

TEXAS CO-OP POWER  
SEPTEMBER 2023



1938-2023

 **BIG COUNTRY**  
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE  
23rd Annual Report,  
Virtual Annual Meeting  
and Open House

## OFFICIAL NOTICE

# Big Country Electric Cooperative 23rd Annual Meeting of the Membership

## One day, two events!

The annual meeting of the membership of Big Country Electric Cooperative will be held virtually September 26 at [bigcountry.coop](http://bigcountry.coop) in accordance Article V, Meetings of Members, of the cooperative's bylaws. The annual report, video and director election results will be posted by 10 a.m.

The annual meeting of the members of the above cooperative will include reports to the membership on the following:

- The reports of officers, directors and committees.
- The election of two directors of the cooperative.

The following members of the cooperative have been selected to appear on the ballot for the respective districts by the committee on nominations appointed by the board of directors of the cooperative or as nominees by petition, pursuant to the bylaws:

### DISTRICT 3

**Chris Estes** (Incumbent)  
679 FM 1812, Sylvester 79560  
Nominated by nominating committee

### DISTRICT 4

**Todd Coker** (Incumbent)  
919 state Highway 70 S., Roby 79543  
Nominated by nominating committee

Nominees by petition require 25 members' signatures and must be submitted to the cooperative not less than 20 days prior to the meeting. As of press time, no additional nominations by petition have been received.

Each member is entitled to cast one ballot using one of the following methods:

- Mail-in ballot enclosed herein (must be received by September 20)
- Online (deadline September 20)
- SmartHub app (deadline September 20)

Please read instructions on the enclosed printed ballot carefully regardless of voting method. Votes received by mail after the deadline will be invalid. Electronic voting will be disabled after the deadline. Ballots cannot be accepted at BCEC offices.

Each registered member who votes will receive a \$15 energy credit.

**David Beaver**  
Secretary-Treasurer

## Virtual Annual Meeting

Tuesday, September 26 | 10 a.m. at [bigcountry.coop](http://bigcountry.coop)

## Member Appreciation Open House

Tuesday, September 26 | 4–7 p.m. at each BCEC office  
Snacks and door prize drawings for those who stop by!

## Why a Virtual Annual Meeting?

As your member-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperative, we take our responsibility to wisely manage our operating funds very seriously. Last year's virtual annual meeting was well received and less costly to produce than our former annual meeting. We value face-to-face contact with our members and know that many of you desire that as well, which is why we will host an open house on the same day as our virtual annual meeting. Please cast your vote and stop by to snack and visit with us and to be part of the cooperative difference in action!



MESSAGE  
FROM  
GENERAL  
MANAGER/  
CEO

MARK  
MCCLAIN

## BCEC Team Turns Curveballs into Home Runs



**IN LAST YEAR'S REPORT**, I shared about the curveballs your co-op has experienced over the last few years. I could almost copy and paste my thoughts from last year about the variety of curveballs we've been thrown, and hit with everything we've got, over the past year.

While all that remains true, as I reflect over the past year, I see a team that has learned and grown. I wish that there were time and space for me to share the many ways we have grown as a team and all the things we have learned with the goal of serving our members better, but here are a few highlights.

**PCA changes:** In the last half of 2021 and throughout 2022, we shared detailed explanations of how the drastically increased price of natural gas drove up the cost of power, resulting in the PCA charge of up to \$0.03 per kilowatt-hour assessed to your bill to offset the additional costs. That decision was not one that Big Country Electric Cooperative's leadership team or board of directors arrived at lightly, and the PCA was increased in as small of increments as possible instead of the instantaneous hike many utilities implemented. Each discussion centered around you—how to minimize the cost impact to our members who were getting hit right

and left by other increased expenses, balanced with maintaining the financial integrity of your co-op. Thankfully the prices of natural gas and power have decreased, allowing us to remove that additional amount from your bill. We hope and pray that the stable trend continues!

**Residential solar:** We have learned more about the deceptive sales tactics of some dishonest solar salespeople, some of which have targeted our members. We share education consistently in our newsletter and on Facebook, and we have a robust solar education resource on our website to try to educate our members before they are trapped in a costly contract with no easy way out. We are not against solar energy production—we are against deceptive sales tactics that mislead members into believing their electric bills will go away and solar panels can meet all their needs and make or save them money.

**Security and response services:** In January, we engaged a new after-hours answering and dispatch service to better handle after-hours outages and communications with crews in the field. Dispatchers answering our phone after hours have training and access to work with our computer system and



This spring, BCEC's employee relations team coordinated a fun day for employees to work together and give back. Teams assembled tricycles, then tested their work by staging an obstacle course and race in the parking lot. We don't remember who won, but we really enjoyed watching our linemen—especially the tall ones—come up with creative ways to ride a tricycle! The trikes were donated to local daycares in Snyder, Stamford and Roby for little legs to enjoy.

contact crews just as our member account representatives can during regular business hours. This change has been overwhelmingly positive and helpful for us, and we hope that if you've had to report an outage after hours, you've been pleased as well.

