



MESSAGE
FROM
GENERAL
MANAGER

CODY
LASATER

Lineworkers Light Our Lives

IF YOU WERE ASKED to associate an image or a person with Hamilton County Electric Cooperative, I bet you would picture a lineworker. Among the most visible employees of the co-op, lineworkers work tirelessly to ensure our community receives uninterrupted power 24/7.

Line work is one of the most dangerous professions in the U.S., requiring detailed tasks while in close contact with high-voltage power lines. Regardless of the time of day, in stormy weather or other challenging conditions, lineworkers must climb 40 feet in the air, often carrying heavy equipment to get the job done.

And yet line work isn't glamorous. The job requires years of specialized training, ongoing education and dedication. Equally important for lineworkers at co-ops—and what sets them apart—is a deeply held sense of service and commitment to the community. That's why co-ops set aside the second Monday in April each year to celebrate and recognize the men and women who work around the clock to keep the lights on.

Lineworkers may be the most visible employees at Hamilton County EC, but equally critical is the team of highly skilled professionals working behind the scenes.

Engineers provide ongoing expertise and guidance on the operations side of the co-op. Member service representatives are always standing by to take your calls and questions. Our information technology experts continually monitor our system to help safeguard sensitive data. And these are just a few of the folks who work together to ensure we can deliver the service and reliability you expect and deserve. Without them, our lineworkers wouldn't be able to light up our community.

Our dedicated and beloved lineworkers are proud to represent Hamilton County EC, and they deserve all the appreciation and accolades that come their way on Lineworker Appreciation Day.

On April 11, and any time you see a lineworker, I hope you'll join me in thanking them for their exceptional service. I also hope you'll remember that you have a dedicated team of professionals working at the co-op whose commitment to service runs just as deep. ■



To our
heroes in
hard hats,
thank you for
keeping the
lights on.

Lineworker
Appreciation Day
April 11

Limit How Many Appliances Share an Outlet

HOW MANY APPLIANCES do you have plugged into the power strip in your living room?

Take note: Each of those electronics uses a lot of electricity, so if you power up all of them at once, you could overload the electrical circuit. That's because even though each plug goes into a separate socket on the power strip, the power strip itself is plugged into a single outlet.

And if you have plugged one power strip into another to increase the number of appliances you can power from that single outlet, you could be setting yourself up for trouble.

At a minimum, you could trip the circuit connected to that single outlet. Worst case, you could start a fire by overloading it.

If your circuits are overloaded, it's time to call a licensed electrician to upgrade your home's electrical system so it can keep up with the demands new technology places on it.

Here's how to tell if your home's circuits are overloaded, according to Electrical Safety Foundation International:

- ▶ Lights are flickering, blinking or dimming.
- ▶ Electrical receptacles on the walls are warm to the touch or have become discolored.
- ▶ You smell a burning odor coming from receptacles or wall switches.
- ▶ Circuits trip on a regular basis.

Here are some guidelines that can help you avoid overloading your circuits:

- ▶ Do not plug large appliances into extension cords or power strips. They need an outlet all to themselves.
- ▶ Get rid of extension cords. They're meant for temporary use—not permanent. Don't rig your year-round devices, like lamps and TVs, up to extension cords.
- ▶ Notice how many extension cords you use. If it's a lot, that could signal that you don't have enough outlets. An electrician can add more.
- ▶ Don't mistake a power strip for extra juice. All a power strip does is allow you to plug more devices into a single outlet. Doing that can overload an outlet. ■



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Hamilton County Electric Cooperative Association

CONTACT US

112 E. Gentry St., Hamilton, TX 76531

P.O. Box 753, Hamilton, TX 76531

Local (254) 386-3123

Toll-Free 1-800-595-3401

Web hamiltonelectric.coop

General Manager

Cody Lasater

Board of Directors

Robert Straley, President, District 4

Dusty Duncan, Vice President, District 5

Brandon Haile, Secretary-Treasurer, District 2

Jack Caldwell, District 1

Sam Campbell, District 6

Ervin Koerth, District 3

John Priddy, District 7

24/7

Outage Hotline Numbers

For information and to report outages, please call us.

