

Celebrate Co-op Month



MESSAGE FROM GENERAL MANAGER AND CEO DEBRA A. COLE

EVERY OCTOBER SINCE 1930, nonprofit cooperatives of all stripes have celebrated Cooperative Month. This year, members from more than 29,000 cooperatives nationwide join to celebrate the advantages of cooperative membership and recognize the benefits and value that co-ops bring to their members and communities.

Unlike other enterprises, cooperatives including HILCO Electric Cooperative are nonprofit, democratically controlled, member-owned businesses. Co-ops provide value to their members through a highly personal level of customer service; economic development, conservation and service programs; retirement of capital credits; and democratic representation in business decisions.

Electric co-ops are owned by those they serve. That's why those who receive electric service from America's electric cooperatives are called members, not customers. Without members, there would be no cooperatives. Co-ops exist to serve their members, and we strive to keep our level of service high even during the toughest times.

From attending an annual meeting to serving on the board, members are educated and encouraged to be actively involved in shaping the future of their cooperative. Members maintain democratic control of their co-op, which means that they elect fellow members to represent them on the board of directors.

The cooperative business model also gives member-consumers a real stake in their economic destinies. Because cooperatives are owned and controlled by the people who use their services, decisions are made with the best interests of co-op members

in mind—not to financially benefit corporate stockholders. Instead of issuing stock or paying dividends to outside shareholders, co-ops return margins ("profits") to their members in the form of capital credits at the end of most years.

Another principle that sets co-ops apart from other businesses is their concern for community. Cooperatives have a special responsibility and desire to participate in and support the areas in which their members live and work. From sponsoring a local school's baseball team to supporting new jobs and industry through economic development efforts, co-ops stand as a driving

force for improving the quality of life in their communities.

Co-ops are more personal and accessible than other types of businesses. They are dedicated to giving their members a voice in addition to reliable and affordable service. All the while, co-ops are local, living and working alongside those they serve.

That's the cooperative difference.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

George Thiess, President, *District 6*
Joseph (Joe) Tedesco, Vice President, *District 4*
Janet (Jan) Smith, Secretary-Treasurer,
District 7
Leroy Huff, *District 1*
Margaret Hill, *District 2*
Bill Allen, *District 5*
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

FIND US ON THE WEB

hilco.coop



RECYCLE

Your Old Electronics!

October 28-29

Drop off your unwanted electronics October 28-29,
8 a.m.-4 p.m.

Itasca location ONLY! 115 E. Main St.

Two Days Only!

Acceptable Items

- Computers—CPUs, Laptops
- Computer Accessories
- Computer Monitors
- Televisions/Cable Boxes/DVRs
- Printers
- DVD/CD Players
- Copiers/Fax Machines
- Typewriters
- Telephones/Answering Machines
- Cellphones/Chargers
- GPS Units/Scanners
- Pagers
- PDAs
- Tablets
- MP3 Players
- External Hard Drives
- Radios & Boom Boxes
- Video & Camera Equipment
- Video Game Systems
- Microwave Ovens
- Cables, Wires, Power Cords, Power Strips

Not Acceptable

- Yard Equipment
- Gas-Powered Equipment
- Water Coolers
- Paper Shredders
- Propane Tanks
- Space Heaters
- Household Appliances
- Smoke Detectors
- CRT Tubes Without Cases
- Lightbulbs—CFL or Fluorescent
- Freon (Refrigerator & Air Conditioner)
- Loose Batteries
- Wooden Speakers
- Ceramic and Glass Lamps
- Christmas Trees and Lights
- Slow Cookers
- Electric Blankets
- Fire Extinguishers
- Exercise Equipment
- Garbage Disposals



Happy Halloween

from HILCO Electric

CHEPKO DANIL | DOLLAR PHOTO CLUB

BILLING SCHEDULE

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

CYCLE 1

Billing Date October 6
Due Date October 22

CYCLE 2

Billing Date October 13
Due Date October 29

CYCLE 3

Billing Date October 20
Due Date November 5

CYCLE 13

Billing Date October 20
Due Date November 5

CYCLE 4

Billing Date October 27
Due Date November 12





Line Locator LeeRoy Gonzales with two trophies from the Regional Locate Rodeo

HILCO Employee Competes in International Locate Rodeo

HILCO EC LINE LOCATOR LeeRoy Gonzales advanced to the International Utility Locate Rodeo after taking first place in the water division at the Texas Utility Locate Rodeo.