**Materials shortages and shipping delays:** In early 2023, we were sweating the availability of our most-used pole sizes, larger transformers and several types of meters. Our team worked hard to investigate all resources to ensure that, should a storm happen, we could provide the materials we needed. Thankfully we have had no problems sourcing supplies to restore power, and there have only been a few instances where we've had to put members' projects on hold due to material availability, but it's worth repeating that if you have a need for new or upgraded service, please let us know as far in advance as possible so that we can order materials and get your project in our ever-growing queue.

**New substations:** Finally, after years of planning, our four new substations are underway! Our Sylvester substation is almost complete but will not be able to be energized until spring 2024. The Wright substation north of Rotan and the North Hamlin substations will follow, and we will conclude with our Camp Springs substation. These will better accommodate growing electric load in their respective areas and will allow us to more evenly redistribute the load of existing meters

to alleviate strain on our system. The new substations will also allow us refeed options so that if extended power outages occur, we may be able to refeed service to you from another substation.

We pride ourselves on being more than just your electric company. Our mission is to be the first-choice electric provider and through safe, reliable, competitive service to deliver quality of life for our members, communities and employees that brings us all together. These aren't just words on our website, they are words we live and work by every day. We live out our mission through applying the Seven Cooperative Principles:

**Voluntary and Open Membership:** Membership in a cooperative is open to all people who can reasonably use its services and stand willing to accept the responsibilities of membership regardless of race, religion, gender or economic circumstances.

**Democratic Member Control:** Cooperatives are democratically controlled by their members and each member gets one vote.

**Members' Economic Participation:** Each member contributes the same \$25 membership fee. As a not-for-profit cooperative, margins are allocated for developing the cooperative in ways that benefit the membership and are returned to members as capital credits proportionately to their energy consumption from the cooperative.

**Autonomy and Independence:** Each co-op has a unique



identity and is controlled by its members—not private investors. You elect directors to make decisions for Big Country EC on your behalf.

**Education, Training and Information:** Our employees and directors receive top-notch education and training so that we can serve you and manage your cooperative well now and into the future. We extend training to the community about electricity and electrical safety and strive to constantly make education available to our members.

**Cooperation Among Cooperatives:** Although each co-op functions independently, we link arms when our neighbors need it. Remember the storms in late June? Restoration was possible because our neighboring co-ops helped us. There have been times in the past and there will be times in the future that we help other co-ops and they help us. From ice storms to hurricanes and tornadoes to wildfires, co-ops have an incomparable sense of duty and action to help where there is a need. Sometimes that need is in East Texas, Oklahoma or right here at home.

**Concern for Community:** We don't just work here, we live here. Whether through financial contributions or volunteering, we care about our communities and we act on that. Whether donating time or money to the food bank, backpack snack programs or senior citizens centers; participating in community cleanups, coaching youth sports teams, leading youth groups, or serving on the school board, our employees have names and faces that you know and can count on. This principle is also

why we send local students to Washington, D.C., each June on the Government-in-Action Youth Tour and award scholarships to graduating high school seniors: We invest in our youth to ensure they are prepared to be future community leaders.

The wonderful thing about our co-op team, beyond what I have listed above, is that in doing all these things, we are a team and a family. We like coming to work every day, even in the middle of the night if we have to. Over the decade that I have now been at Big Country EC, I have been so proud to see us grow as a family; a family that is united through service and cooperation to serve others. The bond that we have is what makes and keeps us humble and successfully serving you; it is what makes electric cooperatives so special.

In 2024, I could probably write about curveballs again. Weather, technology, the economy—you name it, and you can probably relate—we don't have the time or luxury of being complacent. We learn and adapt every day. Our new logo reflects that adaptation and serves as an updated emblem of the co-op you trust. Of all the things that could keep me up worrying at night, I don't, because I have absolute trust and faith in the BCEC team of employees and directors who serve you. I hope you find comfort and confidence that despite the whirlwind times we find ourselves in, you can trust the names and faces that make up Big Country Electric Cooperative to live out our stated mission to serve you. ■



## OUR MISSION

To be the first-choice electric provider. Through safe, reliable, competitive service, we deliver quality of life for our members, communities, and employees that bring us all together.



