



Celebrating 25 Years of Dedication: Scott Edmonds Retires

After 25 years of dedicated service, Big Country Electric Cooperative said farewell to longtime employee Scott Edmonds as he retired at the end of July.

Scott joined the cooperative in 2000 as an Information Systems Technician and retired as BCEC's Technology Manager. Over the course of his career, he helped guide the cooperative through significant changes in technology while supporting the systems employees rely on each day to serve BCEC members.

To those who worked alongside him, however, Scott was much more than the cooperative's "IT guy." He was a trusted coworker, dependable problem solver and friend who could always be counted on for a perfectly timed one-liner. His knowledge, leadership and sense of humor made a lasting impression on his coworkers and the cooperative. BCEC employees gathered in late July to celebrate Scott's career alongside his wife, Jana, and their son, Carson. Their daughter, Madison, also joined the celebration via FaceTime from work.

Scott's 25 years of service reflect the spirit of cooperation and commitment to service that have long been at the heart of Big Country Electric Cooperative. His dedication to the cooperative and its members, along with his expertise, friendship and unmistakable sense of humor, will be missed by those who had the opportunity to work with him.

BCEC extends its sincere appreciation to Scott for his many years of service and wishes him and Jana all the best as they enjoy retirement, new adventures and more time with family.

NEED FUNDING FOR A LOCAL PROJECT?

THE BIG COUNTRY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (BCDC) SUPPORTS ECONOMIC GROWTH AND JOB CREATION BY FUNDING PROJECTS THAT STRENGTHEN OUR COMMUNITIES AND IMPROVE QUALITY OF LIFE ACROSS OUR SERVICE AREA.

BCDC FUNDING COMES FROM UNCLAIMED CAPITAL CREDITS, AS ALLOWED BY TEXAS LAW TO SUPPORT COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. FUNDING AVAILABILITY MAY VARY YEAR TO YEAR.

APPLICATIONS ARE REVIEWED QUARTERLY BY THE BCEC BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

ELIGIBLE PROJECTS MAY INCLUDE:

- ✓ Workforce development and job creation
- ✓ Business attraction and retention efforts
- ✓ Community infrastructure improvements
- ✓ Tourism development
- ✓ Programs that support ongoing economic activity

LEARN MORE & APPLY: BIGCOUNTRY.COOP/BCDC

BIG COUNTRY

ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Membergram

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

VIRTUAL ANNUAL MEETING

View the Annual Report Video and other updates online at: bigcountry.coop



**MEMBER APPRECIATION
OPEN HOUSE**

3:30–6:30 P.M. | COME & GO

Snacks + Door Prize Drawings for registered members who stop by any office!

With no director election this year, update your contact information and receive a \$5 bill credit!



www.bigcountry.coop

September 2026

Hunt Safely This Season

With the arrival of dove season, BCEC encourages members to be aware of electrical equipment while hunting. Shooting electrical infrastructure is dangerous and can cause power outages and result in expensive repairs.

Every year, members experience power and internet service interruptions when shotgun pellets hit electric and fiber cables.

Keep these safety tips in mind as you enjoy the great outdoors.

Keep clear of electrical equipment, and don't shoot at or near power lines or insulators.

Be vigilant in wooded areas where power lines may not be as visible.

Never place decoys on power lines or other utility equipment.

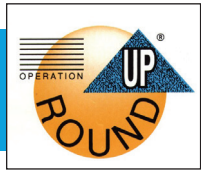
Don't shoot at birds perched on electrical wires.

Don't use electrical poles or towers to support shooting equipment or transformer boxes to steady a shot.

Know the effective range of your gun, and always identify your target before putting your finger on the trigger.

Never shoot at sound or movement—assume it's another hunter until you can clearly see an animal.





Committed to Community

For complete information about our Operation Round Up program or to opt out of participation, visit bigcountry.coop/operation-round-up.

Operation Round Up: Helping Our Communities

The Operation Round Up program is supported by BCEC members whose electric bills are “Rounded Up” to the nearest dollar. The “Round Up” amounts fund Operation Round Up for distribution to individuals and organizations with demonstrated financial need in the counties we serve: Borden, Fisher, Garza, Haskell, Jones, Kent, Mitchell, Nolan, Scurry, Shackelford, Stonewall and Throckmorton.

Every penny stays right here at home!

Who can apply to Operation Round Up?

- Local organizations or programs that provide vital community services, such as food banks, shelters, medical and health needs, rescue organizations, educational projects, childcare programs, and other community needs.
- Families and individuals with demonstrated financial need due to life-altering circumstances.

The next application deadline on November 10, 2026 at 5:30 p.m.

LABOR DAY

BCEC WILL BE CLOSED ON MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 7 IN OBSERVANCE OF LABOR DAY.

PHONES WILL BE ANSWERED AND CREWS WILL RESPOND TO OUTAGES.

What Do Board Members Do?

Lots of companies are guided by a board of directors. But as a co-op, Big Country Electric Cooperative's board is composed of members who know our community and its needs particularly well.

Big Country EC is governed by a board of seven directors. Like you, they're members of the co-op; they live here and get their power from the co-op. They come from across our service territory and have been elected by the membership.

