

The Vision of Our Cooperative



MESSAGE FROM GENERAL MANAGER KATHI CALVERT

AS WE REACH THE END OF ANOTHER YEAR, there is one important group I would like to highlight—our board of directors. These are the men and women you have elected to represent the interests of Houston County Electric Cooperative members.

Our board is responsible for the cooperative's performance. Below are some of the key roles the board fulfills on behalf of our consumer-members.

Establishing Good Governance Practices

Our board operates with integrity and with a goal of doing what's right, which sounds relatively simple. However, when you serve a diverse set of consumers with diverse values, the answers are not always easy. Directors must apply their first-hand knowledge of our local communities along with industry information and their business expertise to establish policies and rates that benefit our consumers.

Doing what's right extends to how HCEC's board members operate individually, too. Directors don't always unanimously agree. There are healthy debates and differing views presented in board meetings. However, despite the issue or its outcome, our board members consistently speak to each other with respect and present a unified voice once an issue is resolved. The integrity exhibited by our board sets the tone for the entire organization.

Protecting the Cooperative

Board leadership drives the performance of the organization. We operate in a high-risk industry. We deliver and sell electricity for our consumers to enjoy and utilize in their daily life, but electricity is also an unforgiving product. Our board recognizes this risk and prioritizes safety above all else to protect our consumers and employees.

Beyond safety, the Houston County EC board also protects the reliability of your service by approving funds for system maintenance and development, facilitating emergency operations exercises, and reviewing cybersecurity procedures. We face a multitude of

threats—from Mother Nature to attacks by hackers. The board evaluates threats to mitigate risk and enable a quick recovery from any type of event.

Houston County EC's board of directors is responsible for the financial health of our cooperative. Annual audits are conducted to determine the adequacy of controls and the accuracy of financial statements. In addition, the board has oversight of operations through monthly reporting.

Setting the Vision

Our board assesses the progress of our cooperative with one purpose in mind: How can we better serve our consumer-members? The board evaluates industry trends along with local interests to establish key objectives for our future. Objectives range from developing a desired culture within our organization to providing value to consumers in the new energy economy.

The role of director should not be taken lightly. Tremendous responsibility rests upon their shoulders, and we are fortunate to have an impressive group of individuals bearing the weight of that commitment. It is an honor and privilege to work with and learn from them as we strive to serve you.



A Dorothy H. Goodrum Scholarship Can Add to Your Education Piggy Bank

Apply for a \$1,000 scholarship toward your college or trade school expenses.

The deadline for applications is **January 15.**

Visit houstoncountyelec.com for eligibility information and submission guidelines.



GERALT | PIXABAY.COM



DAWIT TIBEBU | PIXABAY.COM

Apply for the 2019 Government-in-Action Youth Tour

We're sending two high school students on a 10-day, all-expenses-paid trip to Washington, D.C.

The deadline for applications is **December 14.**

Visit houstoncountyelec.com for eligibility information and submission guidelines.

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, press 1.

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

For electrical connects, transfers and disconnects or any other problem with your electrical service, press 3.

Para hablar con un representante de habla hispana, presione 4.

FIND US ON THE WEB

houstoncountyelec.com



‘I Call This Meeting to Order’

A look at your HCEC Board of Directors

They live in your neighborhoods, do business in your community and, just like you, receive their electric bills from Houston County Electric Cooperative. They are your directors, democratically elected by the member-owners of HCEC. The board of directors oversees the operations of the cooperative and works collectively to represent the best interests of their fellow members. Each director lives in one of the eight districts that make up HCEC’s service territory.



MARY PEARL ADAMS
Madison County District

Mrs. Adams has been a resident of Midway since 1961 and represents the Madison County District. Together with Clent, her late husband of forty-six years, Mrs. Adams raised ten children and is the proud grandmother of fifteen grandchildren



and five great-grandchildren. Mrs. Adams is an active member of the Lacey Hill Church of Christ in Crockett. Retired from the Texas Department of Criminal Justice, she is currently involved in taking care of cattle on her ranch in Midway. Her favorite hobbies include gardening, sewing, and crocheting. A Texan transplant, Mrs. Adams was born and raised in Louisiana. She is a graduate of Breaux Bridge High School and attended Xavier University in New Orleans. She is very involved in the community and serves on many boards including the Pineywoods Land Owners Association, Midway Southside Cemetery, Antioch Community Council, Madison County Historical Society, A.V. Lee School, and the NAACP. Mrs. Adams has served on the Board of Directors for HCEC since 2005.