## 1 PEOPLE MATTER

- We respect one another
- We show appreciation for each others' contributions to the firm
- We make it a point to recognize each other for work well done and living our core values
- We promote work/life integration
- We genuinely care about the best interests of our people
- We strive to be flexible to accommodate the needs of one another



## 2 COMMITTED PARTNER

- We build trusted relationships with our members (internal and external)
- We are proactive and anticipate the needs of our members
- We always base our service on integrity
- We must create additional value for our members by going beyond service expectations
- Providing prompt service and being responsive is a must



## 3 TRUSTED LEADERSHIP

- We lead with integrity and through our core values
- We encourage everyone to be authentic
- We always follow-through
- We are forward-thinking
- We are open-minded to others' ideas and opinions



## 4 UNMATCHED QUALITY

- We have a strong commitment to excellence
- We encourage innovative thinking
- We encourage development investments within our technical niches
- We invest in the continuous development of technical expertise and industry-specific training



## 5 TEAMWORK

- We commit to providing each other ongoing feedback and communication in the spirit of continuous improvement
- We help each other succeed by leveraging each person's talents
- We promote a culture of inclusion
- We share knowledge and resources with one another
- We embrace diverse opinions and promote appreciation of those who are different than ourselves

# BCEC Nominations Committee Report

A meeting of the committee on nominations, as provided in Article VI, section 6.06 of the bylaws of Big Country Electric Cooperative, appointed by the board of directors, was held at the office of the cooperative in Roby, Texas, on June 22 at 8:07 a.m.

The following members of the committee on nominations present were Bob Moore, Jeff Upshaw, Marvin McDuff, and Steve Devaney.

The Cooperative's vice president of office services, Linda Key, provided information regarding the functions and terms of the committee on nominations.

Linda Key acted as temporary chairperson and opened the nomination for chairman of the committee on nominations.

Bob Moore nominated Jeff Upshaw as chairman of the committee. Marvin McDuff seconded, and the motion was unanimously agreed upon. Jeff Upshaw appointed Linda Key as recording secretary of the committee.

After full and thorough discussion of the purpose of the committee on nominations and; with only the members and recording secretary thereof shown above to be present and; upon a motion made, seconded and unanimously adopted it was resolved: That the following members of the cooperative be nominated as candidates for a place on the board of directors, to be voted upon by the members of the Cooperative at the next annual membership meeting on September 26, 2023:

**District 3: Chris Estes**  
**District 4: Todd Coker**

The order in which the nominees' names appear on the ballot was determined by a blind draw where appropriate.

The committee, having served the functions for which it was appointed and upon a motion made, seconded and unanimously adopted, was adjourned at 8:17 a.m.

These minutes are to be presented and approved by the Big Country Electric Cooperative Board of Directors at its next scheduled meeting.

Steve Devaney     Marvin McDuff  
Riley Barnett     Bob Moore  
Jerry Upshaw

Candidates may also be nominated by petition.

# Director Nominees

## DISTRICT 3 NOMINEE



**Chris Estes**, incumbent director candidate for District 3, has lived on the Fisher/Jones county line all of his life. He is a third-generation farmer and rancher in Jones and Fisher counties and operates a water well business. His wife, Leindy, is from Anson and is a nurse for Hawley Independent School District. Their daughter, Brooke, recently graduated from Texas Tech University School of Medicine and is completing her residency. Their son, Landon, is 24 and is involved in the family ranch and business operations.

Estes is on the Fisher County Farm Bureau board, serving as vice president, and is also president of Roby Consolidated Independent School District board. Estes and his family are members of the Sylvester Baptist Church. They have received service from Big Country Electric Cooperative since 1993.

## DISTRICT 4 NOMINEE



**Todd Coker**, incumbent director candidate for District 4, was elected to the Big Country Electric Cooperative board in 2005. He and his wife, Melissa, have two sons, Caden and Colton; a daughter-in-law, Colton's wife, Sarah; and a grandson. Coker is a farmer and rancher in Fisher County. He was born in Sweetwater and was raised in the Longworth community. He served as an Farm Service Agency county commissioner for nine years.

Coker is currently on the Longworth Co-op Gin board. Coker and his family are members of the First Baptist Church in Roby and live south of Roby. They have been members of Big Country Electric Cooperative since 1991.

