



Annual Meeting Draws Record Crowd

MESSAGE FROM
GENERAL MANAGER/CEO JERRY BOZE

TRINITY VALLEY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE held its annual meeting on November 10. A record crowd of more than 500 members and guests were in attendance for the event.

While waiting for the meeting to commence, members were entertained by video clips from the Grand Ole Opry. TVEC Attorney John Mosley, serving as emcee for the evening, welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending.

Troops from Kaufman Cub Scout Pack 336 then carried out the duties of the posting of colors and led the crowd in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman of the Board Howard Tillison officially called the meeting to order.

General Manager/CEO Jerry Boze then addressed the audience. He recognized the hard work of the co-op's employees and board of directors, and the services they provide to the membership. He then ran through a litany of services, programs and events offered by TVEC and gave a general "state of the co-op" presentation. Boze also announced the co-op will retire more than \$3 million in capital credits this year.

Boze recognized the help and support that TVEC receives

from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association and from Texas Electric Cooperative. He explained how NRECA looks out for the best interests of co-ops nationwide, and TEC provides invaluable services on a state level. He also credited Rayburn Country Electric Cooperative for its services as TVEC's wholesale power supplier.

Trey Rowe, of the co-op's auditing firm, Bolinger, Segars, Gilbert & Moss, provided the results of TVEC's financial report for the year ending December 31, 2015. He stated TVEC was in excellent financial shape.

Rowe also presented the voting totals for the board election. Incumbent Jerry Priest was re-elected to his seat in District 2. Priest received 877 votes, while Don Myzk received 392; Robert Fair received 387, and Roy Don Rand received 385.

Howard Tillison of District 6 and David Lang of District 7 were unopposed and reelected to their respective board seats. View complete election results as well as the auditor's report and financials for the co-op at TVEC.net.

After the meeting, more than 100 prizes were raffled off, including a flat-screen TV and a \$500 bill credit.



FLOYD CHOICE

A New Year's Resolution You Can Keep

GOING ON A DIET THIS JANUARY? Opening a savings account? Joining a gym?

Here's another resolution—and it might be easier to keep for longer than two weeks: Do one thing a month that will make your home more energy efficient.

Here are 12 ideas:

January: Get into the habit of turning your thermostat down by about 10 degrees before your family turns in for the night or leaves home in the morning. You can save as much as 1 percent on heating for every degree you lower the heat for eight consecutive hours.

February: Pull your refrigerator away from the wall and vacuum or dust its condenser and coils. Clean coils prevent your fridge's working parts from overheating.

March: Spring for an annual inspection of your air-conditioning system. It can keep your central AC running smoothly and efficiently all summer.

April: Hire a licensed electrician to inspect your home's wiring system—not every year, but at least once a decade.

May: Wash your windows—inside and out—and open the drapes. The sun can't warm and brighten your rooms if it can't find its way through grimy windowpanes.

June: Trim your hedges. Overgrown shrubs and trees can shade your windows too much and keep the sunlight from warming up your home come winter.

July: Grill your dinner outside and serve fresh, cold salads as side dishes. Giving your stovetop and oven a rest also gives your air-conditioning system a break on hot days.

August: Start running your clothes washer, dryer and dishwasher after dark. That will keep the heat and humidity out of the air—and help out your electric cooperative, too.

September: Get that heating and air-conditioning tech back to your house for a heating inspection. A tuneup can save you as much as 5 percent on your heating bill.

October: Close off your masonry fireplace and resolve not to use it anymore. Every time you use it, your home's heated air flies up the chimney.

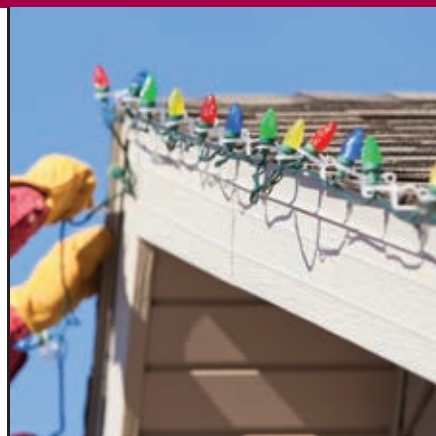
November: Seal air leaks around windows, doors and other openings—such as the place where cables and wires come into the wall from the outside—with caulk and weatherstripping.

