ONE THING THAT I’VE LEARNED OVER THE
years is that change is inevitable. Some for
the good and some for the bad—and some you just don’t want
to see. And that’s what I’m about to relate right now. We have
three outstanding employees who have retired or are retiring
at the end of this month, and I have worked with all three for
well over 30 years.

Denise Behlen came to work for us as a part-time cashier in
August 1989 and did so well that we made her a full-time
employee the following April. While she started out in the
Columbus office, Denise moved to the Hallettsville office a few
years later and remained there until her retirement in January
of this year. She will be missed by myself and her co-workers,
along with the membership that came to rely on her smiling,
dependable service. We all wish her the best!

Gary Guthmann arrived on the San Bernard Electric Cooperative scene in April 1983. He was originally hired as an apprentice lineman in our vegetation department. But a few years later, he transferred into our technical services department, where he excelled. When SBEC started a communications department, Gary “self-educated” himself into one the finest communications technicians around. With his continual work within this department, SBEC has achieved considerable savings for our members. Gary finishes his tenure at the end of this month.

Clayton Stanford applied for a job opening for an engineering aide for SBEC in May 1978. In his 40-plus years of service, Clayton has witnessed and instigated several major changes at San Bernard EC. Most recently, Clayton has overseen the complete rebuild of our transmission line system—all while guiding our entire engineering department without the aid of a formal degree. I’ve said this before and it bears repeating, I know of no other engineer (degreed or not) who has better knowledge of his subject than Clayton. Clayton will also be retiring at the end of March.

It has been a wonderful pleasure to work with each of these individuals. They will all be missed. We wish them the very best as they start a new chapter in their lives. It just won’t be the same around here without them.

Spring Break
As a reminder, most of your local schools will be out for a week
or so for spring break, usually in March. Please be aware of
your surroundings on the roads, as little ones often don’t pay
attention to what’s going on around them. As the weather
warms up, you will probably see more kids out and about.

Annual Meeting Time
And yes, it’s getting closer to May, with our annual meeting
just around the corner. During the annual meeting, we give
updates on what has taken place at your cooperative for the
past year and present a financial report card.

But the main agenda item is the election of your district
representative on the board of directors. We are happy to list
the members of this year’s nominating committee in this edi-
tion of the magazine. I will be commenting more about the
annual meeting in the coming months.

Until next time, take care.

SBEC wishes our retirees, from
left, Denise Behlen, Gary Guth-
mann and Clayton Stanford, all
the best as they move into the
next chapter of their lives.
CREW LEADER AND LINEMAN, GENE SCHRAMM, WAS PRESENTED HIS 40-YEAR SERVICE award in December. Gene began his career just a week out of high school and was no stranger to the San Bernard Electric Cooperative world. His father, Leeland Schramm, was a first-generation lineman at San Bernard EC, coming onboard when Gene was around 5 years old. Gene grew up watching his dad serve his neighbors as a lineman and decided it was a way to make a decent living.

“As I was getting near my high school days, SBEC was at career day and that is when I considered following in my dad's footsteps,” Gene said.

Gene has seen a lot of change in the industry in his 40 years. The technological advances have made the crews' jobs easier and safer in the field.

“There were very few computers in 1979; we only had paper maps that were updated every 5 years and there were no pole numbers on any of the poles,” Gene reminisced. “Now computers make it so much easier when we are out in the field because we can just look up jobs and locations from anywhere.”

Gene began as a general helper 40 years ago and is now one of our four crew leaders in the Bellville office. If you know Gene, you know he is humble when it comes to his job as a crew leader. He prides himself in getting his entire crew involved in the job process. He wants to younger linemen to give their input and ask questions.

“I want the guys to ask questions, because that is how you understand the job,” Gene continued, “and if they have an idea on how to make the job easier—or better—I like to hear it.”

Gene credits his coworkers as being a huge part of his success and the reason he has enjoyed his past 40 years at the cooperative. He sees the cooperative as one big family—including the people he knew before working at SBEC, his coworkers that went to school with him and the newer coworkers that are now coming on board.

“I grew-up seeing my father do this job and the neighbors would come by and thank him for a job well done, or we would be at the grocery store and he would get stopped by a member and be told thank you,” Gene said. “Still today, I go out to a job and members appreciate a job well done and that always makes me feel good.”
IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE IV OF THE bylaws of San Bernard Electric Cooperative, the board of directors appointed nominating committees for districts 1, 8 and 9. Each committee shall nominate at least one but not more than two members from its respective district to be placed on the printed ballot for electing directors at the annual membership meeting May 16. Although directors are nominated from the districts in which they live, all members in attendance at the annual meeting vote on all these candidates and any others who may be properly nominated.

The territory served by the cooperative is divided into nine districts, each of which contains about the same number of members, and each district has one director. The following text describes the areas served by directors up for reelection, in districts 1, 8 and 9.