## Board of Directors



**Matt Mueller**  
District 1  
16 Years of Service



**Zach Logan**  
District 2  
1 Year of Service



**Chris Estes**  
District 3  
12 Years of Service



**Todd Coker**  
District 4  
18 Years of Service



**Steve Moore**  
District 5  
17 Years of Service



**Danny Helms**  
District 6  
11 Years of Service

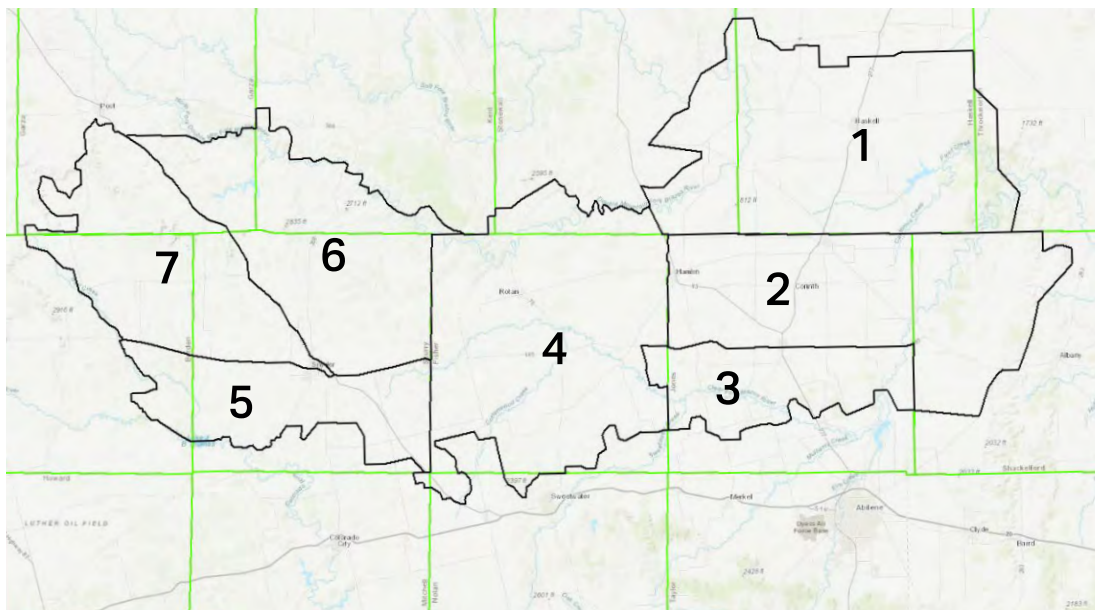


**David Beaver**  
District 7  
16 Years of Service

**BCEC Board  
of Directors**

91 Years  
of Combined  
Service

## Director Districts



# Comparative Statement of Income

For the years ended December 31, 2020, 2021 and 2022 (audited)

	2020	2021	2022
Revenue from the sale of our services amounted to	\$ 31,464,065	\$ 39,520,926	\$ 49,687,060
WHERE IT CAME FROM			
Farm and Home	\$ 11,135,735	\$ 12,299,750	\$ 15,148,199
Commercial and Industrial	\$ 16,965,816	\$ 23,955,936	\$ 31,014,951
Irrigation	\$ 1,091,295	\$ 1,133,111	\$ 1,643,744
Miscellaneous Electric	\$ 574,291	\$ 315,750	\$ 551,277
Total Operating Revenue	\$ 29,767,137	\$ 37,704,547	\$ 48,358,171
Nonoperating Revenue	\$ 135,496	\$ 1,561,651	\$ 116,190
Other Capital Credits and Patronage Dividends	\$ 1,561,433	\$ 254,728	\$ 1,212,699
Total Revenue	\$ 31,464,065	\$ 39,520,926	\$ 49,687,060
To supply these services cost a total of	\$ 27,465,020	\$ 34,855,270	\$ 43,498,302
WHERE IT WENT			
Purchased Power	\$ 13,564,659	\$ 21,143,427	\$ 28,837,713
Operations and Administration	\$ 9,037,931	\$ 8,664,429	\$ 9,299,764
Depreciation	\$ 3,321,675	\$ 3,485,130	\$ 3,687,888
Interest and Other Deductions	\$ 1,517,421	\$ 1,535,774	\$ 1,642,109
Taxes	\$ 23,334	\$ 26,510	\$ 30,828
Total Operating Costs	\$ 27,465,020	\$ 34,855,270	\$ 43,498,302
Operating Margins (Operating Revenue Less Operating Costs)	\$ 2,302,117	\$ 2,849,277	\$ 4,859,869
Other Capital Credits	\$ 1,561,433	\$ 254,728	\$ 1,212,699
Nonoperating Margins	\$ 135,496	\$ 1,561,651	\$ 116,190
Total Margins	\$ 3,999,045	\$ 4,665,655	\$ 6,188,758

# Comparative Statistics

For the years ended December 31, 2020, 2021 and 2022

	2020	2021	2022
Average Monthly Bill	\$189.64	\$238.56	\$301.21
Kilowatt-Hours Sold	255,600,900	295,640,068	363,475,307
Revenue per Kilowatt-Hour Sold	\$0.1165	\$0.1275	\$0.133
Kilowatt-Hours Purchased	280,224,811	322,889,919	394,404,894
Line Loss	8.8%	8.4%	7.8%
Average Kilowatt-Hours per Bill per Consumer	1,628	1,871	2,264
Plant Investment per Consumer	\$7,815	\$8,917	9,410
Net Change in Plant	\$4,816,878	\$4,942,240	6,590,366
Consumers per Mile of Line	2.4	2.5	2.5
Average Number of Consumers	13,081	13,171	13,379
Total Miles of Line	5,343	5,362	5,383