The Locate Rodeo program is designed to recognize the profession of underground utility facility locating and demonstrate the safety skills and ongoing educational efforts associated with quality techniques.

During the rodeo, competitors compete in one of four divisions—gas, power, telecom or water. Within their divisions, they test their skills against three real-world location challenges. Competitors have 12 minutes to complete each locate, and scores from all three locate challenges are combined to determine the winner.

Gonzales participated in three events within the water division, winning the division and placing 10th overall. “This was an experience I will never forget,” he said. “I got the chance to sharpen my skills and enjoyed the camaraderie with other locators.”

The International Utility Locate Rodeo competition is held each year in Atlanta, Georgia, for utility workers nationwide.

For more information on the Locate Rodeo, visit LocateRodeo.com.



Call 811 Before You Dig: It's Free

IF YOU'RE PLANNING to do fall planting, building or other outdoor home improvements involving digging, make sure you keep yourself and your neighborhood safe by calling to locate underground utility lines, pipes and cables before you start.

Homeowners often make risky assumptions about whether they need to get their utility lines marked, but every digging job requires a call.

Why Should I Call?

Digging without calling can result in damage to utility structures including gas, water, electric, cable or other utilities. Even a little damage can bring a lot of unintended—and costly—consequences: disruption of service to an entire area, injury to you or those around you, potential fines and repair costs for you to pay.

How Does It Work?

Call 811 a few days before digging, and your call will be routed to your local One Call center. Tell the operator where you're planning to dig and what type of work you will be doing, and they will notify the affected local utilities of your location and your intent to dig. Within a few days, a locator will come by to mark the approximate location of your underground lines, pipes and cables. Then you can proceed with your project, knowing you're in the clear.

Whom Do I Call?

For more information, or to make an online request for utilities to be marked, contact Texas811 by calling 811 or 1-800-545-6005 or visiting texas811.org.



Are You Energy Savvy About Home Electronics?

Take the quiz to find out

WE ALL LOVE TO RELAX ON THE COUCH and watch a great movie, but hours of gaming, Netflix binges and Facebook chatting can add up on the electric bill. Plus, “vampire appliances” continue to drain energy even when they’re not in use.

How much electricity are you wasting in your living room? Take this quiz, found on the Mother Nature Network website at mnn.com/earth-matters/energy/quiz, and find out. Many of the answers may surprise you.

Q: What percentage of the average electricity bill comes from vampire devices: 2, 5, 10 or 25 percent?

A: 10 percent. Americans have 20–40 appliances constantly plugged in and sucking power, even when they’re not in use.

Q: Which type of television uses more energy: plasma or LED?

A: Plasma TVs consume about twice as much power as LEDs. Plasma TVs consume more than 1,400 kilowatt-hours each year, which can add up to \$150 to your electricity bill.

Q: True or False: Video game consoles cost Americans \$400 million annually in utility bills, just from sitting idle.

A: True. Of the total \$1 billion that American gamers pay in gaming-related utility bills, \$400 million comes from consoles on standby. A National Resources Defense Council report translates that number into a staggering 10–11 billion kWh of usage each year.

Q: True or False: Your best bet for saving energy after using your gaming console is to turn it off with the power button or remote.

A: False. Unplugging the console is a sure way to make sure it’s not sucking any energy, as some power buttons go straight into standby mode and continue to drain electricity. Go into the settings to turn off standby mode completely, and set the device to turn off automatically when it’s idle.

Q: What is the most energy-efficient mode in which to leave your work computer: power off, sleep mode, screen-saver or log out?

A: Power off. The most energy-smart way to leave a computer for several hours is to turn it off completely. If you must leave your computer on, put it in sleep mode.

Q: True or False: When connected to the charger, laptops use just as much energy as desktop computers do.

A: False. While the CPU and monitor of a desktop computer

can use up to 270 watts, laptops use only 50 watts, according to energy.gov. Beware: Laptops continue to drain power if you keep them plugged in when they’re fully charged, so remember to unplug them once they reach a 100 percent charge.

