

You're Invited to Our Annual Meeting



MESSAGE FROM GENERAL MANAGER ALAN LESLEY

As the last days of September have steadily rolled on by, we've been busy making plans for Comanche Electric Cooperative's annual meeting of the membership.

Each year, we set aside a Saturday in October dedicated to the tradition that was started 76 years ago. If you've never had the opportunity to attend, know that the annual meeting encompasses much more than a business meeting. It boasts great music, door prizes, a health fair and activities for children—not to mention an unbeatable fish fry.

Really, the annual meeting is more about the fellowship among members and employees than anything else. It is an opportunity each year for us to say "Thank you." There are 52 employees and seven board members of Comanche Elec-



We'll have plenty of delicious fried catfish, so come hungry!

tric Cooperative who are dedicated to the mission that we define as "Providing a better quality of life for those we serve."

I can say without hesitation that these folks are among the most dedicated and determined people I've had the pleasure to work with. Being dedicated is easy because, as employees, we are honored to work for members who constantly surprise us with kind words, gratitude and patience when power failures occur. Your genuine care and support during these events is very much appreciated.

So please make some time to come out, and let us say a well-deserved "Thank You" on Saturday, October 11, at Comanche City Park. While you're there, enjoy all that the Comanche Electric Cooperative annual meeting has to offer—especially the fish fry.

Attention, All Kids

Want a balloon made into the likeness of Olaf from "Frozen" or a Teenage Mutant Turtle? Want a pretty butterfly or a football painted on your cheek?

Come to CECA's 76th annual meeting and fish fry October 11 and join the fun.

Ashley Griffin from Ashley's Twist and Paint will be available for face

painting and balloon artistry.

Ashley is the granddaughter of CECA members J.C. and Marie Johnson. Let's all give her a big CECA welcome.



Join Us for the Health Fair

The annual meeting of the membership of CECA will once again be preceded by a health fair.

Beginning at 9 a.m. and ending PROMPTLY at 10 a.m., the health fair will feature info and services by the following health care businesses: Comanche Community Medical Clinic, with flu shots for the public; Goldthwaite Health and Rehab; Carter Health Care; American Cancer Society; Heart of Texas EMS; Oak Ridge Manor; Rising Star Nursing Home; The Ark in Brownwood; White Stone Retirement Home; and Texas Department of Family and Protective Services.

Air Evac Lifeteam will again be on hand with their air ambulance, inviting the CECA membership to get a close-up look and tour the craft. In addition to these listed, other vendors will be available with valuable information.

Don't miss this wonderful opportunity to learn more about your health.

Youth Tour

A whirlwind week of memories and new friends

BY RACHEL FORD

On June 12, 2014, my husband, Lee, and I traveled to Dallas-Fort Worth to begin our second experience with Government-in-Action Youth Tour. We were first given the opportunity in June 2012.

CECA holds a Youth Tour essay contest each year and sponsors two winners. The winners this year were Sam Seay of Cisco and Cy Tongate of Early.

We arrive at the hotel in the afternoon, and Sam and Cy are eager and excited to meet everyone; Lee and I feel the same way.

As the kids begin to arrive, we notice the same nervous energy from most of them. They have so many questions. "Who will I room with?" and "How do I know which flight I will be on?"

and "I have to wake up at 4 a.m.?!" are a few of the most popular.

The process of getting more than 100 kids to Washington, D.C., the next morning is seamless. We follow a process at the hotel and answer questions before the big day. The morning of the flight is busy but organized; the kids are tired but excited to arrive in D.C. Chaperones accompany the kids through the entire airport process and even sit next to them on the plane.

Two flights later, 110 youth tour participants and chaperones arrive at our nation's capital. From that point on, we are tourists from Texas wearing identical shirts and backpacks. We hit the ground running to make our first destination, the National Cathedral.

The next six days are spent visiting many of our capital city's landmarks, including the White House, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, Mount Vernon, the Lincoln Memorial and Arlington National Cemetery, to name only a few.

The youths spend Sunday evening dancing on a cruise boat on the Potomac River with youths from other states, and are even treated to opening night of the Broadway musical, "The Lion King" at the Kennedy Center.

"Capitol Day" is another special morning when the youths are able to take tours of the Capitol and visit with their congressmen. This is an important day for Sam and Cy, who are eager to meet and discuss important issues with their congressmen.

The stay in Washington, D.C., ends with a dinner and dance. As chaperones, we have the privilege of observing the youths from the beginning of the trip to the end. It is an amazing experience to watch them grow as individuals within seven days. For many of the students, this is the first experience in a large, metropolitan city. They make lifelong friends and experience the freedom of the city. Sam and Cy were no different. They made numerous friends and so many wonderful memories.