December: Replace your old holiday lights with LED fixtures, which last years longer and use far less energy.

Keep your rooms warm and bright by washing your windows inside and out.



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Remove Outdoor Holiday Lights Safely

WHEN YOU REMOVE YOUR outdoor lights after the holidays are over, do it safely.

Suit up. Wear thick gloves and protective glasses before doing any electrical work at home.

Look up. Note whether light strands are touching power lines hanging close to your roof. If they are, do not touch! If they're clear, use extra care when removing. Report low-hanging lines to your electric cooperative.

Unplug. If strands of lights are still connected to an outlet or each other when you start dismantling, you could get a shock. 60140818003

Be gentle. Don't tug, pull, rip or yank lights loose. Take them down one section at a time and loop the strands around your elbow.

Inspect. Check for broken bulbs, fraying wires and other damage. Inspect decorations after each year's use and throw away any damaged strands.

Take your time. The weather was probably warmer when you put the lights up in November than when you take them down in January, so you might try to hurry the chore along so you can get inside where it's warm. But if you rush, you could damage shrubs, trees, gutters or eaves—or yourself.

Get help. Consider hiring a roofer or landscaper to hang and remove holiday lights next year. They have the proper gear and training to safely climb onto the roof and up trees, and handle electrical wires.

Stay Safe and Warm This Winter

HEATING A HOME TYPICALLY ACCOUNTS FOR 45 PERCENT of energy bills, making it the largest utility expense for most consumers, according to the U.S. Department of Energy. Being aware of potential hazards and using the device that's most efficient for your needs can make a big difference in safety and comfort. Your electric cooperative offers tips for heating your home in safe and smart ways.

Furnace: Check your furnace at least annually. Removing built-up debris can reduce the risk of fire and make your furnace run more efficiently. Also remember to replace your furnace filter regularly during the winter. Replacing a dirty filter will increase the airflow and make your home more energy efficient.

Thermostat: Turning the thermostat down a few degrees when you are away from home or sleeping also helps reduce your monthly utility bill. To help you do this automatically, consider investing in a programmable thermostat, which can lead to a 10–15 percent reduction in energy costs.

Space heaters: Space heaters are not cost-efficient when used to heat more than one or two small areas. However, they are a smart option when only one room needs to be heated. Make sure that you consider safety first and purchase only certified models that have been tested by an independent laboratory. Always place your space heater on a steady surface away from foot traffic to prevent it from being knocked over, and be on the lookout for units with a tip-over switch.

Electric blankets and heating pads: Make yourself aware of manufacturer's instructions, and use the product only as it is intended. Never use an electric blanket that is wet, or folded so that the wires are crimped. Perform regular checks to look for scorch marks or visible damage.

Fireplaces: Always make sure that your chimney is clear, and open the damper if there are warm ashes in the hearth that could lead to a dangerous build-up of poisonous gases.

Small-scale strategies: Remember not to overlook minor changes to help you stay warm this winter. When possible, dress in layers, with clothes that are tight and close to the skin so that they can trap heat near the body. Switch the rotation of your ceiling fan that so it circles in a clockwise direction, blowing rising warm air downward. Additionally, use curtains to help block out the cold air when closed at night and to let in the sun's heat when parted during the day.



