

Make Plans To Attend the 79th Annual Meeting



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Friday, October 6 | Governor Jim Hogg City Park, Quitman

- 12:30 p.m. Entertainment by The Almost Patsy Cline Band
- 2 p.m. Business meeting
- Keynote address
- Door prizes following



U.S. REP. LOUIE GOHMERT



THE ANNUAL MEETING IS ALWAYS A FUN TIME AND A GREAT WAY for members to get updated on cooperative business. Before the meeting, entertainment by The Almost Patsy Cline Band will be open to the public. And this year, in addition to regular cooperative business, we've invited U.S. Rep. Louie Gohmert to present the keynote address.

All members should have received their ballots for the election of directors by now. On the ballot are incumbents Lewis Young, vice president, District 7; Burke Bullock, District 2; and Kenneth Langley, District 3. Be sure to vote and mail your postage-paid ballot to arrive at the return address by the deadline of noon, October 5. Members who do so will be entered into a drawing, and four winners each will be selected randomly to receive a \$250 credit on their electricity bill.

Bring the other half of the card with you to the annual meeting. This card will be used for participation in door prize drawings.

About U.S. Rep. Louie Gohmert

Gohmert was first sworn in January 4, 2005, and is serving his seventh term in the United States House of Representatives. He represents the 1st District of Texas, encompassing 12 counties stretching nearly 120 miles down the state's eastern border.

Gohmert serves on numerous House committees and subcommittees, and is vice chairman of the House Natural Resources Committee and vice chair of the Judiciary Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism and Homeland Security.

Prior to his congressional service, Gohmert was elected to three terms as district judge in Smith County. He was later appointed by Gov. Rick Perry to complete a term as chief justice of the 12th Court of Appeals.

The congressman received his undergraduate degree from Texas A&M University and later graduated from Baylor School of Law. An Army veteran, he served as a captain.

He and his wife, Kathy, are the proud parents of three



daughters. Their family attends Green Acres Baptist Church in Tyler, where he has served as a deacon and Sunday school teacher. Additionally, Gohmert frequently preaches at churches throughout his district.

The Almost Patsy Cline Band

Variety is the spice of life, and that's what you'll get with this year's annual meeting entertainment, The Almost Patsy Cline Band. The band's specialty, as their name implies, is classic country. But they also entertain with pop, gospel, some waltzes, polkas, oldies and a little classic rock thrown in. They'll cover many popular chart-topping songs from years past, and interact with the crowd for a sure-to-be fun and memorable show.

True entertainers (all are both singers and musicians), the band consists of Vicki Gillespie on keyboards, Rick Reynolds on drums, Larry Nolen on guitar, Larry Lucas on guitar, Bill Pan on steel guitar and Lanette Pennell on bass. Expect a toe-tapping good time with a few laughs along the way from this two-time Texas Touring Roster act sponsored by the Texas Commission on the Arts.



Wood County Electric Cooperative

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CEO/GENERAL MANAGER

Debbie Robinson

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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



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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*

Introducing Operation Round Up

Small Change Together for Big Change

IN EVERY COMMUNITY SERVED BY WOOD COUNTY ELECTRIC Cooperative, there's work to be done. As strong as our backs are, and as good our intentions, the truth is that many deserving endeavors remain dreams only because of a lack of funding. But, with a handful of change, we can turn that around.

Here's how: WCEC members have the opportunity to easily and affordably participate in uplifting their own causes and their neighbors' in Camp, Franklin, Hopkins, Rains, Smith, Titus, Upshur, Van Zandt and Wood counties through a new program called Operation Round Up.

In this program, the monthly bill of each participating co-op member is "rounded up" to the next dollar and sent to a non-profit entity, Wood County Electric Charitable Foundation. On average, each account only donates about \$6 a year, or about 50 cents a month, and the most would be \$11.88 annually.

These funds will be used to award grants to area causes that provide food, shelter, clothing, education, health care, and other vital recreational and community services. Only charities within our region and those that serve our region will be considered. All funds will stay right here at home.

The co-op is the vehicle to collect the funds, but Wood County Electric Charitable Foundation is a wholly separate, tax-exempt charitable 501(c)(3) organization and is governed by seven volunteer board members. These board members will review requests from organizations that serve members and then vote on funding causes and projects.

Contributions to ORU are tax-deductible, and we'll put a summary of each member's contributions on their electric bill. We also use all available means of communications to inform our members when programs and causes are funded.

Generosity and kindness are contagious. The ORU program originally began at Palmetto Electric Cooperative in South Carolina in 1989. Since then, more than 300 electric cooperatives nationwide have adopted the program, and millions of dollars have been collected for good causes.

At WCEC, we are not sure why it's taken us so long to get started, but we think you all will be glad we did!