Upon arriving back in Texas, it seems as if these are not the same teens who began their journey just seven days before. Friendships have been made, a bond has been formed. Tears are shed, and goodbyes are put on hold until late in the evening.

We are all left with memories of the trip of a lifetime.



CECA

P.O. Box 729
Comanche, TX 76442

Operating in Brown, Callahan, Comanche, Eastland, Mills, Shackelford and Stephens counties

HEADQUARTERS

201 W. Wrights Ave.
Comanche, TX 76442

EARLY OFFICE

1801 CR 338
Early, TX 76801

EASTLAND OFFICE

1311 W. Main St.
Eastland, TX 76448

OFFICE HOURS

Comanche Office: Monday through Friday 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Early Office: Monday, Wednesday and Friday 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., closed from 1 to 2 p.m.

Eastland Office: Tuesday and Thursday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

YOUR LOCAL PAGES

This section of Texas Co-op Power is produced by CECA each month to provide you with information about current events, special programs and other activities of the cooperative. If you have any comments or suggestions, please contact Shirley at the Comanche office or at sdukes@ceca.coop.



CONTACT US

CALL US

(325) 356-2533 local or
1-800-915-2533 toll-free

FIND US ON THE WEB

www.ceca.coop

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BALANCE SHEET

AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2012 AND 2013

ASSETS

WHAT WE OWN

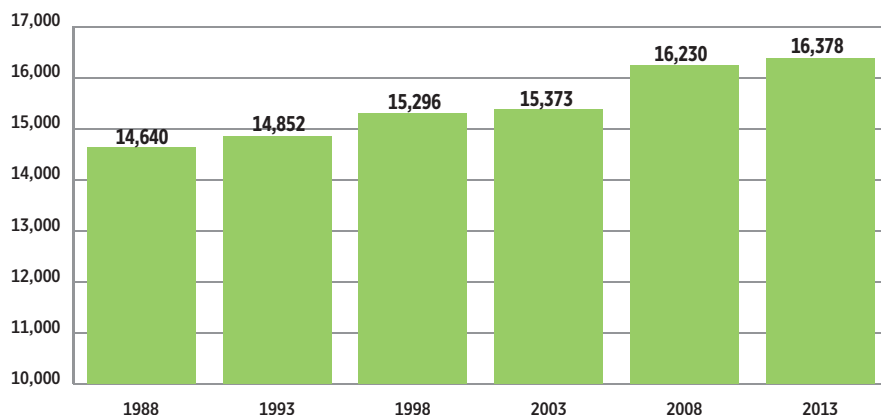
	2012	2013
Electric Lines, Equipment, Property and Buildings	\$67,049,903	\$72,400,435
Less: Accumulated Provision for Depreciation	<u>(17,517,320)</u>	<u>(18,939,832)</u>
Net Utility Plant	49,532,583	53,460,603
Nonutility Plant	54,571	50,192
Cash	361,799	507,439
Investments in Associated Organizations	10,942,006	12,141,041
Other Investments	181,217	215,443
Accounts Receivable	328,284	532,856
Construction Materials and Supplies on Hand	881,555	552,070
Miscellaneous Prepayments and Other Debits	<u>2,899,413</u>	<u>2,224,006</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	\$65,181,428	\$69,683,650

LIABILITIES AND NET WORTH

WHAT WE OWE

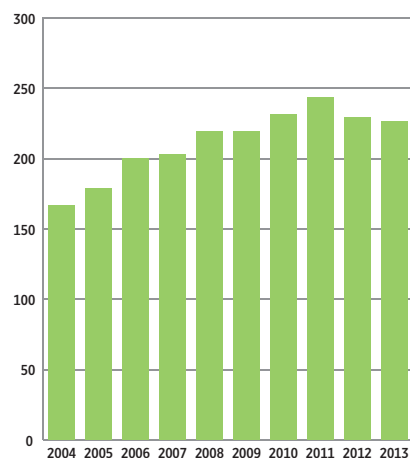
	2012	2013
Long-Term Obligations to RUS and CFC	\$73,253,455	\$79,950,791
Less: Payments When Due	<u>(39,746,732)</u>	<u>(45,524,908)</u>
Balance Due RUS and CFC Principal	33,506,723	34,425,883
Accounts Payable for Power, Materials, Supplies, Etc. . .	1,788,308	1,950,087
Deferred Credits	<u>921,861</u>	<u>2,789,784</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$36,216,892	\$39,165,754
Membership Fees	165,385	165,995
Patronage Capital and Other Equities	<u>28,799,151</u>	<u>30,351,901</u>
TOTAL NET WORTH	28,964,536	30,517,896
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET WORTH	\$65,181,428	\$69,683,650

