



MESSAGE FROM GENERAL MANAGER/CEO

BILLY P. JONES

## New Year, Same Principles

JANUARY IS A GOOD TIME for us at Navarro County Electric Cooperative to reflect on the past year and make plans for the new one while keeping our Seven Cooperative Principles in mind.

2020 had its challenges.

Electric cooperatives across Texas were affected by natural disasters, the COVID-19 pandemic and economic uncertainty. To get through, we leaned on our values of helping one another and caring for the community, just as we have since our founding many years ago.

The past year also had its successes.

Among them, Navarro County EC celebrated 83 years of serving you, our consumer-members, with reliable electricity while hopefully improving your quality of life. The annual meeting may have looked a little bit different last year, but we still recognized



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our longevity and celebrated with the same enthusiasm the members who made it possible.

For 2021, we resolve to maintain the same—or even better—quality of service to our members as we have over the history of Navarro County EC.

We will continue to provide reliable electricity, maintain jobs in our community and offer energy-saving information in *Texas Co-op Power* while giving neighborly member service every step of the way.

And as we enter the new year, it's a good time for Navarro County EC to review the Seven Cooperative Principles. These principles are timeless, and we resolve to continue to uphold the values in ways

that are relevant for 2021.

**Voluntary and Open Membership:** Cooperatives are voluntary organizations, open to all persons able to use their services and willing to accept the responsibilities of membership, without gender, social, racial, political or religious discrimination.

**Democratic Member Control:** Cooperatives are democratic organizations controlled by their members, who actively participate in setting policies and making decisions. The elected board of directors is accountable to the membership.

**Members' Economic Participation:** Members contribute equitably to, and democratically control, the capital of their cooperative. At least part of that capital is usually the common property of the cooperative. Members allocate surpluses for any or all of the following purposes: developing the cooperative, distributing capital credits according to co-ops' individual formulas and supporting other activities approved by the members.

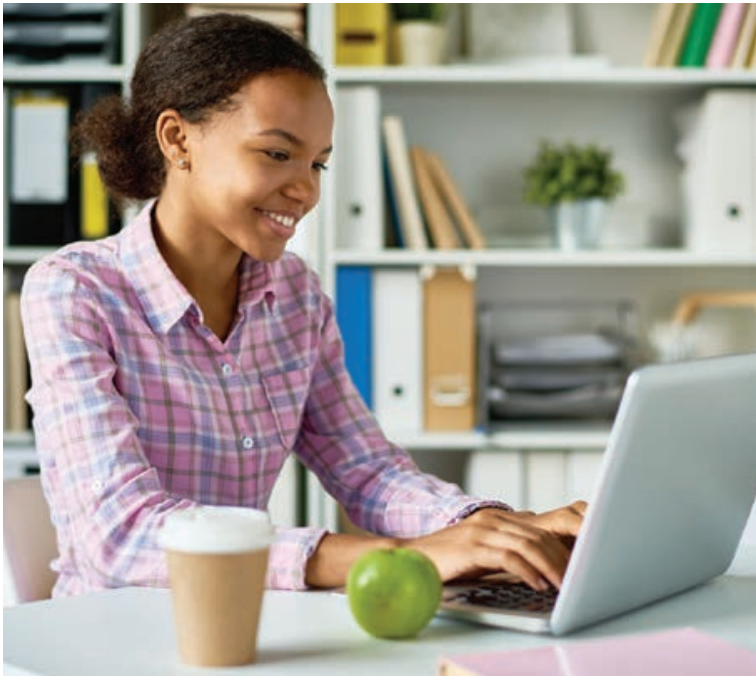
**Autonomy and Independence:** Co-ops are autonomous, self-help organizations controlled by their members. If they enter into agreements with other organizations, including governments, or raise capital from external sources, they do so on terms that ensure democratic control by their members and maintain their cooperative autonomy.

**Education, Training and Information:** Co-ops provide education and training for their members, elected representatives, managers and employees so they can contribute effectively to the development of their cooperatives. They inform the general public, particularly young people and opinion leaders, about the nature and benefits of cooperation.

**Cooperation Among Cooperatives:** Cooperatives serve their members most effectively and strengthen the cooperative movement by working together through local, national, regional and international structures.

