WE’VE TURNED THE PAGE ON ANOTHER YEAR, AND I TRULY HOPE THAT it was a good one for all. As much as I would like for time to slow down, I just haven’t figured out how to do it. As we embark on a new year, we all will see both good times and bad. But I do know that no matter what we face, we will all get through it.

It is always a pleasure to communicate with the San Bernard Electric Cooperative membership through this magazine. Sometimes, I get to introduce you to new projects we are working on and the people who work on them. And sometimes, I must report on things I wish I didn’t have to.

Well, this is one project I wish I didn’t have to report on.

I must regretfully inform you that SBEC will need to adjust rates for some members. Following a rate study of our system by independent Atlanta firm Enervision, we found that our single-phase residential base charge needs to be adjusted. Currently, that base charge is $30 per meter per month. Starting with your March bill, the new single-phase residential base charge will be $33 per meter per month.

This rate adjustment, as reflected by our rate study, will involve only single-phase residential accounts. The only additional rate change at this time involves one industrial account. No other adjustments will be made at this time.

A close look at our operating costs shows that the total monthly cost for the cooperative to provide and maintain electric service, before any kilowatt-hours are used, is greater than the $33 we are implementing at this time. Many factors accounted for this necessary increase—factors such as the rising cost of insurance, interest expenses on borrowed capital, taxes and the like.

Another main driver for this increase is the costly upgrade to the transmission line from Bellville to Sunnyside to Prairie View. Please keep in mind SBEC hasn’t had an increase in our rates since 2008.

SBEC has financial targets that we must meet and maintain to be able to borrow money in the financial market and be considered a good risk. Without that label, the cost to borrow money would go up. In order to maintain this “good risk” label, we reluctantly had to make this decision.

SBEC plans to have an open meeting January 30 at our main office meeting room in Bellville at 6:30 p.m. to address any concerns regarding this increase. We have included the official rate increase notification within this issue of the magazine and cordially invite you to attend the meeting.

The board of directors and I had hoped a rate increase would not be necessary. Rest assured that we have and will continue to cut costs and explore options to reduce your overall bill when we can.

Until next time, take care.
San Bernard EC
Scholarships Available

SAN BERNARD ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE IS AWARDING A $2,500 SCHOLARSHIP TO ONE student in each of the 12 schools in the co-op’s service territory—Bellville, Columbus, Faith Academy, Charlottetown, Hempstead, Magnolia, Rice, Royal, Sacred Heart, Sealy, Waller and Weimar high schools—and to one home-schooled student. Scholarship applicants should be 12th grade students and must have plans to attend a college, technical school or other postsecondary educational institution.

The deadline to apply is Monday, March 9. All applications must be postmarked by 5 p.m. on that day.

In a joint effort with Prairie View A&M University, San Bernard EC also will provide 10 scholarships for students to attend Prairie View A&M for their first two semesters of attendance. These scholarships will amount to $1,250 per student per semester, for a total of $2,500. The scholarships will be promoted to high schools in the SBEC service area.

For more information or to download an application, visit sbec.org and look under the My Community tab, call the San Bernard EC member service department or contact your school counselor.

San Bernard EC
Government-in-Action
Youth Tour

JUNE 17–26, 2020

High school students: Apply now for an all-expenses-paid trip to Washington, D.C., with about 150 of your peers to see historic sites and meet your elected officials.

Deadline for applications is January 17.

Start your adventure at TexasYouthTour.com

San Bernard Electric Cooperative

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Contact Us

Headquarters—Bellville
(979) 865-3171
1-800-364-3171
309 W. Main St. • P.O. Box 1208
Bellville 77418

Columbus Service Center
(979) 732-8346
4285 Highway 71 S. • P.O. Box 309
Columbus 78934

Fieldstore Service Center
(936) 372-9176 or
(936) 372-9177
29244 FM 1488 • P.O. Box 1367
Magnolia 77353

Hallettsville Service Center
(361) 798-4493
1686 U.S. Highway 90A East • P.O. Box 610
Hallettsville 77964

Pay by Phone
1-844-201-7199

Find us on the Web
sbec.org
Facebook.com/sbœcoop

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SBEC Welcomes New Employees

Over the past year, San Bernard Electric Cooperative welcomed four new employees. If you haven’t met them already, we’d like to introduce you.

