

# CECA Members Hear Updates, Nominate Directors at Meetings

CECA MEMBERS IN DISTRICTS 3, 5 AND 6 met in July to conduct cooperative business and share important updates.

## District Meeting Results

Each district meeting had a quorum of members present, allowing members to make nominations for directors who represent their respective districts on the CECA Board of Directors.

At the District 6 meeting, held July 14 at Mitchell Baptist Church in Cisco, Loren Stroebel was renominated to serve another three-year term on the board. Stroebel was the only nomination made at the meeting.

At the District 5 meeting, held July 15 at May Fire Station, Troy Stewart was renominated for another three-year term. Stewart was the only nomination at the meeting.

At the District 3 meeting, held July 17 at the CECA headquarters in Comanche, longtime board member Ruby Solomon did not seek renomination after 22 years of dedicated service. CECA is grateful for the leadership Solomon has provided over the years and wishes her the very best in retirement. She will continue to serve on the

CECA has experienced significant growth in its kilowatt-hour sales and kilowatt demand since 2018. This six-year growth reflects increased energy consumption in our large commercial and industrial rate class in recent years.

CECA is exploring opportunities with larger commercial and industrial loads, like artificial intelligence data centers, that can provide longer-term benefits to members. The cooperative is working to responsibly develop these projects within its service territory where it is feasible.

The Texas Legislature passed several bills this year that affect electric cooperatives and their members. This includes new legislation impacting:

- ▶ Wildfire and storm protection
- ▶ Solar consumer protection
- ▶ Grid security
- ▶ New electric generation

House Bill 3448, which would have infringed on property owner rights through forced easements and regulated rental rates while creating liability issues for utility pole owners, was successfully defeated by electric cooperatives. The bill, as drafted, was harmful to co-ops in many ways.

Without the voices of members through Voices for Cooperative Power, co-ops wouldn't have been able to defeat this bill. VCP is a grassroots network of more than 1.1 million advocates who help shape energy policy. VCP provides a platform for members to share their stories with policymakers, ensuring that rural communities have a voice in decisions affecting reliable, affordable power. Members can sign up at [voicesforcooperativepower.com](https://voicesforcooperativepower.com) to receive updates and advocacy opportunities.

Co-ops Vote is a nonpartisan resource that helps electric cooperative members understand how voting impacts energy policy. The website, [vote.coop](https://vote.coop), provides voter registration tools, candidate information and resources to help members make informed decisions about energy issues. Access these helpful tools to learn how public policy affects your electric cooperative.

Oncor's Dinosaur-Longshore 765-kilovolt transmission line project is moving through the regulatory process. This project is not associated with CECA, but it will impact our service area and many of our members' properties. The proposed line will connect the Dinosaur Switch near Glen Rose in Somervell County to the existing Longshore Switch about 4.5 miles west of Forsan in Howard County.

The regulatory timeline, according to Oncor, shows plans to file an application with the Public Utility Commission of Texas by December, with a decision expected in June 2026. Right-of-way acquisition would begin in late 2026 or 2027, construction would start in 2027, and the estimated in-service date is 2028 or 2029.

## Looking Ahead

District meetings demonstrate the cooperative principle of Democratic Member Control. Members are not simply customers; they're owners with a direct voice in CECA's leadership and operations.

Member involvement ensures CECA continues to reflect the values and needs of Central Texas farmers and ranchers.

CECA's annual meeting of the membership will be held in October. Details on time and location will be announced soon. This represents another opportunity for members to connect and influence their cooperative's future. ■



TOP ROW: District 6 meeting door prize-winners, from left, Jane Smith with her drill, Ronnie Pierce with his air circulator and Nathan West with his extension cord.

MIDDLE ROW: District 5 meeting prizewinners, from left, Bo Allen with his drill, Jerry Simmons with his air circulator and Dixon Seider with his extension cord.

BOTTOM ROW: District 3 meeting prizewinners, from left, Julia Munn with her drill, Thomas Singleton with his air circulator and Jerry Neeley with his extension cord.

board until a new director is seated after the election at the co-op's annual meeting in October.

Bryan Morris and Jason Davis were nominated at the meeting by District 3 members. Both candidates will appear on the ballot at CECA's annual meeting, when the full membership will vote to fill the position.

At each meeting, CECA presented a slideshow answering frequently asked member questions about several key topics affecting the cooperative and its members. Every attendee received a cookie, drink and \$15 bill credit.

## Co-op Updates

At the meetings, members heard updates about growth in the co-op's service area, the recent legislative session and Oncor's transmission line project, which will impact many members' properties. Members are encouraged to reach out to our member service department with any further questions.