

School Days in Co-op Country



MESSAGE FROM GENERAL MANAGER ALAN LESLEY

BY THIS TIME OF THE YEAR, most students are well on their way to being settled back into their school year routine. For parents, back-to-school time across Texas is a bittersweet reminder of the passage of time as we watch our children grow and become increasingly

independent. It's also a time when we think about their safety and their future.

At Comanche Electric Cooperative, we share that concern. That's why we are looking out for the safety of our children. With the beginning of every school year, our lineworkers keep an eye out for students on their way to and from school. Sometimes it means helping a broken-down school bus. Other times it means using our mobile communication systems to report a traffic problem or a suspicious occurrence in a neighborhood. It always means being there to lend a hand, whatever the problem.

Being committed to the communities we serve means much more than just making sure your electric service is reliable.

Even in these days when electric utilities face competition that's getting tougher every day, going the extra mile in member and community service is standard operating procedure for electric cooperatives. It has to be that way because electric

cooperatives are unique. Every day, we hear reports of other utility companies closing their local offices and moving out of town to save money. When that happens, their customers have to do business long distance, frequently talking to people hundreds and sometimes thousands of miles away.

Comanche EC is different. Our first obligation is to our members. You can still stop by the local office and talk to someone you know about any part of your service. When you call us, you'll speak to someone close by who knows the community and what's happening in it. Being a local electric cooperative means doing business close to home.

Because our members are also our owners, CECA gives first consideration to what's in the members' best interest. At first glance, it might seem that there is little connection between school kids waiting for their bus and the line crew in the co-op truck. But look again. Members of the line crew might have kids waiting for the school bus alongside your kids. Making sure all our children stay safe is part of what holds local communities together. It's part of the work we take pride in every day.



*Cultivating a
Brighter Future
For Our Students*



See Pages 22-27 to learn about the opportunities CECA offers our students.

Save the Date October 8, 2016

Join us under the Big Top
for our 78th Annual Meeting.
Entertainment by Class of '57,
with Ashley's Twist and Paint
for our younger members.
Lunch catered by Cook's Fish Barn.
Look for details in next month's issue
of *Texas Co-op Power*.



HAPPY Labor Day

Comanche EC will be closed
Monday, September 5, in
observance of Labor Day.

As always, crews will be on standby
in the event of power quality issues.



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–Friday,
7:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m.

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

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

General Manager

Alan Lesley

Board of Directors

Randy Denning, District 1
Pete McDougal, District 2
Ruby Solomon, District 3
Monty Carlisle, District 4
Troy Stewart, District 5
Loren Stroebe, District 6
Phil Taylor, District 7

Report an Outage

CECA crews are available 24/7 in the
event of a power quality issue by
calling 1-800-915-2533.

Contact Us

CALL US

1-800-915-2533 toll-free

FIND US ON THE WEB

www.cecacoop



facebook.com/CECA.coop

BACK TO SCHOOL!

Every year, kids big and small head back to school—back to new teachers, new classes and new opportunities. Let CECA be a part of this exciting new adventure!

From trips and scholarships for the upperclassmen to arcing demos and truck days for the little ones, CECA has many programs to fit your school's needs.

For questions about any of our programs, contact the CECA Member Services Department at 1-800-915-2533 or memberservices@ceca.coop.

Don't see what you are looking for? Contact us for customized programs.





Check out the following pages for information on:

- **Scholarships**
- **Government-in-Action Youth Tour**
- **Student Leadership Conference**
- **Arcing Demos**
- **Big Truck Days**
- **Ignite the Flight**
- **Classroom Grants**

For inquiries concerning any of our school programs, contact the CECA Member Services Department at 1-800-915-2533, or email at memberservices@ceca.coop. All information and applications are available at www.ceca.coop and also should be on file in area school counselors' offices.

