



country living

FOR MEMBERS OF EAST CENTRAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE



Board Approves

Drive-Thru Annual Meeting

You won't have to worry about finding a parking spot at the East Central Electric (ECE) Annual Meeting this year—or the health and wellbeing of your family. In the wake of the global pandemic, this year ECE will host a drive-thru event. Co-op trustees approved the change in format at their May board meeting.

“ECE must place its priorities on ensuring the safety of our members and employees. Because the enclosed environment and crowds at our meeting could put people at greater risk of infection, we came up with a drive-thru alternative,” said Tim Smith, ECE general manager.

The event will take place on September 10 from 1 pm until 7 pm at ECE headquarters in Okmulgee. While remaining in their cars, members

will enter along Cemetery Road and follow the marked route. At stops along the way, members will pick up their ECE Annual Report, ballot, and survey card, enjoy free refreshments, and vote for trustees. Members will automatically receive a \$30 credit to their account after registering. Safe distance will be respected at all times. Registered members are eligible for more than \$8,000 in cash prizes. Lucky winners will be announced in the ECE newsletter, website and social media.

As members drive the route, they will notice signs and banners about co-op services. Tuning to 106.3FM as they drive, they will enjoy a stream of news and information about ECE programs and services.

Year-end financial statements and comments from co-op leadership will

Countdown To Annual Meeting



■ AUGUST 3 - 11

Trustee candidates may pick up candidate information packets at East Central Electric headquarters in Okmulgee. Packets include petition/ letters from the cooperative, information on qualifications, and other details.

■ AUGUST 4

District meetings for members in Districts 1, 3 and 6. Watch for an official notice in the mail that includes the date, time, and location of your meeting.

■ AUGUST 11

Candidate petition letters due 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.

be published in the ECE Annual Report, which will be available at the meeting and online at www.ecoec.com.

Questions about the ECE Annual Meeting? Please give us a call at **918-756-0833**, or visit www.ecoec.com.

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

The Gratitude Attitude

The East Central Electric (ECE) linemen and staff are always on call to ensure our power is on. Our crews are ready to roll 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, regardless of the circumstances. What a blessing to know someone is always on the ready should they be called out on our behalf.

This was evidenced by the quick response during our recent storm in the south Muskogee area. Over 60 poles had to be replaced. The ECE Operation Roundup board responded with cash to those that had extensive damage to property. Thankfully, no injuries were reported. Take the opportunity to thank your ECE employees when you can.

Too often, we are reluctant to voice our love for our family and friends. Try this for me: Tell your spouse and your kids how much you appreciate them. If this is a new venture for you, I assure you it will bring new life to you and them. Everyone has an inner need to be loved and appreciated. I appoint you to this venture now.

At this time, ECE district meetings are scheduled for August 4, and our annual meeting is September 10. It

will be a drive-thru meeting. Stay tuned to our social media or website notices for up-to-date news.

In the past, we would plant a field of sugar drip sorghum and turn the cows in to graze in the late fall. My Dad and I were summoned to my grandpa's barn to observe what he had bought. It was a barrel of sorghum molasses.

My Dad asked, "What are you gonna do with that?"

Grandpa said, "I'm gonna feed it to my cows."

"Try this for me: Tell your spouse and your kids how much you appreciate them...I assure you it will bring new life to you and them."

Dad said, "You've got the same stuff right out there in that field."

Grandpa indignantly replied, "Not the same thing!"

Dad said, "Yes it is."

They went back and forth with a few more 'is too/is not's until Grandpa said, "OK, then next time you come to breakfast, I'll put some stalks on your plate and see if you think it's the same thing!" ☺

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

Getting Fiber? Make Sure Your Equipment is Up To Date

You can't put a lead saddle on a racehorse and expect it to win. Unfortunately, some ecoLINK subscribers are saddled with outdated electronic equipment that hinders them from realizing the full benefits of high-speed fiber broadband.

"EcoLINK's service is sized to support all of your connected devices at the same time, but it's often faster than one device can handle," said Jeremy Hendrickson, ecoLINK director of broadband operations.