**Concern for Community:** While focusing on member needs, cooperatives work for the sustainable development of their communities through policies and activities accepted by their members.

With resolute values like these at the center of all that we do, we are ready to take on the new year. ■



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## Apply Now for Scholarships

**NAVARRO COUNTY** Electric Cooperative is awarding six \$6,000 scholarships to local students. The scholarships must be used for the fall 2021 and spring 2022 semesters. Applications are available online at [navarroec.com](http://navarroec.com) and must be received in the cooperative's office by February 17.

If you have any questions, contact Nina Barber at (903) 874-7411, ext. 122, or [nbarber@navarroec.com](mailto:nbarber@navarroec.com). ■



# Happy New Year!

Our offices will be closed  
Friday, January 1, in  
observance of the holiday.

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## Navarro County Electric Cooperative

### CONTACT US

3800 W. Highway 22, Corsicana  
P.O. Box 616, Corsicana, TX 75151

**Local** (903) 874-7411

**Toll-Free** 1-800-771-9095

**Email** [msdept@navarroec.com](mailto:msdept@navarroec.com)

**Web** [navarroec.com](http://navarroec.com)

### General Manager/CEO

Billy P. Jones

### Board of Directors

Ron L. Buckley, President, District 2

Kent Sheffield, Vice President, District 1

George Smith, Secretary-Treasurer, District 6

Bennie Melton, District 5

Bill Southard, District 4

## 24/7

## Outage Hotline Numbers

For information and  
to report outages,  
please call us.

### LOCAL

(903) 874-7411

### TOLL-FREE

1-800-771-9095

### ABOUT NAVARRO COUNTY EC

NCEC owns and maintains more than 3,000 miles of line to provide electric service to more than 12,000 members in Ellis, Freestone, Hill, Limestone and Navarro counties.

### OFFICE HOURS

Monday–Friday, 8 a.m.–5 p.m.

### BILL PAYMENT OPTIONS

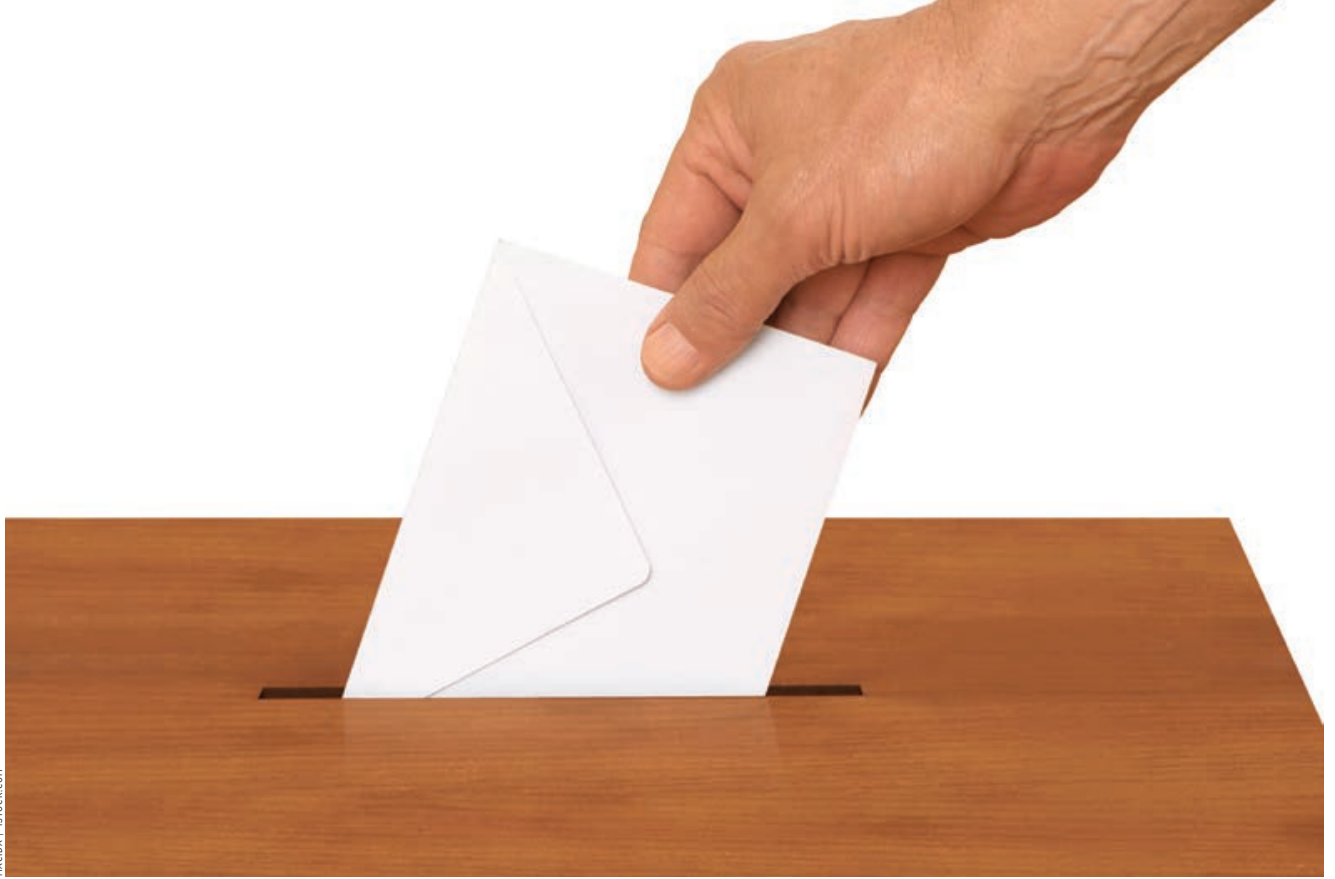
- Online at [navarroec.com](http://navarroec.com)
- Through the SmartHub app
- By phone at 1-855-385-9975  
(Phone payments are not accepted on the NCEC office line.)