Q: True or False: Most of a computer’s energy consumption comes from the monitor.

A: True. Computer monitors can consume up to 150 watts when left on, and even when you’re actively using your com-



puter, these screens beat the CPU’s consumption by 25 percent. That’s all the more reason to switch to an Energy Star-certified monitor and set your computer to power down after a period of inactivity. 123325100

Are you earning “high-fives” for your energy-efficiency habits?

Q: Which type of printer is more energy efficient: inkjet or laser?

A: Inkjet printers, by a wide margin. Inkjets use an average of about 5 watts while they’re in use and continue to draw 1.26 watts when they’re turned off. Laser printers, on the other hand, use an average of about 130 watts when on and 1.5 watts when turned off.

Q: Which TV device uses the most electricity when turned off: satellite or digital cable?

A: Digital cable boxes consume more than 17 watts when they’re turned off, whereas satellite set-top boxes use just over 15 watts. Remarkably, these boxes almost use as much energy when they are off as when they’re on and active.



Your volunteer Operation Round Up Trust Board representatives and HILCO members are:

DEBBIE BROOKS
Chairwoman

JULIE SLOTVIG
Vice Chairwoman

MARTHA STRONA
Secretary-Treasurer

MIKE CREECH

JOAN GAMBLE

GORDON PICKETT

MIKE KUHLMANN

Small Change Making a Big Difference

Operation Round Up is a special HILCO EC program in which members voluntarily have their electric bills rounded up each month. That money is put in a separate fund to help organizations in HILCO's service area. A trust board meets to review applications, and funds are distributed once every quarter.

The Operation Round Up Trust Board met in July to review applications for the second quarter of 2015. Three organizations were awarded a total of \$8,107 on July 30 at the HILCO office in Itasca.

HILCO directors and employees have been overwhelmed by the generosity of our members who have voluntarily agreed to have their bills rounded to help others in our communities.

The extra nickels, dimes and quarters are hardly missed individually, but together with other member contributions, they do so much good for organizations in our service area. Thank you, HILCO members, for your big hearts!

Deadlines to submit applications are on the last day of each quarter: March 31, June 30, September 30 and December 31. Our next deadline is December 31. Applications must be received by this date to be considered for funding this quarter.

HILCO members may have their names added to or removed from the Operation Round Up program by calling our office at 1-800-338-6425.

It's easy to sign up for Operation Round Up! Just log on to hilco.coop, click on the Operation Round Up link, and we'll walk you through it.



OPERATION ROUND UP RECIPIENTS



Waxahachie Senior Citizen Center

\$2,500 for exercise equipment

HILCO Director Joe Tedesco, Jeanee Smiles and HILCO Director Leroy Huff



Common Ground Ministries

\$1,707 for snacks/meals for children

HILCO Director Joe Tedesco, Judy Helm, Diane Hensley and HILCO Director Leroy Huff



Hill County CPS Board

\$3,900 for clothing for children

HILCO Director Joe Tedesco, Judy Hadaway and HILCO Director Leroy Huff

The Quest for HAUNTS

EVERY HALLOWEEN, spooky tales of ghostly gatherings are swapped over campfires and watercoolers. Some are steeped in history, like the Catfish Plantation restaurant, an old Victorian home built in 1895 in Waxahachie. There, it is said that resident spirits like to rearrange the dishes in the kitchen and “flirt” with female patrons. Other tales can be urban legends. Regardless, they may still be hard to dismiss.

Whether seasonally dreamed up or rich in history, these stories endure. People pursue the adrenaline rush they get from touring haunted houses every Halloween, and these



Catfish Plantation

haunts in and around the area are sure to raise the hair on the back of your neck.

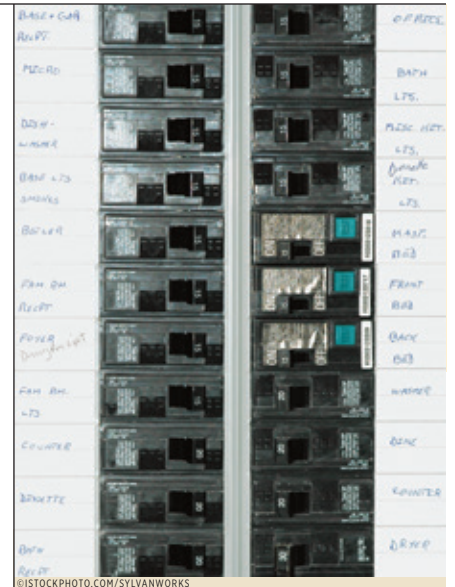
Here is a list of a few places that might give you a scare this season.