METERS CONNECTED



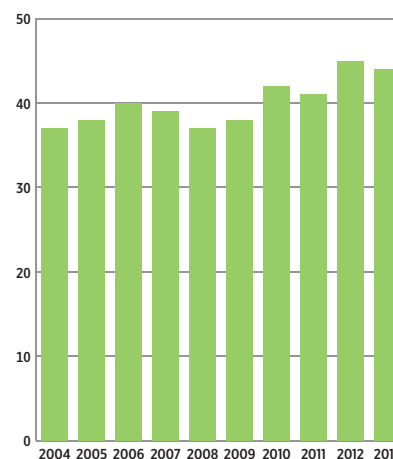
KWH SALES

IN MILLIONS OF KILOWATT-HOURS—PAST 10 YEARS



EQUITY

PERCENTAGE—PAST 10 YEARS



ASSETS

IN MILLIONS OF DOLLARS—PAST 10 YEARS



COMPARATIVE STATEMENT

INCOME AND EXPENSES

INCOME—WHERE IT CAME FROM

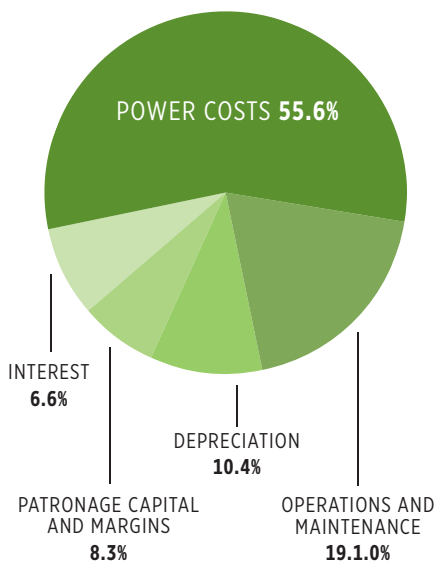
	2012	%	2013	%
Electricity Sales	\$24,199,901	91.9	\$22,072,278	90.6
Service Charges and Other Revenues	576,091	2.2	519,134	2.1
Nonoperating and Interest	1,556,636	5.9	1,763,260	7.2
TOTAL INCOME	\$26,332,628	100.0	\$24,354,672	100.0

EXPENSES—WHERE IT WENT

Purchased Power	\$13,314,741	50.5	\$13,545,747	55.6
Operating and Maintaining	4,938,289	18.8	4,661,454	19.1
Depreciation Expense	2,467,499	9.4	2,525,456	10.4
Interest on Long-Term Debt	1,594,709	6.0	1,597,075	6.6
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$22,315,238		\$22,329,732	
MEMBERS' CAPITAL CREDITS (Margins)	4,017,390	15.3	2,024,940	8.3
TOTAL EXPENSES AND CAPITAL CREDITS	\$26,332,628	100.0	\$24,354,672	100.0

USES OF REVENUE

FISCAL YEAR 2013



COMPARATIVE STATISTICS

	2012	2013
KWh Purchased	252,058,475	253,349,524
Cost of Power Purchased	\$13,314,741	\$13,545,747
KWh Sold	229,191,021	226,153,631
KWh Billing	\$22,918,823	\$22,072,278
Average Bill	\$116.63	\$112.31
Miles Energized	4,826	4,832
Meters Connected	16,376	16,378
Average KWh Used	1,166	1,151
New Services Connected	251	219
Miles of New Construction	32.29	35.53
Man-Hours Worked	109,385	111,043
Employees	49	52
Miles Driven by Cooperative Vehicles	463,979	556,108
Hours Lost Due to Accidents	0	0
Number of Lost-Time Accidents	0	0
Hours Worked Since Last Lost-Time Accident	136,181	247,223