The board of directors is responsible for managing the affairs and direction of the co-op, including decisions about how to responsibly manage the cooperative's budget to carry out our mission of delivering safe, reliable, affordable power. The board members represent the membership and its interests.

The board of directors is also responsible for strategic oversight, considering not only the current status of the co-op but also considering longer-term trends and planning for the future.

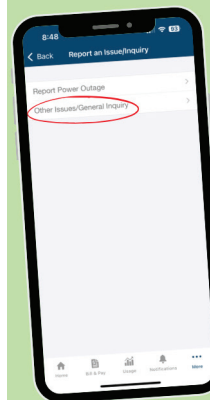
Other responsibilities of the board include:

- Hiring a general manager/CEO to lead the co-op
- Setting policies that guide co-op operations
- Overseeing the cooperative's annual budget
- Making decisions about the allocation and retirement of capital credits, rates and infrastructure investments

The member-elected and -run board is one of the key components of the cooperative business model, setting Big Country EC apart from other utilities. This local, member-focused leadership helps ensure BCEC's decisions remain centered on the needs of the communities we serve.

Need Tree Trimming Near Power Lines?

Trees growing too close to power lines can cause outages and create safety hazards. To help keep your service reliable and your community safe, we provide vegetation management around our lines.



Need this at your location?

You can easily request tree trimming through your SmartHub app — just go to “Report an Issue” and submit a vegetation request. You can also call any BCEC office for assistance. Keeping vegetation clear of power lines helps protect your electric service and ensures a safer system for everyone.

One Day, Two Events: Virtual Annual Meeting & Member Appreciation Open House

On Tuesday, September 29, visit bigcountry.coop beginning at 10 a.m. to view Big Country Electric Cooperative's Annual Report and Annual Meeting video. The meeting will include cooperative updates and recognition of the two unopposed directors.

Because only one nominee was received for each director position, no director election will be conducted this year. In lieu of a voting credit, BCEC members can receive a \$5 bill credit by updating their contact information by October 1. Complete the Member Contact Information Update form by scanning the QR code below:

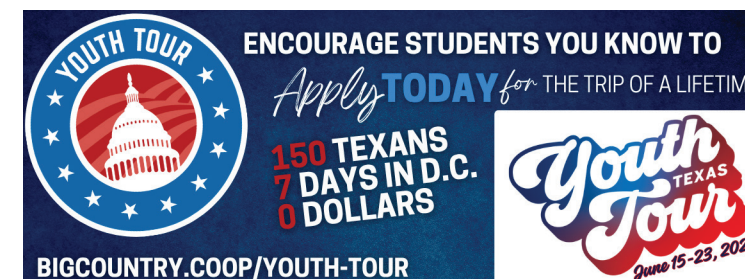


That afternoon, we invite you to join us for our Member Appreciation Open Houses at any BCEC office in Roby, Snyder, or Stamford from 3:30–6:30 p.m. Come enjoy snacks, receive a door prize, enter for energy credit drawings, and visit with your co-op team.

This day is all about celebrating you—our members. It's our way of showing appreciation for your support, partnership, and pride in keeping our cooperative strong.

Bring the Registration Card included in your September issue of *Texas Co-op Power* magazine and Annual Report. This card is your ticket to receive your door prize and register for drawings.

Mark your calendar—we'll see you September 29!



www.bigcountry.coop

Office Hours

Monday - Thursday: 7:30-5:30

Contact Us

Toll Free: 1-855-940-3872

Roby: (325) 776-2244

Stamford: (325) 773-3684

Snyder: (325) 573-3161

Report Outages

Please **call** your local BCEC office to report power outages.

We're Mobile!



Access your BCEC account anytime with SmartHub! Download the app for your mobile device today by visiting www.bigcountry.coop or searching for SmartHub in the app store.

Ask about our partnerships with:



Rural Development Assistance Available Through BCEC
BCEC is an Equal Opportunity Lender.

Big Country Electric Cooperative, Inc. has a limited amount of funds available for low-interest loans to qualified applicants to stimulate rural development. Applicant does not have to be a member of Big Country Electric Cooperative. Please contact Sarah McLen at smclen@bigcountry.coop for details.



Call 811 at least 2 working days before you dig.
Visit www.texas811.org for more information.

Agricultural Tax Exemptions - In order to claim an exemption from Texas sales and use taxes on electricity and other items used in agricultural and timber operations, you are required to provide us with a registration number on Texas Agriculture Sales and Use Tax Exemption Certification Form 01-924. All water wells should be exempt if used for irrigation or watering livestock. The Texas Comptroller's Office issues the registration number and those wanting to claim the exemption must fill out an application. Registration numbers must be renewed every four years. Applicants can request a paper application to mail in by calling 1-800-252-5555 or download a copy from the comptroller's website, www.comptroller.texas.gov/taxes/ag-timber. The generic exemption certificate, Form 01-339, cannot be used to claim the agricultural exemption. Accounts that do not have the new required form on file will be subject to taxation. **Commercial Tax Exemption Records** - A completed and signed exemption form is required for each commercial tax exempt account. Accounts that do not have current exemptions on file will be changed to taxable accounts. Any refunds for taxes must be claimed from the State of Texas. Thank you for your help.