

# Looking Ahead to New Cooperative Opportunities



## MESSAGE FROM GENERAL MANAGER KATHI CALVERT

**CO-OPS ARE COOL, AND THAT BODES WELL FOR OUR FUTURE.** That's not only our sentiment at Houston County Electric Cooperative; it's also shared by Mel Coleman, outgoing president of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

"We may be 75 years old, but we're the center of activity like never before," Coleman said during an address at the 2017 NRECA Annual Meeting. "Our challenges might be difficult, but our choice should be very easy because there's never been a better time to be part of the electric cooperative movement."

We couldn't agree more.

### Fuel of the Future

Working from its firm foundation in the past, the cooperative model fits neatly with the forward-looking spirit of the times. An accelerated drive to develop and expand technology—and to put it to use for the benefit of co-op communities—places electric cooperatives in the vanguard of the industry.

Co-ops are positioned to take advantage of technological developments that could mean an even bigger role for electricity—"the fuel of the future"—in people's lives.

"It's possible, maybe even probable, that in our lifetimes, electricity will be the energy source for the vast majority of our vehicles, heating systems, and other home, farm and business needs," Coleman said.

### Cool for the Community

This timely outlook extends beyond electricity and technology to community-minded uses of resources and collaboration.

At an uncertain moment of division in the country, for example, disaffected Americans are relying on co-ops to fulfill their needs. Millennials are using co-ops as a tool for social media organizing and social service programs. Cooperatives continue to help vulnerable groups including members who are seniors, disabled people, veterans and families in need, plus the organizations that assist them.

"The concern for the people we serve gives us an ideal platform to influence energy policy in ways that put our communities, consumer and our members first," Coleman said. "Put simply: Co-ops are cool."

### Going Above and Beyond

Cooperatives face an unprecedented opportunity to take advantage of the high-profile position that we now occupy. We look forward to going above and beyond our longstanding commitment to safe and reliable service at a reasonable price, providing greater benefits for our members by capitalizing on the progressive thinking that has always animated the co-op movement.

As Coleman said, "Now that we're in the spotlight, we must be great."



ANDRESR | ISTOCK.COM

Happy  
Father's Day  
from Houston County EC  
Sunday, June 18



JAN HANUS | ISTOCK.COM

FLAG DAY  
Wednesday, June 14

# Prevent DIY Projects From Landing You in the Hospital

**SUMMER HAS A WAY OF SPROUTING** do-it-yourselfers. If you like to work around your house and yard, make sure you take the proper steps to do it safely, using these tips:

Everybody likes to feel like the master of their domain, but it's best to leave complicated jobs—especially those involving electricity—to the professionals. Even the most seasoned amateur handymen and women should stay away from jobs that could put them in danger of injury or starting a fire.

If you do work with electricity, your tools need to have insulated grips to keep them from conducting a current into your body.

Switch off the circuit breaker that corresponds to the project you'll be working on.



CATHERINE YEUET | ISTOCK.COM

**Wear long sleeves, protective shoes and long pants when mowing or working around the yard.**

in use, stop using it. Take the tool to a manufacturer-authorized repair center for service.

Shield your eyes with safety goggles and ears with hearing protection, and suit up with heavy-duty gloves, dust masks and other safety gear recommended for each tool before you power up.

Wear sturdy, protective shoes or boots, and long pants and sleeves when using power tools—even your lawn mower. Tie back long hair, jewelry, hoodie strings, scarves and other loose-dangling items that could get caught.

If you're repairing a lamp, appliance or other plugged-in device, unplug it before you start your work.

Plug any power tools you use into outlets equipped with ground-fault circuit interrupters. GFCIs prevent you from getting shocked.

If you need an extension cord for a power tool, choose a cord that measures less than 100 feet.

Water and electricity don't mix, so don't use power tools in wet or even damp areas.

If you're drilling into a wall for a project, check the placement of electrical or plumbing features so that nails, screws, hammers or power tools do not come into contact with wires or pipes.

Safeguards on outdoor electric tools are there for a reason. Always make sure they are in place before operating.

If a power tool trips an electrical safety device while

## Houston County Electric Cooperative

P.O. Box 52, Crockett, TX 75835

### GENERAL MANAGER

Kathi Calvert

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dan Courmier, President  
Kennon Kellum, Vice President  
Mitchell Huff, Secretary-Treasurer  
Mary L. Pearl Adams  
William Emmons  
Kay Reed  
Charles "Chuck" Siems  
Grady Wakefield  
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## Contact Us

**TO REPORT A POWER OUTAGE, CALL OUR 24-HOUR HOTLINE**

**1-800-970-4232** toll-free

### BUSINESS HOURS

Monday–Friday, 8 a.m.–5 p.m.

### CUSTOMER SERVICE

*For general information during business hours*

**(936) 544-5641** local

**1-800-657-2445** toll-free

To report an outage or other problem with electrical service, press 1.

To make a payment over the phone or speak with a member services representative in the billing department, press 2.

For electrical connects, transfers and disconnects, press 5.

For directions to our office, mailing address or fax number, press 6.

For satellite internet services, press 7.

For staking and construction, press 8.