WHERE YOUR DOLLAR WENT

YEAR	PURCHASED POWER	SYSTEM OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE	DEPRECIATION	INTEREST	MEMBERS' CAPITAL CREDITS AND MARGINS
1988	63.1	17.9	6.9	6.7	5.3
1989	59.4	19.8	7.3	7.0	6.5
1990	57.6	22.2	7.5	7.3	5.4
1991	56.7	22.8	7.9	8.1	4.5
1992	56.8	24.0	8.3	8.3	2.7
1993	56.9	20.9	7.4	7.1	7.8
1994	55.4	22.4	7.4	6.7	8.1
1995	54.9	24.3	7.5	7.1	6.2
1996	54.4	25.8	7.9	6.7	5.2
1997	56.6	26.5	8.2	6.3	2.3
1998	57.0	25.1	7.5	6.0	4.4
1999	56.1	25.0	8.3	6.9	3.6
2000	59.8	22.0	8.0	7.0	3.1
2001	60.4	21.3	8.1	6.9	3.3
2002	54.0	22.0	8.6	7.4	8.0
2003	58.1	20.5	8.0	7.0	6.4
2004	61.7	19.9	7.6	7.0	3.8
2005	66.2	17.4	6.4	6.3	3.7
2006	65.1	15.8	5.5	5.7	7.9
2007	68.1	16.7	5.7	5.9	3.6
2008	71.3	15.7	5.6	5.8	1.7
2009	66.5	17.5	6.3	6.3	3.4
2010	61.1	16.2	7.2	5.5	10.1
2011	61.0	17.5	8.6	5.7	7.2
2012	50.5	18.7	9.4	6.1	15.3
2013	55.6	19.1	10.4	6.6	8.3

WHERE YOUR REVENUE CAME FROM

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Farm and Ranch	42%	44%	42%	40%	43%
Small Commercial	48%	48%	47%	46%	37%
Large Commercial	9%	6%	9%	6%	12%
Other Revenue	<u>1%</u>	<u>2%</u>	<u>2%</u>	<u>8%</u>	<u>8%</u>
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



RANDY DENNING
DISTRICT 1



PETE MCDUGAL
DISTRICT 2



RUBY SOLOMON
DISTRICT 3



MONTY CARLISLE
DISTRICT 4



TROY STEWART
DISTRICT 5



LOREN STROEBEL
DISTRICT 6



PHIL TAYLOR
DISTRICT 7



ALAN LESLEY
GENERAL MANAGER

EMPLOYEES

Over the years, the cooperative has attracted and kept employees who are loyal and dedicated to the work of bringing dependable electric service to the members. We have some employees with many years of experience and expertise, some who have fewer years of experience and are training for additional responsibilities, and some who are just beginning. Employees listed represent more than 669 years of experience.

NAME	POSITION	YEARS OF SERVICE
Robert Atchley	Third-Class Lineman	.1
Greg Beaty	First-Class Lineman	.12
George Campbell	First-Class Lineman	.27
Aaron Carroll	Service Lineman	.6
Brenda Carroll	Payroll/Work Order Specialist	.17
David Cisneroz	PC Specialist	.4
Guy Clawson Jr.	Staking Technician	.7
Brandon Cook	First-Class Lineman	.9
Jimmy Cuellar	Customer Service Rep	.10
Monty Cunningham	Mechanic	.2
Kellie Deters	Director of Inside Operations	.24
Ricky Diaz	Apprentice Lineman	.1
Shirley Dukes	Communications/Public Information	.24
Doug Erwin	Director of Member Services	.28
Rachel Ford	Human Resource Specialist/Benefit Admin	.7
Chad Foreman	Director of IT	.8
Jennifer Hanson	Dispatch, System Operator	.15
Ryan Harris	Apprentice Lineman	.4 Months
Larry Hatley	Safety Coordinator	.27
Billy Henry	Meter Coordinator/AMR Supervisor	.37
Tommy Hesbrook	Second-Class Lineman	.4
Nancy Isham	Executive Secretary	.30
Mary Johnson	Purchasing	.16
Kendall Keith	First-Class Lineman	.17
Brandon Kidwell	Apprentice Lineman	.3 Months
Shane Kinnamon	Dispatch	.10 Months

NAME	POSITION	YEARS OF SERVICE
Alan Lesley	General Manager	.16
Jim Lester	Engineering/Mapping Supervisor/Dispatch	.18
Oracio Lopez	Service Lineman	.12
Pam McClain	Dispatch	.14
Linda McNew	Operations Clerk/Dispatch/New Construction	.2
Larry Morgan	District Foreman	.31
Chad Newman	Grounds Maintenance	.13
Dale Ogle	Warehouse	.9
Timothy Pallette	First-Class Lineman	.16
Jenny Parker	Customer Service Rep	.10 Months
Tommy Patterson	Meter Technician	.12
Bobby Reed	First-Class Lineman	.31
Justin Riley	Working Crew Foreman	.7
Scott Rutledge	Second-Class Lineman	.7
Jill Sadberry	Director of Accounting and Finance	.16
Jake Schwartz	Third-Class Lineman	.1
Thomas Stevens	Third-Class Lineman	.2
Keith Steward	Lineman/Power Quality	.11
Eddie Strube	Director of Outside Operations	.32
Jerry Strube	Mechanic	.25
Adam Tally	Service Lineman	.7
Shelley Thedford	Customer Service Rep/Collection Officer	.15
Michael Tiemann	Apprentice Lineman	.1
Elizabeth Weathermon	Assistant Accountant	.2
William Works	Working Crew Foreman	.33



The Robinson Oak stands off FM 591 between Hamilton and Comanche.

