

Bluebonnet board member Milton Shaw earns top credential from NRECA

Milton Shaw, one of two Bluebonnet directors who represents District 2, which includes Caldwell, Hays, Guadalupe and Gonzales counties, earned Director Gold status from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, which represents more than 900 of the nation's electric co-ops.

Shaw is the third Bluebonnet director to achieve Director Gold status. Directors Roderick Emanuel and Suanna Tumlinson earned their Director Gold certificates in 2016. There are more than 500 co-op directors in Texas, but fewer than 100 have earned Director Gold status.

"Congratulations to Director Shaw on this wonderful achievement," said Bluebonnet's General Manager Matt Bentke. "It's a testament to Milton's dedication to our industry and organization, and most importantly to the members he represents and serves on our board."

Changes in technology and power generation occur rapidly in today's electric utility industry. Co-op directors must keep pace with these changes so they can best represent their members. To achieve Director Gold status, directors must earn NRECA's Credentialed Cooperative Certification by completing five courses on governance and electric industry basics, and Board Leader Certification by completing 10 hours of credit for a variety of governance courses.

Director Gold requires completion of an additional three courses and a commitment to complete three continuing education courses every two years.

"Earning Director Gold certification was an important goal for me," Shaw said. "The knowledge and information I gained from the courses will enable me to better represent Bluebonnet's members and further contribute to the co-op's success."

In addition to Shaw, Emanuel and Tumlinson, three other Bluebonnet directors have earned Credentialed Cooperative Certification: Kenneth Mutscher, Robert Mikeska and Russell Jurk. Mutscher has also earned Board Leader Certification.



Courtesy of Daylon Drews

Caleb Smith and Daylon Drews showed their Texas pride in front of the White House during their visit to the nation's capital as part of the 2017 Government-in-Action Youth Tour.

Two area teens represent Bluebonnet in nation's capital

Caleb Smith, a recent graduate of Brenham Christian Academy, and Daylon Drews, a recent graduate of Round Top-Carmine High School, represented Bluebonnet Electric Cooperative during the 2017 Government-in-Action Youth Tour in June.

The two students first joined 145 other young Texans in Austin to visit the state Capitol and the Bullock Texas State History Museum. Then, they flew to Washington, D.C. for a whirlwind tour of historical sites, including the U.S. Capitol and the Smithsonian Institution museums. They both said visiting George Washington's Mount Vernon plantation home on the Potomac River was among their favorite parts of the trip.

Know a high school student who would like to apply for next year's tour? Look for details in the fall at bluebonnet.coop.



Sarah Beal photo

Milton Shaw, center, earned Director Gold certification from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, making him Bluebonnet's third Board member to achieve the distinction. Congratulating Shaw on his award are Bluebonnet General Manager Matt Bentke, left, and Board Chairman Ben Flencher.

Thinking about going solar?

JOIN US FOR SEPT. 9 TOUR

Come to the second Bluebonnet Solar Tour from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 9, in Brenham.

Start the day at our Eco Home, 2601 Longwood Drive in Brenham. There, you'll learn about solar energy and how to connect to Bluebonnet's grid. You can check out the energy-smart demo home and enjoy free breakfast tacos, coffee and juice. You'll also be entered to win a solar backpack, which can charge your phone after a sunny walk.

Then, grab a map and take a self-guided tour of nearby homes with different types of solar setups. Homeowners, installers and Bluebonnet employees will be on hand at each home to talk about the installation process and answer questions. Bluebonnet Electric Cooperative is hosting the event in conjunction with the Texas Solar Energy Society as part of the American Solar Energy Society's National Solar Tour. Find out more in the Events section of our Facebook page and on our website.