



GENERAL
MANAGER

BRAD
BIERSTEDT

Co-ops Show the Beauty in Consistency

WE CAN'T PREDICT what the weather has in store for us this spring—this is Texas, after all—but one thing I'm looking forward to is the abundance of wildflowers. The blue, red, purple, yellow and pink blooms that blanket portions of the state are a sight I savor each year. Their beauty is evident, and they make for a stunning backdrop for countless photos.

But for me, they also herald the arrival of a season of possibility and promise, a time for hope and renewal as we emerge from the chill and quiet of winter.

I hope you feel a similar sense of reassurance when you turn on a lamp to cast a glow against a gloomy day or cozy up with a book, when you prepare a meal for your family, or when you charge a device that helps keep you connected to loved ones far and wide. These seemingly mundane actions,



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enabled by electricity, make for some of our most comforting and sustaining moments.

The power of those moments isn't lost on us at Karnes Electric Cooperative. It might not be the shiny new thing or have the cachet of the latest gadget, but the safe and reliable provision of electricity to our members inspires us to work every day to keep the power flowing—so you can do everything you need and all of the things that matter to you.

While it might not be as breathtaking as a field full of bluebonnets or as eye-catching as a scattering of firewheel or pink evening primrose in a highway right-of-way, we think there's beauty in consistency too. That's just part of why Karnes EC finds such meaning from brightening our community this spring and every season for generations to come. ■



JUSTIN KRUG | ISTOCK.COM

5 Easy Ideas for a Bathroom Refresh

IS YOUR BATHROOM dated? Here are five inexpensive makeover ideas:

Swap out hardware. Installing new hardware is a simple way to change the look and feel of your bathroom. Whether it's a light fixture, showerhead, faucet, or cabinet knobs and pulls, installing a new material or design can refresh the look.

Replace your vanity. A vanity is more than just a place to brush your teeth and store toiletries; it helps define the design. Replacing your old vanity with a new one will help make your bathroom feel brand-new again.

Try a new paint color. Dramatically change the entire feel of your bathroom with paint. Put up a few color samples on the walls and live with them for a few days to get an idea of what you like.

Replace all or part of your floor. Although replacing the bathroom floor isn't the easiest fix, the area is typically relatively small. If nothing else, put down a couple of new bath rugs.

Install GFCI outlets. Protect yourself and your loved ones from electric shock and fire by installing ground-fault circuit interrupter outlets. ■

Karnes EC Scholarships Available for Members

SCHOLARSHIPS WILL AGAIN be available through Karnes Electric Cooperative this year, thanks to a Texas law that allows nonprofit electric cooperatives to put unclaimed funds previously collected by the comptroller's office for the state general fund to use for student scholarships.

The Karnes EC Board of Directors has approved 10 \$1,500 scholarships to be awarded this year. These scholarships will go to graduating high school students who are legal dependents of active Karnes EC members receiving electric service from the co-op. Eight of the scholarships will go to students who will attend a qualifying four-year university, and two scholarships will go to students who will attend a qualifying two-year or vocational college.

Applications are available on the Karnes EC website, karnesec.org, as well as through counselors at all high schools in the Karnes EC service area. Applications must be received by 5 p.m. March 11. Applications received after that deadline will not be eligible. Recipients will be announced within 60 days of this date.

Karnes EC is excited to be able to provide these scholarships. Check with your school counselor if you or someone you know is interested and meets the qualifications. For more information, contact the KEC office at 1-888-807-3952 and ask to speak to Kimberly Sanchez or email ksanchez@karnesec.org. ■



ALEX.DOUBOVITSKY | ISTOCK.COM

Karnes Electric Cooperative

CONTACT US

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Toll-Free 1-888-807-3952

Web karnesec.org

General Manager

Brad Bierstedt

Board of Directors

Paul T. Brysch Jr., President, District 5

Clif Royal, Vice President, District 6

Larry R. Schendel, Secretary-Treasurer, District 1

Frank A. Geyer Jr., Assistant Secretary-Treasurer, District 3

L. Scott McClaugherty IV, District 4

Shirley Hofmann, District 2

David Ross Nieschwitz, District 7

24/7 Outage Reporting

TOLL-FREE

1-888-807-3952

ONLINE

At karnesec.org using your SmartHub account, or use the SmartHub app on your mobile device.

