



# country living

FOR MEMBERS OF EAST CENTRAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE



## Covid Concerns Prompt Shift To Online Meetings

Be sure to log on for important news about your co-op—and register for prizes!

With the rapid increase in Covid-19 cases statewide, East Central Electric (ECE) trustees voted to shift official meetings for Districts 1, 3, and 6 to the virtual realm. Instead of the traditional in-person meetings scheduled on August 4, ECE members within these districts will receive an official meeting

notice in the mail inviting them to visit [www.ecoec.com](http://www.ecoec.com). On the website they will find the ECE Annual Report, along with an informational video with pertinent highlights of ECE's past business year. District members will also receive instructions on how to register online for prizes. One \$100 electric bill credit and two \$50 bill credits will be awarded per district.

"Typically, district meetings provide an opportunity for our members to meet their incumbent trustee, as well as other trustee candidates, and visit with co-op staff," said Tim Smith, ECE general manager. "We will miss that interaction this year, but the safety of everyone involved must be our first priority."

As the country battles the coronavirus, electric co-ops around the country are coming up with creative solutions that allow them to conduct their annual business meetings with less risk. At East Central Electric, members can participate in our co-op's first drive-thru annual meeting, taking place at the co-op office in Okmulgee on September 10 from 1 pm until 7 pm. Please watch for details on ECE social media, website, and in the official meeting notice mailed to your home.

Thank you for your cooperation and understanding! ☺

If you have questions about the ECE District Meetings or the Annual Meeting, please give us a call at **918-756-0833**, or email [info@ecoec.com](mailto:info@ecoec.com).

## Countdown To Annual Meeting



### ■ AUGUST 3 - 11

Candidates for ECE trustee in Districts 1, 3, and 6 may pick up candidate information packets at East Central Electric headquarters in Okmulgee. Packets include petition letters from the cooperative, information on trustee qualifications, and other important details.

### ■ AUGUST 4

District meetings for members in Districts 1, 3 and 6 will take place online. Watch for an official notice in the mail that includes instructions for logging on and how to register for cash prizes. One \$100 electric bill credit and two \$50 bill credits will be given away per district.

### ■ AUGUST 11

Trustee candidate must turn in their petition letters at ECE by 4:30 pm.

### ■ SEPTEMBER 10

ECE Drive-Thru Annual Meeting, 1 pm until 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](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

### It's About Time

It is not unusual for me to mention time in this column. I clipped the following text from the U.S. Jaycees publication several years ago and feel you would appreciate it.

**EACH DAY IS A NEW ACCOUNT:**

*If you had a bank that credited your account each morning with \$86,000—that carried over no balance from day to day; allowed you to keep no cash in your account; and every evening canceled whatever part of the amount you had failed to use during the day—what would you do?*

*Draw out every cent every day, of course, and use it to your advantage!*

*Well, you have such a bank -- and its name is "TIME." Every morning it credits you with 86,400 seconds. Every night it rules off as lost whatever of this you have failed to invest to good purpose. It carries over no balances. It allows no overdrafts.*

*Each day it opens a new account with you. Each night it burns the records of the day. If you fail to use the day's deposits, the loss is yours. There is no going back. There is no drawing against the "Tomorrow."*

*It is up to each of us to invest this precious fund of hours, minutes, and seconds in order to get from it the utmost in health, happiness, and success!*

East Central Electric had our June board meeting in person but with much caution. Our district meetings are still scheduled for August 4 and the annual meeting for September 10. Time will tell if this schedule can happen.

Also, phase three of the ecoLINK's high-speed internet service is moving along. How exciting to see this progressing. Be sure to call the office to communicate your interest.

When my three sons were young and little league baseball age, I became a coach for their team. I would call for practice at a definite hour. Several of the team would be on time. I would give out the ideas and assignments for the day's practice. About the time practice started, two more would show up late. I would go over objectives with them, and start again. Then one or two came later. Go over objectives again, and half of our scheduled practice was used up with giving the rules.

I wrote up a list of requirements and sent them home with each player. One was "If you are going to be late, don't come." At the end of the season, one of my friends asked, "How did your season end?"

I replied, "We won the district tournament, I made two new friends, lost four old friends and made six permanent enemies!"

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



## STAYING CONNECTED

IS EASIER THAN EVER

with ECE's **smart hub**



- ➔ Pay your bill
- ➔ Check your power usage
- ➔ Set up recurring payments\*
- ➔ Edit account information
- ➔ Report an outage
- ➔ Set alerts on usage, outages, and more

\*Recurring payments by credit card or bank account must be set up within SmartHub.

 Go mobile with SmartHub!

Download the FREE mobile and tablet app in the Apple App Store or Google Play Store.

