
Cooperatives: Owned by Our Members, Committed to Our Communities

It is no coincidence that co-ops show a special loyalty to their communities. As member-controlled enterprises, co-ops are run largely by the people who live and work in the communities they serve. "That gives them a different perspective from businesses owned by distant investors," said Dalvin Alexander, Electric System Manager at Big Country Electric Co-op.

Cooperatives are owned and democratically controlled by the people who use their services. They are motivated by service to their members not by profits. This gives cooperatives an uncommon loyalty to the communities in which they are located. Community is not just where we work, it's why we work," said Alexander.

At a time of increasing concern about the national economy, co-ops are creating jobs, income and opportunity in their communities everyday. For co-ops it is a more personal being involved with those we live and play with everyday in our communities. Through contributions and volunteerism, co-ops support local causes ranging from education to the environment. We also invest in new community businesses.

Big Country Electric Co-op made a donation to the Hermleigh School District for much needed play ground equipment in the month of September. BCEC also purchased a podium for the Roby High School auditorium. Stamford public schools saw a generous donation for the renovation of the gymnasium and also their football field. The Snyder baseball program has also benefited from the donation of labor for lighting of the field at their baseball park.



Please join Big Country Electric Co-op in celebrating co-op month on October 13, 2006 at one of the three offices located in Roby, Snyder or Stamford.

Refreshments will be served along with an appreciation gift for all our member/owners and a free brightly colored safety Trick or Treat bag for the children.

M E M B E R G R A

BIG COUNTRY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

October 2006

WHY VOTE?

Did you know?

Several of our states including California, Idaho, Oregon, Texas and Washington became states by just ONE vote?

In 1948, Lyndon B. Johnson, our 36th president, became a U.S. senator by a ONE vote margin?

If Thomas E. Dewey had gotten ONE vote more per precinct in Ohio and California, the presidential election of 1948 would have been thrown to the U.S. House of Representatives, where Dewey enjoyed more support than his rival, incumbent Harry S. Truman. Dewey was expected to win the general election by a landslide, so most of the Republicans stayed home. Only 51.5 percent of the electorate voted in 1948 and Truman defeated Dewey.

...Because it is your fundamental right as an American and your voice in how your government works, by voting your participation determines who will represent you in your community, state and your country.

Aside from being able to register at your local election office you may also register by mail, when obtain or renew a drivers license or when you apply for or are recertified for public assistance and in agencies serving people with disabilities.

Many civic organizations and political parties sponsor registration drives at colleges and universities, shopping malls, work sites, fairs, and other community events.

In the last presidential election in 2000, 51.3 percent of the voting age population turned out to vote.

Why don't more Americans register and vote? They don't think their ONE vote will make a difference. If everyone thought that way the course of history may have been completely different.





**DON'T PASS ON YOUR DUTY TO YOUR COUNTRY
AND COMMUNITY TO VOTE!**

**EARLY VOTING BEGINS MONDAY, OCTOBER 23
ELECTION DAY IS TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 7**

This fall, Texans will once again go to the polls to elect statewide officials, members of the Texas Legislature, the U.S. Congress, and numerous local public officials.

The board of directors, management and employees of Big Country Electric Cooperative urge you to join the many thousands of electric cooperative supporters across Texas and across America in participating in the November elections by supporting the candidates of your choice.

The most basic way to participate is to vote. Plain and simple. But it's not just the act of voting – it's about casting an *informed* vote for the best person to represent you, your family, your community and your cooperative.

The political action committee for supporters of electric cooperatives in Texas is *Rural Friends of Electric Cooperatives*. Our national affiliate is the *Action Committee for Rural Electrification (ACRE)*. There are many things to consider in deciding who deserves your vote, but support on issues important to cooperatives and the communities we serve is the one held highest by Rural Friends/ACRE.

Supporting candidates who understand the unique role cooperatives play is vital to our continued success. Electric cooperatives exist because no one else was willing to provide electric service to our homes and communities so we did it ourselves – together. It took serious participation in the political process to make that happen.

Today, as in the past, decisions by elected officials affect our ability to provide you, our member-owners, with reliable and affordable electricity and to support our local communities in other vital ways.

As the Rural Friends/ACRE bylaws state, we all *“have a duty to preserve and foster the good that electric cooperatives accomplish by actively participating in the political process.”* Enough said.



(Pete Anders)

This month Big Country Electric Cooperative features two dedicated and loyal employees. Rain or shine, day or night they can be counted on to keep the lights on.

Gordon (Pete) Anders hired on at Stamford Electric Cooperative on January 23, 1979. Starting out on a service truck he learned the ins and outs of line work from experienced linemen. He advanced to apprentice lineman and worked on construction crews and now is a first class lineman at the Stamford division of Big Country Electric Coop. Pete loves to ride his motorcycle when he is not climbing poles. He and his wife Linda have been married 28 years and they have two daughters and two granddaughters. Pete says meeting people out in the field and hanging out with his friends/ coworkers are his favorite part of his job.

Paul Jones, Snyder District Operations Supervisor, began his career at Midwest Electric Co-op August 1, 1979. Paul started out as a groundman and was soon training to work hot lines from an aerial device. He has been a first class lineman for 17 years. Paul likes to fish and hunt when he is not tending to his three daughters. He and his wife Gina and the girls reside in Snyder. They attend First United Methodist Church where Paul is Chairman of the Trustees.

Knowing what is expected of them, employees such as these are what Big Country Electric Cooperative is all about. Involved in their communities and raising families alongside our member/owners, we at BCEC are proud to be associated with these men we call our friends and co-workers.



(Paul Jones)

YOUR COOP EMPLOYEES