DAN COURMIER
Director at Large

Mr. Courmier was born and raised in Leon County. He has been married to his wife Lisa, a United Airlines Flight Attendant, for thirty-four years. Together they have raised two boys. Mr. Courmier is a member of the First Christian Church in Palestine. A graduate of Buffalo High School, Mr. Cour-

mier received his Bachelor’s Degree in General Business from Sam Houston State University. Before his career at West way Feed, Mr. Courmier was a member of the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association. His love for the rodeo began when he competed in the Region IX Texas High School Rodeo Association and continued on at the collegiate level where he competed for the Sam Houston State University Rodeo Team. From 1987 to 1990, he competed at the National Finals Rodeo in Steer Wrestling, which eventually led to his induction into the Texas Rodeo Hall of Fame in 2012. Currently, he is the Regional Sales Manager for Westway Feed Products, a position that allows him to travel frequently throughout his twelve-state territory. Mr. Courmier enjoys spending time with his family on their ranch. Mr. Courmier is a member of the Emergency Services District 4 Board in Leon County . He has served as Director at Large on the Board of Directors for HCEC since 1994.





WILLIAMS EMMONS

Houston County District 1

An East Texan since birth, Mr. Emmons has resided in Grapeland since 1959 and represents Houston County District 1. He has been married to wife, Peggy for fifty-three years, and together they have four children and four grandchildren.

After graduating from Grapeland High School, he attended Stephen F. Austin, then transferred to Sam Houston State University where he received his Bachelor's and Master's degree in Education. He also received his Counselors Certificate from Prairie View A&M University. Mr. Emmons spent thirty-four



years in the education field, starting out in Grapeland as a teacher and coach and then moving to Slocum as the principal. He spent the last sixteen years of his career at the Texas Department of Criminal Justice teaching Vocational Education, eventually becoming a Counselor. He and Peggy are members of the North Loop Baptist Church in Crockett. In his spare time, he enjoys woodworking, gardening and overseeing his cattle operation. Mr. Emmons has been a Board of Director for Houston County Electric for 26 years.

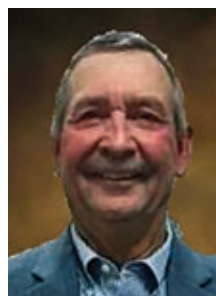


KENNON KELLUM

Houston County District 4

Mr. Kellum has been a resident of Houston County his entire life. Married to his wife, Essie for 55 years, they have two sons, five grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren. The Kellums are active members of Good Shepherd Church in Crockett. Mr. Kellum was the owner of Double K Construction for over twenty-five

years before becoming a Houston County Commissioner, a position he's held for the past sixteen years. Mr. Kellum is a devoted family man and when he isn't spending time with his family, you can find him enjoying his favorite hobbies - hunting or fishing. Mr. Kellum has served as the Houston County Electric District 4 Director since 1993.



MITCHELL HUFF

Houston County District 2

Mr. Huff was born and raised in Grapeland, graduating from Grapeland High School. He attended Texas A&M University where he received his Bachelor's degree in Agronomy. Married to his wife Cindy for six years, together they have five



children - three boys, and two girls. Mr. and Mrs. Huff are members of the First Baptist Church in Grapeland where they teach 1st and 2nd grade Sunday School. Mr. Huff and his brother are the co-owners of Huff Welding. He is also a Licensed Real Estate Agent with Lawrence Realty. Previously, Mr. Huff worked at the Grapeland Co-op for eighteen years. He is actively involved in ranching with his family. Mr. Huff represents Houston County District 2 and has served on the Board of Directors at HCEC since 2000.



