

# We Give You the Power



## MESSAGE FROM GENERAL MANAGER AND CEO DEBRA A. COLE

AT HILCO ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE we have one main mission: the delivery of reliable and affordable electricity—and by most accounts, we do that job well.

Bringing power to the people is why our co-op was founded more than 75 years ago. This is not, and has never been, the only purpose of the co-op.

The founders of this organization wanted to improve their lives and those of their friends and neighbors by delivering electricity to rural areas. In doing so, they not only provided the efficiency and comfort that electricity had already provided to their city neighbors, but they also increased prosperity in their communities.

Helping members improve their lives is really the core of why this cooperative exists. We do it by providing electric power, and we also try to help our communities prosper in other ways.

We want this area to thrive. After all, the directors, management and employees of HILCO all live here, too. We support area economic development efforts by providing service that accommodates business and industrial growth.

We contribute to the well-being of our communities through programs such as Operation Round Up, the voluntary program in which members' bills are rounded up to the next dollar amount, with the change going to a fund that helps local charitable organizations.

We also provide scholarships paid for with unclaimed capital credits, teach safety and energy efficiency in schools, and perform community services, such as hanging banners for events and changing lights at sports fields.

We do these things because that is part of our purpose: to empower our members and our communities to improve the quality of their lives.

That's the cooperative difference.

## COOPERATIVE PRINCIPLE 7

### Concern for Community

Cooperatives work for the sustainable development of their communities through policies approved by their members.

### COOPERATIVES—

Owned by Our Members, Committed to Our Communities



#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Joseph Tedesco, President, District 4  
 Bill Allen, Vice President, District 5  
 Janet Smith, Secretary-Treasurer, District 7  
 Leroy Huff, District 1  
 Margaret Hill, District 2  
 George Thiess, District 6  
 Ron Roberts, District 3

Operating in Dallas, Ellis, Hill, Johnson and McLennan counties

#### GENERAL MANAGER AND CEO

Debra A. Cole

#### COOPERATIVE OFFICES

##### Itasca Headquarters

115 E. Main St. • P.O. Box 127  
 Itasca, Texas 76055  
 (254) 687-2331  
 1-800-338-6425

##### Midlothian

300A Silken Crossing  
 Midlothian, Texas 76065  
 (972) 723-2900

##### Whitney

4581 FM 933  
 Whitney, Texas 76692  
 (254) 694-5237  
 1-888-850-6551



## CONTACT US

For information during office hours and outages after hours:

#### CALL US

**(254) 687-2331** local or  
**1-800-338-6425** toll-free

#### EMAIL

[hilco@hilco.coop](mailto:hilco@hilco.coop)

#### FIND US ON THE WEB

[hilco.coop](http://hilco.coop)



From left, Kane Montgomery, Brandi Shore, Kendra Markwardt and Brandon Hightower

# HILCO Employees Earn Supervisory Certificates

**FOUR EMPLOYEES OF HILCO ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE RECENTLY COMPLETED** the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's supervisory certificate program.

**Kane Montgomery** joined the co-op in 2007 and works as a first-class lineman and crew leader. **Brandi Shore** started with HILCO Electric in 2006 and is the director of marketing administration. **Kendra Markwardt** is the director of marketing and member services. She joined the co-op in 2007. **Brandon Hightower** joined the co-op in 2011 and works as a first-class lineman and crew leader.

By completing the program on October 16, 2015, Montgomery, Shore, Markwardt and Hightower join 34 other HILCO employees who have received their supervisory certificates.

The program recognizes the educational development of electric cooperative employees who have or are working toward a supervisory role. Courses cover a range of issues faced by supervisors—time management, conflict negotiation and effective communication—and help them build the skills necessary to address those issues effectively.

## FEBRUARY Bulletin

### February 4

#### Whitney

Annual Chamber Awards Banquet

### February 7–8

#### Waco

Waco Home Product Show  
Extraco Events Center

### February 19–21

#### Waxahachie

Gingerbread House Chili Cook-Off  
Ellis County Youth Expo Center

### February 20

#### Waxahachie

Downtown Sidewalk Sale

### February 27

#### Waxahachie

Waxahachie Symphony Association—  
Baylor University Jazz Band with special  
appearance by the Waxahachie High  
School Jazz Band at 7 p.m. SAGU Hagee  
Communication Center Performance Hall,  
1200 Sycamore St.

## BILLING SCHEDULE

Payments are due by close of business at 5 p.m. on the due date.