Jerome Casey Lore
Length of service: Seven months.
Job title: General helper.
Responsibilities: To help linemen in any way I can while learning the ins and outs of becoming a lineman.
From your list of responsibilities, which do you think will be your favorite? Wiring transformers.
Family: Wife and son, and a daughter on the way.
Hobbies: Fishing, hunting, playing video games and hanging out with my family.
If you could spend a day with anybody of your choosing, who would it be? My family.
What’s one thing about you most people don’t know? I am a real homeboy.
Who has had the most influence on you and why? My wife.
Favorite TV shows: Rick and Morty, One Punch Man, Black Clover.
Favorite food: Steak, pork chops, chicken and pretty much any meat.
Favorite sports teams: Texans and Astros.
Favorite music: Cody Jenkins, Metallica and the Casey Donahew Band.
Favorite read: Restaurant menus.
Favorite place and way to relax: Home with an ice cold drink and my feet on the coffee table.

Miguel Guerrero
Length of service: Six months.
Job title: General helper.
Responsibilities: To help gather materials needed for daily jobs, help prepare equipment for line work and help build lines. I have only done overhead line builds and can only work with dead (nonenergized) line. Every day is different, and every day I learn something new.
From your list of responsibilities, which do you think will be your favorite? I enjoy seeing the job being finished. There is nothing like the satisfaction of seeing your hard work go into something that will benefit the life of someone.
Family: Mom, dad, five sisters, four brothers-in-law, three nieces and four nephews.
Hobbies: I have a side business outside of SBEC mowing yards, trimming trees and landscaping. Between that and SBEC, I stay pretty busy.
If you could spend a day with anybody of your choosing, who would it be? Any famous baseball player. When I got hurt as a child and could no longer play football, I found baseball and love everything about the game.
Who has had the most influence on you and why? My parents. Because of them, I am the person I am today. They have taught me discipline, responsibility and respect. Without that, I would not be 19 and living on my own.
Favorite TV show: I am not a big TV watcher.
Favorite food: Shoguns.
Favorite sport: Baseball.
Favorite music: Old country like Merle Haggard, Hank Williams Jr. and David Allan Coe.
Favorite read: I like to sit down and read my Bible. It has been a very important book in my life, and I pray it continues to be.
Favorite place and way to relax: I enjoy spending time with my family and at family barbecues. I also love road trips with friends to Colorado, Oklahoma, New Mexico and Florida.

Power Tip
When you are asleep or out of the house, lower your thermostat 10–15 degrees for eight hours and you could save around 10% a year on your heating bills.
Nicole Davis
Length of service: One year.
Job title: Receptionist.
Responsibilities: To direct all phone calls and walk-in traffic to the proper personnel or location using information gathered in the initial conversation.
From your list of responsibilities, which do you think will be your favorite? Interacting with members.
Family: I have an 11-year-old son.
Hobbies: Hanging with family and friends, and traveling
If you could spend a day with anybody of your choosing, who would it be? My dad or Rachel Hollis. I have lots of questions about life for him. And Rachel—I feel like she is truly an inspiration.
What’s one thing about you most people don’t know? That my dad who raised me and passed away was my stepdad.
Who has had the most influence on you and why? My grandmother. She is a fighter and very independent. She always does so much for others and the community while dealing with everyday life.
Favorites TV show: Grey’s Anatomy.
Favorite food: Mexican food.
Favorite sport: Any that my son plays.
Favorite music: Country and hip-hop.
Favorite song: God Only Knows.
Favorite singer: Miranda Lambert.
Favorite read: Inspirational.
Favorite place and way to relax: Going to the beach or just being home doing nothing (haha).

