



# country living

FOR MEMBERS OF EAST CENTRAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

## ECE's Drive Thru Meeting Draws Record Crowd

1,850 registered members make it the biggest meeting in co-op history

Having never held a Drive-Thru Annual Meeting before, East Central Electric staff had no way to predict the attendance. Even so, the steady stream of vehicles arriving on September 10 surprised them. According to co-op staff, cars began arriving before the meeting opened at 1 pm and didn't slow down until late that afternoon.

Tim Smith, ECE general manager, described it as "an over-the-top record-setting day."

"By the end of the night, our total registration was 1,850 members, making it the largest ECE Annual Meeting on record," Smith said.

The drive thru meeting format allowed the co-op to conduct its annual business with members while ensuring the safe distance that prevents the spread of coronavirus. Members cruised



A line of cars approaches the entrance of the ECE Drive-Thru Annual Meeting. Members attending the meeting stayed in their vehicles, making brief stops along the route to pick up refreshments and information from co-op staff, and register for prizes. PHOTO/AMY NIX, ECE.

the meeting route in their vehicle, stopping along the way to register, pick up ECE's Annual Report, and vote.

"By necessity, this meeting was different from our previous meetings, but we were able to accomplish what we needed to accomplish, and reward members for their participation," said Smith.

Money saved by not hosting a traditional meeting allowed the co-op to offer \$8,000 in cash prizes to members. Michael Hix of Mounds won the \$500 grand prize. A list of \$75 cash prize winners is printed on page 3.



**Congratulations To Our Grand Prize Winner!**

Michael Hix, Mounds — \$500

To learn more about your elected trustees, or to view a district map, please visit [www.ecoec.com](http://www.ecoec.com). To contact your trustee, please call 918-756-0833.

**notes from the chair**



by Lowell Hobbs, President, East Central Electric Cooperative Board of Trustees

**Vote of Confidence**

I did not expect it, but because of the coronavirus, the procedure we used to conduct our district meetings produced the largest number of members responding in the last 10 years. The incumbent trustees drew no opponents, and we had no bylaw changes to present at the ECE Annual Meeting.

To me, not having any candidates file against our incumbents is a vote of confidence. Thank you for allowing the current board to continue to work for you. They are a good group to work with. None of us has a personal agenda. We work together for all our co-op members. Remember, we are members, too, so we want the very best for all.

Recent reports show that rural electric co-ops serve 93 percent of the Oklahoma landmass with the average cost per household of \$5.13 per day. Oklahoma electric cooperatives serve 5.68 meters per mile of line and generate \$13,850 revenue for every mile. Compared to other electric utilities in our state, Oklahoma's electric cooperatives maintain far more infrastructure with significantly less money. To accomplish the task, it means co-ops must structure their rates and fees to recover the cost of providing that service, and partner with other cooperatives and organizations to

create economies of scale for supplies, insurance, financing, technology solutions, and more. As far as I know, we are the only business that makes a great effort to teach and encourage members to use less of our product.

Our power comes from coal, natural gas, wind, water, and solar.

Our broadband program will be much help with our electric grid and your quality of life. Many people are working from home, and students are doing online schooling. We are working steadily to get to your house as soon as possible to provide those opportunities for all.

Phase 1 is finished; Phase 2 is moving along at 20 to 25 houses per day, and Phase 3 is well underway. The Phase 4 area will be defined soon. Be sure to record your interest in receiving broadband service online, or call the office at 918-756-0833.

What you say and what you mean is important. For instance, you may want to tell your wife she looks like a breath of spring rather than saying she looks like the end of a cold hard winter! ❄️

Lowell Hobbs represents ECE District #2. To reach him, please call his cellphone at 918-695-5289.



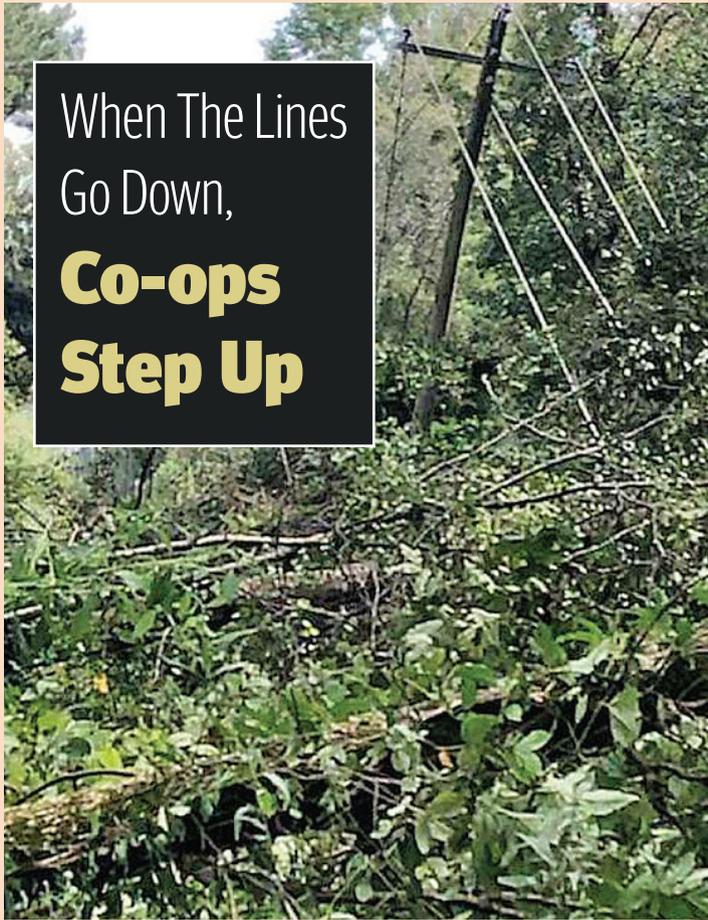
**Congratulations, Members!**

Thank you for attending ECE's Drive-Thru Annual Meeting!