JEANETTE "KAY" REED
Anderson County District

Mrs. Reed was born and raised in Grapeland, graduating from Grapeland High School. Over forty years ago, she relocated to Anderson County. She was married to her late husband, Maylon Reed for forty years, and together they have four

children and four grandchildren. Mrs. Reed is a member of Muse Missionary Baptist Church. She retired from Slocum ISD as the Food Service Director. Chances are if you attend any Slocum Sporting events, you'll see Mrs. Reed in the stands. In addition



to spending time at Slocum Mustang events, she loves working with flowers and listening to George Strait. Mrs. Reed has served the Anderson County members as their Board of Director since 2001.



GRADY WAKEFIELD
Leon County District

Mr. Wakefield was born in Crockett and moved to Leon County very early in his life. He graduated from Centerville High School and went on to Texas A&M University where he received his Bachelor's in Agriculture Economics. Mr. Wakefield and his

wife, Leslie, have been married for twenty-five years. They are members of the Woods Edge Church in The Woodlands. Over the span of his work career, Mr. Wakefield has been a high school history teacher, a baseball coach, and owner/operator of Aggie Storage Box and the Longhorn Storage Box. Currently, Mr. Wakefield is the owner of Wakefield Insurance in downtown Centerville.



When he isn't at work in his Centerville office, he can be found gardening or attending to his ranch operations. He also enjoys discovery and preparation of drilling prospects in the Oil and Gas industry through his company, Saxet Energy Inc. Mr. Wakefield has served as the Leon County District Representative on the Board of Directors of HCEC since 1991.



CHUCK SIEMS
Houston County District 3

Mr. Siems was born and raised in Baytown. He and his wife, Wanda relocated to Crockett in 1998. They have been married for thirty-four years, have two children, four grandchildren, and two granddogs. They are members of the Good

Shepherd Church in Crockett. After graduating from Clear Creek High School in League City, Mr. Siems joined the United States Navy where he was an E3 Medic. Since his retirement as a refinery inspec-



tor for Linear Inspection, Mr. Siems' favorite pastime is restoring antique trucks and frequently participates in local classic car shows. He has been a member of the Crockett Lions Club for over twenty years and has served as a Director on the HCEC Board since 2004.



DAVID WHITTLESEY
Trinity County District

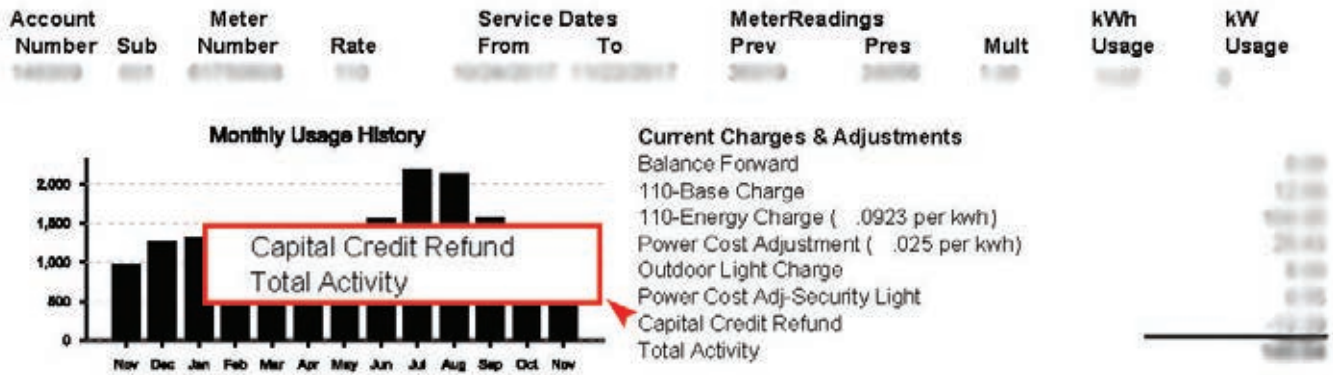
Mr. Whittlesey is a Groveton native, attending school there since kindergarten. After graduation, Mr. Whittlesey earned his Bachelor's Degree in Animal Science from Texas A&M University. He is a Vice President at Lovelady State Bank. Having previ-

ously participated in ranch rodeos, today Mr. Whittlesey continues to be actively involved in his farming and ranching operation. A member of the Crockett Lions Club, Trinity County Fair & Youth Livestock Show Committee Member, Mr. Whittlesey is a hard-working volunteer with the Lovelady Lovefest



BBQ Cook-Off, the Candy Cane Project and the Community-Wide Christmas Dinner in Lovelady. He has served as a Director at HCEC

Capital Credits Season Is Here



THE CHRISTMAS SEASON IS SOMETHING THAT ALL OF US AT HOUSTON County Electric Cooperative look forward to, and it's not just because it's one of the most wonderful times of the year. It's also the season for giving, and each December, we give back to our members by returning capital credits. This year, we will distribute \$1 million to members, raising our lifetime distribution to more than \$11.8 million.