Please be prepared to provide your account number and meter number.

PAYMENT OPTIONS

- Online or via the SmartHub app
- 24-hour pay-by-phone
- Auto bill pay
- Mail
- In person
- Night drop
- Kiosk

OFFICE LOCATIONS

Open Monday–Friday, 8 a.m.–5 p.m.

Karnes City Headquarters

1800 N. U.S. Highway 181, Karnes City

Pleasanton Member Service Center

1824 W. Goodwin St., Pleasanton

MISSION STATEMENT

Providing quality service to empower communities and improve lives.



Check us out at
TexasCoopPower.com/karnes

Nominating Committee To Be Appointed

THE KARNES ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE Board of Directors will meet March 22 to appoint a committee of members to nominate candidates for the election of directors for districts 1 and 4. The nominating committee will meet April 5. The election of directors will then be held at the annual meeting June 6.

The following is an excerpt from the bylaws pertaining to the qualifications and nomination of such candidates. The full KEC bylaws can be found on our website, karnesec.org.

Article IV, Section 3. Qualifications

To become and remain a director, a Person must comply with the following general qualifications (“Director Qualifications”):

1. be an individual who has been a Member in good standing for the most recent twelve (12) months prior to becoming a candidate for Director and who maintains their principle place of residence in the area certified by the Public Utility Commission as being within boundaries served by the Cooperative under its certificate of convenience and necessity, and whose domicile is receiving electric service from the Cooperative. A Member in “good standing” means a Member who has not been subject to disconnection for nonpayment within the most recent twelve (12) months; “Subject to disconnection” means payment for electric service has not been made by the “Pay By Date” listed on the Disconnect Notice.

2. be above the legal voting age;
3. have not been previously removed or disqualified as a director;
4. while a candidate for director, while a director and during the five years immediately before becoming a candidate for director or a director, not be convicted of, or plead guilty to, a felony or a misdemeanor involving moral turpitude;
5. before becoming a director, graduate from high school or earn an equivalent degree or certification;
6. except as otherwise provided by the Board for good cause, attend at least three-fourths of all Board Meetings during each twelve-month period and to periodically attend certain continuing education programs for directors;
7. while a director and during the three years immediately before becoming a director, is not engaged in business with, employed by or materially affiliated with, and does not have a material financial interest with another director, a competing enterprise, or a business selling electric energy, supplies or services to the Cooperative or its Members;
8. is not the incumbent or a candidate for an elective public office in connection with which a salary is paid;
9. is not a Close Relative (defined below) of an incumbent director or Cooperative employee;
10. an individual who was, at one time, or is currently, employed by or an independent contractor of the Cooperative is not eligible to serve as a director until at least sixty (60) months after leaving the employment of or contracting with the Cooperative. Once becoming a director, an individual will not be eligible to be employed by the Cooperative until at least

sixty (60) months after leaving the position of director;

11. be bondable; and
12. comply with any other reasonable qualifications determined by the Board, including but not limited to director training sessions, workshops and conferences.

Close Relative Defined. As used in these Bylaws, “Close Relative” means a person who is related within the first degree or second degree by blood, adoption or marriage (including common law), or family-in-law. First degree, second degree, and family-in-law relatives are defined as a spouse, mother, father, mother-in-law, father-in-law, grandfather, grandmother, grandson, granddaughter, son, daughter, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, uncle, aunt, nephew, niece, brother, sister, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, and step relatives to the same degree aforementioned.

Nothing in this section contained, shall, or shall be construed to, affect in any manner whatsoever, the validity of any action taken at any meeting of the Board of Directors. Districts are defined on key maps filed in the Cooperative office.