### CYCLE 1

Billing Date ..... February 2  
Due Date ..... February 18

### CYCLE 2

Billing Date ..... February 9  
Due Date ..... February 25

### CYCLE 3

Billing Date ..... February 16  
Due Date ..... March 3

### CYCLE 13

Billing Date ..... February 17  
Due Date ..... March 3

### CYCLE 4

Billing Date ..... February 23  
Due Date ..... March 10



## Give friends and family the Best of Texas.

The Best of Typically Texas Cookbook features more than 700 best-loved recipes from two of our most popular cookbooks.

Now available at HILCO EC.

Come by and purchase your copy today!

## MESSAGE FROM THE HILCO ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

# Energy Conservation and Energy Efficiency

IF YOU READ **TEXAS CO-OP POWER** on a regular basis, then you have probably seen our tips for saving energy. Educating our members is one of the Seven Cooperative Principles, and at HILCO Electric we believe in arming you with information that can help you save on your electric bill.

Across the country, federal and state policymakers are considering ways to make homes, farms and businesses more energy efficient. Electric co-ops agree wholeheartedly with that goal, and we all benefit from being smarter about how we use electricity.

We ask ourselves, “Is there anything one person can do to make a difference?” The answer is an emphatic, “Yes.” It starts with learning all we can about energy conservation and efficiency. Although they are not the same thing, they are close relatives. 4706171600

Conservation occurs when we reduce total consumption of electricity and is often achieved by simply turning off anything that consumes electricity when not needed. Energy efficiency occurs when we replace or upgrade the essentials in our lives

(e.g., appliances, lighting, insulation), to allow us to realize the same benefit with less electricity.

If you would like to help, call HILCO and request a complete energy audit to assess how much energy your home consumes and evaluate what measures you can take to make your residence more energy efficient.

Then, with your audit in hand, take action. The cumulative effect of small steps in homes and businesses will have a direct impact on our nation’s entire electric grid—reducing demand during peak periods and lowering the overall cost to co-ops and members.

At HILCO EC, we believe education is one key to increasing conservation and efficiency, and although it may seem odd that your electric cooperative is encouraging you to conserve, saving electricity can have a major effect on your monthly electric bill, and that is important to the HILCO Board of Directors.

For more conservation and efficiency tips and to check out HILCO’s energy-efficiency programs, visit our website at [hilco.coop](http://hilco.coop).

## Energy Conservation Tips

**Lighting:** Decrease wattage in lamps and lighting fixtures. Lighting accounts for up to 10 percent of the total energy budget. Turn off lights when not in use.

**Appliances:** Set the dishwasher and washing machine to energy-saving modes. Use only cold water when possible.

**Heat Gain/Loss:** Sunlight streaming through windows is the source for a substantial amount of heat gain and loss during the heating and cooling months. Open curtains on sun-facing rooms during the heating months and keep them closed during the cooling months.

## Energy-Efficiency Tips

**Lighting:** LED lighting can reduce lighting costs by up to 80 percent compared to conventional incandescent lighting.

**Appliances:** When it’s time to upgrade appliances, such as your refrigerator, heat pump and water heater, look for Energy Star Most Efficient-rated products. Also schedule regular HVAC service for your maximum cooling and heating efficiency.

**Heat Gain/Loss:** Sealing and insulating reduces heat gain and loss in big ways. Caulk and weatherstripping are excellent tools for sealing doors, windows and the attic.

### *HILCO Electric Cooperative Board of Directors*



Joe Tedesco  
President



Bill Allen  
Vice President



Jan Smith  
Secretary-Treasurer



Ron Roberts  
Director



George Thies  
Director



Margaret Hill  
Director



Leroy Huff  
Director



# HILCO Staff Achievement Awards

**THE HILCO BOARD OF DIRECTORS HONORED** HILCO Electric Cooperative and HILCO United Services employees in December at the annual awards presentation.

Hosting the evening's activities was General Manager Debra Cole, who welcomed board members, current and retired employees and special guests, including members of the Operation Round Up Trust Board and representatives from KBS Electrical Distributors.

Appreciation certificates were awarded to co-op employees for years of service and safe driving. Special recognition was given to Danny Christian, who has served the cooperative for 30 years.

Cole also introduced the new employees who joined the HILCO family this year.