Scholarships

THE CECA SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM awards six \$1,000 scholarships to deserving students each year. Four of the scholarships are awarded through the CECA Scholarship for Excellence program, and two come from our Operation Round-Up program. Eligible students must be claimed as dependents of parents or legal guardians who are active CECA members. They must maintain a 2.0 GPA on a 4.0 scale and must meet general entrance requirements at an accredited school. The applicant can be a graduating senior or a student enrolled in a college or university.

To apply for the scholarship, visit ceca.coop or contact your school counselor. Applications may be completed and submitted online. They also may be printed and sent to CECA, Attn: Shirley Dukes, P.O. Box 729, Comanche, TX 76442, or emailed to sdukes@ceca.coop. Applicants also may drop the completed forms by any of our three offices.

Questions concerning the scholarship should be directed to Shirley Dukes at 1-800-915-2533, or by email to sdukes@ceca.coop. The deadline for entries for the scholarships is April 24, 2017.

“An investment in knowledge pays the best interest.”

Benjamin Franklin

The recipients of the 2016 scholarships are:

Scholarship for Excellence



London Jones
Dublin ISD



Holli Hullum
Early ISD



Kaitlyn Hickman
Comanche ISD



Brooke Tomlinson
Hamilton ISD

Operation Round-Up Scholarship



Mitchell Moreno
Eastland ISD



Jordan Chasteen
Blanket ISD

Government-in-Action Youth Tour

EACH YEAR, COMANCHE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE SPONSORS one or two students to attend the Government-in-Action Youth Tour to Washington, D.C. The 10-day tour includes visits to the National Cathedral, Lincoln Memorial, Mount Vernon and the Smithsonian Institution, as well as a host of other national sites. The students also have the opportunity to have dinner at The Hard Rock Cafe, shop at Union Station and go to dances.

The contest is open to any student, sophomore and above, who attends a school where Comanche Electric Cooperative has facilities, or any student whose parents or legal guardians are members of Comanche Electric Cooperative.

Qualifying schools are: Albany, Baird, Bangs, Blanket, Breckenridge, Brownwood, Cisco, Comanche, Cross Plains, De Leon, Dublin, Early, Eastland, Goldthwaite, Gorman, Gustine, May, Moran, Mullin, Priddy, Ranger, Rising Star, Sidney and Zephyr.

This is an all-expenses-paid trip, and the winning students receive airfare, transportation, lodging, meals, insurance and admission charges associated with the tour.

Applications may be completed and submitted online. They also may be printed and sent to CECA, Attn: Shirley Dukes, P.O. Box 729, Comanche, TX 76442, or emailed to sdukes@ceca.coop. Applicants also may drop the completed forms by any of our three offices.

Questions concerning Youth Tour should be directed to Shirley Dukes at 1-800-915-2533, or by email to sdukes@ceca.coop.

The deadline for entries for the 2017 Youth Tour contest is December 30.

The winning participants for the 2016 Government-in-Action Youth Tour were Reagan Bills and Sierra Gordon. The duo was accompanied by CECA lineman Adam Tally, who attended as a chaperone.



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White House



Iwo Jima Parade



Mount Vernon

Student Leadership Conference

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU MIX 100-plus high school juniors in a room with some talented leaders? You get 100-plus MORE talented leaders!

Each year, CECA invites area schools to send their top leaders in the junior class to the one-day, all-expenses-paid Student Leadership Conference.

The purpose of this conference is to introduce high school students to different aspects of leadership, and methods that will propel them to greater leadership roles and to enhance those skills through hands-on activities, speaking opportunities and fun-filled events.

The students are mentored by individuals from area communities who guide them in their activities and demonstrate and discuss the qualities required to be a leader.

At the close of the day, students reassemble into their classroom groups, where they brainstorm community service projects within their schools and/or communities. They then form a plan as to how the project could be brought to fruition through work and monetary donations. Students are encouraged to go back to their respective communities and follow through with their plans.