### TEXAS CO-OP POWER

NCEC provides *Texas Co-op Power* and [TexasCoopPower.com](http://TexasCoopPower.com) to give you information about events, safety, special programs and other activities of your cooperative. If you have any comments or suggestions, please contact the co-op office.

### VISIT US ONLINE

[navarroec.com](http://navarroec.com)



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## NCEC Bylaws Detail Director Elections

**PURSUANT TO ARTICLE IV, SECTION 3,** of the bylaws of Navarro County Electric Cooperative, the board of directors, at their December 17, 2020, meeting, appointed committees to nominate director candidates for districts II and VI.

District II includes all members living in an area bounded on the west by a line beginning at the Highway 31 Chambers Creek crossing east of Corsicana. Then west, following 31 to Interstate Highway 45. Then north, following Interstate Highway 45 to Chambers Creek north of Corsicana. Then northwest, following Chambers Creek to the Navarro-Ellis County line. Then east, following the Navarro-Ellis County line to the Trinity River. Then south, following the Trinity River to its junction with Richland Creek. Then northwest along Richland Creek to its junction with Chambers Creek. Then northwest along Chambers Creek to Highway 31 crossing east of Corsicana.

District VI includes all members living in an area bounded by a line beginning at Interstate Highway 45 north of Rice at the Navarro-Ellis County line. Then following Interstate Highway 45 to FM 983 at Ferris. Then southwest, following FM 983 to FM 813. Then following FM 813 to the Highway 287 bypass at Waxahachie. Then west, following the Highway 287 bypass to Interstate 35E. Then south, following Interstate 35E to Chambers Creek crossing north of Italy. Then southeast, following Chambers Creek to the Navarro-Ellis County line at the Fort Worth and Denver (Burlington) Railroad. Then east, following the Navarro-Ellis County line to Interstate 45.

The directors whose terms are expiring are Ron L. Buckley, District II, and George Smith, District VI.

### Bylaws Article IV

#### Section 3. Election and Tenure of Office

(a) Nominating Committee. Not less than one hundred twenty (120) days prior to the annual membership meeting, the Board of Directors shall appoint a Nominating Committee consisting of three (3) members of the district where the term of the Director is expiring. Such nominating committee shall nominate one or more members from the district where the term of the Director is expiring, as a Director for that district for the ensuing year. The nominating committee shall meet at a place convenient to the committee to select nominees, such meeting to be held not less than ninety (90) days prior to the annual meeting of the members, and report to the Cooperative the names of its nominees within three (3) days thereafter.