LOCAL

(254) 386-3123

TOLL-FREE

1-800-595-3401

ABOUT HAMILTON COUNTY EC

HCEC owns and maintains more than 4,000 miles of line to provide electric service to more than 12,000 members in Coryell, Hamilton, Lampasas, Mills and San Saba counties.

PAYMENT OPTIONS AND LOCATIONS

Online at hamiltonelectric.coop

Call 1-877-833-4031 to pay using our automated phone system (credit/debit card or check).

Bank draft can be set up or bill payments can be charged to a debit or credit card monthly.

Hamilton County EC Office

112 E. Gentry, Hamilton

Fort Gates Water Corp.

103 Gateway Circle, Gatesville

Head Insurance

1006 Fourth St., Goldthwaite

Kempner Water Supply

11986 E. Highway 190, Kempner

Lometa City Hall

109 W. San Saba St., Lometa

VISIT US ONLINE

hamiltonelectric.coop



Check us out at

TexasCoopPower.com/hamilton

Notice of Director Election

Nominating committee to name board nominees

THE MEMBERS OF Hamilton County Electric Cooperative will elect directors by mail-in ballot August 5.

In accordance with cooperative bylaws, a nominating committee will be appointed by the board of directors at its regular board meeting March 31. The nominating committee will meet at 2 p.m. May 5 at the cooperative's main office, 112 E. Gentry St., Hamilton, to make nominations for directors to serve in districts 1 and 3. Terms of the incumbents in those districts expire this year.

District 1 is the area west of U.S. Highway 281 in Hamilton County served by the cooperative. District 3 is the area in Coryell County served by the cooperative.

Prospective candidates must meet the director qualifications as specified in the HCEC bylaws (Article IV, Section 4.02).

Ballots will be mailed to members June 22 and should be returned to the cooperative no later than 1 p.m. August 5, at which time the ballots will be counted. The election results will be announced on the cooperative's website, hamiltonelectric.coop; on its Facebook page; and the annual membership meeting August 5, unless the meeting is canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Following are excerpts from the bylaws of Hamilton County EC, which explain the nomination and election procedures.

Article IV: Directors

SECTION 4.01. Number and General Powers. The business and affairs of the Cooperative shall be managed by a board of seven (7) directors (herein referred to individually as "Director" and collectively as "Directors", "Board of Directors" or "Board") or under the authority of such Board of Directors, and subject to the Board's direction and oversight. The Board shall exercise all of the powers of the Cooperative except such as are by law or by the Cooperative's Articles of Incorporation or Bylaws conferred upon or reserved to the Members and such as the Board may delegate to or authorize to be performed by the Cooperative's management and employees.

SECTION 4.02. Qualifications. A Director or Director candidate must comply with the following Bylaw provisions:

(a) **DIRECTOR QUALIFICATIONS.** To be eligible to become or remain a Director of the Cooperative, a person shall:

(i) Be a natural person;

(ii) Be a Member of the Cooperative for a period of twenty-four (24) consecutive months immediately prior to nomination or petition for election;

(iii) Be a Member in good standing with the Cooperative and shall not have (or if a Joint Member with a spouse who has) one or more accounts with the Cooperative or its affiliates that are not in good financial standing, or have (or if a Joint Member with a spouse who has) a controlling interest in another entity, association, organization, or trust that has one or more accounts with the Cooperative or its affiliates that are not in good financial standing;

(iv) As provided in Article I, Section 1.04(f) of the Bylaws, in a Joint Membership, either spouse may serve as a Director, but not simultaneously, and only if both spouses meet the qualifications for Director as stated herein; otherwise, neither spouse may serve as Director;

(v) For at least twenty-four (24) consecutive months immediately prior to nomination or petition for election and throughout such person's term as Director if elected, maintain a principal place of residence, as required to claim such person's residence homestead exemption pursuant to Chapter 11 of the Texas Tax Code, in the District for which such person seeks election or was elected;

(vi) Receive electric service from the Cooperative at such principal place of residence described in Section 4.02 (a)(v);