Article IV, Section 5. Nominations

(a) Nominations by Nominating Committee. It shall be the duty of the Board of Directors to appoint, not less than sixty (60) days nor more than ninety (90) days before the date of a meeting of the Members at which directors are to be elected, a committee on nominations consisting of one (1) Member from each district for which a director is to be elected, and one (1) Member at large, who shall be selected so as to give equitable representation on the committee to the geographical areas served or to be served by the Cooperative. No officer or member of the Board of Directors shall be appointed a member of such committee. Not less than forty-five (45) days prior to the annual meeting, the nominating committee shall nominate one (1) or more nominees for each director position whose term expires at the upcoming annual meeting. The committee shall prepare and post at the principle office of the Cooperative, at least twenty (20) days before the meeting, a list of nominations for directors, or in the event of an election without a meeting due to a Force Majeure Event, nominations shall be posted not later than the twenty (20) days prior to the date of the election. The term of each nominating committee shall expire one (1) day after the conclusion of the membership meeting for which such committee was appointed.

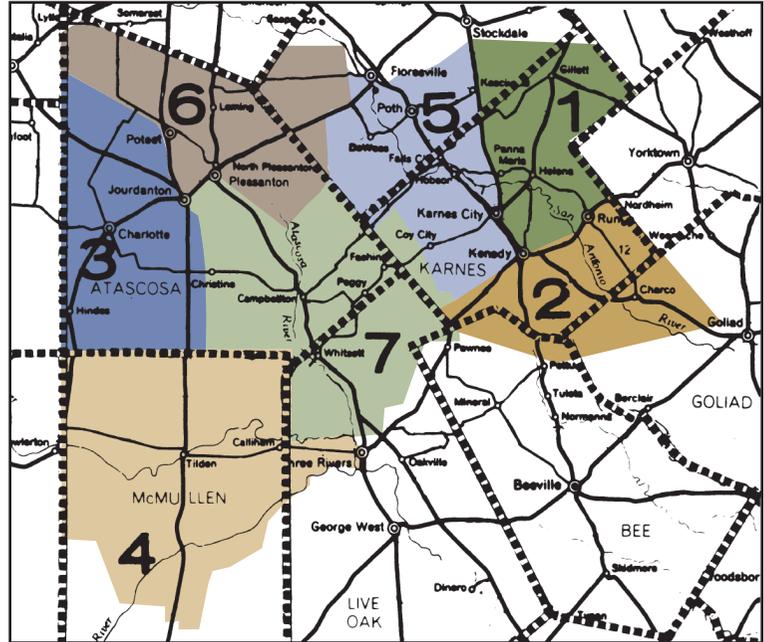
(b) Nominations by Petition. Any fifty (50) or more Members, residing at the time of such nomination, in the district for which a director is to be elected acting together may by written petition signed by such Members nominate for director a nominee residing in such nominating area; provided, however that such written petition must be received by the Cooperative at the Cooperative’s principal office to the attention of the General Manager not later than forty-five (45) days prior to the annual meeting of Members or any membership meeting at which directors are to be elected, or in the event of

an election without a meeting due to a Force Majeure Event, such written petition must be received not later than forty-five (45) days prior to the date of the election. The secretary shall post such nomination at the principle office of the Cooperative, at least twenty (20) days before the meeting or in the event of an election without a meeting due to a Force Majeure Event, such nomination shall be posted not later than the twenty (20) days prior to the date of the election.

(c) Notice of Nominations. The Secretary shall mail, with the notice of the meeting, or separately, but at least ten (10) days prior to the meeting, a statement of the number of directors to be elected; and showing separately the nominations made by the committee on nominations, by petition and by the incumbent director, if any.

(d) Nominations at the Meeting. At the meeting of the Members at which directors are to be elected, Members may not make nominations from the floor or nominate or vote for write-in candidates.

