



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

Thursday, November 2, 2017 • 6 p.m. • Crockett Civic Center in Crockett

**POWER FOR  
YOUR WAY  
OF LIFE**

Every fall, HCEC members, directors and employees gather to discuss important cooperative business. It is important that a quorum is present at the meeting, either through your attendance or your submission of a signed proxy card.

If you are unable to attend this year's meeting, please sign, date and return the postage-paid proxy card below.

By returning your signed proxy card, you authorize the board of directors to represent you at your cooperative's annual meeting and cast a vote on your behalf. Use the proxy card if you choose not to attend or if you do not plan to vote by written ballot at the annual meeting.

**Don't forget to sign, date and return the proxy card if you WILL NOT be attending the annual meeting.**

## PROXY

As a member of Houston County Electric Cooperative, Inc. ("the cooperative"), I hereby appoint the board of directors of the cooperative as my agent and proxy to represent me at the cooperative's annual meeting of the members to be held at the Crockett Civic Center on Loop 304 in Crockett, at 6 p.m. Thursday, November 2, 2017. I authorize the cooperative's board of directors, as my agent and proxy, to cast my vote on all matters coming before the cooperative's annual meeting of the members.



If you **WILL NOT** be attending the HCEC annual meeting, please

**FILL OUT  
AND RETURN  
THIS CARD!**

*Must be received by  
2 p.m., November 2.*



**SIGNED** Signature of HCEC member must be the same name as printed above.

**DATE**

**PHONE NUMBER**

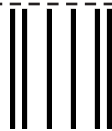


**POWER** FOR  
**YOUR** WAY  
**OF** **LIFE**

MAKE YOUR VOICE  
**COUNT!**

IF YOU **WILL NOT** BE ATTENDING THE ANNUAL MEETING,  
PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN THE PROXY CARD BELOW.

Simply sign and date the card on the reverse side and return it to HCEC by 2 p.m., November 2.



NO POSTAGE  
NECESSARY  
IF MAILED  
IN THE  
UNITED STATES



**BUSINESS REPLY MAIL**  
FIRST-CLASS MAIL    PERMIT NO. 7    CROCKETT TX

POSTAGE WILL BE PAID BY ADDRESSEE

HOUSTON COUNTY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE  
PO BOX 52  
CROCKETT TX 75835-9977



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**POWER** FOR  
**YOUR** WAY  
OF **LIFE**

JOIN US AS WE REFLECT ON THE PAST YEAR.





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## OFFICIAL NOTICE OF 2017 **ANNUAL MEETING**

**The Annual Meeting of the Members of Houston County Electric Cooperative  
will be held at the Crockett Civic Center on Loop 304 in Crockett  
at 6 p.m., Thursday, November 2, 2017. Registration will begin at 4 p.m.**

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### **PROGRAM**

**Registration . . . . . 4:00 p.m.**

**Catered Catfish Dinner . . . . 4:30 p.m.**

**Business Session . . . . . 6:00 p.m.**

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### **IF YOU PLAN TO ATTEND THE MEETING IN PERSON**

It is the responsibility of each member to attend this annual meeting so that a quorum will be available to transact the business of the cooperative. To attend the meeting, you should be present at the Crockett Civic Center in Crockett on Thursday, November 2, at 6 p.m. To be eligible for the prize drawings, you must register before the meeting begins.

### **IF YOU DO NOT PLAN TO ATTEND THE MEETING**

It is still important that you participate in your cooperative's annual meeting by returning the proxy card on the front of this dust cover. The proxy card ensures that you are represented at the annual meeting. It authorizes the board of directors to cast a vote on your behalf if you are not going to attend the annual meeting or if you choose not to vote by written ballot at the annual meeting. To do this, you must sign and date the proxy card with prepaid postage on the front of this dust cover and mail or deliver it to Houston County EC by 2 p.m., November 2. All you need to do is sign it, date it and put it in the mail.

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**YOUR COOPERATIVE ... YOUR BUSINESS  
PLEASE MAKE PLANS TO ATTEND.**

## Our Month: Celebrating the Cooperative Spirit



### MESSAGE FROM GENERAL MANAGER KATHI CALVERT

**OCTOBER IS ONE OF MY FAVORITE MONTHS. IT IS THE BEGINNING OF** cooler fall weather and the month my daughter was born. My dad's birthday is in October. And, as an added bonus, October is National Co-op Month.