4 Ways to Waste Energy This Winter

WHAT ARE THE BIGGEST MISTAKES

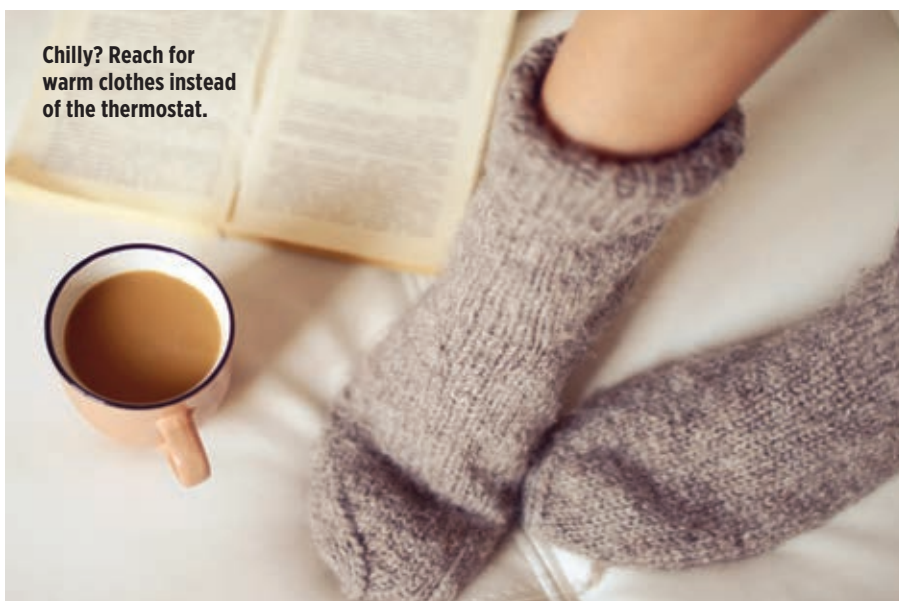
homeowners make when it comes to winter energy use? According to Lawrence Berkeley Laboratories, they are:

1. Buying big. Many homes have furnaces and air conditioners that are way too big. HVAC sales reps often try to sell big units because they cost more. An oversized unit wastes energy and will cost more on heating and cooling bills in the long run than a smaller one that is properly sized for your home and your family's lifestyle.

2. Overlooking leaks. When you replace your heating and air-conditioning system, get your ducts checked for leaks. Even the most efficient, most expensive system won't perform at peak if heated or air-conditioned air is escaping through the ducts.

3. Under insulating. Heat rises, so it makes sense to insulate your home's attic. It's equally important to insulate floors over a basement or crawl space, and walls and windows. Conditioned air can leak out of your home from almost any uninsulated space.

4. Skipping fans. Ceiling fans and portable fans can help circulate heated or air-conditioned air, which gives your home's HVAC system a break—and allows you to turn the thermostat down in the winter and up in the summer. Fans use little electricity, but can make a big difference in how comfortable you feel in the room where one is running.



Chilly? Reach for warm clothes instead of the thermostat.

Winter Weather Emergency Preparations

WE ALL KNOW how unpredictable winter weather can be in Texas. Ice, winds or flooding all have the potential to strand you on the road or at home, possibly without power. There are dozens of steps you can take to be better prepared, wherever you are.

Prepare at Home

Make a family communications plan. Your family might not be together when disaster strikes, so it is important to know how you will contact one another, how you will get back together and what you will do in case of an emergency.

Get an emergency weather radio to receive broadcast alerts and warnings directly from the National Weather Service.

Download smartphone apps available from the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the American Red Cross that provide emergency notifications and information about finding shelters, providing first aid and seeking recovery assistance.

Keep sand or rock salt on hand along with a snow shovel to improve traction along walkways.

Clear rain gutters, repair roof leaks and cut away tree branches that could fall on your home in high winds.

Insulate pipes and allow faucets to drip a little during cold weather to avoid freezing. Running water, even at a trickle, helps prevent frozen pipes. Learn how to shut off your home's water valve just in case a pipe bursts.

Keep fire extinguishers on hand, especially if alternative heating sources are in use, and make sure everyone in your house knows how to use them.

Maintain a supply of heating fuel sufficient to last for days. You could become isolated in your home, and regular fuel sources might be unavailable. Store dry, seasoned wood for your fireplace or wood-burning stove.

Vent all fuel-burning equipment to the outside and keep the vent clear.

Bring pets and companion animals inside during winter weather. Move other animals or livestock to sheltered areas with nonfrozen drinking water.

Winterize Your Vehicle

Check or have a mechanic check the following items on your car:

Antifreeze levels. Ensure that they are sufficient to avoid freezing.

Battery and ignition system. Make sure they're in top condition



Prepare your home and winterize your vehicles for the colder months.

and that battery terminals are clean.

Brakes. Check for wear and fluid levels.

Exhaust system. Look for leaks and crimped pipes, and repair or replace as necessary. Carbon monoxide poisoning is deadly and comes with little warning.

Fuel and air filters. Replace filters and keep water out of the fuel system by using additives and maintaining a full tank of gas, which will keep the fuel line from freezing.

Heater and defroster. Ensure that they work properly.