**Danny Christian**  
was honored  
for 30 years  
of service  
to HILCO.



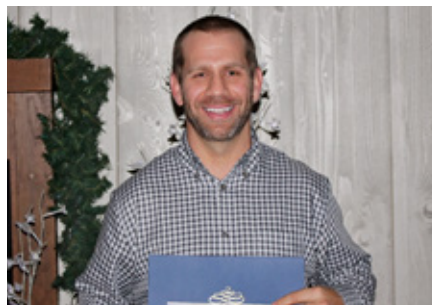
**Director George Thiess**  
10 years of service



**Director Margaret Hill**  
20 years of service



**Trust Board Member Julie Slotvig**  
10 years of service



**Shane Rogers**  
5 years of service



Ten-year service awards went to Lynn Kaddatz, Marcus Salazar, Jill Huggins, Loren Odle, Bennie Mynar and Chris Brown.

## 2015 Awards

Members of the HILCO staff were recognized for years of service to the cooperative in five-year increments:

Danny Christian	30 years
Director Margaret Hill	20 years
Director George Thiess	10 years
Lynn Kaddatz	10 years
Loren Odle	10 years
Marcus Salazar	10 years
Bennie Mynar	10 years
Jill Huggins	10 years
Chris Brown	10 years

The following employees received Safe Driving Awards, also in five-year increments:

Marcus Salazar	10 years
Jill Huggins	10 years
Greg Sewell	10 years
Todd Anderson	10 years
Bennie Mynar	10 years
Loren Odle	10 years
Chris Brown	10 years
Shane Rogers	5 years





## HILCO Electric Scholarship for Excellence

Application Deadline April 15, 2016

### **Do you aspire to go to college?**

If you're a high school senior with the strong desire to attend college, we can help. Every year we award scholarships to young men and women to help make their dreams a reality.

### **Who can apply?**

Any graduating high school seniors who are dependents of HILCO members and meet the eligibility requirements listed on the application.

### **How to apply**

Visit [www.hilco.coop](http://www.hilco.coop) and download the application

For more information on our scholarship program contact Kendra Markwardt at 800-338-6425 ext 1145



If you feel a temperature change around a window or door, seal the perimeter with caulk.

# Save With a DIY Home Energy Audit

**WHETHER YOUR HOME IS OLD OR NEW**, it's likely that you're spending more on energy than necessary.

You can conduct a baseline energy audit of your home to identify where you are losing energy (and money). Use a checklist and take notes on problems you find as you walk through your home. Here are some ways to get started:

**Insulation and air leaks/drafts:** Improving your home's insulation and sealing air leaks are the most cost-effective ways to reduce energy waste, according to the U.S. Department of Energy. Is there sufficient insulation in the attic? Are the openings that contain piping, ductwork and the chimney sealed? Are there changes in temperature where walls meet ceilings or floors, or around windows and outlets?

**Electronic devices:** Take an inventory of the electronic devices you have and how often you use them. Computers, printers, DVD players, phones and gaming consoles are notorious "vampire power" users; they drain energy even when not in use. If items can be turned off without requiring a lengthy reboot, plug them into a power strip that can be turned off.

**Lighting:** Replace incandescent lightbulbs with compact fluorescent lightbulbs or light-emitting diodes. Install motion-sensor lights in any low-use area such as a closet, porch or garage. Consider replacing night-lights with LEDs.

**Thermostat/indoor temperature:** Do you have a programmable thermostat? When was the last time it was programmed? Is it set so the temperature is lower during times when no one is home, and at night when people are sleeping? Consider lowering the temperature a few degrees.

**Appliances, timing and maintenance:** If your appliances are more than 10 years old, they are likely not as energy efficient as today's options. How and when you use them also makes a difference. Do you wash clothes in hot water, or can you use cold instead? Consider running your washer, dryer or dishwasher at night, during off-peak times. Does your water heater have a blanket? If not, consider insulating it. Make sure the dryer vent isn't blocked; this will save energy and also could prevent a fire.

**Evaluation:** Once you have completed the audit, take a look at your findings. Prioritize actions you can take based on your time and budget, weighing where you can get the most impact for your investment.

## Win a \$50 Bill Credit!

As you're reading your *Texas Co-op Power*, look for the "hidden" account number in the local HILCO pages in the center of the magazine. If it's YOUR electric account number, call us before the end of February—you have won a \$50 credit on your HILCO electric bill!



**(254) 687-2331**

or

**1-800-338-6425**



## Power Tip

Save energy and money by lowering your water heater thermostat to 120 degrees. This will also slow mineral buildup and corrosion in your water heater and pipes.



# Helping Others Means Safety First

**GOOD SAMARITANS ARE CHARACTERIZED AS PEOPLE** who have the desire to help those in need. Knowing how best to help in an emergency situation can mean the difference between life and death—for the victim and the Good Samaritan.

