



country living

FOR MEMBERS OF EAST CENTRAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

All About Annual Meeting

Bringing Our Members Clarity and Seeing the Road Ahead

East Central Electric would not exist today if not for our members.

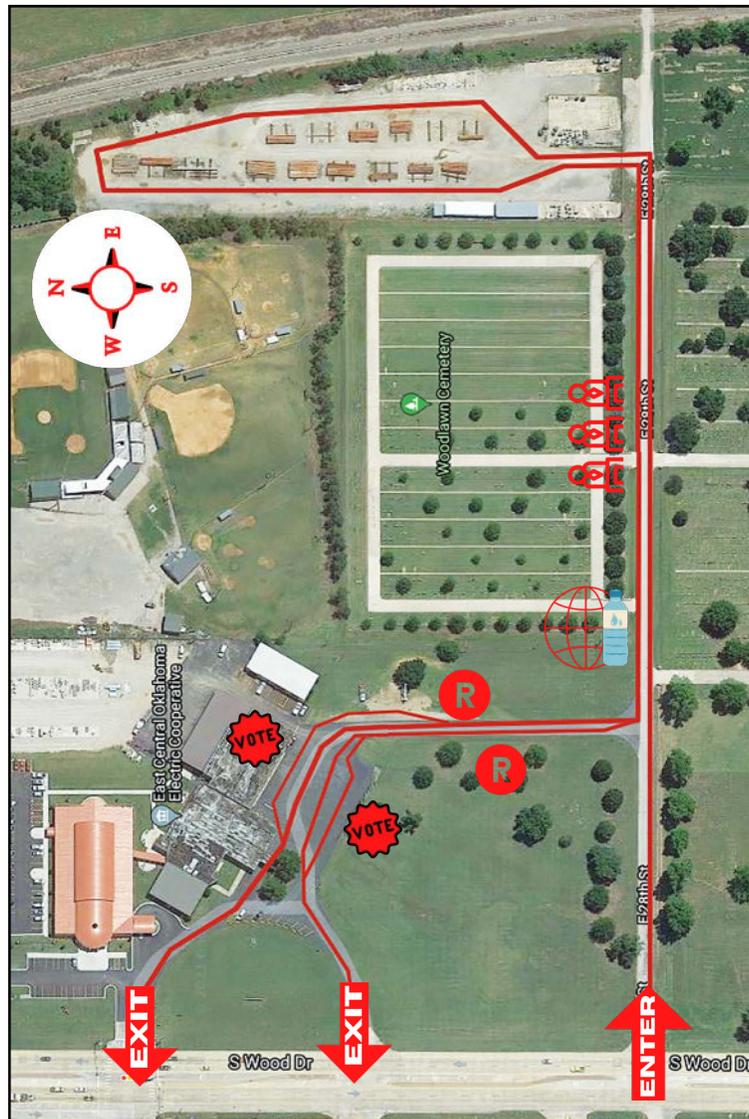
We are a vehicle to provide safe, reliable, and affordable electricity; high-speed fiber internet; and a sense of community among the rural Oklahoma towns and people we serve.

However, we can't get down the road without the driving leadership of members who get involved. Members like you.

The annual meeting is your opportunity to learn about the functions of your cooperative over the last year and vote on the leaders who will guide our path forward.

When: July 22, 2021
11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Where: East Central Electric Headquarters
2001 S. Wood Dr.
Okmulgee, OK 74447



The map to the left details the route of the drive-thru annual meeting. Members will enter on 28th Street, by the cemetery, and follow the route through the pole yard loop and back west, before heading north to register and vote along the south side of the facility. After voting, members will be sectioned off into two lanes to exit.

LEGEND:



Candidates



ecoLINK and water



Registration



Drive-Thru Voting

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

Don't Come Home Without the Cows

The annual East Central Electric Co-op meeting is going to happen on July 22, 2021, starting as early as 11:00 am.

It will again be a drive-thru event at East Central Electric headquarters.

We have improved the flow, so this year should be better than last year. You should receive a card in the mail, and you should bring that card with you. Staff will scan your card and move you through to the voting area rather quickly. An independent contractor will be handling the voting process.

