

NORTH PLAINS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

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North Plains EC Awards Nine Scholarships

As a nonprofit entity, North Plains Electric Cooperative returns any margins achieved over costs to the membership as capital credits. Each time we pay capital credits, a number of the checks are returned to us unclaimed. Unclaimed capital credits are those payments that go to individuals who cannot be found or have passed away, or to companies that no longer exist. Ordinarily these funds would be sent to the State Comptroller of Public Accounts for deposit into the Texas General Revenue Fund. Now, a Texas law allows unclaimed capital credits to be used by cooperatives for rural scholarships. The NPEC board of directors approved the scholarship program using these funds in 2000.

This year NPEC presented nine \$750 scholarships, a total of \$6,750, to benefit the rural communities and members in the North Plains Electric Cooperative service area. The scholarships are administered to recipients chosen by Opportunity Plan, Inc.

Seven scholarships were presented at the annual membership meeting. Recipients were selected from applicants who included active members, children of active members, employees, or board members of North Plains Electric Cooperative, Inc. It was our goal to give a member scholarship in each of the school districts within our service territory.

Member scholarships were presented to the following students:

Jeana Booker is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Glen Watson and a graduate of Higgins High School. She is currently attending Texas Tech University.

Monica Cantu is the daughter of Ramon and Debbie Cantu and a graduate of Spearman High School. She is currently attending West Texas A&M University.



Two member scholarship recipients, from left, are Heath Flowers and Zane McGee with General Manager Randy Mahannah at NPEC's annual meeting.

Jessica Cates is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Mark Cates. She was a recent graduate of Follett High School.

Heath Flowers is the son of Kirk and Dana Flowers. He is a recent graduate of Canadian High School.

Tianna Hardin is the daughter of Terrell and Debbie Hardin. She is a recent graduate of Canadian High School.



Andy Karber is the son of Kimmie and Becky Karber. (Becky is NPEC's administrative secretary.) Andy graduated from Balko High School and is currently attending Oklahoma State University in Oklahoma City.

Zane McGee is a recent graduate of Booker High School. His parents are Tam and Becky McGee.

Two at-large scholarship recipients were chosen from graduating seniors within our service area including Higgins, Follett, Booker, Perryton, Canadian, Spearman and Gruver high schools. The two at-large recipients are:

Roy Don Babitzke, a recent graduate of Booker High School, son of Mr. and Mrs. Roy Babitzke, and

Lindsey Wilkens, a recent graduate of Perryton High School, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Doug Wilkens.

If you have questions about these scholarships or would like to designate your capital credits to the scholarship fund, please contact Bill Carson at North Plains EC.

Perryton senior Lindsey Wilkens receives at-large scholarship from Member Service Specialist Bill Carson. (Photo courtesy Peak Photography)

From the General Manager If You Call, We'll Answer

In a time when the electric utility industry is becoming more fragmented and simple communication more difficult, I like to think that our co-op is a tie that binds the community. Rather than a distant, automated obstacle between you and the assistance you need from your utility, our front desk—staffed by actual human beings—can quickly get you in touch with just about anyone at the cooperative you need to speak to.

Texas Co-op Power recently received a letter from a new co-op member whose first electric outage made him even happier with his service. That's

because the service was so much better than what he had experienced in the city. A real human being at the co-op told him there was another person ahead of him, and it would be two hours before the repair trucks would arrive.

"Stunned and astonished," he wrote, "I was more than happy to be the second in line and to wait the two hours for the repair. And if that wasn't enough, they actually called me after the power came back on to make sure that everything was all right. ... Life is grand—if you live in a small town!"

An out-of-state company may sacri-

*Randy
Mahannah*



fice service for a better bottom line, but our bottom line is service and commitment to community. Our "world headquarters" are conveniently located in your downtown or another town nearby. Our members actually have a say in the co-op's leadership. And, if for some reason you fail to reach us during business hours, check out the Little League game or the Chamber of Commerce banquet. We'll likely be there.

2003 Youth Tour Contest

Eight area young people came to the North Plains main office on May 12 to give five- to eight-minute presentations on "Rural Electric Cooperatives ... The Power for Better Living." NPEC hosts this contest annually and awards the winning boy and girl a two-week all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C., with other award-winning youths from cooperatives throughout Texas. A team of outside judges selects the boy and girl who have made the best presentations. Contestants are selected in local or school contests and must also demonstrate an understanding of the basic principles of cooperatives as well as specific information about NPEC by answering questions from the judges.

Competing this year were: Shelby Custer and Byron Hoover, both sophomores from Booker; Ike Julian, freshman, and Will Purcell, sophomore, Canadian; Jay Gurley and Taunia Logan, both sophomores from Perryton; and Michel Huffaker and Russell Sheets, juniors from Spearman.

All contestants did an excellent job, which made the



The 2003 Youth Tour contestants are, from left: front row—Taunia Logan, Shelby Custer and Will Purcell. Back row—Jay Gurley, Byron Hoover, Ike Julian, Russell Sheets and Michel Huffaker.



Youth Tour winners Ike Julian, left, and Taunia Logan. (Ike's attire was a costume for his presentation.)

judges' decision difficult. **Ike Julian**, son of John and Lee Ann Julian, and **Taunia Logan**, daughter of Wesley and Debbie Logan, were chosen as winners. Russell Sheets and Michel Huffaker were selected as alternates.

Look for articles written by the winners about their Washington experience in September's *Texas Co-op Power*.