# Comparative Balance Sheet

For the years ended December 31, 2020, 2021 and 2022 (audited)

	2020	2021	2022
<b>ASSETS—WHAT WE OWN</b>			
Utility Plant	\$ 110,616,665	\$ 117,449,207	\$ 125,897,246
Less: Accumulated Depreciation—Lines, Buildings and Equipment	\$ 41,798,303	\$ 43,688,605	\$ 45,546,278
<b>Net Utility Plant</b>	<b>\$ 68,818,362</b>	<b>\$ 73,760,602</b>	<b>\$ 80,350,968</b>
Cash and Investments			
Cash	\$ 1,301,709	\$ 1,412,543	\$ 1,737,371
Other Investments	\$ 23,464,913	\$ 22,944,848	\$ 23,984,828
<b>Total Cash and Investments</b>	<b>\$ 24,766,622</b>	<b>\$ 24,357,391</b>	<b>\$ 25,722,199</b>
Accounts Receivable	\$ 3,084,216	\$ 4,443,115	\$ 6,263,448
Materials and Supplies	\$ 767,064	\$ 1,061,590	\$ 1,387,102
Deferred Debits and Other Assets	\$ 964,953	\$ 648,194	\$ 674,553
<b>Total Other Assets</b>	<b>\$ 4,816,233</b>	<b>\$ 6,152,899</b>	<b>\$ 8,325,103</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$ 98,401,217</b>	<b>\$104,270,892</b>	<b>\$114,398,270</b>
<b>LIABILITIES—WHAT WE OWE</b>			
Long-Term Debt—Total Amount Borrowed and Deferred Interest	\$ 35,057,525	\$36,526,566	\$ 39,083,227
Other Liabilities and Credits			
Deferred Credits and Other Liabilities	\$ 5,081,155	\$ 5,570,231	\$ 6,280,217
Short-Term Borrowings	\$ 3,216,557	\$ 2,464,041	\$ 1,909,255
Due to Suppliers	\$ 1,832,953	\$ 2,390,578	\$ 4,279,266
<b>Total Other Liabilities and Credits</b>	<b>\$ 10,130,665</b>	<b>\$ 10,424,850</b>	<b>\$ 12,468,738</b>
<b>MEMBERS' EQUITY—OUR NET WORTH</b>			
Membership Fees	\$ 125,985	\$ 129,200	\$ 132,255
Patronage Capital and Other Equities	\$ 53,087,042	\$ 57,190,276	\$ 62,714,050
Total Members' Equity	\$ 53,213,027	\$ 57,319,476	\$ 62,846,305
<b>Total Liabilities and Members' Equity</b>	<b>\$ 98,401,217</b>	<b>\$104,270,892</b>	<b>\$114,398,270</b>

# Balance Sheet

As of June 30, 2023 (unaudited)

## ASSETS—WHAT WE OWN

Utility Plant	\$131,701,505
Less: Accumulated Depreciation— Lines, Buildings and Equipment	46,843,657
<b>Net Utility Plant</b>	<b>\$ 84,857,848</b>
Cash and Investments	
Cash	\$ 3,057,681
Other Investments	23,679,689
<b>Total Cash and Investments</b>	<b>\$ 26,728,371</b>
Accounts Receivable	\$ 4,013,723
Materials and Supplies	1,645,775
Deferred Debits and Other Assets	261,853
<b>Total Other Assets</b>	<b>\$ 5,921,351</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$117,507,570</b>

## LIABILITIES—WHAT WE OWE

<b>Long-Term Debt—Total Amount Borrowed and Deferred Interest</b>	<b>\$ 37,991,916</b>
Other Liabilities and Credits	
Deferred Credits and Other Liabilities	\$ 7,819,149
Short-Term Borrowings	2,093,494
Due to Suppliers	5,503,715
<b>Total Other Liabilities and Credits</b>	<b>\$ 15,416,358</b>

## MEMBERS' EQUITY—OUR NET WORTH

Membership Fees	\$ 133,515
Patronage Capital and Other Equities	63,965,782
<b>Total Members' Equity</b>	<b>\$ 64,099,297</b>
<b>Total Liabilities and Members' Equity</b>	<b>\$117,507,570</b>

# Statement of Income

As of June 30, 2023 (unaudited)