Each voting member will have the opportunity to vote for one candidate from each of the two districts up for elections. Trustees are nominated by district but voted on by the entire membership.

Registered members will also be entered for many cash prizes. We hope you will participate in the drive-through meeting.

EcoLINK is installing an average of 20 homes per day, so high speed internet is coming to you right away.

The summer prior to entering the 7th grade my family moved back to the country to a farm adjoining the Arkansas River. We had about 25 cows in the front pasture, and one afternoon when we came home the gate was open and our cows gone. The tracks were obvious and easy to follow.

My Dad sent me to retrieve our cows. His last instructions were: "Don't come back without the cows."

I rode my horse bareback in search of them. I located them in Mr. Batson's corral about a mile and a half down the road. His corral was woven wire with railroad crossties as posts and with a 2 x 6 board on top.

Mr. Batson stopped me at the corral and said, "You cannot take the cows until your Dad comes." I climbed up on the 2 x 6 top and sat there while watching the Batson family do their chores.

They went in the house, and I could see them sitting at the supper table eating. When they finally finished, Mr. Batson came to me and asked why I was still there.

I told him my Dad's instructions were "Don't come home without the cows!" Back to the house he went. After about another hour and just before dark he came back out and said for me to take the cows but don't let them come back. He didn't want them there.

I said "We didn't want them here in the first place." They were easy to follow home.

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

"Registered members will also be entered for many cash prizes. We hope you will participate in the drive-through meeting."

- LOWELL HOBBS

GOOD NEWS!

One Million Dollars Returned to Members

In May, the East Central Electric Cooperative board of trustees approved a capital credit return of more than \$1.1 million to members.



The return of capital credits to members is a process that is unique to electric co-ops and ensures that co-ops operate on a not-for-profit basis. While investor-owned utilities return profits to shareholders, cooperatives retain a portion to cover operating costs and then share the remainder with their members. This money is allocated to each co-op member based on their annual electricity use for that fiscal year.

This year, members who belonged to ECE in 1987, 1988 and 2020 will receive their capital credit check in the mail. Checks will be mailed in July, so keep an eye on your mailbox. Members with less than \$10 in capital credits will receive their funds as a credit on their electric bill.

Operation Roundup: Making A Difference



One of our Operation Roundup recipients, Okmulgee County Emergency Management, told us their \$2,500 grant went to purchase new radios in order to better serve the community with quick emergency response times.



My Ballot Guide

During the 2021 Annual Meeting, voting will be conducted on iPads, using a trustworthy, third-party service that has proven successful at other cooperatives.

Every member will have the opportunity to vote for candidates for District 2 and District 5 Board of Trustees seats, as well as vote to approve the 2020 Annual Meeting Minutes.

Information about the candidates can be found at www.ecoec.com, and will be included in the official notice you will receive in the mail during the first week of July.

2020 Annual Meeting Minutes

The 82nd Annual Meeting of Members of East Central Oklahoma Electric Cooperative, Inc. was held at the East Central Electric Headquarters, Okmulgee, Oklahoma, on Thursday, September 10, 2020.

The meeting was held at the Headquarters Building, Okmulgee, Oklahoma as a drive-thru meeting, in order to ensure the safety of both members and employees in response to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic following the CDC guidelines of social distancing and limiting group gatherings.

Registration of members began at 1 p.m. During registration members received the annual report, a ballot, the survey and registration gifts. Registration concluded at 7 p.m.

At the start of registration, the Cooperative's records indicated a total of 25,239 members after deducting the total of all members receiving service at more than one metered location; that each of these 25,239 members is entitled to one (1) vote at the 2020 Annual Meeting in accordance with Article III, Section 5, of the Bylaws of this Cooperative; and that five percent (5%) of this number, or a total of 1,262 members present, constitutes a quorum for the transaction of business at the 2020 Annual Meeting of Members.

At approximately 4:30 p.m. registration showed a total of 1,262 members

had been registered thus certifying quorum was met for the transaction of business with a final total of 1,850 registered at the 2020 drive-thru Annual Meeting.

