

Deadline to apply for Bluebonnet Board seats is Feb. 10

Four seats on Bluebonnet Electric Cooperative's Board of Directors are up for election this year. The deadline to apply is Feb. 10, 2016. Bluebonnet's Board is made up of 11 directors who represent seven districts and serve staggered three-year terms. The four seats up for election represent District 1 — Caldwell, Guadalupe, Gonzales and Hays counties; District 3 — Bastrop County; District 5 — Burleson County; and District 7 — Washington County. The election will be held during the co-op's Annual

Meeting on May 10, 2016. Candidates can be nominated either by presenting an application for nomination with at least 50 signatures from co-op members in their respective districts or by paying a \$250 filing fee in certified funds.

Candidate qualifications are outlined in Bluebonnet's bylaws, which are available at bluebonnet.coop. Hover your cursor over the About tab on the home page, click on Leadership in the drop down bar and then click on the Becoming a Director link.

You can read the eligibility requirements and

download an application for nomination form there. Application for nomination forms are also available at the co-op's member service centers in Bastrop, Brenham, Giddings, Lockhart and Manor.

All candidates' petitions, filing fees and application for nomination forms must be submitted at any Bluebonnet member service center no later than 4 p.m. Feb. 10, 2016. For more information, call a Bluebonnet member service representative at 800-842-7708, Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

MEMBER SERVICES

Q&A

Q: I recently received an automated call from Bluebonnet about an extended power outage. My neighbor didn't get a call during the same outage, so I'm wondering how those calls go out?

A: Glad you stayed on the line! When we anticipate that it will take several hours to restore power, we often send out automated calls to let you know that we are aware of the outage and to provide additional details, including an estimate of how long it may take to restore power. Our automated phone system allows us to get the word out efficiently to affected members. Outage updates are also posted on our Facebook and Twitter pages.



The automated calls come across your caller ID from a toll-free number and the message announces that it is from Bluebonnet Electric Cooperative. Automated calls also are made to alert you of a planned outage or a late bill and to let you know when Bluebonnet personnel or contractors will be working on your property to trim vegetation or make system improvements.

During extended unplanned outages, we sometimes have difficulty reaching some members because their contact information is outdated. It is important for members to

make sure we have an accurate address and phone numbers so we can provide outage details. Correct contact information ensures that automated calls are received. Also, if you call Bluebonnet to report a power outage using the phone number on your account, we can more quickly locate the outage area. Identifying the location of an outage and being able to contact you when we need to access your property helps speed up power restoration.

To update your account information, contact Bluebonnet member services at 800-842-7708 or log in to your online account at bluebonnet.coop. Go to the Preferences tab, update your information in the Contact Info section and click Save Changes. You can also update your contact information via our free mobile app, under the Preferences tab.

Have more questions about our automated calls? Contact a member services representative at 800-842-7708 or memberservices@bluebonnet.coop.

— Greg Roeber, control center superintendent

LET US POWER YOUR EDUCATION

- 25 scholarships for trade and technical programs
- 25 scholarships for colleges or universities

Bluebonnet Electric Cooperative is awarding 50 SCHOLARSHIPS — \$2,500 each — to qualified students graduating from high school or accredited home study programs.



Get applications from your high school counselor, Bluebonnet's member service centers or at bluebonnet.coop. Click on the Scholarships link under the Community tab.

Application deadline: 5 p.m. March 25, 2016.
Questions? Call 800-842-7708, Monday-Friday 7 a.m.-5:30 p.m.

Find out about career opportunities at Bluebonnet

Bluebonnet Electric Cooperative Inc. is one of the largest electric cooperatives in Texas and has been serving its members since 1939.

The cooperative serves almost 89,000 meters and owns and maintains 11,285 miles of power lines across more than 3,800 square miles within 14 Central Texas counties.



In accordance with federal, state and local laws, Bluebonnet does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, disability unrelated to job requirements, genetic history, veteran status or any other legally protected status.

Bluebonnet accepts applications for our Department of Labor Certified Apprentice Program on the first Tuesday of every month, and for all other open positions as they become available. Applications may be made through our website.

Go to bluebonnet.coop and click Careers under the About tab, or click on Careers at the bottom of any page on the website.



Grant deadline approaches

Applications for the second cycle of Bluebonnet Community Grants for area nonprofits will be accepted until 5 p.m., Feb. 16, 2016.

Bluebonnet's Board of Directors created the \$3 million grant program in 2015 to improve the Bluebonnet region's communities through economic development, to attract public and private enterprises, and to promote communities through enriched education and training, community planning, recreation, public safety, health care and transportation.

The grant money comes from a legal settlement and is not funded through co-op operating revenue.

During the first funding cycle, approximately \$1.2 million was awarded to 38 area nonprofits. Learn about the first recipients and see photos of the check presentations at bluebonnet.coop/grants.

Eligible organizations are nonprofits within the co-op's 14-county service area.

For more information, visit bluebonnet.coop/grants.

Email questions to grants@bluebonnet.coop

or contact Rachel Ellis, Bluebonnet's chief administrative officer, at 888-622-2583, ext. 7929#.



Melissa Segrest photo

Firefighter appreciation

Bluebonnet Electric Cooperative Board Chairman Ben Flencher, right, presents Rich Gray, a task force commander with the Texas A&M Forest Service, a pink hard hat during the co-op's December Board meeting in appreciation for Gray's efforts in fighting the Hidden Pines Fire in October 2015. Bluebonnet crews wore pink hard hats during October in honor of Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Gray, a Bluebonnet member and Bastrop County resident, has played an integral role and leadership position in fighting three wildfire fires in Bastrop County — the Wilderness Ridge Fire in 2009, the Bastrop Complex Fire in 2011 and the Hidden Pines fire last year.