Revenue from the sale of  
our services amounted to **\$ 19,606,781**

## WHERE IT CAME FROM

Farm and Home	\$ 5,863,483	29.91%
Commercial and Industrial	12,760,220	65.08%
Irrigation	682,007	3.48%
Miscellaneous Electric	201,999	1.03%
<b>Total Operating Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 19,507,709</b>	<b>99.5%</b>
Nonoperating Revenue	\$ 98,769	0.5%
Other Capital Credits and Patronage Dividends	303	0.00%
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 19,606,781</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

To supply these services cost a total of **\$ 17,378,482**

## WHERE IT WENT

Purchased Power	\$ 9,635,594	49.15%
Operations and Administration	4,845,233	24.71%
Depreciation	1,963,801	10.02%
Interest and Other Deductions	918,325	4.68%
Taxes	15,529	0.08%
<b>Total Operating Costs</b>	<b>\$ 17,378,482</b>	<b>88.64%</b>
Operating Margins	\$ 2,129,277	10.86%
Other Capital Credits	303	0.00%
Nonoperating Margins	98,769	0.5%
<b>Total Margins</b>	<b>\$ 2,228,299</b>	<b>11.36%</b>



# Big Country EC Employees: 748 Years of Combined Service

NAME	LOCATION	YEARS	NAME	LOCATION	YEARS	NAME	LOCATION	YEARS
Gary Adams	Stamford	2	Eileen Goodgame	Roby	25	Patrick Pierce	Stamford	34
Noe Arce	Roby	1	Mason Guerra	Roby	10	Robert Pippin	Stamford	21
Chase Arrendale	Snyder	13	Redonna Guynes	Snyder	23	Andrew Porter	Roby	4
Latrice Baucom	Roby	7	Sonja Hampton	Roby	3	Bren Rister	Roby	4 months
Robert Bohall	Roby	12	R. Brian Hinkle	Snyder	12	Alfred Robles	Stamford	18
Joe Brewer	Stamford	28	Wade Ivy	Stamford	5	Ann Sanchez	Stamford	41
Alex Cantu	Roby	5	Sarah Johnson	Roby	4	John Sanchez	Stamford	16
Erika Castillo	Snyder	24	Linda Key	Roby	36	Rosa Sanchez	Roby	9
Jakob Clawson	Roby	11	Cato Macias	Stamford	19	Corbin Smith	Snyder	4
James Claxton	Roby	12	Tyler Martin	Snyder	3 months	Sam Colton Smith	Stamford	12
Brittini Cronkright	Roby	6	Mike Martinez	Roby	13	Mike Snead	Snyder	20
Misti Davis	Stamford	1	Jeremy McArthur	Roby	16	Bailey Stegemoeller	Roby	6
Arron Duniven	Roby	16	David McCarter	Snyder	6	Christopher Thomson	Roby	8
William Duniven	Roby	26	Mark McClain	Roby	31	Timothy Thompson	Roby	1
Scott Edmonds	Roby	23	Cary McClintock	Stamford	30	Cesar Torres	Snyder	3 months
Allegra Escobedo	Snyder	3	Cody McClintock	Stamford	9	John VanMater	Roby	12
Baleria Frausto	Roby	10	Cedar McLwain	Roby	1	Gabriel Vasquez	Snyder	13
Leticia Fuentes	Snyder	11	Sarah McLen	Roby	15	Henry Vega	Stamford	14
Joe Garza	Snyder	22	Brian Niedert	Roby	11	Eric Villanueva	Stamford	1
Wesley Gonzales	Stamford	4	Chase Perez	Snyder	1	Amanda Weaver	Roby	6



## POWERING AMERICA'S FUTURE



**Voices for  
Cooperative  
Power**

*United for Stronger  
Communities*

### **As a co-op member, your voice matters!**

Voices for Cooperative Power is a network of electric co-op members working together to influence public policy decisions that impact our co-ops and our way of life.

VCP will help ensure that Texas leaders clearly understand your position on pending legislation that affects electric cooperatives and their members.



**JOIN TODAY!**

Scan this code or visit  
[voicesforcooperativepower.com](https://www.voicesforcooperativepower.com)



[@voices4coops](https://www.voices4coops.org)

# A Little Change Does Big Things

WHEN WE ANNOUNCED our Operation Round Up program in 2014, we knew it would make a difference by serving local needs and hoped that it would have a great impact on lives in this area.