To get started, please visit [www.ecoec.com](http://www.ecoec.com) or call your co-op at **918-756-0833**.



**Be Counted!** The US Census is happening now. Your response is important to the health and well being of everyone in your area. Please complete the questionnaire online at [www.my2020census.gov](http://www.my2020census.gov), by calling 844-330-2020, or by responding via mail using the census packet that was mailed to your home.


 POWERING YOUR FUTURE

## Finding The PERFECT BALANCE

Diverse fuel sources help co-op G&T keep electricity clean and affordable for 2.1 million rural residents—including you.

To learn more about your co-op's power supplier, visit [www.aeci.org](http://www.aeci.org).

**P**owering homes, farms and businesses in rural northeast Oklahoma is a point of pride for Associated Electric Cooperative, a generation and transmission cooperative located in Springfield, Missouri. If you're an electric co-op member in northeast Oklahoma, Missouri, or southeast Iowa, your electricity comes from Associated's power plants. Associated is owned by members like you and serves 2.1 million people. It's controlled through three tiers, including your local distribution cooperative East Central Electric, its transmission cooperative, and a board including representatives from each level.

"Associated generates power for electric cooperatives in our system with values learned from our member-owners," says Emery "Buster" Geisendorfer, president of Associated's board of directors. "We know they want reliable, affordable power generated in a responsible way. That's how we view the power we generate — it must meet that reliable, affordable and responsible test."

Buster says the three-tiered system — distribution, transmission and generation — is a key difference in why and how Associated generates power.

"I'm a member, too," Buster says. "Those who serve our member-owners at every level of the three-tiered system are focused on members."

### Power when you need it

Providing reliable power expected by members requires different types of generation. Associated generates electricity using natural gas, coal, wind and hydropower. That diversity ensures a steady supply on the hottest, coldest, driest, windiest and calmest days. Natural gas and coal are the most reliable forms of generation because they operate around the clock,

**Since 1994, Associated and its members have spent more than \$1.1 billion to reduce air emissions, resulting in more than 70% improvement in air quality.**

unlike power sources that use wind, sunshine or water. Adequate supplies of natural gas and coal, including a 45- to 60-day coal stockpile on-site keep Associated's plants running.

### Power at a fair price

As members ramp up their use, Associated's goal is to ensure reliability, then match members' needs to the most affordable generation resource.

Coal generation supplied about half of members' electricity in 2019. Low prices for natural gas have increased the use

of this fuel source in Associated's energy mix. Coal and natural gas are typically less expensive for generation than wind or solar sources. Hydropower, the lowest-cost source, is used as much as possible, but is limited in supply by rainfall and is controlled by the U.S Army Corps of Engineers.

### Power generated the right way

A focus on members drives Associated to be a responsible caretaker of the natural environment. To balance reliable and affordable electricity with environmental responsibility is not easy or inexpensive, but Associated is committed to generating power the right way. Since 1994, Associated and its members have spent more than \$1.1 billion to reduce air emissions, resulting in more than 70 percent improvement in air quality. By adding significant amounts of wind generation, investing in environmental controls and up to date technology, Associated complies with environmental regulations at the lowest cost possible for members. "Balancing reliable and affordable electricity with environmental responsibility takes a steadfast commitment and an allocation of resources," says Buster. "It's a priority Associated takes seriously, and their experience assures that it meets the needs of its member owners. I can't imagine a better way to run a business." ❧

## 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

Always store electrical equipment indoors and never use corded power tools in wet or damp conditions. If you notice any frayed wires, exposed cords, or any other electrical damage, make the repair or replacement as soon as you can. Try to choose power tools with insulated grips.

SOURCE: ELECTRICAL SAFETY FOUNDATION INTERNATIONAL

### RECIPES



## Corn and Zucchini Medley

### INGREDIENTS

4 slices bacon	1 pinch pepper
2 cups chopped zucchini	¼ cup shredded
1 ½ cups fresh corn kernels	Monterey Jack cheese
1 small onion, chopped	

### DIRECTIONS

Place bacon in a large, deep skillet. Cook over medium-high heat until evenly brown. Reserve 1 tablespoon of drippings. Drain bacon, chop, and set aside.

Heat the bacon drippings in the skillet over medium heat. Saute the zucchini, corn, and onion until tender but still crisp, about 10 minutes. Season with pepper.

Spoon vegetables into a bowl, and sprinkle with chopped bacon and shredded cheese.

Source: allrecipes.com



## East Central

ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

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(918) 756-0833  
[www.ecoec.com](http://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*

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### PAYMENT OPTIONS

- Pay online at [www.ecoec.com](http://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](http://www.ecoec.com).