

country living

FOR MEMBERS OF EAST CENTRAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Drive-Thru (*Win Cash*) Stay Safe.

Cruise on over to ECE's Drive-Thru Annual Meeting! Cash prizes, electric bill credits, and more—all from the safety of your vehicle!

On Thursday, September 10, East Central Electric (ECE) will make history with its first ever Drive-Thru Annual Meeting. The new format allows the co-op to conduct its annual business while respecting social distance safety measures that curb the spread of coronavirus.

Traditional annual meeting activities—live entertainment, arts and crafts, activities for children, and food booths—will be absent this year. But co-op staff are making up for it by giving away \$8,000 in cash prizes!

THIS WAY FOR PRIZES

Prizes include one \$500 grand prize, and 75 \$100 cash prizes. Members who register at the meeting will also receive a \$30 electric bill credit, thanks to the reduced costs associated with holding a drive-thru meeting.

Members make stops along the route—to pick up the Annual Meeting Survey and ECE Annual Report, receive ecoLINK swag (while supplies last), register, and vote. Members are encouraged to tune in to 106.3FM- The Brew for co-op updates, or check out the video at www.ecoec.com to learn more about their co-op business.

A couple of other changes to expect: Co-op staff will not accept recipe contributions at the annual meeting. Instead, please mail your favorite recipe to ECE/Attn: Recipes, PO Box 1178, Okmulgee, OK 74447.

Completed member surveys must also be mailed or delivered to the co-op office, or filled out online. These precautions help ensure our members and employees stay safe and healthy. As we power through these changes, your support is appreciated. Thank you! 🙏

If you have questions about our Drive-Thru Meeting, please call **918-756-0833**, or email info@ecoec.com.

ECE District Meetings Draw A Virtual Crowd

When your co-op trustees opted to play it safe and hold district meetings online, East Central Electric (ECE) members responded in record numbers. According to co-op staff, more members registered for the District 1, 3 and 6 meetings than any previous district meeting in cooperative history. That's significant.



A final count showed 194 members registered for District 1; 211 for District 3; and 145 for District 6.

The increase in registrations sparked several members to express interest in serving on the ECE board. Some of them requested candidate packets, but only the incumbent trustees filed their intent to run.

Please turn to page 2 for more details about your District 1, 3, and 6 trustees.

Thank you for your interest in your cooperative!

ECE Drive-Thru Meeting

Thursday, September 10 • 1 pm - 7 pm
ECE Headquarters
2001 S. Wood Drive, Okmulgee

To learn more about your elected trustees, or to view a district map, please visit 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

What A Change!

A recent report included the five places most likely to transmit coronavirus. Family gatherings and church were second on the list. No wonder. That's where people hug their greetings and seal it with a handshake, the time-honored symbol of friendship.

Limiting personal contact and wearing a mask is now imperative.

East Central Electric (ECE) started our broadband to the home well ahead of this current pandemic. Our crews are working diligently but safely to get your home online.

We were fortunate to include Conexon, our vendor, as consultants to design and build the fiber network. They also represented us at FCC's CAF reverse auction to obtain a good sum of grant money to begin the program. They are helping us prepare today to meet our members' needs tomorrow. This reasonably priced, high-speed internet to our members will also optimize the electric side of our

business, and eventually help keep our cost lower to our members.

Capital credit checks have been mailed, as has occurred every year. The ECE board votes on when and how much to return each year. Not all co-ops do this.

By the time you read this, our district 1, 3, and 6 meetings will be history. Our annual meeting will be a drive-thru event at ECE headquarters on September 10, 2020, from 1 pm to 7 pm. If you have questions, please check the co-op website at www.ecoec.com, or call the office at 918-756-0833.

Living in the country and staying home results in less exposure to the Covid-19 germs.

Don't let the opportunity to vote pass you by. Stay safe, stay healthy, thank God for this great country!

Remember this, too: Visits always bring pleasure; if not the arrival, the departure! ☺

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

Appointed to the co-op board in 2015, Jim Hall represents members in District 6. A resident of the Nuyaka area, Hall works as an agent for the Oklahoma Farm Bureau and raises stocker cattle.