Operation Round Up is supported by members who voluntarily “round up” their electric bill to the nearest dollar. For example, if your electric bill is \$151.22, your bill would be rounded to \$152, and the change—never any more than 99 cents a month—goes into the Operation Round Up trust fund. Those funds are earmarked for distribution to individuals and organizations for charitable purposes only in the counties we serve: Borden, Fisher, Garza, Haskell, Jones, Kent, Mitchell, Nolan, Scurry, Shackelford, Stonewall and Throckmorton. Food banks, nonprofits offering shelter and medical care, rescue organizations, educational projects, and child care programs are just a few of the community helpers your cents have helped support since December 2014. Contributions are tax deductible, and applications are handled with the utmost confidence and respect. Every penny stays right here at home, in the counties Big Country Electric Cooperative serves.

Eight and a half years later, how much difference have your cents made?

\$419,346!

Thank you for your cents—they matter!



## POWER TIP

If you want to keep the heat out of your home, keep the sunlight out. Close your blinds and shades and your home will feel cooler and more comfortable.

BRIANAJACKSON | ISTOCK.COM



## Big Country Electric Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

### CONTACT US

1010 W. South First St., Roby

P.O. Box 518, Roby, TX 79543

Phone (325) 776-2244

Web [bigcountry.coop](http://bigcountry.coop)

### General Manager

Mark McClain

### Board of Directors

Steve Moore, President

Danny Helms, Vice President

David Beaver, Secretary-Treasurer

Todd Coker

Chris Estes

Zachary Logan

Matt Mueller

## Phones Answered 24/7

Roby  
(325) 776-2244

Snyder  
(325) 573-3161

Stamford  
(325) 773-3684

Toll-Free  
1-888-662-2232

### ABOUT BIG COUNTRY EC

BCEC owns and maintains more than 5,300 miles of line to provide electric service to more than 5,300 members in Borden, Fisher, Garza, Haskell, Jones, Kent, Mitchell, Nolan, Scurry, Shackelford, Stonewall and Throckmorton counties.

### OFFICES

**Hours:** Monday–Thursday, 7:30 a.m.–5:30 p.m.; Friday, 7:30–11:30 a.m.; Closed from Noon–1:00 p.m. Monday–Thursday; ; Closed to visitors on Fridays.

### BCEC Headquarters

1010 W. South First St., Roby

### Snyder Office

1600 McCowen St., Snyder

### Stamford Office

225 W. McHarg St., Stamford

### PAYMENT OPTIONS

- Online bill payment
- Electronic check
- Visa, Mastercard, American Express and Discover accepted for residential accounts

### VISIT US ONLINE

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



Check us out at  
[TexasCoopPower.com/bigco](http://TexasCoopPower.com/bigco)

**MEMBER REGISTRATION CARD  
AND TICKET FOR DOOR PRIZES**

**Big Country Electric Cooperative  
Member Appreciation Open House**

**Tuesday, September 26, 2023**

4–7 p.m. at each BCEC office

Snacks and door prize drawings for those who stop by!



**TEAR OFF THIS REGISTRATION CARD AND BRING IT WITH YOU TO THE OPEN HOUSE.**

# Minutes of 2022 Annual Meeting

The 2022 Virtual Annual Meeting of the Membership of Big Country Electric Cooperative and Open House was held September 26, 2022. As a member-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperative, we take our responsibility to wisely manage our operating funds very seriously. We anticipated significantly increased expenses to produce a traditional in-person annual meeting and barbecue meal due to the high price of meat and groceries. We also expected a decline in attendance at the traditional annual meeting due to the increased cost of fuel and individuals limiting travel. Considering these factors as well as the high rate of participation in last year's director election conducted via mail-in ballot and online vote submission. The BCEC board of directors elected to continue with a virtual meeting for the 2022 Annual Meeting of the Membership of Big Country Electric Cooperative. We value face-to-face contact with our members and that is why the BCEC board of directors also elected to host an open house event on the same day as the virtual annual meeting.

Affidavit of Publication attests that the Annual Report, inclusive of the Official Notice of Annual Meeting of Big Country Electric Cooperative, was mailed to the 5,875 members of record of the cooperative on August 26, 2022.

The 2022 Virtual Annual Meeting consisted of an annual report video posted on the cooperative's website, featuring BCEC Board President Steve Moore, GM/CEO Mark McClain, and other BCEC leadership reporting to the membership on activities, concerns, upcoming plans, and the financial status of Big Country Electric Cooperative. Balance Sheet and Statement of Income for the year ending 2021 was presented to the membership in the video, in PDF posted on the cooperative's website, and in the Annual Report mailed to each member.

Committee on Nominations was appointed by the Board of Directors. Committee members serving were:

Mr. Cody Roberts	Mrs. Ferdie Walker
Mr. Darrell Richards	Mr. Russell Beakley
Mr. Jackie Buske	

The Committee on Nominations placed in nomination the members named below for the purpose of electing two (2) directors as successors to the directors whose terms expire this annual meeting, and to hold office for the term of 3 years and/or until their successors shall be elected and shall qualify. Carl Marugg who served on the board for District 2 retired on September 22, 2022.