Storied Oaks

The Famous Trees of Our Area

BY LUCCHESI GORDON

Texas is full of famous trees. Some are famous for their beauty, some for their size and some for their historical importance, but all are beloved icons of their communities. Our little piece of Texas is no different.

The Robinson Oak

The Robinson Oak stands in the middle of what used to be Hazel Dell, between Hamilton and Comanche. Hazel Dell, which consisted of a store, saloon, post office and this tree, might have been a small settlement in the 1800s, but it was known as one of the roughest places in Texas. Tradition says that only one of the original 10 settlers “died with his boots off.” That settler was William “Choctaw Bill” Robinson.

Robinson arrived in Texas in 1848, accompanied by his wife and 14 children. After receiving his license, he formed or pastored at least 20 churches. He later claimed he had “preached on the Texas frontier from the Red River to the Rio Grande.” It was this industrious parson who gave the first sermons in Comanche County and Brown County.

As there was no church building in Hazel Dell, Robinson taught under this tree, leaning his rifle in its fork and preaching to anyone who would listen. He was jokingly called “Choctaw Bill” after a group of Native Americans who came to hear him speak, lost interest and walked out, supposedly telling the locals that Robinson must have been lying because he talked for too long.

Today, Hazel Dell is gone, but the oak remains, just off FM 591 in Comanche County.

The Fleming Oak

In 1854, William Washington Fleming and son Martin traveled from East Texas to scope out the land that would become Comanche County. Fertile, empty, free land was extremely tempting but also extremely dangerous. One night during their journey, when the two were camped in a small clump of oak trees, a group of Native Americans pounding through on horseback jolted them awake. Martin dived behind a tree to save himself. After the natives passed through, he found the front of the tree riddled with arrows.

Years passed, and the town of Comanche grew up around the clump of oak trees. Martin Fleming became a beloved and respected man, known as

“Uncle Mart” to everyone in the community. “His” tree stood on the corner of the courthouse square, not far from the butcher shop he owned and operated.

But times were changing by 1912. To make way for automobiles, the city decided to cut down all the trees on the courthouse square. Some decisions are easier made than carried out, however. When the workers approached the oak, they were met by Uncle Mart. Some accounts record that he had a gun, some that he stood his ground empty-handed, but regardless of method, Mart was successful. Now known as the Fleming Oak, the tree still stands on the square, casting shade over Old Cora, the oldest log courthouse in Texas.

The Halfway Oak

On Arbor Day 2011, the massive tree known as the Halfway Oak became the first tree since 1970 to earn the official title of “Famous Tree of Texas.” Ranked third on Texas A&M’s “Finest Trees in Texas” list, the Halfway Oak is a majestic sight, a three-armed giant with two huge trunks growing upward and one running horizontally above the ground.

In the early days of Stephens County, the oak marked the halfway point between Cisco and Breckenridge and on the stagecoach line between Stephenville and Fort Griffin. The oak was a major landmark and a common resting spot for travelers. It even appears on a map of Stephens County drawn in 1858.

In the 1970s, construction workers were poised to cut it down for the expansion of U.S. 183, but the community put up such an uproar that officials were forced to modify their plans. Today, the Halfway Oak is at the center of a comfortable little rest stop on the side of U.S. 183.



The Halfway Oak can be easily seen from U.S. 183 between Cisco and Breckenridge.



The Fleming Oak and Old Cora on the corner of the Comanche city square.

TEXAS FOREST SERVICE ACCEPTING NOMINATIONS

Do you have or know about a tree that you believe should be on the Famous Trees of Texas register or Texas A&M’s Big Tree register? The Texas A&M Forest Service is accepting nominations for Famous Trees of Texas, hoping to expand the roster to 100 trees by their 100th anniversary in 2015.

To find the criteria a tree must meet for consideration, go to the Texas A&M Forest Service’s Famous Trees website and choose the “Nominate a Tree” tab. Or, if you think your tree might qualify for the Big Tree Registry, read the details on the Texas A&M Forest Service website at texasforestservicetamu.edu.

Note: Neither of the registers mentioned is restricted to oaks. This article featured oaks because they are common in our area.