(vii) Not be employed by the Cooperative or have been an employee of the Cooperative within twenty (20) years of serving on the Cooperative's Board of Directors;

(viii) Not be a close relative of an incumbent Director or of an employee of the Cooperative, unless otherwise determined by the Board of Directors in its sole discretion;

(ix) Not hold office as a Director who is an incumbent or candidate for public office for which a salary or wage is paid;

(x) Not be in any way employed by or financially associated in a competing enterprise, or a business selling electric energy or selling products or services to the Cooperative;

(xi) Unless excused by the Board of Directors, which action shall be noted in the minutes of that meeting of the Board of Directors, not miss three (3) consecutive regular meetings of the Board of Directors, or miss three (3) regular meetings of the Board of Directors within the most recent twelve (12) month period; and

(xii) Not have been convicted of a felony in this State, any other State in the United States, or received the equivalence of a felony conviction in any other country.

(b) **DIRECTOR DISQUALIFICATIONS.** After being elected or appointed, if a Director does not comply with all Director Qualifications, the Board shall disqualify the Director and the individual is no longer a Director if:

(i) The Board notifies the Director in writing of the basis for the disqualification and provides the Director an opportunity to comment regarding the Board's proposed disqualification; and

(ii) Within twenty (20) days after the Board notifies the Director of the proposed disqualification, the Director neither complies with nor meets the Director Qualifications.

SECTION 4.03. Election. Election of Directors shall be held annually by mail-in ballot in accordance with Section 4.07 of the Bylaws.

SECTION 4.04. Tenure. Directors shall serve a term of three (3) years or until Director(s)' successor(s) has been elected or appointed. Upon the Directors' election, Directors shall, subject to the provisions of the Bylaws with respect to the removal of Directors, serve until the annual meeting of the Members of the year in which such Directors' terms expire or until such Directors' successors shall have been elected and shall have qualified. Whether elected or appointed, Directors shall have qualified subject to the provisions of the Bylaws with respect to removal or resignation of Directors. Failure of an election for a given year shall allow the incumbents whose directorships would have been voted on to hold over only until the next

Member meeting at which a quorum is present.

SECTION 4.05. Directorate Districts.

(a) The territory served by the Cooperative shall be divided into the following seven (7) Directorate Districts with each District represented by one Director, who has and maintains his or her principal place of residence in that District, as provided in Section 4.02 (a)(v) of this Article:

(1) The area West of U.S. Highway 281 in Hamilton County, designated as "District 1";

(2) The area East of U.S. Highway 281 in Hamilton County, designated as "District 2";

(3) The area in Coryell County, designated as "District 3";

(4) The area East of U.S. Highway 281 in Lampasas County, designated as "District 4";

(5) The area West of U.S. Highway 281 in Lampasas County, including all the area in San Saba and Llano Counties, designated as "District 5";

(6) The area South of U.S. Highway 84 in Mills County and West to the Cooperative boundary line, designated as "District 6"; and

(7) The area North of U.S. Highway 84 bounded on East by Hamilton County line and on West by Cooperative boundary line, designated as "District 7."

(b) The Board of Directors shall annually review and if necessary, re-divide and/or geographically relocate Districts to ensure that Director Districts equitably represent the Members.

(c) Within sixty (60) days following any Director District revision, and at least sixty (60) days before the next Annual Member Meeting, the Cooperative shall notify any Members affected by the Director District revision by mail using direct mail, billing inserts, or the Cooperative's monthly magazine.

(d) No Director District revision may: (i) increase an existing Director's term, or (ii) shorten any existing Director's term unless the affected Director gives written consent.

SECTION 4.06. Nominations.

(a) NOMINATION BY COMMITTEE.

(1) COMMITTEE QUALIFICATIONS. It shall be the duty of the Board of Directors to

appoint, not less than thirty (30) days prior to the date on which Directors are to be elected, a Committee on Nominations, consisting of:

(i) Not less than five (5) and no more than eleven (11) Members of the Cooperative;

(ii) Members who are not existing Cooperative employees, agents, officers, Directors or known candidates for Director;

(iii) Members who are not close relatives (as hereinafter defined) or Members of the same household of such existing employees, agents, officers, Directors or known candidates for Director; and

(iv) Members who are selected from different geographical sections so as to ensure equitable representation, including at least one (1) Member from each of the Directorate Districts to be filled at the election.