Active members will receive their capital credits return in the

form of a bill credit on their December statements. Inactive members, or members who no longer have an active meter with Houston County EC, will receive their capital credits retirement in the form of a check.

As a member-owned cooperative, HCEC allocates and returns its margins, or revenues in excess of expenses, based on the amount of electricity purchased by its member-owners. It's just part of the value you receive for sharing in the ownership of your cooperative.



Happy Holidays From our co-op family to yours

Jasper Barnett
Riley Barrett
Jeremy Bobbitt
Trevor Brooks
Jeff Brown
Duane Burleson
Brenda Byrd
Kathi Calvert
Kyle Campbell
Hayden Campbell
Casey Corry
Shiloh Crouch
Cody Currie

Justin Currie
Lynne Erickson
Dan Fedak
Keith Ferguson
Stacy Freeman
Charlie Gardner
Justin Golden
Kraig Goolsby
Sarah Goolsby
Cody Hammons
David Hildebrand
Hunter Hollis
David Howard

Bobby Hutcherson
Aurora Ibarra
Tim Johnson
Cherry Kellum
Sonja Key
Kelby Koehler
Mike Lane
Allen Lawrence
Perry Little
Randy Lively
Scott Long
Jason LeBlanc
Elliott Marshall

David McKinney
Steve Millhouse
Ruth Millhouse
Cliff Moore
Brandon Neal
Sam Noyola
Erin Pemberton-Horace
Brandon Quillin
Russell Rivers
Cody Robinson
Clint Rosser
Shane Schexnayder
Dean Shupak

Carla Smiley
Joseph Smoldas
Megan Spellman
Shelby Vance
Jack Vickers
Leanne Westbrook
Gary White
Doug Whitehead
Larry Wickersham
Freddy Wilson

OUR OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED DECEMBER 24-25 AND JANUARY 1, NEW YEAR'S DAY.