Paul Anthony Pierantozzi
Length of service: Seven months.
Job title: Apprentice staking technician.
Responsibilities: To meet with customers and draw out the job to be built.
From your list of responsibilities, which do you think will be your favorite? Meeting with customers would most likely be my favorite.
Family: I have a beautiful wife, parents, brother and sister-in-law, extended family of in-laws, and a bunch of awesome nieces and nephews.
Hobbies: Golf, woodworking and gaming.
If you could spend a day with anybody of your choosing, who would it be? My wife, of course.
What’s one thing about you most people don’t know? I don’t know, I am an open book.
Who has had the most influence on you and why? My father has probably had the most influence on me. He was always a great role model growing up.
Favorite TV show: The Office or Friends would be tied for first, then That ’70s Show and Parks and Recreation.
Favorite Food: Pizza and burgers.
Favorite sport: Football.
Favorite music: A little of everything.
Favorite song: Either a song by Shaggy or a song by Rehab. You can guess the song titles.
Favorite singer: Hmm, don’t necessarily have a favorite singer.
Favorite read: Nothing, but if I had to pick, I would say Harry Potter.
Favorite place and way to relax: I don’t really have a favorite place, but my wife and I love relaxing together watching Netflix all day.

WE RESOLVE TO
Provide you with the most reliable electric service possible.
Keep our rates as low as possible.
Provide friendly and efficient customer service at all times.
Never forget that you are a member-owner of this cooperative.

Happy new year from the directors and employees of San Bernard Electric Cooperative.
Our offices will be closed Wednesday, January 1, for the holiday.
RESIDENTIAL ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROGRAMS

THE RIGHT TOOLS FROM SBEC CAN SAVE YOU EVEN MORE ENERGY AND MONEY

SBEC's Residential Energy Efficiency Program offer you rebates, loans, and guidelines for energy efficient equipment and features that make your home more comfortable—saving energy and money.

HVAC REBATE PROGRAM
Rebates are for central HVAC systems installed in either new construction or an existing home.
- $400—Heat Pumps 15 SEER Minimum
- $300—Air Conditioning w/Gas Heating System 15 SEER Minimum
- $1,000—Geothermal Heat Pump must be Energy Star rated

HVAC LOAN PROGRAM
SBEC offers loans to members for upgrading their heating & cooling system to more energy efficient systems.

HOME IMPROVEMENT REBATE PROGRAM
- Attic & Ceiling Insulation Rebate of 15¢ per square foot of installed insulation rated at R-30 is available for existing homes.
- Window Replacement Rebate of $2 per square foot of window opening for Energy Star rated windows is available for replacement in existing homes.
- Window Solar Screen or Film Rebate of 50¢ per square foot of solar screen or film is available for replacement in existing homes.
- Energy Star Appliance Rebate of $50 per appliance with a maximum of $250 paid per year for Energy Star rated appliances for existing or new homes.

NEW HOME ENERGY EFFICIENCY RECOMMENDATIONS
If you are planning to build a new home, SBEC can help you with recommendations and tips on the latest energy efficiency measures.

ELECTRIC HEAT PUMP WATER HEATER REBATE PROGRAM
$300—Electric Heat Pump Water Heater
- A rebate is available for new or existing home installations.
- Electric Heat Pump Water Heaters must have an Energy Factor (EF) equal to or greater than 2.0 and must be a 30 gallon or larger unit.

ENERGY AUDIT PROGRAM
Member Services personnel will evaluate your home's energy use and offer recommendations on how to use electricity more efficiently. This service is free. Simply request a visit.

SURGE PROTECTION PROGRAM
SBEC offers TESCO surge protection devices to purchase for protection of household appliances and equipment. A complete line of surge protectors are available for point-of-entry or point-of-use and are backed with a 10-Year Manufacturers' Warranty.

