

# BELFALLS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

P.O. Box 598 • Rosebud, TX 76570 • Phone (254) 583-7955

## QUALITY OF LIFE IN CO-OP COUNTRY

This month, the nation's 900 electric cooperatives join the more than 40,000 cooperatives around the country to celebrate National Co-op Month. The cooperative form of business is making a difference in all aspects of life—utilities, housing, agriculture, health care, banking, insurance and childcare. Cooperatives serve 120 million members, or four in 10 Americans.

Did you know that co-ops outnumber publicly traded companies by a 4-to-1 margin? Cooperatives today are one of the fastest growing business segments in America, and there are some good reasons why. That's something that we like to point out, and it's especially appropriate to do so during Co-op Month.

Why are people so enamored with cooperatives? It probably has a lot to do with our core principles.

The key value upon which those principles rest is our commitment to people. Your co-op is a local business, owned by the people it serves. That means conducting business through a locally elected board of directors and an annual meeting where policy is proposed and voted on by consumers. It's the "people" part—the personal involvement, the grassroots activities—that characterizes what electric co-ops are all about.

Like you, we've been watching the evolution of customer choice in our industry. There have been some who have questioned whether electric co-ops could even survive. After all, how could we be very efficient?

But after several years of experimentation, others are beginning to realize what most of us understood from the very start: Profits are nice, technology is interesting, and markets

have their place. But in the end, it's taking care of the customer—YOU, our member-owners—that makes all the difference.

This concept of caring about people is simple but very powerful. It is the heart of what we like to call "our cooperative culture." Placing a priority on people isn't just about how we treat our members; it's also about how we take care of our employees and our local communities, our children and our families.

While other utilities were reducing the number of employees and closing local branch offices, most co-ops stayed the course. Some even added local offices where there was a great need, or to improve customer service! And the result? Co-op employees consistently provide a high level of service and professionalism. Our employees are just as committed to their communities and their quality of life as the members they serve. Fact is, our employees are loyal to our members and us. That's the cooperative way.

Next time you see one of our employees or directors, wave hello or thank them for the job they're doing for you.

Happy Cooperative Month!

## SET YOUR CLOCKS BACK; CHANGE ALARM'S BATTERIES

The time on your clocks isn't the only thing you need to change when Daylight Saving Time ends on Sunday, Oct. 31, this year.

It's appropriate that Daylight Saving Time ends in October, which is Fire Prevention Month, because when you change the time on your clocks, you should also change the batteries in your smoke detectors.

The most common reason smoke detectors fail to function during a house fire is because the batteries are dead. Changing the batteries twice a year when you set your clocks to "spring ahead" or "fall behind" is an easy habit to form.

A 78-year-old Benjamin Franklin

introduced the idea of "saving daylight" by joking about it in an essay after seeing a demonstration of new oil lamps in Paris. Franklin deemed a 6 a.m. sunrise an incredible waste of light, and suggested changing the hours on clocks to save candles in the evening.

It wasn't until World War II, however, that Americans embraced the practice (after dabbling in it during the prior World War).



## IN EMERGENCIES

These are telephone numbers to call to report outages after business hours and on weekends and holidays.

