Celebrating 75 Years of People Power

MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT/CEO DARRYL SCHRIVER

Taylor Electric Cooperative has been on a 75-year journey. Traveling through the decades, we’ve listened to our members, adopted new technology and collected advanced machinery. The past 75 years have been all about making changes to deliver innovation.

Change is possible only because the pioneers before us built the foundation. Our ancestors, the ones who once lived without electricity, may have lived life a little differently than us, but they had the same spirit. They had the determination to fight through the struggle even when everyone else thought it was impossible.

When we gather for the 75th annual meeting next month, we’ll celebrate the early pioneers who saw the impossible, the determined generations who dared to follow in their footsteps, and those who continue to follow. Because in the end, your electricity comes from people power—people power that is just alive today as it was 75 years ago.

Those who collected $5 membership fees in the 1930s changed the course of history for generations to come, and those who work today are setting the stage for the future. In today’s fast-paced, changing world of technology, we adapt while taking our values with us and staying true to our founding principles. But while some things still remain the same, all change is made for you, the member.

You see, that’s what sets us apart, makes a difference and what we aspire to pack on our next 75-year journey. I hope you will see in the next few pages that the story still lives.
Mail Ballots To Be Accepted at This Year’s Annual Meeting

Members who cannot attend Taylor Electric Cooperative’s annual meeting on April 24 can vote by casting their ballot through the mail. Each cooperative member is entitled to one vote.

Absentee ballots will be available upon request from the cooperative. Call (325) 793-8500 to have a ballot sent to your home or business. You will receive a prepaid envelope for the ballot return.

Absentee ballots must be postmarked by April 22. All ballots will be deposited into a secure ballot box, which will be opened by election administrators.

Members To Vote on Articles of Incorporation

For 75 years, the Taylor Electric Cooperative Board of Directors has worked to operate on a low-cost model with high value, display transparency and conduct business under the framework of best practices. The board of directors routinely reviews the cooperative’s bylaws with an eye toward the long-term governance of the cooperative. Recent court decisions, state and federal legislation, and best practices all influence the status of the bylaws, which require updates to ensure compliance and effectiveness.

The Taylor EC Board of Directors adopted a change to the bylaws in the fall of 2012 to reduce the size of the board to seven. The directors used the national cooperative model bylaws provided by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

The Articles of Incorporation reflecting these changes will be presented to members at the 75th annual meeting on April 24. Bringing this matter before the membership is another example of Taylor Electric Cooperative’s commitment to its members, who own the cooperative.

From Nine to Seven

Taylor Electric Cooperative members will notice a change when filling out their ballots this year. Members will vote for one director instead of the usual three. This reflects a change made to the bylaws in the fall of 2012 to reduce the number of directors from nine to seven.

The new seven-member board is modeled after similar governing boards in the area such as school boards and those of other cooperatives. Having fewer directors will save cooperative members money while still providing organizational accountability.

The current board structure calls for three directors from each population zone, resulting in a board of nine directors. The new seven-director board calls for two directors from each zone and one at-large director. This year, instead of electing a director from each zone, one at-large director will be elected.
There were more people who thought we wouldn’t get electric power in the country than there were who thought we would. One of the great thrills of those early struggles was arriving home one night, flipping a switch and having electric light in our home.”

—Sam Butman Jr., remembering the first annual meeting held in September 1939 during his speech at the 19th annual meeting (Abilene Reporter News, April 1960)

“I did not know that my granddad was a member of the original board from 1939-41 until I went to work at Taylor EC in August of 1977. When I told my dad that I was going to work for Taylor Electric, he told me that my granddaddy was on the board. He remembered my granddad going out to sign up those first members and getting their $5 membership to build line in the Potosi and Hamby area. I had not known my Granddad very well since he passed away when I was 75 years of People Power

The members, employees and board members of Taylor Electric have made a lot of progress in 75 years. Without the dedication of the early pioneers, the advancements of those who followed and today’s innovation, we would not be where we are today.

ABOVE: Paula Dudley was named Miss Taylor Electric Cooperative of 1960 at the 19th annual meeting. It was at this meeting that members voted to amend the articles of incorporation to stagger the terms of the nine directors and celebrated the 25th anniversary of the REA (Abilene Reporter News, April 1960).
was about 12. I had seen the picture [of the original board]
that is now across the hall from our boardroom but hadn’t
paid much attention. I had been working here a couple
months when I was told who was in the image. When I
looked, there was Grandpa just about the way I remem-
bered him. To me, it was just one of those things that hap-
pens in our life. It was an opportunity to do something to
make life better for himself and the community. Who knew
it would wind up being the opportunity for his grandson to
take care of his great-great-grandchildren, send them to col-
lege and see grandchildren of his own. His time and effort,
along with those early directors just like our directors today,
are examples of ‘paying it forward.’ Just goes to show you
never know how an effort to help people just will not go
unrewarded.”

—James McKee, Director of Business Development

“Seventy-five years of innovation. 75 years of listening to
the member-owners, 75 years of keeping the cooperative
local and 75 years of being a part of our communities might
be just what the member in 1939 envisioned—but could not
quite expect.”