For more information call (800) 364-3171 or visit www.sbec.org or TOGETHER WE SAVE.COM
SAN BERNARD EC
Texas Co-op Power

FOR SALE

2008 ELITE TRAILER—Four-horse, 18-ft. shortwall, 5500 Onan generator, AirRide suspension, satellite dish, fully loaded, slide out, beautiful interior and lots more. Call (713) 805-5138.

FURNITURE—Microfiber sofa and love seat, both recline, fair shape, $275. Call (281) 798-5502.

TOOLBOX—Flatbed toolbox, one heavy aluminum tool chest, fits in the bed of truck, like new, cost $500, selling for $400 OBO. Call (713) 510-4104.


CATTLE—Top quality breed pairs of heifers and young cows. Call (979) 865-3804.

HUNTERS EAR CORN—Call (713) 823-3434.

AIRPLANE PROPELLER—Wood, 9’4”, one piece. Call (979) 484-2276.


COINS—Four rolls of 1940 “S” wheat pennies; one roll 1943 steel wheat pennies; two rolls war “V” nickels (1900–1912). Call (979) 877-7257.

PAINT—High-quality exterior paint, all color coded to Behr (Comfy Beige) Satin. Three gallons Sherwin Williams Emerald; 4 gallons Behr Premium Ultra, 1 gallon Behr Premium Ultra oil-based paint; all 8 gallons $250. Also, aluminum pickup topper, 8 ft., $150. Call (979) 865-5725.

VENDING MACHINES—Go into business, new 10 machine countertop vending machines, paid $500, asking $150, owner got sick. Call (713) 854-6052.

TOW DOLLY—Like new, less than 5,000 miles, $300. Call (281) 515-7438.

ANTIGUINOS AND VINTAGE ITEMS—Three head Hamilton Beach milkshake mixer with three metal cans, $345; ball wicker rocking chair, $25; two-seat childrens school desk, $295; wood chicks crate carrier, $150; farm corn sheller, $295. Call (281) 639-4049.


FURNITURE—Oak roll-top desk, reproduction, 46x54x29, comes in four sections, top, 2 sides and privacy panel, storage, 7 pockets and drawers in top, two standard and one file drawer per side, very good condition, $250. Child’s highchair, mid-1950s or earlier wood reproduction (tray swings overhead), excellent condition, $75. Retro ’60s sewing machine cabinet, drop lead side that lifts up to use for cutting, etc., storage for machine plus two drawers, oak finish in good condition, $50. Call (979) 865-8442.

WHIRLPOOL STOVE—30 in., new, never used, black stand-alone stove. Call (979) 826-2471 and leave message.

WANTED

ELECTRIC COMMERCIAL SANDER—For terrazzo floors. Call (713) 510-4104.

PIGEONS—Preferably nonferal breed. Call (979) 733-2455.

ANTIQUES—Old/antique gas pumps, guns and brass cash register. Please call Richard Noack at (979) 865-3098.

DOUBLE-WIDE MOBILE HOME—Small to medium square footage, will move. Call (979) 877-7257.

ELECTRIC PEA SHELLER—Call (713) 724-5090.

TRACTOR PTO-DRIVEN CEMENT MIXER—Call (979) 865-8820.

LAND PLANE—6-ft.-wide land plane with three-point hitch, adjustable scarifies and angled grading blades adjustable for depth, pitch and blade wear. Call (979) 865-8820.

SERVICES

FREE WILD HOG REMOVAL—Use dogs, experienced, will travel. Call (832) 715-1130.

ADVERTISE IN THE TRADING POST

SBE members are invited to submit ads for the Trading Post to P.O. Box 1208, Bellville, TX 77418 or Lsamford@sbec.org. However, no commercial business ads will be accepted. Ads are placed on a first-come, first-served basis, and we reserve the right to refuse any ad. Please submit your ad by the 20th of each month. (If you submit an ad by January 20, it will appear in the March issue.) Your ad will be published in two consecutive issues, then deleted. If you want the ad to run another two months, you must resubmit the ad. The ad will not exceed four consecutive months.