**District 1** is the area encompassed by a boundary beginning at the intersection of Highway 290 Business and the Waller County-Harris County line, following the county line north to Waller Gladish Road, then north on Waller Gladish Road to the intersection of FM 2979, then west on FM 2979 to the intersection of Courtney Road, then following Courtney Road to the Waller County-Grimes County line. The district includes all of the San Bernard EC service territory in southern Grimes County and in Montgomery County north of FM 1488, then from the intersection of FM 1488 and the Waller County-Montgomery County line, then following FM 1488 west to the intersection of Rice Road, then south on Rice Road to the intersection of Joseph Road, then west on Joseph Road to the intersection of Kickapoo Road, then south on Kickapoo Road to the intersection of Imhof Road in Harris County, then back to the intersection of Highway 290 Business and the Waller County-Harris County line. For a more detailed description, see the San Bernard EC service territory map.

**District 8** is the area encompassed by a boundary beginning in central Waller County north of the intersection of the Austin County-Waller County line at Highway 159, then north on Highway 159 to the intersection of FM 3346, then east on FM 3346 to the intersection of FM 359, then north on FM 359 to the inter-
section of Highway 290 Business, then east on Highway 290 Business to the Waller County-Harris County line. The boundary continues following the Waller County-Harris County line north to Waller Gladish Road, then north on Waller Gladish Road to the intersection of FM 2979, then west on FM 2979 to the intersection of Courtney Road, then following Courtney Road to the Waller County-Grimes County line, then west along the Waller County-Grimes County line to the Brazos River, then following the Brazos River south to the intersection of Highway 159. For a more detailed description, see the San Bernard EC service territory map.

**District 9** is the area encompassed by a boundary beginning in Harris County at the intersection of Kickapoo Road and Imhof Road, then heading north on Kickapoo Road to the intersection of Joseph Road, then east on Joseph Road to the intersection of Rice Road, then north on Rice Road to the intersection of FM 1488, then east on FM 1488 to the Waller County-Montgomery County line, and including all of the San Bernard EC service territory in Montgomery County south of FM 1488. Then, beginning at the intersection of the Waller County, Harris County and Montgomery County lines, the boundary follows the Waller County and Harris County line west to Hagar Road, then back to the intersection of Kickapoo Road and Imhof Road in Harris County. For a more detailed description, see the San Bernard EC service territory map.

For more information on director qualifications and nomination qualifications, please pick up a copy of our bylaws at your local San Bernard EC office or download a copy by visiting sbec.org/content/bylaws.

In compliance with the bylaws, a list of delegates and alternate delegates to serve on the 2020 nominating committees is published here.

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Each year, San Bernard Electric Cooperative looks forward to getting together with our co-op community to hear what you have to say, enjoy fellowship among friends and give everyone the chance to win prizes. The co-op’s annual meeting is not only a chance to visit with friends, though. It’s also a great opportunity to learn about programs offered by the cooperative and to get to know our staff. For us, the annual meeting provides an important forum for gathering feedback about how we can better serve you.

So, circle Saturday, May 16, on your calendar and make sure to join us at the annual meeting. We’ll save you a seat!
**FOR SALE**

**VARIOUS**—Two large, old iron hay rake wheels, $100 each or both for $150; 150-year-old ribbon barb wire, 500 ft., $300; 12 cured and cut cedar logs, 8-10 ft., $2/board foot. Call Will at (713) 501-1019.

**CANNING JARS**—Approximately three dozen canning jars and lids, various sizes from jam to quart pickle jars. Some are blue glass, some have designs on sides. Includes screw tops and lids for all sizes. Located in Columbus on Zimmerscheidt Road. Call (713) 907-6316 or email cindyjobhunt@yahoo.com.

**VARIOUS**—Frigidaire stainless steel top freezer refrigerator purchased six months ago, $500; Thomasville china cabinet, great condition, $800; bistro table with two bar stools, light colored wood, great condition, $150; mahogany nightstand, fair condition, $30; ladies’ recliner, light brown, great condition, $50; vanity table with chair, black, fair condition, $20; golf club set with a lot of extras, including more clubs, two carry-bags and wheel cart, everything you need, $500. Call (979) 997-1428.

**ANGUS BULL**—Registered, good herd bull, 8 years, I have papers, $1,500. Call (361) 877-7257.

**VARIOUS**—14’ jon boat with trailer (trailer needs some repairs); 1986 Honda Rebel, 250-cc motorcycle, new battery, carb recently rebuilt; 15-hp Johnson saltwater outboard motor, long shift; two-drawer steel file cabinet with lock. Call (979) 732-1910.

