

In remembrance of Woodruff Electric board member J. Byron Ponder

Mr. J. Byron Ponder, 77, of Forrest City, Arkansas, departed this life on Tuesday, January 4, 2022. An active director, he had served on the Woodruff Electric Cooperative Board of Directors since 1975. During that time, he was elected to the positions of Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Secretary-Treasurer. Mr. Ponder was an outstanding leader of the cooperative for more than 46 years.

In 2010, Mr. Ponder was recognized for his selfless years of service to the rural electric cooperative program when he received the Electric Cooperatives of Arkansas Pioneer Wall of Fame Award. Mr. Ponder served with distinction as an excellent leader who was very dedicated and determined to serve the members of Woodruff Electric and the rural electric program. He was truly an exceptional leader and supporter of the electric cooperative program during his years of service.

Mr. Ponder's service on the Woodruff Electric Cooperative Corporation's Board of Directors provided stability, guidance and leadership during a time of significant change, not only in the local cooperative but the electric industry in Arkansas. He understood and welcomed change to better and improve the cooperative, and to better serve the membership with reliable and affordable power.

We have been honored to have him represent our cooperative throughout his many years of service. He was devoted to our cooperative and our membership in numerous capacities. Woodruff Electric Cooperative Corporation wishes to express our heartfelt compassion, support and sympathy to his family and his many friends.



**Woodruff Electric
Cooperative Corporation**

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HIGH SCHOOL JUNIORS, *It's time to apply for Youth Tour!*

Woodruff Electric will select outstanding high school juniors to attend Youth Tour, an all-expenses-paid educational trip to Washington, D.C., from June 17-23. Students selected to participate will have an opportunity to earn a \$5,000 scholarship. Deadline to enter is March 21, 2022.

Arkansas' electric cooperatives have sponsored Youth Tour since 1990. Each year, approximately 40 students are selected by the state's electric distribution cooperatives to participate. During the tour, the chaperoned group will visit historic sites, such as Mount Vernon, the Smithsonian Institution, Arlington National Cemetery, the Lincoln Memorial, the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum and the U.S. Capitol. Youth Tour delegates will also visit with members of the Arkansas congressional delegation.

COVID-19 safety precautions will be in place. Youth Tour will follow pandemic travel guidelines set by the airlines, Washington, D.C., and Virginia.

Winners will be selected through an essay contest.

For more information, contact Woodruff Electric at 870-633-2262 or visit www.woodruffelectric.com for complete contest rules. The deadline for entries is March 21, 2022. To learn more about the Youth Tour, visit: www.aecc.com/community/youth-tour and www.youthtour.coop.

***Don't miss out on this incredible, life-changing opportunity.
It's a trip of a lifetime!***



my co-op

APPLY NOW FOR THE GLYNN AND MILDRED CARPENTER SCHOLARSHIP

Glynn Carpenter was manager/CEO of Woodruff Electric Cooperative for 34 years. He and his wife, Mildred, both came from humble beginnings in Ashley County. Mr. Carpenter worked in the electric cooperative system for 53 years, retiring in 2003.

Both Glynn and Mildred were strong advocates of higher education. Mr. Carpenter recognized the value of education and encouraged his employees, family and acquaintances to better themselves with learning.

In honor of Glynn and Mildred Carpenter, the Board of Directors of Woodruff Electric Cooperative established the Glynn and Mildred Carpenter Scholarship Program. 2022 graduating high school seniors may apply to win a \$1,000 scholarship.

In order to be eligible for the scholarship, the applicant must be a graduate of any public or private high school in the counties of Woodruff, Cross, Monroe, St. Francis, Lee or Phillips or in the town of Des Arc; or be a graduate of home schooling while residing in a household of a Woodruff Electric member. The applicant must also be the child, grandchild or dependent of a Woodruff Electric member. The applicant must be attending a university, college or technical school as a full-time student in the Fall of 2022. The entire application must be completed in full, and received with the appropriate supplementary materials, in advance of the application deadline, which is March 21, 2022.

Go to www.woodruffelectric.com for more information, complete instructions and the scholarship application forms.



Behind the lines at Woodruff Electric

Employee Spotlight: Carolyn Hayes

Title: *Cashier*

Department: *Office Services – District II*

How would you explain your job to someone else? *I answer the phones, direct calls, accept member payments and try to help members and other employees in any way possible.*

Did you work in other positions or at other companies before this position? *I worked as a beautician for 22 years and a bookkeeper at Riceland Foods for 15 years before starting at Woodruff.*

What is the best part of your job? *The best part of my job is getting to work with a wonderful group of people that feel more like family than co-workers. I enjoy meeting new people, helping people get electricity to their homes and assisting with their accounts.*

What is the biggest challenge you face in your job? *The biggest challenge of my job is keeping up with technology, as I wasn't born in the computer age.*

Is there something you would like people in other departments or people outside WECC to know about your job? *Sometimes it's very challenging, but it's a very rewarding job. We've got wonderful people in our communities, which makes my job easier.*

Do you have any community involvement or activities? *I am a member at Levesque Assembly of God Church where I play the piano, serve on the worship team and participate as a member of the women's committee.*

What are some of your favorite hobbies? *I really enjoy gardening and working in my flower beds. Also, I love to play the piano in my spare time and enjoy spending quiet time with the Lord.*

What is your favorite food? *I love anything sweet, but everyone here at work knows that about me!*

What will you not eat? *I will not eat hominy.*

What is your trademark cliché or expression? *Bless your heart!*

What would you like to learn how to do? *I would like to join the local master gardeners' program and learn more about plants to help me take care of my yard and garden even better.*

What are a few items that you collect? *I collect bird houses and grandkids!*

If I've learned one thing in life, it's: *The one thing I have learned is to encourage people and be uplifting in a positive manner — to help everyone. My personal motto is "Always pray to have eyes that see the best in people, a heart that forgives the worst, a mind that forgets the bad and a soul that never loses faith in God."*