We consider it a privilege to join with our members to leverage our collective power for the good of our citizens and communities.

To Be Involved

- ▶ To be involved in the generosity, DO NOTHING. All WCEC accounts are automatically opted in to the program. The "roundup" begins with the November 2017 billing cycle.
- ▶ If, for any reason, a member does not want to participate, they just need to inform us, and we'll remove any of their accounts from the program. Just call us at (903) 763-2203 or email us at info@wcec.org and include the name the account is under and the service address.
- ▶ To apply for a donation for a regional 501(c)(3), learn more and get the application at wcec.org/operationroundup.



SMALL CHANGE THAT
changes lives.



Meet the Wood County Electric Charitable Foundation Board Members

ALL OPERATION ROUND UP FUNDS ARE SENT DIRECTLY TO THE Wood County Electric Charitable Foundation, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization managed by an independent board made up of seven co-op members from communities within the WCEC service territory. These board members will review all applications and funding requests to decide how funds will be distributed to local nonprofit organizations.

These board members are all leaders in their respective communities and have dedicated and invested much time in service to our region. Further, they have volunteered their time to ensure that the Wood County Electric Charitable Foundation has a positive and lasting impact now and into the future. Get to know them here:

Wiley E. Vonner, Board Chair, Hawkins Region

Wiley E. Vonner was born and raised in Waco. He graduated from West High School in West then attended McLennan County Community Jr. College in Waco. He earned his Bachelor of Science at East Texas State University in Commerce and his master's degree from East Texas State University and completed midmanagement and superintendent certification courses at the University of Texas at Tyler.

Vonner served 17 years as a teacher and coach for Hawkins Independent School District. He then moved into administration to serve as assistant secondary principal and eventually high school principal. He later became the high school principal at Winona ISD and then special assistant to the superin-

tendent. He was chosen as WISD's superintendent of schools, and he acted in that capacity until his retirement after 39 years of work in the Texas school system.

Vonner currently serves as the president of the Wood County Retired School Personnel Association; is a member of the Texas High School Coaches Association and Texas Retired Teachers Association; and has held membership in the Texas Association of Secondary School Principals and Texas Association of School Administrators. He currently serves as vice president of the Hawkins Community Development Board.

He and his wife of 42 years, Janice, reside in Hawkins and are members of New Zion Baptist Church in Winona. They have three children, all of whom are educators in the Mesquite ISD, and are blessed with six grandchildren.

Robin Johnson, Board Vice Chair, Quitman Region

Robin Johnson was born in Chickasha, Oklahoma. During her childhood, her family traveled and lived throughout the United States. She graduated from Wilton High School in Connecticut, and then attended Trinity University in San Antonio, where she obtained her Bachelor of Science degree in business/finance. Following that, she worked as an investment portfolio analyst in Houston and an assistant to the CFO for an Irving-based temporary staffing agency that supplies Fortune 500 companies.

In recent years, Johnson has served the community as a Pilot Club member; a member and president of the Quitman ISD Parent Teacher Organization; and a board member and board chair of the Greater Quitman Area Chamber of Commerce.

She and her husband, Frank, moved to Quitman in 1991, where she is currently employed by Don Roberts Abstract and Title Company. They are the parents of two recent college graduates.

Marti Busbee, Board Member, Yantis Region

Born in Seymour, Indiana, Marti Busbee moved to Dallas with her family when she was 6 years old. She graduated from North Dallas High School and attended Tyler Junior College, where she earned her Associate of Arts degree. Continuing at the University of Texas at Tyler, she earned her Bachelor of Science in education and her Master of Arts. Many years later, she completed her reading specialist certification from Harding University in Searcy, Arkansas.

After seven years as a social worker, Busbee embarked on a career in education. She taught at Chapel Hill High School

near Tyler before serving as a consultant at Region 7 Education Service Center in Kilgore. When she and her husband returned from working abroad, she worked as the director of continuing medical education for the UT Health Science Center in Tyler. Her husband's work then took them to Stuttgart, Arkansas, and there she served the University of Arkansas as vice chancellor at Phillips Community College. She then returned to public schools, teaching English as a second language and English, and serving as a reading specialist for Stuttgart schools and Yantis ISD. Her public service career spans 34 years.

Now retired, Busbee enjoys gardening, cooking and membership in the chancel choir at First United Methodist Church of Sulphur Springs. She also participates in the North East Texas Choral Society, volunteers her time to an Alzheimer's day care service called Terrific Tuesdays and is a member of PEO Chapter JB in Emory. She is a founding member of the Cilegon International Women's Association, supporting health for women and children in East Java, Indonesia, and is a past member of the Pilot Club of Quitman. She and her husband, Jerry, are the parents of two sons and have five grandchildren.