From the day I joined Houston County Electric Cooperative, I wholeheartedly bought into our cooperative principles. It was a business model unfamiliar to me 10 years ago; I only knew the textbook definition of a cooperative. What I found was a unique treasure that makes sense from both an economic and a social perspective.

The basis of the cooperative model is "to cooperate." As Mother Teresa simply said, "You can do what I cannot do. I can do what you cannot do. Together we can do great things." Our cooperative is the epitome of what can be accomplished through working together.

Cooperatives use a democratic model, allowing all our members to have a voice. It is a model that takes work and compromise. At times, we have to prioritize work in one area over another. It's not always easy, but over time you see progress.

You see progress in small ways: technology improvements allowing broader communication with members, such as through our HCEC app or text-messaging options. You see progress in larger, more visible ways as we begin construction on our Weldon transmission line to improve reliability for members in the southern half of our system.

Over the years, we've listened to you and your fellow co-op member-owners, and we know that we must keep pace as your needs evolve and technology continues to change. We do this while maintaining our commitment to you. Our focus remains on safe, reliable and affordable service while looking to the future needs of our communities.

**To download the HCEC mobile app, go to your smartphone's app store and search for HCEC.**

From the early days in 1939, when Houston County EC was formed—and our area's first rural households received electricity—to now, we understand the spirit that helped create this co-op. We must continue to nurture that spirit. Rural America is important. Our communities are vital. You can be confident that HCEC will continue exploring new ways to help our members and our community. We welcome your input as we plan for the future.

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## Plan Ahead for Youth Tour

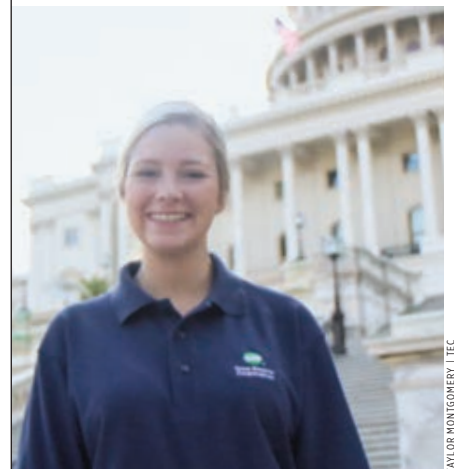
**THE SCHOOL YEAR HAS JUST STARTED,** and summer might seem like a million years away, but it's not too early for students to start thinking about next year's Government-in-Action Youth Tour. In fact, you might have read recently about June 2017 participants in these very pages.

Adventure awaits when students apply for a spot on Youth Tour, an all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C., sponsored by your local electric cooperative and organized by Texas Electric Cooperatives.

Youth Tour is an action-packed tour of the U.S. capital with more than 140 students and chaperones from across Texas and more than a thousand from across the U.S. The trip features visits to the Washington National Cathedral, Arlington National Cemetery, Mount Vernon, Smithsonian Institution, memorials and more. Activities include meeting elected officials, learning about rural electrification, seeing a performance at the Kennedy Center and going on a boat cruise with dinner and dancing.

Students can be part of this legacy shared by nearly 4,000 past Texas students who have participated in Youth Tour since 1965.

Visit [texasyouthtour.org](http://texasyouthtour.org) for more information.



TAYLOR MONTGOMERY | TEC



KELBY KOEHLERT HOUSTON COUNTY EC

# Linemen Pack Knowledge Under Their Hard Hats

**EVERYONE KNOWS LINEMEN BUILD AND REPAIR ELECTRIC LINES, AND OFTEN THEY** perform their craft under the worst circumstances: blistering heat, bone-aching cold, blinding rain or scathing wind. When we seek shelter, they leave theirs to go to work.

Much like the Boy Scouts, linemen always must be prepared. Their tools, trucks and other equipment are regularly inspected and tested to be ready for use at any moment. They also prepare for the worst: a lineman becoming unresponsive while working atop a pole or in a bucket. Whether an accidental injury or sudden, incapacitating illness occurs, linemen don't have time on their side. They just have to get their partner to the ground and get help as soon as possible.