The 2016-17 CECA Student Leadership Conference will be held November 16 at the Lake Brownwood 4-H Center. The deadline for applications is October 28. Be sure to get your application in early, as this conference fills up quickly!



Arcing Demos

EVERYONE OF EVERY AGE should view the CECA arcing demo! In addition to being extremely entertaining (we make lots of noise and blow things up), students and adults alike learn the dangers of coming into contact with electricity and how to avoid these dangers. After viewing this demonstration, attendees have a much deeper appreciation of what runs through electrical lines, the precautions that need to be taken, and what to do if someone comes into contact with electricity.

To schedule an Arcing Demo, contact the CECA Member Service Department at 1-800-915-2533.



Big Truck Days

YOUNGER CHILDREN GET A GREAT THRILL out of viewing CECA's utility truck, watching the lift bucket soar into the sky and hearing our linemen talk about their experiences. Toy hard hats are presented to children as they watch the linemen maneuver the bucket.

To schedule a demonstration for Big Truck Days, contact the CECA Member Service Department at 1-800-915-2533.



Ignite the Flight Portfolio Training

IGNITE THE FLIGHT PORTFOLIO TRAINING is the brainchild of former coach and school administrator Ronnie Clifton. During his 40 years in public school education, Clifton served as a coach and teacher, athletic director and principal.

Following his retirement as principal of Comanche High School, Clifton taught a class that focused on preparation for higher education, career-path research, workforce readiness and potential military eligibility. His curriculum encouraged students to take rigorous classes in school and learn how to balance the academic load with extracurricular activities, work and community service through organizational skills.

As a result of his success in preparing students for life after high school, Clifton designed a digital online portfolio-building program. During the program, he trains students on how to build a portfolio, what type of items to include and how to use it for their future. He also speaks to the students to encourage each one to set goals and use the designed portfolio to assist them in attaining those goals.

In addition to the student program, Clifton also presents professional programs for adult staff members.



For the Teacher: Classroom Grants

THE CECA OPERATION ROUND-UP CLASSROOM GRANT PROGRAM is sponsored by the membership of Comanche Electric Cooperative through the Operation Round-Up program.

Because youth education is so critical, the Operation Round-Up Board of Directors approved offering five Classroom Grants of up to \$1,000 each.

An eligible project, educational tool or field trip should offer students an expanded learning opportunity that complements and reinforces classroom study. The project, educational tool or field trip is limited only by the imagination of the teacher and students, and the resources available.

Any K-12 classroom teacher whose school or community is served by CECA, or whose students' homes are served by CECA, may apply for the grant. The list of qualifying schools includes: Albany, Baird, Bangs, Blanket, Breckenridge, Brownwood, Cisco, Comanche, Cross Plains, De Leon, Early, Eastland, Goldthwaite, Gorman, Gustine, Hamilton, May, Moran, Mullin, Priddy, Ranger, Rising Star, Sidney and Zephyr.

Grants are limited to one per school per year. Each school may file multiple applications and are encouraged to do so to increase the chances of being awarded a grant, but only one application per school will be approved.

The applications will be judged by the Operation Round-Up Board and an appointed CECA group. Applications will be judged on the following criteria:

- A project, educational tool or field trip that demonstrates cooperation among students.
- A project, educational tool or field trip appropriate for age and grade levels.
- A project, educational tool or field trip that encourages a high level of student involvement.
- A project, educational tool or field trip that indicates coordination with Comanche Electric Cooperative.
- A project, educational tool or field trip that focuses on student learning.
- Overall quality of the application and adherence to grant guidelines.

The CECA Operation Round-Up Classroom Grant entry form is available online at www.ceca.coop. Click on Member Benefits and then Operation Round-Up. The form can be completed and submitted online by 5 p.m., September 30. It also can be downloaded as a PDF, filled out and sent to CECA, P.O. Box 729, Comanche, TX 76442, postmarked no later than September 30; or emailed to sdukes@ceca.coop.