**LAND AND HOUSE**—2 acres, old farmhouse, electric and water, country living in Bellville. Call (979) 877-5609.

**WINNEBAGO RV AND FORD FOCUS**—2017 Winnebago 27B RV, 12,000 miles, like new with numerous extras, Ford V-10, 26 foot, $47,900; 2018 Ford Focus, four-door sedan, tow car complete with Blue Ox system including breaking system, $13,900 or both for $55,000. Less than cost of new 27B by itself. Call (979) 865-9538 or (979) 877-4371.

**VARIOUS**—36” solid wood exterior door, $50; ‘88 Ford truck, six-cycle, four-speed, one owner, not running, $450; IBM Selectric for parts, $20. (979) 877-7257.

**TRAVEL TRAILER AND JON BOAT**—2017 Forest River “Wolf Pup” 16-ft. travel trailer, used once then husband fell ill, kept under canvas, $12,000. Also, 2016 Alumacraft jon boat, 10 ft. on a custom TSC carry-on utility trailer, will not separate, $800 firm. Call (979) 777-8343 or (713) 252-6520.

**GERMAN SHEPHERD**—Male, has all vaccines up to date, dewormed, 8 months old, he stays around children, asking $200. Call or text (979) 270-0516.

**PAINT**—High-quality paint, all color coded to Behr Comfy Beige Satin. Three gallons Sherwin Williams Emerald, 4 gallons Behr Premium Ultra, 1 gallon Behr Ultra oil-based paint. All 8 gallons retail cost $465, selling for $250. Also, aluminum camper topper, 8 ft., $150. Call (979) 865-5725.

**EXPRESS METAL LONG-ARM QUILTER**—8-inch-long frame with cloth leaders and 8-inch throat, manual straight stitching. Make offer. Call (281) 639-4049.

**WOODED OFFICE DESK**—37” wide, 66” long, 30” high, good condition, $100. Call (281) 466-6921.

**2001 FORD F-250**—7.3-liter Power Stroke diesel turbo diesel, 335,000 miles, silver, dark denim blue interior, excellent condition, runs and drives perfectly, 8-ft. bed, trailer towing package, Ranch Hand bumper plus original bumper, running boards, trailer hitch, $9,500. Call (281) 658-8896.

**CHIPPER**—Echo Bear Cat CH4550 three-point PTO chipper, excellent to like-new condition with very little use, 4-inch capacity, has been stored indoors, cost new $3,400, asking $2,500. Call or text (713) 870-8964.

**FARM AND LANDSCAPING EQUIPMENT**—Land Pride box scraper, 6 ft., fully adjustable, $800. Nursery cart, 5 ft.x10 ft. with pull for ATV or tractor, $700. Six-gallon motorized sprayer, sprays up to 25 ft. high, adjustable spray pattern, on cart, $295. John Deere blower, like new, used only once, $250. Tree dolly, $150. Land Pride mower/ rotary cutter, 6 ft., $495. Handheld gravity sprayer for Round-Up, battery operated with round spray pattern, $50. Forty-inch Earth Anchor eye bolts, new in box, $5 each. Call (281) 658-8896.

**HORSE TRAILER**—2010 S&H Duster horse-trailer, two-horse, slant, 6’x14’x7’, tack room, rubber floor mats, removable custom ramp, $5,000. Call Brandon at (979) 251-2969.

**COMMERCIAL MOWER**—John Deere WH48A full hydrostat walk behind, 120 hours, new cost $6,300, will sell for $3,500. Call (979) 992-2607.

**WOODEN CIGAR STORE INDIAN**—$1,000. Call (281) 731-1736.

**METAL DESK**—3’x5’ for shop or garage. Call (979) 877-7257.

**WANTED**

**SMALL DEER LEASE**—Very responsible carpenter wanting to trade or work or pay cash for a place to hunt for the next deer season within 40 miles of Columbus. Call (830) 456-7648.

**ANTIQUES**—Insulators/glass or porcelain from old telegram, railroad or fire department lines. Call (936) 314-1444.
Springtime Savings

EVEN THOUGH IT SEEMS LIKE IT WAS JUST CHRISTMAS, SPRING IS ALREADY HERE.

As the weather warms up and the days get longer, it’s a good time for homeowners to take a few steps that could save energy—and money—throughout the spring and summer. Here are eight ideas to get you started.

1. Tune up your air conditioner. AC weather is likely still a couple of months away, but if you put off having your equipment serviced until it’s hot outside, you run the risk of a breakdown on a sweltering summer day. A qualified technician can replace your central air conditioning system’s filters, make sure it has enough refrigerant and clean its evaporator coils. A pro also can spot problems in the making and recommend repairs so they don’t put your unit out of commission.

2. Open your windows. Natural ventilation costs nothing. On warm spring days, invite spring breezes and sunshine in. It’s a great way to air out the house as you begin your annual spring cleaning.