(2) COMMITTEE NOMINATION PROCESS.

(i) The Committee shall prepare and post at the principal office of the Cooperative at least twenty (20) days prior to the date of the election of Directors a list of nominations for Directors to be elected, listing separately the nominee(s) for each Directorate District from or with respect to which a Director must, pursuant to this Section, be elected.

(ii) The Committee may include as many nominees for any Director to be elected from or with respect to any Directorate District as it deems desirable.

(b) NOMINATION BY PETITION. Any one hundred fifty (150) or more Members of the Cooperative, acting together, may submit to the Secretary of the Cooperative additional nominations in writing over such Members' signatures, listing the Members' nominee(s) in like manner, not less than one hundred (100) days prior to the date the votes are to be counted, and the Nominating Committee shall post such nominations at the same time and place where the list of nominations made by the Committee is posted.

(c) NOTICE OF NOMINATIONS. The Secretary shall mail to the Members with the notice of the meeting of the Members at which Directors are to be elected, or separately, but at least ten (10) days prior to the date of such meeting, a statement of the names of all nominee(s) for each Directorate District from or with respect to which one or more Directors must be elected, showing clearly those nominated by the Committee and those nominated

by petition, if any. Notice of nominations shall be in accordance Section 4.06 of the Bylaws, Subsection (a)(2)(i) for nominations by Committee on Nominations and Subsection (b) for nominations by petition.

Notwithstanding the provisions contained in this Section, failure to comply with any of such provisions shall not affect in any manner whatsoever the validity of any action taken by the Board of Directors after the election of Directors.

SECTION 4.07. Campaigning for Election; Voting for Directors; Validity of Board Action.

Any and all candidate(s) for election or re-election as Director shall: (i) comply with the Bylaws and policies of the Cooperative, as adopted by the Board of Directors; and (ii) notify the Cooperative CEO/Manager in writing, no more than fourteen (14) days after the date the nominee is notified by the Cooperative that his or her name has been certified by the nominating committee, of the candidate(s)' intention to campaign for Director, including, but not limited to, the manner and means of campaign. The election of Directors shall be held annually by mail-in ballot. Each Member shall be entitled to cast only one vote for each Directorate District for which a Director is to be elected. Ballots marked in violation of the foregoing restriction with respect to one or more Directorate Districts shall be invalid and shall not be counted with respect to such District or Districts. Notwithstanding the provisions contained in this Section, failure to comply with any of such provisions shall not affect in any manner whatsoever the validity of any action taken by the Board of Directors after the election of Directors.

SECTION 4.13. "Close Relative" Defined.

As used in the Bylaws, "close relative" means a person who, by blood or marriage, including half, foster, step and adoptive kin, is either a spouse, child, grandchild, parent, grandparent, brother or sister of the principal.

Community Calendar

The following community event information was gathered in late February. Please contact event sources directly to confirm event dates and details.

Comanche

Comanche Market, April 2, 9 a.m.–1 p.m., courthouse, 101 W. Central Ave.

Sippin' in the Sunshine Wine Walk, April 2, noon–5 p.m., Old Cora courthouse. Tickets are \$25 each, and one ticket allows 20 different wine samples at the event. Glasses and bottles of wine from seven wineries and vineyards will be available for purchase. Purchase tickets at the chamber booth at the event.

Texas Motorcycle Roadriders Association State Rally, April 9, Comanche City Park, 1200 Comanche Trail.

Comanche Citywide Garage Sale, April 23.

Puerco De Mayo, April 30–May 1, Comanche Rodeo Grounds.

For more information about Comanche County events, contact the Comanche Chamber of Commerce at (325) 356-3233 or comancheevents@gmail.com.

Copperas Cove

Farmers Market; each Thursday, May–October; 4–7 p.m. The market features locally grown produce and handmade and handcrafted items.