(b) Nominations by Petition. In addition to Nominating Committee nominations, Members may nominate, through petition, individuals from the district where the term of the Director is expiring, as a Director for that district to run for election for a Director position. Nominating Members make nominations by petition by returning to the Cooperative no later than March 15 (or the next business day, if March 15 falls on a weekend or holiday for which the Cooperative's business office is closed), a completed application package obtained from the Cooperative for each petition nomination:

1. Listing, on each page of the petition, the name of the petition nominee;
2. Indicating, on each page of the petition, the Director position (District) for which the petition nominee will run; and



3. Containing the printed names, addresses, and telephone numbers, and original dated signatures signed within sixty days of the first signature, of at least 50 members from the District for which the nominee is nominated; provided that any candidate(s) so nominated must meet the qualifications prescribed in Section 4 hereof.

(c) No Nomination From the Floor and Write-In Candidates. Members may not make nominations from the floor nor nominate or vote for write-in candidates.

(d) Notice of Director Nominations. At least ten (10) days before a Member Meeting at which Members are scheduled to elect Directors, the Cooperative shall notify Members of the:

1. director positions scheduled for election by Members;
2. names and corresponding Director positions of all Nominating Committee Nominations; and
3. names and corresponding Director positions of all Member petition nominations, if any

(e) Approval of Director. Each member present at the annual membership meeting may vote for one candidate from each District where the term of a Director is expiring. The candidate from each district who receives the highest number of votes shall be declared the Director for that District.

(f) Notice of Bylaws. At least sixty (60) days before a member's meeting where Directors will be elected, the Cooperative must provide Members with this Bylaw section.

**Section 4. Qualifications.** No person shall be eligible to become or remain a director of the Cooperative who:

(a) Is not a member, or has a controlling interest in another person or entity that has one or more accounts with the Cooperative, that is not in good standing, and maintains a bona fide principal place of residence receiving electric service from the Cooperative in the area served or to be served by the Cooperative for a period of twelve (12) months prior to nomination (and continuously thereafter); or

(b) Is in any way employed by or financially interested in a competing enterprise or a business selling electric energy, or supplies to the Cooperative, or a business primarily engaged in selling electrical or plumbing appliances, fixtures or supplies to the members of the Cooperative; or

(c) Is the incumbent of, or candidate for, an elective public office in connection with which a salary is paid. School trustees shall not be considered as salaried, elective public officers; or

(d) Is a current employee or has been, within five (5) years, an employee of the Cooperative or who has ever been an employee of the Cooperative and had such employment terminated by the Cooperative, or is a spouse, brother, sister, mother, father, grandmother, or grandfather of a current employee of the Cooperative or a person who has been, within five (5) years, an employee of the Cooperative or a person who has ever been an employee of the Cooperative and had such employment terminated by the Cooperative; or

(e) Has ever been convicted of a felony; or

(f) While serving on the Board, is not present at three (3) consecutive meetings (other than due to bona fide illness).

Upon establishment of the fact that a director is holding office in violation of any of the foregoing provisions, the Board of Directors shall remove such director from office.

Nothing contained in this section shall affect in any manner whatsoever the validity of any action taken at any meeting of the Board of Directors. ■

## Resolve To Stay Safe

**MOST OF OUR** New Year's resolutions are along the lines of spending less, saving more, eating less, exercising more, working less and spending more time with family.

This year consider adding a few things to the list to help keep your family safe.

- ▶ Practice "out with the old, in with the new" with appliances. If an appliance snaps, crackles or pops but shouldn't, replace it with a safer, more energy-efficient model.
- ▶ If you have light switch plates or outlets that get warm to the touch with use, or your lights dim when certain appliances come on, it's time to call an electrician. The electrical load of most homes has increased substantially in the past 20 years, but your home's wiring may not be up to the challenge. To keep your loved ones safe, have it checked out and make the necessary improvements and repairs.
- ▶ If you regularly find yourself headed to the breaker box with a flashlight in hand to restore power, it's probably time for repairs or an upgrade. Have a professional electrician do an inspection and make repairs.
- ▶ Smoke detectors and fire extinguishers only help if they work properly. Regularly test and replace the batteries in smoke detectors. Replace or recharge fire extinguishers so they'll be ready in the event of a fire. ■