- |                     |                      |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| Joe Platt           | Sharon Harris        |
| Sue Jones           | Buddy Koziel         |
| Tommy Roberts       | Ricky Fisher         |
| Michael Newton      | Wade Parham          |
| Dwight G Manning    | Carol Christianson   |
| Bobby Moody         | Marshall Hunt        |
| Minnie Carr         | Hoyt Gibson          |
| Jimmie F Webb       | Julie Thomas         |
| Terri Burrage       | Clearview Baptist Ch |
| Arealle Lansford    | Mitch Davis          |
| James D Mcelroy     | Edward Pannell       |
| Marcus Tompkins     | Chastity Billy       |
| Lori Ball           | Jim Hurt             |
| Haskell L Wadsworth | Wendy Tucker         |
| Amy Sinor           | Gary Krech           |
| Cheryl Atwell       | Estate Of Charlene   |
| Kenneth Walters     | Morgan Skaggs        |
| Laura Carter        | Kris Akin            |
| Tommy R Hicks       | Rob Hess             |
| Buck Clayton        | Rhonda L Roberts     |
| Curtis L Russell    | Greg Holland         |
| C D Bleeker         | Clarence Threats Sr  |
| Melvetta H Quinn    | Clyde Walker         |
| Mike Cargola        | Pleasant Valley Ch   |
| Harold W Bogle      | Everett Shanks Jr    |
| Sue Finley          | Tom Hoggatt          |
| Calvin Rock         | Russell Branan       |
| Janice Raines       | Plumbing             |
| Jess C Smith        | Bobby L Dean         |
| Raymond Smith       | Tommy Daniels        |
| Ethel M Edmerson    | Teresa Hampton       |
| Billy Hannon        | Patrick Murphy       |
| Lonnie Frenchman    | Sarah Hudson         |
| Robert Case         | Gregory Lee          |
| Ashley Bryant       | Kara Lansdale        |
| Robert Hahne        | Mt Zion Baptist Ch   |
| First Baptist Ch    | Dylan Jackson        |
| Larry Wood          | Drake Fletcher       |
| Tommy Allen         |                      |

More than 100 electric co-ops are already working toward diverse solutions to bridge the digital divide. The sector is poised to bring broadband service to 6.3 million underserved American households.

When The Lines  
Go Down,  
**Co-ops  
Step Up**



East Central Electric crew members pause for a photo before departing on August 29 to help co-ops affected by Hurricane Laura. Team includes Stacy Bourne; Gary Baker(safety coordinator); Glenn Edwards; Jason Childress; Michael Muller; and Pete Hogan.

## Helping other co-ops through a disaster is the cooperative way

**O**ctober is Cooperative Month. What better way to celebrate than to highlight the East Central Electric employees who put their co-op values in action to assist Louisiana and Texas co-ops affected by Hurricane Laura?

That storm made landfall on August 27, bringing 150-mph winds and leaving a path of destruction across three states. Working shifts of 10 to 12 days at a time, the ECE team and seven other crews from Oklahoma electric co-ops, rebuilt and repaired damaged power lines in the affected areas.

ECE Director of Operations Royce McMahon said the crew worked a grueling schedule and provided daily updates on their progress.

Cooperatives gladly work together in times of crisis to ensure the best service for members. In fact, Cooperation Among Cooperatives is number six of the Seven Cooperative Principles. There's a bit of karma involved, too. Because ECE stepped up to help other co-ops in their time of need, other co-ops will respond when disaster strikes ECE. ♪



# operation roundup

MONTHLY UPDATE



Operation Roundup funds support local charitable organizations, civic groups, youth programs, community services, and needy families. For more information on this voluntary bill roundup program, please visit us online at [www.ecoec.com](http://www.ecoec.com).

|                                  |                |
|----------------------------------|----------------|
| Applications reviewed.....       | 1,563          |
| Applications granted.....        | 784            |
| Applications denied.....         | 344            |
| Applications tabled.....         | 28             |
| Scholarships awarded.....        | \$265,500      |
|                                  |                |
| Total Disbursements.....         | \$1,910,412.84 |
| Average member contribution..... | 48¢            |



## ELECTRICAL SAFETY TIP OF THE MONTH

October 1 is Home Electrical Safety Day. Make your home a safezone for you and your child. Prevent shock by checking and replacing any broken or missing outlets and coverplates.

SOURCE: HOME ELECTRICAL SAFETY DAY

## RECIPES



### Chili Dog Casserole

#### INGREDIENTS

|  |  |
|--|--|
| 2 (15 ounce) cans chili with beans     | 10 (8 inch) flour tortillas                  |
| 1 (16 ounce) package beef frankfurters | 1 (8 ounce) package Cheddar cheese, shredded |

#### DIRECTIONS

Preheat oven to 425 degrees F.

Spread 1 can of chili and beans in the bottom of a 9x13 inch baking dish. Roll up franks inside tortillas and place in baking dish, seam side down, on top of chili and bean 'bed'. Top with remaining can of chili and beans, and sprinkle with cheese.

Cover baking dish with aluminum foil, and bake at 425 degrees F. for 30 minutes.

Source: allrecipes.com

*Want to save energy while cooking?* Use a convection oven. The circulated air reduces cook times and the temperatures required. On average, a convection oven uses 20 percent less energy a month than a standard oven. SOURCE: ENERGY.GOV.



## East Central

ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

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#### OFFICE HOURS:

Monday-Friday, 8 am - 4:30 pm.

#### POWER OUTAGE HOT LINE

(918) 756-0833

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