Newer devices such as computers, tablets, TVs, and routers are able to handle higher speeds, but those sold five or more years ago may not be able to take full advantage of the gigabit service, he added.

The maximum speed for ecoLINK service using Wi-fi or Ethernet is 940 mbps. Please make sure your devices meet the minimum speeds for gigabit service. For members who would rather not update their equipment, Hendrickson advises hardwiring your internet using Ethernet cable rather than Wi-fi.

To visit with an ecoLINK representative about your service, please call **918-756-0833** or visit www.ecoec.com.

CENSUS UPDATE

Recently, the Census Bureau has resumed delivery of response packets in many areas that do not receive mail directly to their home. Please respond using your Census ID number to complete your census form online,



by phone or by mail. If you responded without your Census ID number, the Census Bureau may not be able to match your response with where you live. This may result in the need to visit with you in person to collect your data.

Please visit 2020census.gov



Did You Know? The East Central Electric Cooperative power grid includes 6,287 miles of power line. That's more than any other distribution cooperative in Oklahoma!



💡 MEMBERS HELPING MEMBERS

Local Aid For Storm Victims

When a tornado ripped through Keefeton, ECE's Operation Roundup reached out with more than \$38,000 in financial aid.

For residents of Keefeton, the morning of May 15 arrived like a freight train. That morning at 9:38 am, an EF-1 twister packing 110 mph winds cut a 4.8 mile swath through the tiny community south of Muskogee, damaging or destroying roughly sixteen homes. Minor injuries were reported.

As residents picked through the debris the following day, East Central Electric staff arrived to offer Keefeton homeowners some welcome news. Thanks to donations by their fellow electric co-op members to ECE's Operation Roundup, Keefeton residents were eligible to receive financial aid at a time when they needed it the most.

In June, Operation Roundup trustees approved 30 grant applications from affected Keefeton residents totaling more than \$38,000. Lylah Sparks,

ECE member services representative said the board plans to review additional applications related to the storm at their next meeting.

“The priority was to assure prompt assistance to the members who received severe damage and/or total loss from the storm,” Sparks added.

Out of 30 applications, five homes were completely destroyed, and eight suffered severe structural damage. The remaining applications listed damages to windows, roofs, siding, and water damage.

The storm also damaged numerous poles, power lines, transformers and outbuildings throughout eastern portions of ECE's power grid. More than 1,100 members lost power. Fighting flooded roads, debris and other obstructions, crews worked as



Sissy Moore of Keefeton.

quickly as possible to restore service.

In Keefeton, ECE member Sissy Moore said her neighborhood was especially grateful for the fast restoration of service and the courtesy of ECE employees.

“They never complained about all the people parked on the road trying to help my neighbors across the street. They didn't make hateful remarks to anybody that got in their way. They just went about their business and let me ask stupid questions, and actually answered them! I can't be grateful enough,” Moore said. ☺

Operation Roundup reviews grant applications quarterly. For more details, please visit www.ecoec.com.



A pile of rubble is all that remains of Roy Parker's home in Keefeton. Parker and his wife moved into their home one month prior to the storm. The couple was not home when the tornado hit.

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
Total Disbursements.....	\$1,910,412.84
Average member contribution.....	48¢



ELECTRICAL SAFETY TIP OF THE MONTH

Make sure all electrical equipment used for swimming pools, including the cleaning equipment, is grounded. Have an electrician inspect your pool, hot tub or spa to ensure it complies with local codes, as well as the National Electrical Code.

SOURCE: ELECTRICAL SAFETY FOUNDATION INTERNATIONAL

RECIPES



Fourth of July Salad

INGREDIENTS

- 1 cup blueberries
- 1 cup sliced strawberries
- 1 cup chopped watermelon
- 1 cup red grapes
- 1 cup shredded coconut

DIRECTIONS

Combine blueberries, strawberries, watermelon, and grapes in a bowl; add coconut.

ATTENTION MEMBERS:

Source: allrecipes.com

The ECE lobby is **OPEN** from 8 am - 4:30 pm for **bill payments only**. For all other business, or to make an appointment, please call **918-756-0833**. Thank you for your patience!



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

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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, or use our lobby (for payments only).
- 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.