3. Turn off the heat. And delay your use of the air conditioner. Unless March and April are especially warm this year, enjoy the fresh spring air for as long as you can.

4. Seal gaps in the drywall on the indoor side of your exterior walls. You’ll find them around electrical outlets, cable lines, windows and doors. The U.S. Department of Energy estimates that you can save up to 30% on your energy bills by sealing air leaks around your house.

5. Service your large appliances. The refrigerator is one of your home’s biggest users of energy. Keep it clean on the inside and out—including the back of it, where coils collect dust and sap the unit’s efficiency. Clean the lint out of your dryer’s vent.

6. Bring in sunlight. During daylight hours, switch off artificial lights, open the blinds, and use windows and skylights to brighten your home.

7. Use ceiling fans. Cooling your home with ceiling fans will allow you to raise your thermostat several degrees when it gets warm outside. This can help lower your electricity bills without sacrificing overall comfort.

8. Cook outside. On warmer spring days, keep the heat out of your home by using an outdoor grill instead of an indoor oven.

ADVERTISE IN THE TRADING POST

SBEC 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 March 20, it will appear in the May 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.
EVERY DAY, AN AVERAGE OF 56 CHILDREN ARE REMOVED FROM their homes and enter the foster care system. What happens to those children? Who serves as their voice?

Texas Court Appointed Special Advocates, or CASA, was founded in 1989 to better serve the needs of children in foster care by providing children who have been abused with a representative in court who advocates for their best interests.

“Our role is not to be CPS,” explained Mandy Wright, executive director of CASA for Kids of South Central Texas. “Our role is to be an extension of the judge as an extra set of eyes and ears for the child and their home and foster environment.”

There are 72 CASA organizations across Texas that share a mission to provide a safe and positive future for all Texas children. Unfortunately, the organization’s reach doesn’t extend to all areas of Texas. In San Bernard Electric Cooperative’s service territory, CASA for Kids of South Central Texas covers Austin, Colorado, Waller and Washington counties. Their mission is to do what is in the best interests of abused or neglected children in our territory.

“Not every CASA program in Texas takes every child case in CPS care, but thankfully, we do,” Wright said. “We are fortunate enough to have [a] great staff and volunteer group that work and train new advocates to make sure every child is covered in all four of our counties.”

CASA volunteers are screened, highly trained and then appointed by judges to represent and advocate for children in the child protection system. CASA volunteers are assigned to help one child or set of siblings at a time, so they can focus on giving that child or sibling group the individualized advocacy and attention they need. CASA volunteers save taxpayers money and safeguard children’s futures by helping them find a safe, permanent home as soon as possible.

“Advocates are one of our largest needs for the program right now,” Wright said, “but there are so many avenues to assist with CASA and the children they serve.”

Members of the public can help by joining the board of directors, which helps develop the program, assists with fundraisers and represents the organization in the community. CASA assists newborns up to 21-year-old adults (if they opt to stay in CASA care), and the needs for these victims are vast. All assistance is welcomed.

“We need diapers and wipes up to gift cards to take the teenagers to the store to pick out something they want and not just something they get,” Wright said.

A current project of CASA for Kids of South Central Texas is building permanency assistance kits for caretakers. These kits have fire extinguishers, smoke detectors, outlet covers and medicine cabinet locks—just a few of the items needed to help current relative placements maintain a safe and forever home for the children if reuniting with parents is no longer an option.

The largest annual fundraiser for the organization is CASA Casino Night, Saturday, April 25, this year, at 6 p.m. at the Austin County Expo Center.

CASA is currently seeking sponsors for the event’s games, tables and auction items and invites community members to come and gamble the night away. If you are interested in donating an item for the silent auction or sponsoring a table or game, email Grace at gracemayevasa@gmail.com or call the CASA office at (979) 277-0088.

CASA for Kids of South Central Texas works tirelessly to recruit, train and support local volunteers who make sure that each child removed from a home in Austin, Colorado, Waller or Washington counties has their own personal champion.

For more information on how to volunteer or assist CASA for Kids of South Central Texas, you can call the office at (979) 277-0088, visit them online at wespeak4kids.org, or follow them on Facebook or Instagram.
CASINO NIGHT & Silent Auction
Saturday, April 25th | 6pm
Austin County Expo | 1076 Highway 159 East | Bellville, TX, 77418

Food, Drinks, Chance & Charity
Help CASA support local foster children

- Sponsor a Table
- Invite your Friends
- Sponsor a Game
- Donate an Auction item
- Monetary Donation

Early Bird $50
(Purchase by March 1st)

ADMISSION
$55 ONLINE
$60 AT DOOR

For more info contact:
(979) 277-0088 or visit wespeak4kids.org

All proceeds benefit CASA for Kids of South Central Texas
A 501(c)(3) organization. EIN #20-5177957
Serving the Children of Austin, Colorado, Waller & Washington Counties