



Serving parts of Dallas, Ellis, Hill, Johnson, and McLennan Counties since 1937

April 2020

A Letter From Your HILCO Board of Directors

The year 2019 proved to be another good year for HILCO Electric Cooperative. Your Board of Directors and I are pleased to report some recent accomplishments of our dedicated staff and employees under the direction of the board and General Manager/CEO Debra Cole. As always, our objectives are to provide the lowest possible cost and most reliable electric service to our members.



Joe Tedesco
President

CAPITAL CREDITS

In 2019, we were able to distribute more than **\$1.9 million** to members who had service with HILCO Electric, by way of check or applied bill credit. This was our **18th** year to retire patronage capital to our members since 2001.

We are pleased to report that HILCO has retired all patronage capital allocated through 1989; 50% of patronage capital from 1990. 100% of the year 2000; and a percentage of patronage capital from 2001 and 2018.

MEMBER BENEFITS & SERVICES

Being a member of HILCO Electric Cooperative confers many benefits and services designed to meet our members' needs. From rebates to discounts through the Co-op Connection Card and much more, there's something for everyone.

Our Co-op Connections card has been one of the most accepted and appreciated programs at HILCO, especially the prescription drugs feature. Since the program's inception in 2007, HILCO members have saved over **\$1.3 Million** on prescription drugs. Download the Co-op Connections app to begin using the benefit and to receive additional discounts locally and nationally, including cash back shopping, and discounted hotel

rates. Best of all, you get all of the benefits for free!

In 2019, 22 high school seniors were awarded scholarships totaling **\$15,000** to attend the college of their choice through the co-op's **escheat funds**. And HILCO sent three lucky students to Washington, D.C., on the trip of a lifetime through the Government-In-Action Youth Tour. The students met with their representatives in congress



Youth Tour Participants Vanessa Alvarado, Ryan Markwardt and Kaylei Cole



Visiting the Capital

and got a firsthand look at our government at work.

HILCO's website, hilco.coop, offers several features that our members may find helpful. You can find payment options, payment locations, member account information, home energy audit information and much more.

BILLING AND PREPAID OPTIONS

Innovation is an expectation shared by cooperatives and members, and in the

Save the Date!



HILCO's Member Appreciation Picnic will be held on Thursday, **September 24, 2020** at the HILCO Civic and Event Center. Look in future issues of your Texas Co-op Power for more information.

BOOK YOUR NEXT EVENT AT THE HILCO CIVIC & EVENT CENTER



The rental hall area is 18,745 square feet and can accommodate anything from small celebrations to large scale corporate events. It is an excellent location for weddings, corporate events, trainings, graduations, trade shows, birthday parties, and other various events. Packages can be created to include catering, florist, DJ/bands and more. For more information about the venue and the services offered, please contact one of the HILCO Civic & Event Center staff members today.

world of ever-changing technology, we strive to stay on the cusp of technological advancements all while keeping electric service affordable.

HILCO offers a variety of ways to make managing your electric bill more convenient. Two programs provided by HEC and rooted in technology are SmartHub and our “pay- as-you-go” option. SmartHub gives members the option to pay online, over the phone or by using the SmartHub app on your smart device- all **free of charge**. Pay-as-you-go allows members to align their budgets and energy consumption.

We also offer online banking and automatic draft enrollment for bank or credit card payments. If you are interested

in any of these payment options, talk to one of our member service representatives to see which plan is right for you.

As a member-owned, not-for-profit utility, we continue to innovate and connect with members

COMMITMENT TO THE COMMUNITY

HILCO has a long history of community involvement and support of local charitable and community organizations, from children’s programs and women’s shelter to food banks and local fire stations.

Since its inception in 2001, **HILCO members** have contributed over **\$844,419** to the Operation Round Up program. Thank you, members! In an effort to reduce the environmental impact of improper electronics disposal, HILCO hosted an electronic recycling event in 2019. The co-op collected more than 17,000 pounds of old TV’s and other junk electronics at no direct cost to our members. We appreciate your participation in helping keep our environment safe and clean.

HILCO also offers safety programs to schools, organizations and clubs.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND REBATE PROGRAMS

HILCO’s energy efficiency and rebate programs are making it easier for members to make their homes more efficient.

In 2019, HILCO members received more than **\$45,000 in rebates** from the co-op. As in past years, the HVAC tuneups proved to be the most popular program offered by HILCO. Not trailing too far behind were solar rebates. Along with these two programs, we offer many others that can be found on our website, hilco.coop/rebateprograms.

In that spirit of efficiency, a Nissan Leaf electric vehicle was added to the cooperative’s fleet, along with two charging stations.

THE YEAR AHEAD

2019 was a great one for HILCO Electric Cooperative, Inc. Our members’ average cost per kilowatt-hour held steady for the third year in a row at a rate of 10 cents. The number of meters on our system grew from 28,284 to a year-end total of 29,380. HILCO continues to grow and serve our members with reliable service and the lowest possible rate.

HILCO subsidiaries are growing and supporting our members with the services requested, providing propane and water with reasonable rates and consumer-friendly service.

We have reinstated our rebate program, including HVAC tuneups, underpinning and more. We will continue to offer free home energy audits. Educational material for our Beat the Peak program (reducing power usage during the hours of 4-8 p.m., June- September) also will be provided.

The HILCO Civic and Event Center had a great year being steadily booked with weekday and weekend events. Looking ahead, HCEC plans to continue serving the needs of the community by hosting events and bringing communities together.

HILCO Electric is member-owned, so your input is important. We encourage you to let your voice be heard by attending our upcoming annual meeting in September so we can better serve you, our member.

As your board of directors, we promise dedication in looking out for the best interests of HILCO members, continuing our education and research on providing the lowest possible energy charge, and always looking for ways to improve your electric service.

We expect nothing but the best for 2020 and look forward to serving you, the HILCO members.

*Sincerely,
HILCO Board of Directors*



Mark Fehnel and Erik Gonzales recycling electronics.



Nissan Leaf EV and charging station

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