He currently serves on the Okmulgee County Fair Board, and has served on the boards of the Okmulgee Chamber of Commerce, Stonebridge Academy, Okmulgee Area Development Corporation and the Okmulgee Education Foundation.

**DISTRICT 6
Jim Hall**



MEET YOUR TRUSTEE

**DISTRICT 1
Larry Harvey**



Larry Harvey represents co-op members in District 1. Harvey taught vocational agriculture at Beggs School for many years. Now retired, Harvey and his wife, Helen, raise cattle on their family land northwest of Beggs. Harvey is also active in the Lion's Club, Masonic Lodge, Crossroads Baptist Church, and serves on the board of trustees of the FFA Foundation.

**DISTRICT 3
Max Shoemake**



Max Shoemake represents co-op members in District 3. Shoemake and his wife, Phyllis, live north of Morris, where they raise beef cattle.

Appointed to the East Central Electric board of trustees in 2003, Shoemake served as secretary-treasurer for several years. He currently represents the co-op on the board of trustees of Western Farmers Electric Cooperative. Shoemake is also active in the local Lion's Club, and serves as a deacon at Trinity Baptist Church.

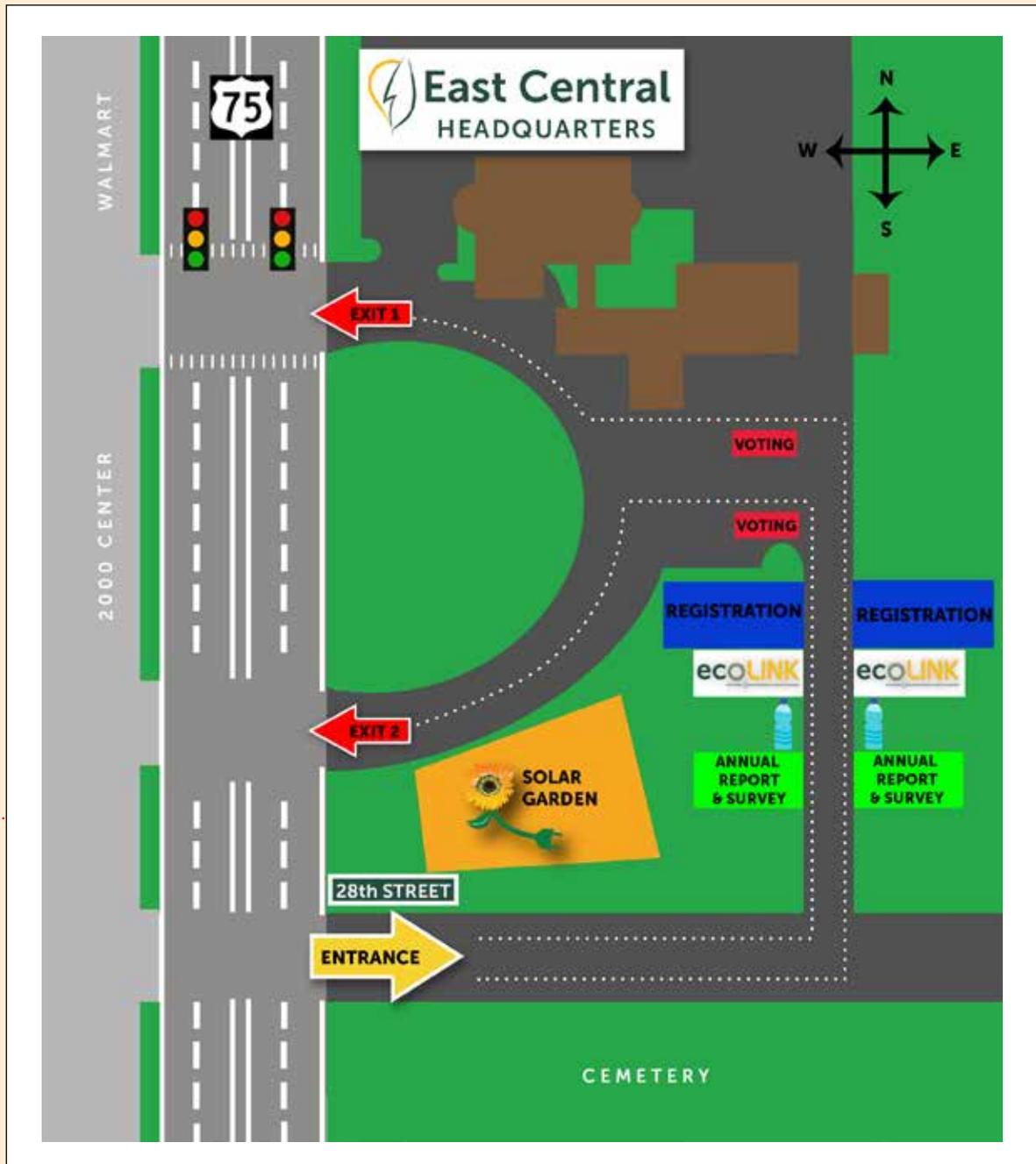
Are you planning to attend

ECE's *Drive-Thru* Annual Meeting?

Please refer to the map below for easy navigation.

DATE: Thursday, September 10, 2020
TIME: 1 pm to 7 pm
LOCATION: East Central Electric Cooperative
 2001 S. Wood Drive, Okmulgee

Questions? Please call 918-756-0833. We are happy to help.



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.

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



Yellow Squash Casserole

INGREDIENTS

- | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 4 cups sliced yellow squash | ¾ cup milk |
| ½ cup chopped onion | ¼ cup butter, melted |
| 35 Ritz crackers, crushed | 1 teaspoon salt |
| 1 cup shredded Cheddar cheese | ground black pepper to taste |
| 2 eggs, beaten | 2 tablespoons butter |

DIRECTIONS