SANDY BEBER

Updated Member-Friendly Automated Phone Menu

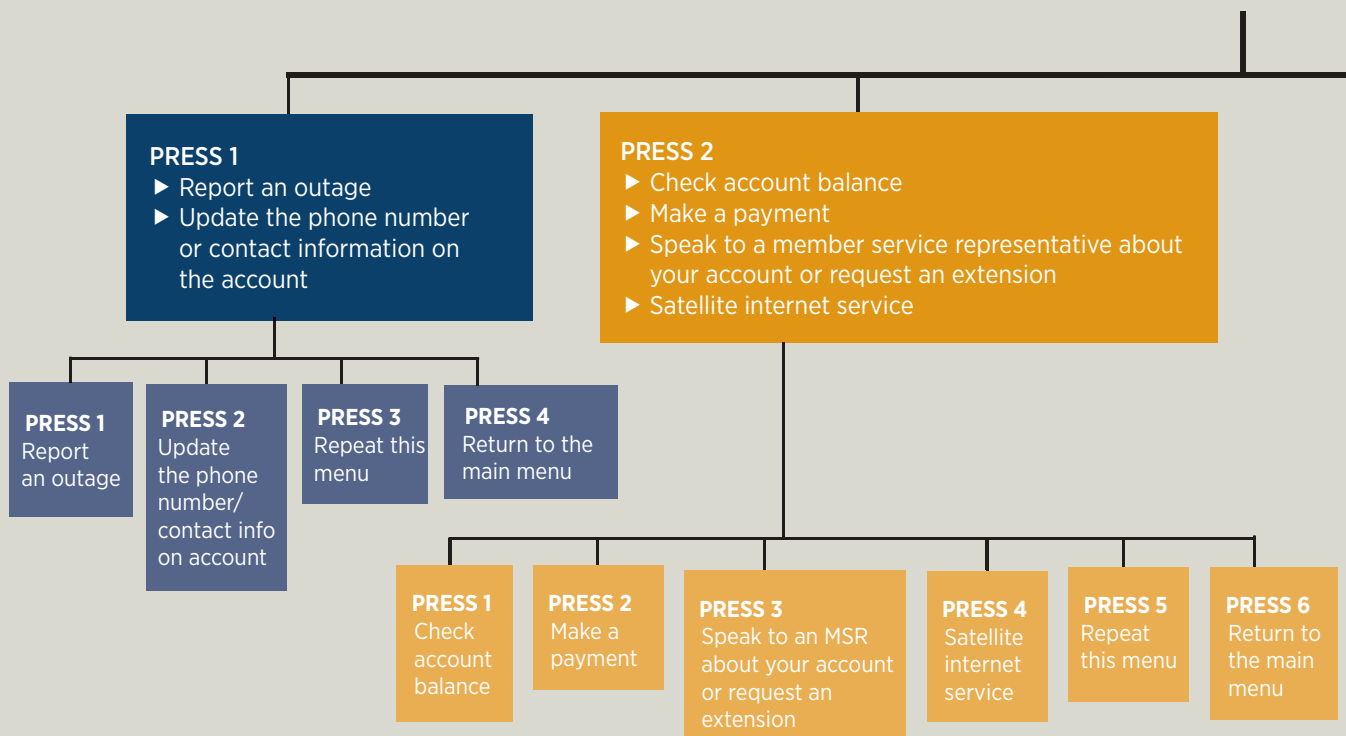


RECENTLY, WE CHANGED OUR AUTOMATED PHONE MENU

to be more user-friendly. As always, our goal is to deliver reliable, secure service when processing payments over the phone. Below, we've provided a guide to help you navigate Houston County Electric Cooperative's automated menu options.

We have not removed any features, such as the option to pay over the phone using a credit card or check; we have just rearranged them to better suit you, our members. Please note that our system will be offline from 3 to 4 p.m. and 11 p.m. to midnight daily. The closing of our payment system during these times is crucial for business operations at HCEC to continue running smoothly.

User Guide to Automated



CONNECT WITH US

Local: 936-544-5641
Toll-Free: 1-800-657-2445
Monday - Friday
8 am - 5 pm

**24 HR
OUTAGE
HOTLINE:
1-800-970-4232**



RECIPE OF THE MONTH



IK0636 | ISTOCK.COM

Turkey Enchiladas

6 cups shredded, cooked turkey
1 large onion, chopped
2 cloves garlic, minced
2 tablespoons (¼ stick) butter
1 package (1.61 ounces) brown gravy mix
1 can (19 ounces) chili without beans
1 can (10 ounces) enchilada sauce
12 corn tortillas
½ cup shredded cheddar cheese
½ cup shredded Monterey Jack cheese
Sour cream (optional)
Sliced avocado (optional)

1. Put turkey in a large mixing bowl. In a skillet, sauté onion and garlic in butter until clear. Mix with turkey and set aside.
2. In a saucepan, prepare gravy per directions on package. Stir in chili and enchilada sauce. Heat until warm, stirring occasionally.
3. Heat oven to 350 degrees. Put a small baking dish near the stovetop. Dip tortilla in gravy mixture and lay in baking dish, fill with turkey and roll up; repeat for each tortilla, putting rolled tortillas side by side. Pour remaining gravy mixture over enchiladas. Top with mixed cheeses. Bake 30–45 minutes, or until sauce is bubbling. Serve with sour cream and avocado slices, if desired.

Find this and more delicious recipes online at
TEXASCOOPPOWER.COM

Phone Menu Options

PRESS 3

- ▶ Connect, disconnect or transfer service
- ▶ Report outdoor lighting issues
- ▶ Report non-emergencies regarding your electric service

PRESS 4

- ▶ Speak to a Spanish-speaking representative

PRESS 5

- ▶ For any other issues

CALL HCEC AT
1-800-657-2445 (TOLL-FREE) OR
(936) 544-5641 (LOCAL)