—Darryl Schriver, President/CEO

ABOVE: The annual meeting has had its
own changes over the years, but it still
remains a time for members to have a
voice and signifies the importance of
being a member-owner. Don’t miss the
75th annual meeting on April 24.

RIGHT: Willie Wiredhand gained a new
friend, CFL Charlie, when Taylor Electric
became a Touchstone Energy Cooperative.
Employee Spotlight

We’d like to wish a happy anniversary to our employees who have served 10 years or more this month.

JIMMY DON ROGERS
29 years

STEVEN ROSS
18 years

JOSH FOSS
14 years

DARRYL SCHRIVER
12 years

Happy retirement to Greg Henderson. Greg worked at Taylor Electric for 36 years before retiring in January. We thank him for his many years of dedicated service.

Apply Today

2014 Taylor Electric Scholarship
Deadline Approaching

Each spring, Taylor Electric Cooperative offers multiple $1,000 scholarships to high school seniors who are residential Taylor EC members.

To be considered, students must submit a completed application by 5 p.m. April 1, 2014. All submitted applications will be scored by three area educators.

Applications can be found at taylorelectric.com under “Community Connections.”

For more information, contact:

Communications Director Elizabeth McVey, (325) 793-8508, elizabeth.mcvey@taylorelectric.coop

Communications Representative Allison Carroll, (325) 793-8542, allison.carroll@taylorelectric.coop

Golden Spread EC Scholarship

Students who are eligible for the Taylor Electric Cooperative Scholarship can also apply for the Golden Spread Electric Cooperative Scholarship. The scholarship is $2,000, payable at $500 for each of four semesters through the sophomore year.

Applications can be found at gsec.coop. Applications must be submitted by March 15, 2014.
HIT THE ROAD AND SAVE.

GET BIG SAVINGS ON HOTELS, RENTAL CARS AND OTHER TRAVEL NEEDS—AS WELL AS ONLINE SHOPPING AND MORE—FROM A WIDE RANGE OF NATIONAL RETAILERS WITH YOUR CO-OP CONNECTIONS CARD. ANOTHER MEMBER BENEFIT BROUGHT TO YOU BY YOUR ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE.

FIND ALL THE WAYS TO SAVE AT TAYLOR ELECTRIC.COM
Lightning kills as many as 2,000 people worldwide every year. Hundreds more people are struck but survive, usually with lingering and debilitating symptoms. Here are some things you can do to avoid electrical storms or decrease your chances of getting struck.

**Safety Tips**
- If outside, seek refuge in a car or grounded building when lightning or thunder begins.
- If inside, avoid taking baths or showers, and washing dishes. Also avoid using landline phones, televisions and other appliances that conduct electricity. If your home's electronics aren't protected by a surge protector, it's best to unplug them.
- Stay inside for 30 minutes after you last see lightning or hear thunder. People have been struck by lightning from storms centered as far as 10 miles away.
- If caught outside away from a building or car, stay clear of water bodies and tall objects such as trees. Find a low spot or depression and crouch down as low as possible, but don’t lie down on the ground. Lightning can move in and along the ground surface, and many victims are not struck by bolts, but by this current.

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Birds often use power lines as a resting spot and return to flight unharmed. But if we contact a power line, it could be deadly. Do you know why?

**Power Line Facts and Myths**

If birds can touch electrical wires, are they safe for people, too? If you’re not on a metal ladder, are you clear of danger from power line electrocution?

Know for sure before you take a chance with your life.

First, the facts: Electricity is always looking for the shortest and easiest path to the ground, a path that can include people and objects that touch or come too close to power lines. Electricity is fast—it travels at the speed of light in a vacuum—and it can cause severe burns or death if it flows through the human body. Take power line safety seriously. Read on to find the facts on the following myths:

**MYTH:** Wires must be safe to touch if birds can land on them.
**FACT:** Birds don’t represent a direct path to the ground, giving electricity nowhere to go but back to the wire. It’s easier for the current to simply stay in the wire. Humans do provide a direct path, so touching a power line is not safe for humans.

**MYTH:** Power lines are safe to touch because they’re insulated.
**FACT:** Most lines are insulated only to protect against slight tree contact, but not enough to prevent human injury. Don’t touch them!

**MYTH:** It’s safe to rest nonmetal ladders on a power line.
**FACT:** Anything that can get wet can conduct electricity, and many nonmetal ladders still contain metal parts. Keep your ladder away from power lines, no matter its material.

**MYTH:** Ladders are safe near power lines as long as they don’t touch them.
**FACT:** Electricity can “jump,” especially when a good conductor such as a metal ladder comes close. Keep a safe distance of at least 10 feet.

**MYTH:** Trimming trees close to power lines is safe if I don’t use a ladder.
**FACT:** Metal isn’t the only thing that conducts electricity—the moisture in the tree can also. If a tree comes into contact with the line while you’re trimming, it has a direct path to the ground through the tree; your pruning tool and you. Call your electric cooperative when it’s time to trim trees near power lines.
TRUTH BE TOLD, YOUR ELECTRICITY COMES FROM PEOPLE POWER.

Thankfully, there’s one energy source that co-op members can always depend on—the hard-working dedication and efficiency of your electric co-op linemen. Learn more about the power of your co-op membership at TogetherWeSave.com.