### FIND US ON THE WEB

**houstoncountyelec.com**



**FIND US ON FACEBOOK**

# Maddux Retires from HCEC

*“There is a whole new kind of life ahead, full of experiences just waiting to happen. Some call it ‘retirement.’ I call it ‘bliss.’” —Betty Sullivan*

**HOUSTON COUNTY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE RECENTLY CELEBRATED** the retirement of cashier Theresa Maddux. She devoted 1,382,848,000 seconds of her time to Houston County EC. That’s 41 years and 7 months as an employee. Maddux was an asset to this company and will be missed by everyone who crossed her path.

Maddux was a big part of implementing the East Texas Rural Electric Youth Seminar at Houston County EC. She was a chaperone for the trip for more than 20 years. Her hard work and diligence have greatly benefited HCEC, and we hope that the employees here will strive to follow her stellar example.

Maddux’s leaving marks the end of an era at Houston County Electric. We will all come to appreciate her even more when we try to fill the void that she left. In her more than four decades here, she has been a mentor to all of us.

Even more important, though, are the friendships she developed over that time. You truly will be missed, Theresa! We hope you enjoy all that life has to offer.



## NRECA 2017 Legislative Conference



Gary White, HCEC CFO, far left, and Kathi Calvert, HCEC general manager, third from right, were among a delegation of cooperative officials visiting U.S. Rep. Louie Gohmert, center.

**HOUSTON COUNTY EC REPRESENTATIVES RECENTLY TRAVELED** to Washington, D.C., to attend the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association 2017 Legislative Conference. Among the many topics covered were supporting improved federal land management policies and endangered species act reform.

Kathi Calvert, general manager of Houston County EC, said that it is significant to have an open relationship with land management representatives, and HCEC is blessed to have that with the Davy Crockett National Forest representatives in Ratcliff and Lufkin. They’re always there to help when the co-op has an issue, and it is always an enjoyable experience working alongside their team.

## Efficiency Tips for Shops and Barns

**THERE ARE MANY BENEFITS TO** ensuring that your shop or barn is energy efficient. Aside from saving energy, it can save money, keep your animals happier and healthier and save you from repairs.

- ▶ **Replace indoor lighting with energy-efficient LED lightbulbs.**
- ▶ **Ensure that your existing structure has adequate insulation.**
- ▶ **Choose outdoor lighting designed to be energy efficient,** and install motion detectors to reduce energy consumption.
- ▶ **Plant trees around your metal shed or barn.** In colder climates, trees act as a windbreak, and in warmer climates, they create a natural cooling effect that can reduce temperatures 3–6 degrees.
- ▶ **Consider adding a ceiling fan to circulate air.** A ceiling fan can help keep warm air close to the ground in the winter and circulate fresher, cooler air in the summer and keep the air from becoming stagnant, keeping harmful bacteria and insects at bay.



**GRANT BRANNEN**  
*Crockett High School*



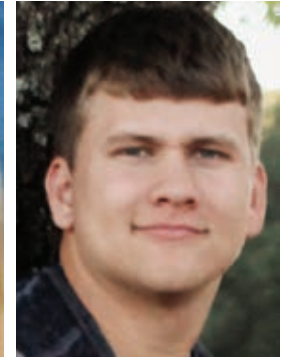
**ADDIE COLDIRON**  
*Coldiron Homeschool*



**SHELLEY CURRY**  
*Kennard High School*



**ALY GRAVES**  
*Elkhart High School*



**MATTHEW ROACH**  
*Leon High School*



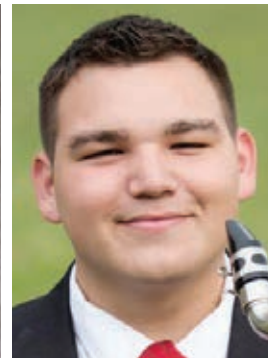
**CHARLES ROTHROCK**  
*Latexo High School*



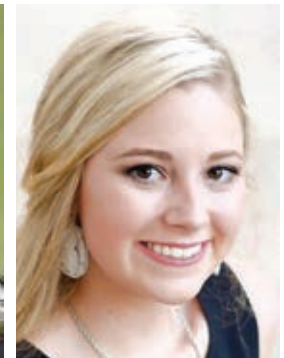
**HALEY SELMAN**  
*Centerville High School  
(Trinity County)*



**TY STUBBLEFIELD**  
*Lovelady High School*



**JACOB URBINA**  
*Elkhart High School*



**CAROLINE WAKEFIELD**  
*Centerville High School  
(Leon County)*

# 2017 Dorothy H. Goodrum Scholarship Awards

**HOUSTON COUNTY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE IS PROUD TO ANNOUNCE** the 10 recipients of \$1,000 scholarships. The scholarships are given in the name of Dorothy H. Goodrum, a cooperative board member who served 1989–2004. Goodrum served the members of the cooperative in many board positions, including board president.

All graduating high school seniors who maintain permanent residence on HCEC lines and who enroll in a four-year college, university or technical school are eligible to apply for the scholarship.

The board of directors, general manager and employees of Houston County EC would like to wish this year's Dorothy H. Goodrum Scholarship recipients the best of luck after graduation.

## THE 2017 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS ARE:

<b>Grant Brannen</b>	<b>Charles Rothrock</b>
<b>Addie Coldiron</b>	<b>Haley Selman</b>
<b>Shelley Curry</b>	<b>Ty Stubblefield</b>
<b>Aly Graves</b>	<b>Jacob Urbina</b>
<b>Matthew Roach</b>	<b>Caroline Wakefield</b>