Kenneth Fikes.....(254) 583-4556

Larry Koslosky ....(254) 583-4555

Doug Matous .....(254) 583-2957

Bobby Skala.....(254) 583-7219

Ernest Martin .....(254) 583-2219

Joe W. Marek .....(254) 583-4016

Josh Darden .....(254) 721-9712

# SUMMARY 2004 BELFALLS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE ANNUAL MEETING

ROSEBUD-LOTT ATHLETIC FIELD • AUGUST 13, 2004

146 members registered  
Attendance prize—pocket tape measure  
Music by Beth Ryan  
Meeting called to order—7:30 p.m.  
Invocation by Lemuel Williams  
“Star Spangled Banner”—Beth Ryan  
Notice of annual meeting read by  
Coke Mills  
Approval of minutes of 2003 meeting  
Treasurer’s report—Joe Marek  
Report and election of directors—  
Attorney Coke Mills, David Walston  
and Sue Collier  
Manager’s report—Joe Marek  
Thank you—Joe Marek  
Drawing of prizes—Ernest Martin—  
children drew winning cards  
Color TV—Jim Willie Thompson  
\*Meter lamp (Brazos Electric)—  
Glenda Pechal  
Electric mixer—Darwin Bruggman  
Electric knife—Morning Star  
Baptist Church  
Electric can opener—Johnny Kelarek  
Coffee maker—Judy Hicks  
Crockpot—Billy Entrop  
Cassette recorder—Lloyd Harrington  
Clock-radio—Richard Gaann  
Extension cord—Arthur Greger  
Trouble light—Lemuel Williams  
Popcorn popper—Laura Bundick  
AM/FM radio—Dorothy Skala  
\*Rotary tool (Techline)—Viola  
Dorskocil  
\*\$25 credit on bill (S&H Power-  
line)—Edwin Malcik  
\*Tool set (Techline)—Warrey Bailey  
\*\$25 credit on bill (S&H Power-  
line)—Robert Heese  
\*Tool set (Techline)—Friedrich Kaul-  
fus  
\*\$25 credit on bill (S&H Power-  
line)—E.E. Baker

\*Tool set (Techline)—Bobby Malovets  
\*\$25 credit on bill (S&H Power-  
line)—Margaret Collier  
\*Tool set (Techline)—Leroy Ludecke  
\*\$25 credit on bill (S&H Power-  
line)—Eugene Haisler  
\*Tool set (Techline)—Eugene Hoff  
\*\$25 credit on bill (S&H Power-  
line)—Armando Berumen  
\*Deep fryer (Hughes Supply)—  
Louise Bielamowicz  
\*\$25 credit on bill (S&H Power-  
line)—Tommy Frie  
\*\$50 Wal-Mart shopping card  
(KBS)—Willie Mae Vanicek  
\*\$25 credit on bill (S&H Power-  
line)—Alfred Vrazel  
\*\$50 Wal-Mart shopping card  
(KBS)—Roland Diener  
\*\$25 credit on bill (S&H Power-  
line)—T.M. Rodden  
\*Golf bag (McCord Engineering)—  
Kay Nasso  
\*\$25 credit on bill (S&H Power-  
line)—Allen McLain  
\*Fishing rod & reel (McCord Engi-  
neering)—Ruben Elliston  
\*Binoculars (McCord Engineering)—  
Joan Scott  
Electric mixer—Rubin Gottschalk  
Electric knife—John Andy Vogelsang  
Electric can opener—Shirley Dach  
Coffee maker—Andrew Woltman  
Crockpot—William John Hrachovy  
Cassette recorder—Leonard Janke  
Clock-radio—Kenneth Hollas  
Extension cord—Clarence Psencik  
Trouble light—Andy Machicek  
Popcorn popper—Mrs. F.J. Novosad  
AM/FM radio—William Fabianke  
\*Donated prizes

## REMEMBERING A PIONEER

October brings Halloween and National Cooperative Month. It’s also the anniversary of the death of an electricity pioneer, Thomas Alva Edison, who died Oct. 18, 1931.

The “wizard of Menlo Park” was born Feb. 11, 1847, into a middle-class family in Milan, Ohio. He didn’t learn to talk until he was nearly 4 years old. From that moment, he had an insatiable curiosity about the world around him.

Edison, who was home-schooled, developed a solitary approach to the study of electricity, testing ideas himself rather than accepting what others told him about it. He opened his first laboratory in Newark, N.J., in 1871, and invented the electric filament lamp, for which he is most famous, in 1879. The first bulb remained lit for 40 hours.

During the same year, he improved the method of generating and distributing electricity. He also invented the first electric motor—which is still operable.

By the time he died, Edison had 1,093 patents. A few days after his death, lights across the country were dimmed for one minute to honor the great inventor.