Notwithstanding any provision of this section to the contrary, failure to comply with any of the provisions of this section, shall not affect in any manner whatsoever the validity of any election of directors. ■



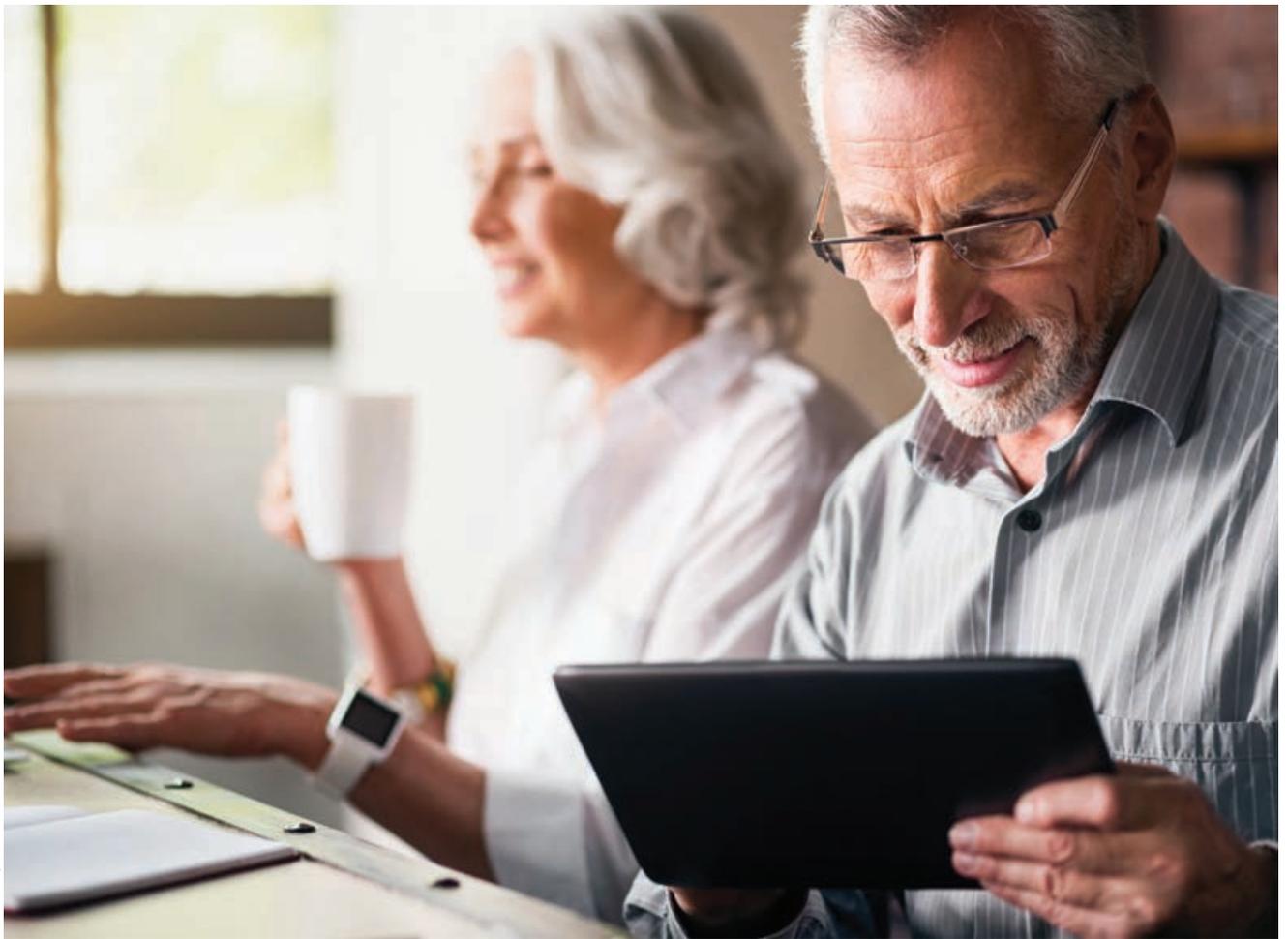
DISTRICT	DIRECTOR	TERM EXPIRES
1	Larry R. Schendel	2022
2	Shirley Hofmann	2024
3	Frank A. Geyer Jr.	2023
4	L. Scott McClagherty IV	2022
5	Paul T. Brysch Jr.	2024
6	Clif Royal	2024
7	David R. Nieschwitz	2023



SAVE THE DATE

Karnes Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting

Monday, June 6
Karnes City ISD Performing Arts Center



ZINKEVYCH | ISTOCK.COM

Security Tips for Connected Devices

TODAY THERE'S A plethora of gadgets and devices that claim to make our homes smarter, safer and more efficient. But as with any smart technology, consumers should take extra precautions to ensure these devices are secure.