Rabbit Fest, May 19–22, city park, 1206 W. Ave. B. Sponsored by the Copperas Cove Chamber of Commerce, the festival offers food and craft vendors, carnival rides, live entertainment, and much more. Don't forget the Rabbit Fest parade at 10 a.m. Saturday.

For information about Copperas Cove events, contact the Copperas Cove Chamber of Commerce at (254) 547-7571, email chamber@copperascove.com or visit copperascove.com.

Evant

For information about Evant events, contact P-Cay Burkhalter at (254) 791-5441 or pcay@buenavistawildlifefafari.com.

Gatesville

Steak Dinner and Dance, featuring Jake Hooker; April 2; 5:30 p.m.; Gatesville Civic Center; 301 Veterans Memorial Loop. The event is a Coryell Go Texan Scholarship fundraiser and includes a steak dinner, drinks and dancing. Tickets and limited tables available by calling (254) 223-8883.

Chamber Market Days; April 9, May 14; 8 a.m.–1 p.m.; Cotton Belt Depot; 2307 S. Highway 36. Browse vendors offering fresh fruits and vegetables, metal decor, honey, salsa, jellies, baked goods, plants, homemade crafts, furniture, and more.

For more information about Gatesville events, call the Gatesville Chamber of Commerce at (254) 865-2617, visit gatesvilletx.info or download the Explore Gatesville app.

Goldthwaite

Goldthwaite State Championship BBQ and Goat Cook-Off, April 22–23, city park. Events include the Lions Club fish fry on Friday afternoon, a kids pork chop contest and dance in the park on Friday night, the 5K Color Me Krazy run and 1K kids color run Saturday morning, and a washer tournament Saturday night. Mills County Area Go Texan will serve goat meat, and a dunk booth and beer tent will be set up.

For more information about Goldthwaite events, visit goldthwaiteareachamber.com, call the Goldthwaite Area Chamber of Commerce at (325) 648-3619 or email gcc@centex.net.



Rabbit Fest
May 19–22
COPPERAS COVE

Hamilton

Circle T Arena, 4007 W. Highway 36. For information on upcoming events, visit circletarena.net/calendar or call (254) 386-3559.

Veterans Memorial, through May. Hamilton American Legion Cunningham Post 222 is planning a new permanent memorial to Hamilton County veterans. The plan, designed by Riley-Gardner Monument Co., includes three large black granite tablets engraved with the names of the 151 Hamilton County veterans who died in battle during the various conflicts of our country. The centerpiece of the memorial will feature a large hand-carved black granite eagle, resting on a black granite hexagonal base. The base will be engraved with the POW/MIA emblem on the front and the emblems of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines and Coast Guard on the other five sides. Donations to assist in the cost of the memorial are welcome and inquiries should be directed to Darryl Moore at (337) 654-2235, Glenn Jones at (254) 784-9141 or Bob Self at (254) 386-3992.

For more information about Hamilton events, visit Hamilton Chamber of Commerce and Visitors Center at hamiltontexaschamberofcommerce.com or on Facebook, call (254) 386-3216, or email hamiltonchambertx@gmail.com.

Hico

Spring Market and Taste of Hico, April 9, 10 a.m.–7 p.m., downtown. Downtown vendors and Hico restaurants will have a tasting party.

Girls Night Out, April 28, 4–7 p.m., downtown. Participating shops will have refreshments, discounts and door prizes.

Gravel Locos Bike Race, May 14. Each registration includes a fully supported ride with aid stations; support and gear; first aid; a post-ride meal; and Gravel Locos swag, including a T-shirt, bag and water bottle. A VIP option with limited space will be offered to spend more time riding and dining with the pros. To register, visit gravellocos.bike.

The Original Texas Steak Cookoff, May 20–21. The event begins Friday with the Burger Bash and Street Dance. The steak cook-off begins at 10 a.m. Saturday in the historic downtown business district. The family-friendly event offers a chance to look on as backyard chefs from all over the Southwest compete to see who cooks the best steak in Texas. The event will include artisan vendors, local shopping and live music on the main stage. Additional activities include a wine tasting, beer garden and a VIP dinner. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit texassteakcookoff.com.