Electricity can be an unforeseen hazard, particularly when overhead power lines have fallen and made contact with vehicles, the ground or anything else that conducts electricity. The wire does not have to be sparking or arcing to be live. Always assume a power line is energized, and never touch or approach it.

If you come upon an accident scene involving a vehicle and downed lines, stay back and warn others to stay away. Make sure the occupants of the car stay inside the vehicle until the utility has de-energized the lines.

In a rare circumstance, the vehicle may catch fire. The only way the occupants can safely exit is to jump free and clear without touching the vehicle and ground at the same time. Advise them to jump and land with feet together, then hop away to safety. Looking silly may save their lives.

If you encounter any other accident situation in which you believe someone is in contact with electricity or has just suffered an electrical shock, here are some additional tips:

- ▶ Look first. Do NOT touch. The person may still be in contact with the electrical source and be energized. If there are others nearby, make sure they do not touch the person, either.
- ▶ Call or have someone nearby call 911 and the electric utility.
- ▶ Turn off the source of electricity (i.e., circuit breaker or box)—if known and if safely possible. If you are not sure, wait for help from the emergency responders.
- ▶ Only once the source of electricity is off, check for signs of circulation (breathing, coughing or movement). Provide any necessary first aid.
- ▶ Prevent shock. Lay the person down and, if possible, position the head slightly lower than the trunk of the body, with the legs elevated.
- ▶ Do not move a person with an electrical injury unless the person is in immediate danger.

Anyone who has come into contact with electricity should see a doctor to check for internal injuries, even if he or she has no obvious signs or symptoms.

**If you come across an accident involving a power pole or downed lines, call 911 immediately and do not touch the vehicle, lines or pole—or anything in contact with them.**



## RECIPE OF THE MONTH



STEPAN POPOV | ISTOCK.COM

## Cheesecake With Dark Chocolate

### CRUST

- 1 cup crushed nuts (macadamias or walnuts work best)
- 1 cup flour
- ¼ cup brown sugar
- ½ cup butter (1 stick), softened

**1.** Combine all ingredients and press into 9-by-9-inch baking dish. Bake 30 minutes at 325 degrees, then cool.

### FILLING

- 1 cup heavy cream
- 1 package cream cheese (8 ounces)
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 3 squares dark baking chocolate

- 1.** With an electric mixer, whip the heavy cream until it thickens.
- 2.** In a separate bowl, combine cream cheese, sugar and vanilla. Fold whipped cream into cream cheese mixture.
- 3.** Grate dark chocolate into mixture, reserving some for topping.
- 4.** Spoon mixture over crust, smooth with back of spoon and top with reserved grated chocolate.
- 5.** Refrigerate 1 hour before serving.

Find this and more delicious recipes online at  
**TEXASCOOPPOWER.COM**

# FACES OF HILCO

## Meet the People Who Work for You



**Carrie Hataway** has delivered friendly and courteous service to HILCO members for more than two years as a member service representative. She always has a friendly smile and takes serving members to heart. Carrie says she enjoys meeting and getting to know the members of HILCO.

While away from HILCO, she enjoys painting furniture, going to the lake, camping, fishing and spending time with her fiancé, Tron, and their children.

**Melony Miller** has brought a warm smile and friendly demeanor to HILCO members and employees for more than two years. As a member services representative, she assists members with making payments, setting up and closing accounts, and performing general membership services. Melony works hard to ensure that she has taken care of each member's needs and enjoys interacting with HILCO members.

Outside of work, Melony enjoys attending her children's sporting events, restoring furniture and spending time at the beach with her four children.



**Selina Gilliland** began her career with HILCO almost two years ago as a member service representative and has since moved into the billing department as the accounts receivable clerk. She thrives on the challenges of her position and enjoys working effectively with co-workers.

In her free time, Selina enjoys spending time with her family traveling to new places and experiencing different cultures. She and her husband, Garrett, and their two sons love attending sporting events and being outdoors.

**Lacey Hill** has provided HILCO with hard work and dedication for more than two years as a member service representative in the Midlothian office. She takes care of members' needs and performs general membership services. Lacey takes pride in her job and welcomes the challenges that her job brings.

In her free time, Lacey enjoys baking, spending time with friends and family, and attending sporting events. She and her dog, Drake, always find something to do when she's not working.



**Danielle Clark** has been serving HILCO EC and its members in general maintenance for more than two years. She says that she enjoys working outside, filling small propane tanks at the Whitney office and getting to know the members who come into HILCO. Danielle takes pride in her job and goes above and beyond for her co-workers and members, and always keeps a smile on her face.

While not at HILCO, she enjoys fishing, reading and being with her husband, Matthew, and their two children on their farm.