Every year, every Houston County Electric Cooperative lineman must satisfactorily perform a hurt-man rescue, as mandated by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration. This operation takes place atop a 40-foot-tall utility pole. For safety reasons, the lines are not "live" with electricity during the exercise, but the test is administered as if every other aspect is real. Linemen are judged not only on the time it takes to perform a rescue, but also on the safe and efficient methods with which the task is accomplished.

Waiting for the lineman, a 185-pound mannequin hangs beside a pole's crossarm. The climber reaches the "body" and moves quickly, lowering the limp form to the ground carefully but with haste. "Time!" comes the call from the ground below. Then a nearby bucket truck lifts the mannequin to the top of the utility pole again, reattaching it so another would-be rescuer can race to the top.

The required completion time for hurt-man rescue is four minutes or less. Four minutes is the rule of thumb because after that time, a person can suffer permanent brain damage without oxygen to the brain. When a co-worker's life is on the line, linemen know every second counts.

"Our line crews are among the best-trained, most dedicated and hardest-working folks you will ever meet," says Kathi Calvert, Houston County EC general manager. "Training such as this is critical to get them back home to their families."

## Houston County Electric Cooperative

P.O. Box 52, Crockett, TX 75835

### GENERAL MANAGER

Kathi Calvert

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dan Courmier, President  
Kennon Kellum, Vice President  
Mitchell Huff, Secretary-Treasurer  
Mary L. Pearl Adams  
William Emmons  
Kay Reed  
Charles "Chuck" Siems  
Grady Wakefield  
David Whittlesey

## Contact Us

**TO REPORT A POWER OUTAGE, CALL OUR 24-HOUR HOTLINE**

**1-800-970-4232** toll-free

### BUSINESS HOURS

Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

### CUSTOMER SERVICE

*For general information during business hours*

**(936) 544-5641** local

**1-800-657-2445** toll-free

To report an outage or other problem with electrical service, press 1.

To make a payment over the phone or speak with a member services representative in the billing department, press 2.

For electrical connects, transfers and disconnects, press 5.

For directions to our office, mailing address or fax number, press 6.

For satellite internet services, press 7.

For staking and construction, press 8.

### FIND US ON THE WEB

**houstoncountyelec.com**



**FIND US ON FACEBOOK**



**COME CELEBRATE WITH US!**

**Houston County Electric Cooperative**

# **78<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MEETING**

**Thursday, November 2**

1100 Edmiston Drive | Crockett 75835

Doors open at 4 p.m. • Business meeting at 6 p.m.



Touchstone Energy<sup>®</sup> Cooperatives  
The power of human connections<sup>®</sup>

#WHOPOWERSYOU

# Your community. Your inspiration.

This is your chance to honor someone in your community and celebrate the power of human connections. Visit [whopowersyou.com/enter](http://whopowersyou.com/enter) between 10/2/17 and 11/4/17 and submit a photo of your nominee. Then tell us why that person inspires you and how they make a difference in your co-op community—and they could win a cash prize!

Nominate someone today for  
the **#WhoPowersYou** contest

➔ [WhoPowersYou.com/Enter](http://WhoPowersYou.com/Enter)

Debbie and John work tirelessly day in and day out to ensure that abused children in state custody have their basic needs met through Helping Abused and Neglected Kids (HANK) in Hondo, Texas, the non-profit charity that they founded in 2010. These committed individuals have dedicated their time, and put much of their own money, into this non-profit charity to ensure that the needs of these children in Medina County have the essentials they need to not only survive, but thrive. Through HANK, Debbie and John have been able to provide school supplies, bedding, winter coats and other essential items to approximately 280 children in state custody in their county.

## CONTEST PRIZES

GRAND PRIZE **\$5,000**

SECOND PLACE **\$2,000**

THIRD PLACE **\$1,500**

HONORABLE MENTION **\$500**

## Together, let's celebrate the power of human connections

As the national network of more than 740 co-ops, Touchstone Energy Cooperatives value the people who elevate and energize our communities. That's why we are launching a contest to honor inspirational community members across the country.

Winners will be selected by a panel of judges based on the impact they have on the community. All entries must be submitted by November 4, 2017. Winners will be announced January 2018. NO PURCHASE NECESSARY. VOID WHERE PROHIBITED. Visit [whopowersyou.com](http://whopowersyou.com) for full contest rules.