Preheat oven to 400°F. Place squash and onion in a large skillet over medium heat. Add small amount of water. Cover, and cook until squash is tender, about 5 minutes. Drain well, and place in a large bowl.

In a medium bowl, mix together cracker crumbs and cheese. Stir half of cracker mixture into the cooked squash and onions. In a small bowl, mix together eggs and milk, then add to squash mixture. Stir in ¼ cup melted butter, season with salt and pepper. Spread into a 9x13 inch baking dish. Sprinkle with remaining cracker mixture, and dot with 2 tablespoons butter. Bake for 25 minutes, or until lightly browned.

SOURCE: SAFELECTRICCITY.ORG

Source: allrecipes.com



ELECTRICAL SAFETY TIP OF THE MONTH

Check light bulbs and appliances to make sure the wattage matches fixture requirements. Do not replace bulbs with higher wattage than recommended. The bulb should be securely screwed in to prevent overheating.

East Central
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

PO Box 1178
2001 S. Wood Drive
Okmulgee, Oklahoma 74447-1178

(918) 756-0833
www.ecoec.com

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

POWER OUTAGE HOT LINE
(918) 756-0833

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

- Lowell Hobbs, District 2
President
- Larry Harvey, District 1
Vice President
- Dwight Luther, District 7
Secretary Treasurer
- Jim Hall, District 6
Asst. Sec. Treasurer
- Ed Kloeckler, District 5
- Michael Vernnon, District 4
- Max Shoemake, District 3
- Tim Smith
General Manager

PAYMENT OPTIONS

- Pay online at www.ecoec.com using SmartHub, or download the app.
- Pay by phone using VISA, Mastercard or Discover at **866-999-4584**. Available 24/7.
Convenience fee associated with payments.
- Pay with cash or credit/debit card at participating Moneygram or Pay Site locations.
Convenience fee associated with payments.
- Pay using our drive-thru/night drop window Monday - Friday from 8 am to 4:30 pm.
- Pay via automatic draft of your checking or savings account. Sign up online or download the ebill form for easy automatic payments at www.ecoec.com.