PLACES TO GO

Catfish Plantation
 LOCATION: 815 Water St., Waxahachie
 FEAR FACTOR: Allegedly several ghosts roam the house and play pranks in the kitchen.
 CONTACT: (972) 937-9468
catfishplantation.com

The Rogers Hotel
 LOCATION: 100 N. College St., Waxahachie
 FEAR FACTOR: Around the turn of the 20th century, the son of a manager is said to have hanged himself in the elevator shaft. Visitors and staff members have noted apparitions, voices and footsteps.
 CONTACT: rogershotelwaxahachie.com

Lover’s Leap, Cameron Park
 LOCATION: Cameron Park, Waco
 FEAR FACTOR: It is rumored that two Native American ghosts from warring tribes can occasionally be seen and their whispers heard. Who knows if the story is true, but the visit is worth the trip for the incredible view of the Brazos River.



Power Tip

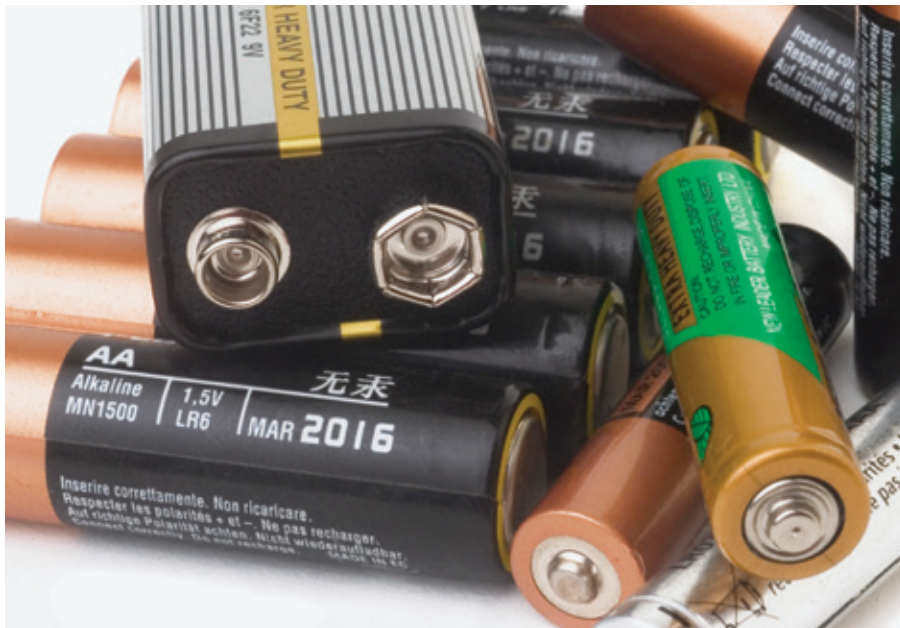
How well do you know your home’s electrical system? Make life easier when navigating an outage or other home electrical issues: Make a map showing which fuse or circuit breaker controls each switch, light or outlet.

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 October—you have won a \$50 credit on your HILCO electric bill!



(254) 687-2331 or
1-800-338-6425



Proper use, storage and disposal of batteries can keep you and your loved ones safer.

Using Batteries Safely

BATTERIES ARE THE POWER SOURCE for many electronics, and they power everything from remote controls and toys to radios and flashlights. The Safe Electricity program wants to remind consumers to keep safety considerations in mind when storing, using and disposing of batteries.

Begin by always reading and following manufacturer’s instructions. Use the correct size and type of battery needed for each device, and be sure to insert batteries with the positive and negative terminals properly aligned.

Store batteries in a dry, secure location that is kept at normal room temperature. Batteries could leak if exposed to extreme heat.

Batteries that are easy to access can be hazardous when they are within the reach of small children. Be sure to store them in a safe location. It is also important to check the covers of devices’ battery compartments to ensure that they are closed and functioning properly to prevent children’s accessing them.