Internet-connected cameras have brought significant convenience to the way we monitor the security of our homes, children and pets. With a smartphone, homeowners can monitor their property in real time from afar, but consumers have found themselves in scary situations when hackers were able to tap into internet-connected security cameras in their homes. This enabled the hackers to view and speak to people, including children, inside the homes.

As connected devices become increasingly popular, it's important that we know how to secure our digital lives. The U.S. Department of Commerce offers the following tips for protecting smart devices.

Get creative with passwords. Change your device's factory security settings from the default password. This is one of the most important steps to take to protect internet-connected devices. Consider creating the longest password or passphrase permissible.

Keep tabs on your apps. Most connected devices are supported by a smartphone application. Your phone could be filled with apps running in the background or using default permissions you never realized you approved, gathering personal information without your knowledge while also putting your identity and privacy at risk. Check your app permissions and don't approve requests that don't make sense.

Secure your network. Properly secure the wireless network you use for internet-connected devices. Consider placing these devices on a separate, dedicated network.

Connect and protect. Whether it's your computer, smartphone, game console, camera or other connected devices, the best defense is to stay on top of things by updating to the latest security software, web browser and operating system. If you have the option to enable automatic updates to defend against the latest risks, turn it on.

Convenient, connected devices are here to stay—but unfortunately, so are hackers. By taking extra steps to safeguard your network and devices, you can stay one step ahead them. ■

March Challenge: Save More Energy

SPRING IS NEARLY HERE. While you're waiting for warmer weather, challenge yourself and your family to spend the last days of winter saving energy, even though it might still be frosty outdoors.

Consider making a game out of saving energy: Challenge your children to compete with each other to form energy-saving habits and to “catch” each other wasting energy.

Create a checklist for the contest and dream up a great prize for the winner. Some challenges:

Turn off the light every single time you leave a room.

Unplug appliances like TVs and computers at bedtime.

Don't leave phone chargers plugged in when there's no phone attached.

Switch off bathroom fans once the steam has cleared after a shower.

Wear sweaters and socks around the house so you can set the thermostat a bit lower.

Open exterior doors only to enter and exit the home; don't hold them open if you're not ready to walk through.

Turn off the TV and sound system when no one is watching TV. Don't leave the entertainment system powered up all day for background noise.

Take quick showers instead of baths to conserve the energy it takes to heat water.

Open blinds to let in the warm sunshine when the weather is cold and close the blinds to block heat when it's hot outside.

Keep the refrigerator door closed. Open it only briefly to retrieve food so the cold air stays in.

Do homework next to a window with natural light instead of turning on a light.

Turn off the water when brushing teeth to save water. ■



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Reuben Quesadillas

- ½ cup Thousand Island dressing**
- 4 burrito-size flour tortillas**
- 12 ounces corned beef, sliced thin**
- 1 cup shredded Swiss cheese**
- 2 cups sauerkraut, drained**
- ½ teaspoon pepper (optional)**

1. Spread 2 tablespoons of dressing on each tortilla. Divide corned beef equally between two tortillas, then sprinkle each with half of the cheese. Top each with half of the sauerkraut and pepper, if using, then place tortilla on top of each.
2. Heat a griddle over medium heat. Use cooking spray if needed, and grill the filled tortillas, one at a time, 4 minutes on one side, then flip and grill 4 minutes longer.
3. When quesadillas are done, slice each into 6 pieces.

SERVES 4

TCP Find this and more delicious recipes online at [TexasCoopPower.com](https://www.texascoopower.com).