Emile Pugh Clifford, Board Member, Grand Saline Region

Born in Grand Saline, Emile Clifford graduated from Grand Saline High School and attended Tyler Junior College, Texas A&M University and the University of Texas at Arlington. After college, she taught math at Edgewood High School and then English at Grand Saline High School. She retired from education after more than 30 years in the Texas school system. Now semiretired, Clifford spends much of her time helping out at the family business, Clifford Insurance Agency.

She has served as a Cub Scout pack master, secretary of the Grand Saline Youth Foundation and Methodist youth fellowship leader. Currently, she teaches Sunday school at the First United Methodist Church of Grand Saline, where she and her husband of 46 years, Harry, attend. She is also active in the Athena Club of Grand Saline, which produces the annual Salt Festival Pageant. The Cliffords are the proud parents of one and grandparents to two.

David Maxton, Board Member, Mount Vernon Region

David Maxton was born in Mount Pleasant and currently resides in Mount Vernon, where he also graduated from high school. He attended East Texas State University, where he was awarded a Bachelor of Science in agricultural education and a

Master of Science in agriculture. He taught agriculture at Mount Vernon ISD for 30 years. While there, he also served as the secretary-treasurer for the Mount Vernon-Salttillo Young Farmers Association. He continues to volunteer in the field after retirement by acting as the general superintendent of the Mt. Vernon-Salttillo FFA and 4-H Project Show.

Maxton also remains active by raising beef cattle and producing hay on his farm in Mount Vernon, and he enjoys welding, construction and other building projects. He currently serves as board president of the Purley Cemetery Association and a board member of the Franklin County Farm Bureau. Maxton also serves on the house and grounds committee for Purley Baptist Church, where he and his wife of 40 years, Cindy, are members. They have three children and two grandchildren.

Manzell Manley, Board Member, Ben Wheeler Region

Born in Ben Wheeler, Manzell Manley attended Bragg Morris High School in Lindale. Upon graduation, he studied at Tyler Junior College and obtained his associate degree in management. Following that, he enrolled in Texas College of Tyler, where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree.

Manley spent 36 years working in plant operations at the Kelly-Springfield Tire Company, owned by Goodyear Tire, at their Tyler manufacturing plant. For more than 25 years, he has been a member and is currently vice president of the Community Service Club of Tyler, which gives assistance to the underprivileged and offers scholarships.

He and his wife, Mildred, have attended Mount Zion Christian Methodist Episcopal Church in Redland for more than 50 years, and he serves as a steward there. He and Mildred are the proud parents of four children and have seven grandchildren.

Jeannette Giles, Board Member, Winnsboro

Born in Wyoming, Jeannette Giles was raised in Arizona, where she graduated from Blue Ridge High School. Proud of her Texas ancestral roots, she and husband, Mike, have lived and invested in the Winnsboro community for the past 28 years.

She was employed by the Winnsboro ISD for 12 years as a substitute teacher in the English and agricultural departments. She is also an expert horsewoman with championship titles in barrel racing. She operates Rocking G Quarter Horses and Training, where for more than 27 years she has trained horses and taught private and group horsemanship lessons.

Giles' community involvement has included serving as the advertising director for the Wood County Junior Livestock Show and participating in the annual Jack Cross Memorial Livestock Show. For more than 20 years, she has held various officer positions in the Winnsboro Rodeo Association, where she also has assisted with the annual Rodeo Queen contest.

Giles currently serves as public affairs specialist for the Quitman Ward of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. She and Mike are the parents of four, and they enjoy spending time with their 11 grandchildren and one great-granddaughter, who all live in Texas.

She loves living in Texas, being with her family and friends, riding horses and honoring her commitments to God.

It's Been Great: Rebate Program Coming to an End

SUCCESSFUL SINCE 2014, WOOD

County Electric Cooperative's Great Rebates program is an incentive for members who enact specific, qualifying energy-efficiency measures. Since the program's inception, almost 1,000 rebates have been given to members, funded by money that came from the state in the form of unclaimed capital credits payments. The items and actions that qualify for rebates run the gamut from getting an HVAC tuneup or purchasing Energy Star-compliant appliances to adding insulation and many other actions.

Great Rebates was announced as a one-time program that would expire when the designated funds were depleted, which is expected to happen near the end of this year. Therefore, all rebates will be processed on a first-come, first-served basis until the budget is gone. Once funds are depleted, any pending rebates will not qualify or be processed.

To make a claim, a member must submit an official WCEC form by November 30 along with all required documentation. No claims submitted after that date will be processed. Updated forms can be found at wcec.org in the Energy Savings Center.

Thank to all who have participated. It's been our pleasure to assist you with your energy-saving goals.