Lights. Check all bulbs.

Oil. Check for level and weight. Heavier oils congeal at lower temperatures and do not lubricate as well.

Windshield wiper equipment. Repair any problems and maintain proper washer fluid level.

Tires. Ensure adequate tread or install winter tires. All-weather radials are usually adequate for most winter conditions in Texas, but some areas require chains or snow tires with studs.

Minimize Travel

If you must leave home, first make sure the emergency kit in your vehicle contains:

- ▶ A shovel, windshield scraper and small broom
- ▶ A flashlight, battery-powered radio and extra batteries
- ▶ Water, snacks, extra warm clothing and blankets
- ▶ A first-aid kit with pocketknife and necessary medications
- ▶ A tow chain or rope, road salt or sand, and jumper cables

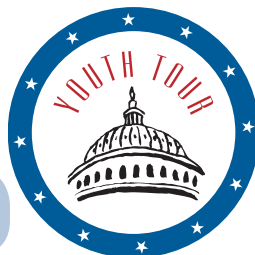
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Win \$25 Just for Reading

Somewhere, hidden on Pages 18–23, is a TVEC account number. Read closely. If the account number is yours, contact the Member Services Department by January 31, 2017, to receive a \$25 credit on your electric bill. Don't miss out—you could be a winner.



TRINITY VALLEY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Operating in Anderson, Dallas, Henderson, Hunt, Kaufman and Van Zandt counties

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Howard Tillison, Chairman, District 6
- Carolyn Minor, Vice Chairwoman, District 1
- Jo Ann Hanstrom, Secretary, District 4
- Jerry Priest, District 2
- Paul Weatherford, District 3
- Edward Reeve, District 5
- David Lang, District 7

GENERAL MANAGER/CEO

Jerry B. Boze

Kaufman District Headquarters

1800 E. Highway 243, Kaufman

Athens District Office

909 W. Larkin St., Athens

Cedar Creek District Office

1012 W. Main St., Ste. 102
Gun Barrel City

Wills Point District Office

582 N. Fourth St., Wills Point

Lobby Hours

Monday-Friday-8:15 a.m.-4:45 p.m.



Contact Us

For information during office hours and outages after hours

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FIND US ON THE WEB AT
tvec.net

Charitable Foundation Awards Grants to Local Organizations

THE TVEC CHARITABLE FOUNDATION recently awarded four grants totaling \$7,500. Recipients of the grants are:

Forever Families - \$3,000

A converted nursing home facility houses Forever Families, a temporary home for moms and children in crisis. Each family is provided a private apartment and all the necessities of life while they complete a one-year restoration program.

Forney Education Leadership Foundation - \$2,000

The Forney Education Leadership Foundation provides support to Forney ISD education programs. Initiatives include grants to support innovative instructional programs which will positively impact Forney ISD students.

Jefferson Street Boxing Club - \$2,000

The reach of Jefferson Street Boxing Club extends far beyond the ring, with an emphasis on personal development. Their primary mission is to be a youth program providing boxing instruction, bible study, and academic tutoring.

St. Therese Knights of Columbus - \$500

The Knights of Columbus in Van Zandt County provide many hours of volunteer labor, donate food and clothing to those in need and provide for scholarships to graduating high school students. The Knights also installed air conditioning units in the homes of area elderly residents.

Founded in 2013, the TVEC Charitable Foundation is an independent, nonprofit organization. The foundation was created to serve the community and help improve the quality of life for residents in our service area. The foundation is funded entirely by donations from TVEC members who participate in Operation Round Up. For more information, please call 1-800-766-9576 or visit TVEC.net.



TVEC Public Relations Representative Laura Melton, right, presents a grant check to Forney ISD Superintendent Suzanne McWilliams, representing the Forney Education Leadership Foundation.



TVEC Energy Management Advisor Chris Walker, right, presents a grant check to Alan Stehse of the St. Therese Knights of Columbus.



It makes a lot of *cents* to round up!

It may not seem like much, but acting together through Operation Roundup®, TVEC members make contributions to local charitable organizations possible. With more than 40,000 participating members, an average \$.50 contribution turns into significant impact in the community.

Operation Roundup® is a voluntary program and you may opt out at any time. Contact us at 800-766-9576 for more information.