Member voting was conducted in advance with three methods of

voting available to each eligible member: online, through Smart Hub, or mail-in ballot. Ballots were included with the Annual Report that was mailed to each member August 26, 2022 and included detailed instructions for each voting method.

Mail-in ballots must be received by September 23, 2022, and not permitted to be taken to a BCEC office; online and Smart Hub voting deadline was 11:00 p.m., September 23, 2022. Election results, certified September 26, 2022 by Survey & Ballot Systems, were as follows, with elected candidates shown in bold:

**For Director District 1: Matt Mueller** (incumbent) 100% Decision

**For Director District 2: Zachary Logan** 59.9%; 219 Votes

Kenneth Buerger 43.1%; 166 Votes

5,918 Eligible Voters.

392 Eligible Ballots Cast: 163 paper ballots mailed, 229 submitted online.

6.62% Voter Participation Rate exceeded minimum quorum of 2%.

Candidates were notified and results were posted on the cooperative's website September 26, 2022, to accompany the Virtual Annual Meeting reports.

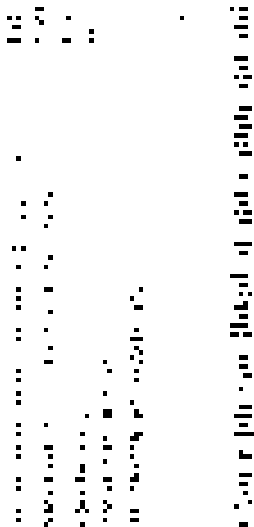
Pursuant to Bylaws Article V, Section 6, a Credentials and Election Committee was appointed prior to the Annual Meeting and would have convened had there been any protest or objection filed. Members were:

Mrs. Robin Pruitt, Mr. Greg Pruitt, Mrs. Lynn Dudensing, Mrs. Ginny Rasberry, Mr. Stetson Rasberry, Mr. Larry Schwarz, Mrs. Johnna Page, Mr. Renee Dudensing, Mrs. Linda Schwarz

Energy credits were applied to one account for each member who cast an eligible ballot. Door prizes were drawn from the names of members who attended the open house. Open house attendees also received an energy efficiency kit and were given the opportunity to view the Annual Report and ask questions of board of directors, leadership team members, and visit with employees. Door prize winners were notified, and a list of the winners and prizes was posted on the BCEC website.

**Steve Moore**  
President

**David Beaver**  
Secretary-Treasurer



MEMBER REGISTRATION CARD  
AND TICKET FOR DOOR PRIZES

Big Country Electric Cooperative  
Member Appreciation Open House

Tuesday, September 26, 2023

4–7 p.m. at each BCEC office



TEAR OFF THIS REGISTRATION CARD AND BRING IT WITH YOU TO THE OPEN HOUSE.

Three Ways To Vote

VOTING BY MAIL

- Mark your selections by filling in the box next to your candidate of choice.
- Detach ballot and mail using enclosed return envelope.
- Ballots must be received by September 20, 2023. Please allow sufficient time for delivery.
- DO NOT hand deliver or mail your ballot to any BCEC office. Co-op employees CANNOT accept ballots.

VOTING ONLINE

- Go to bigcountry.coop, click on Director Election and Virtual Annual Meeting, then VOTE NOW.
- The site is compatible with web, tablet and mobile device browsers.
- Your member number and password are printed on the ballot at the bottom of this page. Use both numbers to log in.
- Voting begins September 1 and ends September 20, 2023.

VOTING BY SMARTHUB

- App: Open your Smart Hub app, log in and click the VOTE NOW button.
- Online: Log in to your Smart Hub online account and click the VOTE NOW button.
- Voting begins September 1 and ends September 20, 2023.

BCEC registered voters who submit a valid ballot will receive a \$15 electric bill credit. One credit per membership.

Do not mail your ballot if you plan to vote online or by SmartHub.

DETACH BALLOT ALONG DOTTED LINE AND RETURN IN THE ENCLOSED ENVELOPE

Official Mail-In Ballot for Big Country EC 2023 Director Election

Mark ballot, detach and place in the enclosed return envelope. If the envelope is missing, please mail to Big Country Electric Cooperative, P.O. Box 640 Bloomingdale, IL 60108-9909. Ballots must be received by September 20, 2023.

MARKING INSTRUCTIONS EXAMPLE

Please follow instructions shown above.

Do not mail or hand deliver ballot to any BCEC office.

DISTRICT 3 (Vote for one)	DISTRICT 4 (Vote for one)
<input type="checkbox"/> Chris Estes	<input type="checkbox"/> Todd Coker



MEMBER NUMBER 99461475  
PASSWORD CXJXXMU