For information about Hico events, visit hicochamber.com or [facebook.com/hicochamberofcommerce](https://www.facebook.com/hicochamberofcommerce), call (254) 434-1249, or email chamberhico@gmail.com or bluestarhico@gmail.com.

Kempner

For information about Kempner events, call Kempner City Hall at (512) 932-2180.

Lampasas

Lampasas Trade Days, April 2–3, May 7–8; 9 a.m.–4 p.m.; 2646 E. Highway 190. Merchandise includes antiques, collectibles, quilts, crafts, folk and fine art, new home furnishings, shabby chic furniture, new clothing, jewelry, candles, handbags, electronics, iron works, outdoor decor, plants, tools and food concessions. For more information, contact Barbara Postel at (512) 734-1294.

Crawfish Boil, April 23, 2–8 p.m. Texas Legato Winery, 2935 FM 1478. The event, held rain or shine, will include food, wine, Cajun music, family fun and games in the yard. For more information, call (512) 556-9600 or email info@texaslegatowinery.net.

Riata Roundup Rodeo and LTX BBQ Fest, April 28–30, 580 Sports Complex and Arena, 2351 FM 580 W.

Art in the Park, May 7, 10 a.m.–3 p.m., Hanna Springs Sculpture Garden, 501 E. North Ave. Free entertainment and arts and crafts for kids. Hosted by Lampasas Association for the Arts.

For more information about Lampasas County events, contact the Lampasas County Chamber of Commerce at (512) 556-5172 or lampasasinfo@sbcglobal.net, or visit lampasaschamber.org.

Lometa

Fiesta Winery 5K Run/Walk, April 16, 8 a.m.–noon, Fiesta Winery, 18727 W. FM 580. For more information, call (325) 628-3433.

New York Dueling Pianos, May 14, 7–9 p.m., Fiesta Winery, 18727 W. FM 580. For more information, call (325) 628-3433.

For information about Lometa events, contact the city of Lometa at (512) 752-3331.

Pearl

Pearl Bluegrass, April 2, May 7; doors open at 7 a.m.; Pearl Community Center; 6301 FM 183. Jams and stage shows throughout the day. Acoustic bands (no electric instruments) and musicians are invited. No fee to play onstage or watch the stage shows. For information on how to sign up for the stage show, call Ronald Medart at (254) 865-6013. Kitchen open 11 a.m.–5 p.m. RV parking with full hook-ups available on a first-come, first-park basis; 30 amps are \$20, and 50 amps are \$25.

Pearl Book Cottage, April 2, May 7; 10 a.m.–5 p.m. Junk-in-your-trunk and farmers market outside of the book cottage. Vendor booths \$5. Books and resale items will be available inside the building. For information, call Kay Pruett at (254) 865-5864.

Pearl Community Garage Sale and Flea Market, April 23, 8 a.m.–2 p.m. Under the community center awning and all around the grounds. Kitchen will be open, and public restrooms are available. Vendor booths \$5. For more information or for a vendor space, call (254) 865-5864.

San Saba

Pecan Capital Trade Days, April 2, May 7; 9 a.m.–2 p.m.; courthouse square. Featuring handmade crafts, homemade goodies and more.

For more information about San Saba events, contact the San Saba Visitor Center at (325) 372-5200 or the chamber at (325) 372-5141, or visit sansabatexas.com/calendar or sansabachamber.org.

Hamilton County Electric Cooperative welcomes your local event submissions. If you have any events that you would like listed in the Community Calendar, please contact Donna Harris. Information must be submitted two months in advance for the magazine. The calendar is published monthly and contains events scheduled in the month of publication and the following month. HCEC reserves the right to edit and exclude events based on space available and other considerations. We do not certify the accuracy or reliability of any information posted in any listing in this Community Calendar. Please contact the event source directly to confirm event details. Email donna.harris@hamiltonelectric.coop; write to HCEC at P.O. Box 753, Hamilton, TX 76531; or call 1-800-595-3401.