 • 9:00–11:00 a.m.**

501 S. Main St., Quitman

**We sure hope to see you there!**



### Wood County Electric Cooperative

501 S. Main St. • P.O. Box 1827  
Quitman, TX 75783

**CEO/GENERAL MANAGER**

Debbie Robinson

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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

**MEMBER BENEFITS AND SERVICES**

- Online account access and bill payment
- Paperless E-Bill services
- Free bill-paying app
- Visa, MasterCard, American Express and Discover accepted
- SmartPower prepay electric system
- SmartGuard surge protection 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, *Winnsboro*
- Friday**, Economy Drug, *Grand Saline*

### Contact Us

**CALL US**  
**(903) 763-2203**

**EMAIL**  
**info@wcec.org**

**OUTAGE HOTLINE**  
**1-866-415-2951**

**FIND US ON THE WEB**  
**wcec.org**

# Help Us Prevent Controllable Hazards

**Although the practice is seemingly harmless, attaching signs or other items to utility poles creates a serious hazard. Tacked-up items can also delay routine maintenance and emergency power restoration.**

That's because the nails and staples used to hang these signs, and even the signs themselves, pose a threat to the linemen who must work on or near these poles. In addition to signs, other objects such as birdhouses, basketball goals and flagpoles attached to power poles are also dangerous.

Linemen wear insulated rubber gloves, which are critically important to their work on high voltage electric lines. These gloves protect them from being shocked or electrocuted if they accidentally come in contact with an energized line. Over those insulated gloves the linemen wear leather gloves to help reduce the chance of the rubber gloves getting punctured.

That's because even a pin-sized hole in the insulated gloves can allow electricity to flow through and cause grave injury. But even with the additional protection of the leather gloves, it is possible for a needle-like object, such as a staple, to penetrate the protection without a lineman even knowing it.

Additionally, WCEC linemen also wear special protective, flame-resistant uniform shirts and pants. Protruding objects on a power pole can rip these or—just as bad—catch, and cause a line worker to slip while climbing.

Therefore, if in the course of their line work WCEC personnel encounter any unauthorized attachment on a WCEC power pole, it will be removed and thrown away.

It's important to note that various municipalities including the state have zoning laws that govern tampering with utility poles and posting signs. Many of these include stiff fines for each infraction.



**This beleaguered WCEC power pole has been plastered with countless unauthorized attachments, resulting in a dangerous condition caused by sharp staples, tacks and nails.**

These rules are in place for varied reasons, such as preventing visual obstructions for car traffic, minimizing distractions and keeping a municipality beautiful. Also, unauthorized pole attachments violate the National Electric Safety Code.

All of those are good reasons to avoid the practice, but to us—and we bet to all of you too—the most important factor is the safety of the men who work to keep your lights on.

We ask members to please avoid attaching signs or other equipment or objects to the cooperative's power poles. And, if you have put some of your own signs out there, we ask you to remove them. With more than 83,000 poles installed in nine counties, it's impossible for us to police this effectively, so this is where the cooperative spirit comes in to play. Your help in this matter is much appreciated.



## Co-ops Put People First

**Wood County Electric Cooperative is owned and democratically controlled by the members it serves. Our nonprofit electricity distributor follows a business model that always puts people first.**

At WCEC, we always strive to innovate to meet member needs and provide quality local service.

Cooperatives are businesses that are owned and democratically controlled by their members, who also use the co-op's services.

At WCEC, we promote the economic and social development of our entire region and stand united with our nation's other electric cooperatives, applying principles and values that guide our business decisions based on member need. WCEC is a socially responsible business and a strategic community partner.

As a nonprofit, with the mission of providing safe, reliable and affordable electricity, WCEC is doing all of those things right here in our nine-county service territory in East Texas.

For a detailed financial report, please go to [wcec.org](http://wcec.org).

# Healthy Operational Report

**Every year at WCEC’s annual meeting, the board and management provide a “state-of-the-union address,” so to speak, regarding the operations and the financial health of the cooperative. Members who attend are also given condensed comparative financial information. Your board of directors and management team work hard to ensure that the cooperative remains fiscally sound. We are pleased to present this information at the meeting and in Texas Co-op Power.**

For 2012, sales were down almost 6 percent, with kilowatt-hour sales down by 8.5 percent. Sales for 2011 were the second highest in cooperative history. We attribute these usage and sales numbers to weather. In 2011, there were quite a few weather extremes, and 2012 had milder weather. Also in 2012, there was minimal growth in the number of meters.

The board also allocated capital credits for 2012, based on a percentage of sales to all members who had patronage (electricity usage) in 2012. Furthermore, the board has again voted to retire \$1 million in capital credits. This is money that will go back to each member in the form of a check.

These checks will be mailed the week of December 16. Because the amount due each member is based on their own accumulated patronage, check amounts will be different for

each member. They represent each member’s ownership stake in the cooperative. Generally, those with higher electricity usage and longer memberships will see larger checks.

Checks amounts will start at \$10. Any member due capital credits that total less than \$10 will not receive a check; the amount will be retained by the cooperative for disbursement to the member the next time capital credits are retired and the amount has accumulated to at least \$10. New members generally require several years to build credits for an amount sufficient to generate a check. Thus, not all members will receive a check.

Other reasons members may not receive a check include debt owed or insufficient address information. Those who think they should have received a check, but did not, should call the cooperative after January 15, 2014, to inquire.

“Over the past 25 years, WCEC has returned more than \$21 million in capital credits to members. It’s one of the many ways a member-owned electric cooperative differs from for-profit utilities. Nothing makes us happier than returning money to our members, and it’s particularly rewarding to see this money go right back in to our local economy,” said Debbie Robinson, WCEC’s CEO and general manager.

For expanded financial information, go to [wcec.org](http://wcec.org) and click the Annual Report tab under Rates & Tariffs.

## Comparative Balance Sheet

<b>Condensed Financial Data</b>	<b>12/31/2012</b>	<b>12/31/2011</b>
Operating Revenue.....	\$63,137,470	\$67,062,564
Purchased Power Cost.....	41,503,192	44,087,918
Operating Expenses.....	12,149,090	12,618,223
Depreciation/Interest Expense.....	7,525,528	7,140,652
Operating Margins.....	1,959,660	3,215,771
Generation & Transmission Capital Credits.....	1,496,817	1,685,688
Other Nonoperating Margins.....	443,156	488,254
Total Margins.....	3,899,633	5,389,713
Total Assets.....	163,011,048	152,285,851
Total Liabilities.....	94,693,701	90,368,492
Patronage Capital & Other Equities.....	68,317,347	61,917,359
<b>Operating Statistics</b>	<b>12/31/2012</b>	<b>12/31/2011</b>
Electric Sales to Members (KWh).....	605,340,039	661,583,413
Purchased Power (KWh).....	648,579,340	703,492,609
Number of Meters.....	33,700	33,598
Total Miles of Line.....	4,897	4,878