

MEMBER SERVICES

Q&A



Q. I am thinking about New Year's resolutions to simplify my life and save money in 2017. Are there things I can do to interact with Bluebonnet more efficiently and save energy?

A. You came to the right place. Our member service representatives brainstormed and came up with a list of changes you can make in 2017 to make your life more manageable and save money. You can resolve to:

- Sign up for a recurring Bluebonnet account so your electric bill always will be paid by a bank or credit card draft and your bills are paid on time. This will help establish good credit and help ensure your Bluebonnet deposit is returned.
- Keep thermostat on 78 during the summer and 68 during the winter to conserve energy and save money.
- Caulk and weather strip doors, windows and electric outlets.
- Reduce water heating costs by lowering temperature setting to 120 degrees F.
- Maintain heating system to ensure it is efficient.
- Reduce energy by using natural light when possible.
- Open curtains on south-facing windows during the day to allow sunlight to warm the house.
- Close fireplace flue when not in use.
- In warm months, grill or use a slow cooker to avoid heating the house with the oven.
- Dry clothes on outside line.
- Lower the cost of holiday lighting by using LED lights.
- Read Texas Co-op Power magazine to learn how to conserve energy and keep up with the latest Bluebonnet Electric Cooperative news.
- Visit Bluebonnet's Eco Home in Brenham to learn about the latest green-building technology.

Questions? Call 800-842-7708 and a member service representative can help.

— **Barbara Seilheimer, Bluebonnet member services manager**

Scholarships, government tours available for Bluebonnet youth

Bluebonnet Electric Cooperative believes in its youth and offers local high school students several scholarships and opportunities to become tomorrow's leaders.

The co-op has two programs for students in the co-op's service area, which covers all or parts of 14 counties stretching from the suburbs of Austin to the outskirts of Houston and south to San Marcos.

The Government-in-Action Youth Tour offers two high school students (in 10th, 11th or 12th grade) the opportunity to travel to Washington, D.C., to tour our nation's capital. Each student selected to represent Bluebonnet on the June 7-16 Washington tour will visit the U.S. Capitol, meet members of Congress and see historical sites. They also receive a \$500 scholarship during their senior year.

Applicants must live in the home of a parent or legal guardian who is a current Bluebonnet member with an active account and whose primary residence is in Bluebonnet's service area (including city limits that are within Bluebonnet's service area).

Students in accredited home extended study programs are eligible to apply. The deadline is approaching. Applications are due by Jan. 27, 2017.

Bluebonnet also offers Scholarships of Excellence for students pursuing a trade and technical certificate, an associate degree in a vocational field or a bachelor's degree. Applicants must be a graduating high school senior and must



live in the home of a parent or legal guardian who is a current Bluebonnet member with an active account and who whose primary residence is in Bluebonnet's service area (including city limits that are within Bluebonnet's service area). Graduating seniors in accredited home extended study programs are eligible to apply. The application must be signed and delivered to a Member Service Center or postmarked by 5 p.m. March 3, 2017.

Scholarships of Excellence requirements and applications are available through area high school counselors and vocational instructors, at Bluebonnet's five member service centers in Bastrop, Brenham, Giddings, Lockhart and Manor and online at bluebonnet.coop. Hover over the Community tab, and click on Scholarships.

For more information, call 800-842-7708 and a Bluebonnet member service representative can help.

Bluebonnet Board seats up for election

Bluebonnet Electric Cooperative members will elect four directors to the co-op's Board of Directors during Bluebonnet's Annual Meeting on May 9, 2017.

The deadline to apply to be a director is Feb. 8, 2017.

Bluebonnet's Board is made up of 11 directors who serve staggered three-year terms. The four seats up for election in 2017 represent District 3 for Bastrop County; District 4 for Lee, Milam and Williamson counties; District 6 for Austin, Colorado and Fayette counties; and District 7 for Washington County.

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.

To run for the Board, candidates must be at least 21 years old, be a primary resident of their

district and be a co-op member in good standing. They also must agree to a background check and meet other qualifications outlined in Bluebonnet's bylaws, which are available at bluebonnetelectric.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.

Application for nomination forms are available at the co-op's member service centers in Bastrop, Brenham, Giddings, Lockhart and Manor and online at bluebonnet.coop, under the About tab and then Reports & Forms in the drop-down bar. All candidates' petitions, filing fees and application for nomination forms must be submitted at any Bluebonnet member service center by 4 p.m. Feb. 8, 2017.

For more information, call a Bluebonnet member service representative at 800-842-7708 or email memberservices@bluebonnet.coop.