Some batteries, such as button batteries, are quite small and could be mistaken for pills or candy. Hearing-aid batteries are particularly small. Do not place them anywhere near where medicine or food is stored.

The consumption of batteries by children is a serious safety concern. A swallowed battery could possibly get stuck or cause tissue burns or other damage to the esophagus. If someone is suspected to have swallowed a battery of any kind, immediately call the 24-hour National Battery Ingestion Hotline at (202) 625-3333.

Also, remember to promptly remove and safely dispose of dead batteries. Some dead batteries can leak, so it is best to safely dispose of them right away.

Do not mix old and new batteries because doing so could cause battery leakage or rupture. It is best to replace all the batteries within a device at the same time.

Rechargeable, lithium, lithium ion and zinc air batteries should be recycled. It is a good idea to get into a habit of putting old batteries in a plastic bag that can be sealed and delivered to a battery-recycling center. To find a facility near you, visit call2recycle.org.

RECIPE OF THE MONTH



LUCKYO | DOLLAR PHOTO CLUB

Slow Cooker Pozole

- 1 medium dried chile, rehydrated
- 2 cans chicken broth (15½ ounces each), divided use
- ¾ pound pork tenderloin, diced
- ¾ pound skinless, boneless chicken breast, diced
- 2 cups onion, chopped
- 1 medium bay leaf
- ¾ tablespoon Mexican oregano
- ¾ tablespoon ground cumin
- 1½ teaspoons crushed garlic
- 1 can green chiles (4½ ounces)
- 1 can beef broth (14½ ounces)
- 1 can white hominy (15 ounces)
- 2 cans yellow hominy (15 ounces each)
- Salt and pepper to taste

1. Purée rehydrated chile with half of chicken broth.
2. Scrape mixture into 5-quart slow cooker and add remaining ingredients. Mix well.
3. Cover and cook on low 6–7 hours or on high 4–5 hours. Serve with avocado, chopped onion, tortilla chips, etc., as desired.

Find this and more delicious recipes online at TEXASCOOPPOWER.COM

FACES OF HILCO

Meet the People Who Work for You



Michelle Rickett has devoted eight years to HILCO EC and its members. As assistant office manager, Michelle is responsible for coordinating general office procedures and supports others with administrative and operational duties. She is dedicated to her job and is a true asset to HILCO and its members.

Away from the co-op, Michelle enjoys watching her daughter play soccer and spending time with family. She and her husband, Tim, have three children and four grandchildren.

Sam Wilson has brought his welcoming smile to HILCO EC and the members for more than eight years. Sam began his career at HILCO as a member services representative and is now the easement and attachment coordinator, providing technical assistance to new and existing members through HILCO's engineering department. He enjoys interacting with members on location and always communicates effectively in the friendliest way.

During Sam's free time, he and his wife, Brenda, enjoy cooking outdoors and spending time with their three children and their families.



Kendra Markwardt has provided HILCO EC with hard work and dedication for more than eight years. Kendra began working as a data processing clerk and in 2014 transitioned into the position of director of marketing and member services. She is responsible for marketing programs, brand management, corporate sponsorships and more. She says that she thrives on the challenges of her position and takes a great interest in the interactions she has with fellow employees, members and the community. She is also active in local organizations and serves on area boards.

Outside of work, Kendra enjoys spending quality time with her family and friends, attending sporting events and doing photography and outdoor activities.

Jason Marbut has been dedicated to HILCO EC since 2007. As data processing clerk, Jason maintains all processing and printing of billing statements and compiles operational and administrative data. He also works as a liaison between the co-op and all hardware and software providers to coordinate any updates. Jason says he enjoys being able to come up with solutions for other departments, as well as our members.

Jason enjoys spending time with his son, Caleb, and attending FFA and sporting events. He also enjoys genealogy, traveling, gardening and metal detecting.



Saralynn Ainsworth has helped HILCO EC provide members with friendly and efficient service for more than eight years. As a member service representative, Saralynn assists members with setting up and closing accounts, accepting payments and performing general membership services. She enjoys meeting and getting to know members who come into the office to pay their bills in person.

Saralynn also enjoys being outdoors and experiencing nature with her three sons, Christian, Scott and Dylan.