The Secretary/Treasurer's 2019 Report was included in the Annual Report and was available on East Central Electric's website. The report stated that the books and financial statement of East Central Oklahoma Electric Cooperative, Inc. are audited each year as of December 31. An audit for the year ended December 31, 2019 has been completed by the firm of Briscoe, Burke & Grigsby, L.L.P., Certified Public Accountants, of Tulsa, Oklahoma. The Comparative Financial Statements shown in the Annual Report are for the years ended December 31, 2018 and 2019.

The Manager's Report was made available to the members through a video presentation. The video included the current cost of power at 11.3 cents per kilowatt to the members. The revenue was \$60,506,792 and the expenses were \$58,635,306 to the cooperative during 2019. Nearly 60 cents of every dollar in revenue was spent to purchase power from WFEC and KAMO. Ending the year with \$199.7 million in plant assets and \$107.9 million in liabilities equaling a 45.95% equity for the cooperative. East Central Electric has had a 7 percent meter growth over the last ten years with a total for 2019 of 34,419 along with a 3 percent growth in miles of line over the last ten years. The board voted to return \$1.1 million in capital credit to the members in 2020 and has returned \$26 million to the members since 1975. One of our core principles is Concern for Community with a focus on youth programs. Operation Roundup has awarded \$246,000 in scholarships and \$1,851,742.94 in grants to those in need in our communities. East Central Electric is committed to providing safe, reliable and affordable electric service. Traveled 785,088 miles, installed 413 new services, inspected 22,338 poles and trimmed, cleared and sprayed over 950 miles of right-of-way during 2019 with only one lost time accident and reliability rating of 99.92%. Spent \$24,888,774 in plant additions including construction, maintenance, right-of-way, and fiber. The fiber project construction for Phase 1 is now complete with 2000 subscribers.

The members were given ballots at registration and the election was held in accordance with the bylaws. The entire membership voted on the Trustees for District 1, 3, and 6. Being that there were no opponents on the ballot the incumbent Trustees, Larry Harvey, District 1; Max Shoemaker, District 3; and Jim Hall District 6 would remain in office for an additional three-year term. In addition, the membership approved the minutes from the 2019 Annual Meeting.

Drawings for the prize winners were completed at the conclusion of the meeting.

Registration Prizes

Participating in your 2021 Annual Meeting can be very rewarding! All members who attend the Drive-Thru Meeting and register to vote will automatically receive a \$20 credit toward their electric bill. All registered members are also eligible to participate in a drawing for one of many great prizes.

- 60 members will receive a \$100 cash prize.
- Ten members will receive one month of free 1GB internet service from ecoLINK.
- Four members will receive three free months of 1GB internet service from ecoLINK.
- Three members will receive one whole year of free 1GB internet service from ecoLINK.
- Two members will receive a \$500 cash prize.
- And one lucky member will receive the Grand Prize, a \$1,000 cash prize.

Award letters will be mailed to the winners following the annual meeting.



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	1,208
Applications granted	836
Applications denied	359
Applications tabled	13
Scholarships awarded	\$284,500
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Total Disbursements	\$2,017,481.88
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Average member contribution	48¢

ELECTRICAL SAFETY TIP OF THE MONTH

Improperly functioning switches or outlets may indicate an unsafe wiring condition, which could be a fire hazard.

SOURCE: ELECTRICAL SAFETY FOUNDATION INTERNATIONAL

Your Favorite Recipe Could Win A Prize!



recipe

TITLE: _____ PREP TIME: _____ SERVINGS: _____

ingredients

method

SUBMITTED BY: _____

FROM: _____ PHONE: _____

How To Enter:
Use this card to copy your favorite recipe. Bring the card with you to the ECE Annual Meeting on July 22. You will be entered into a special prize drawing for recipe contributors and your recipe may appear in ECE's special edition cookbook.



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

Max Shoemake, District 3

Michael Vernon, District 4

Open, District 5

Tim Smith
General Manager

PAYMENT OPTIONS

Pay online using SmartHub.

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 window Monday - Friday from 8 am to 4:45 pm.

Pay via automatic draft of your checking or savings account. Sign up online or download the ebill form at www.ecoec.com, or set up online payments through your bank. No convenience fee.