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# country living

FOR MEMBERS OF EAST CENTRAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE



## Growth and Change



### Rate Changes for EVs and Grow Facilities Coming Soon

Fast-moving industries have presented new challenges at East Central Electric Cooperative. Under the leadership of our member-elected Board of Trustees, we are adapting to face them head-on.

Effective September 1, the Board of Trustees enacted three new policies pertaining to electric vehicles and grow facilities.

The electric vehicle rate change will allow members who meet certain

conditions to take advantage of a rate decrease on the first 400kWh during specified times each month.

To participate in this benefit, farm and residential members must have a cooperative approved Level 2 charger with programable charging capabilities. The charger must be programmed to charge from 10 p.m. to 5 a.m. daily.

During this EV charging period, the first 400 kWh used per month will be charged at \$0.05 per kWh.

All excess usage during the period each month will be charged at the standard rate. This benefit can be taken alongside our rebates on qualifying EV chargers.

This change encourages EV owners to charge their vehicles during off-peak hours. Moving this usage off-peak benefits all members during peak usage hours of the day.

Members who are interested in taking advantage of this benefit or learning more information are encouraged to contact our Member and Public Relations Department.

Two changes have also been made to help the cooperative address the increased load demand caused by new grow facilities.

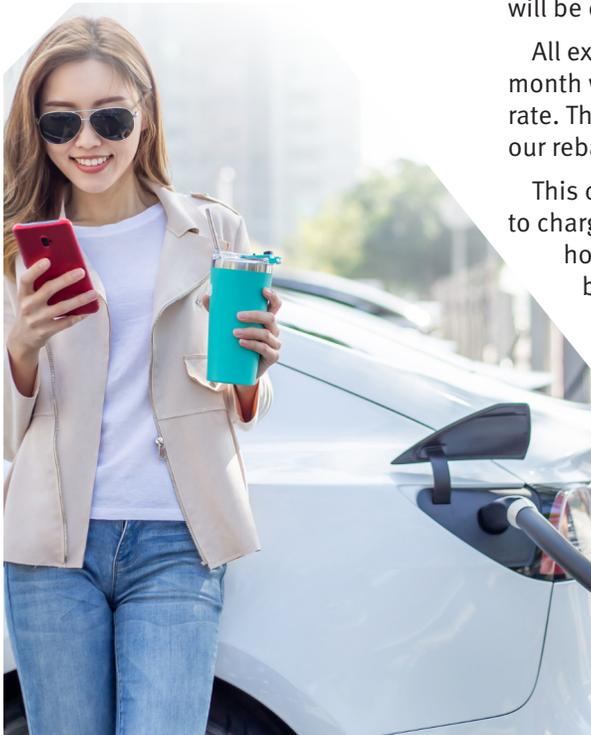
The first, applicable to all grow facilities of 20 kW or greater, is an additional capacity charge of \$1.00 per kW of billing demand.

The second, pertaining to new construction, states that the Cooperative will construct a new extension to serve a grow facility provided that the member pay in advance a non-refundable aid in construction of 100% of the construction cost plus \$50 per kVa of installed capacity.

These rapidly growing industries have created some challenges for electric cooperatives. As autonomous and independent organizations, electric co-ops across the state are reviewing practices and policies and are adjusting their operations on a local level to adequately respond to the needs of this developing industry.

East Central Electric General Manager Tim Smith said, "We are concerned with the best interest of all our members. Our Board of Trustees has worked diligently to ensure we can continue to deliver safe, reliable and affordable power to all our residential, commercial and industrial members."

Members who have questions about any of these changes are encouraged to call the Cooperative at 918-756-0833.



To learn more about your elected trustees, or to view a district map, please visit [ecoec.com](http://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

## Meetings and Expectations

I thought our annual meeting went very well even though one member was eager to voice his dismay at the entire procedure.

I said to him "It's better than last year," to which he replied "No it isn't, it's worse!"

We had 1,844 registered this year and actually it was 6 less than last year's record of 1,850.

As soon as I went through the line and voted for myself, the fact that I had no opponent, I declared a victory in District 2.

Then on Friday at our regular board meeting, the other directors re-elected me as Chairman. What a vote of confidence.

Larry Harvey was re-elected Vice Chairman, Dwight Luther was re-elected Secretary-Treasurer, Jim Hall was re-elected as Assistant Secretary-Treasurer.

Max Shoemake, Mike Vernnon, and now Jay Emerson are the rest of the board.

I am very humbled and honored to lead a very good board.

Jay Emerson was elected to serve District 5 where Ed Kloeckler served so well for so many years.

Ed died of a heart attack a few months ago while he and his son were feeding cows.

Jay could not attend the annual meeting due to an unexpected illness. He has fully recovered and is ready and excited to serve.

I am looking forward to serving with him.

Construction on our new and revised facility should be started by the time you read this.

It is usual, as one begins to build something, that the pressure increases.

We try to plan our work far enough and complete enough to reduce the stress on our employees and staff

Our employees did a super job working at our drive through annual meeting.

Many of them kept telling me to go inside and cool off. They

kept thinking I would overheat.

I told them I would be ok. This was like a vacation for me. Had I been hauling hay, building fence, or cutting trees, then it would be warm.

I have spent my life working outdoors so I was accustomed to the heat, and just being out there was a good chance to visit with a lot of our members and hear their comments and concerns.

A common question I often get is "When will I get the ecoLINK?" Crews are working in the Haskell-Twin Hills-Bixby areas now.

**"I have spent my life working outdoors so I was accustomed to the heat, and just being out there was a good chance to visit with a lot of our members and hear their comments and concerns."**

- LOWELL HOBBS

Do not hesitate to call in to be sure we know you are ready to receive service, 918-756-0833.

Some time ago my wife, Donna, was in the kitchen cooking up some good smelling supper. I was comfortable in my recliner and told her I was hungry and to bring me some when she was finished. She said "I've fixed it, you come and get it!" It made me mad so I just decided to go to bed hungry! I'll teach her! Strangely she did not learn anything from that!

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

## Grand Prize Winners



Bob and Claudia Warner of Bristow won the \$1,000 cash prize for registering and participating in the Drive-Thru Annual Meeting. L-R: District 3 Trustee Max Shoemake, District 7 Trustee Dwight Luther, Claudia Warner, Bob Warner, and District 2 Trustee Lowell Hobbs.

## Operation Roundup: Making a Difference



One of our Operation Roundup recipients, The Town of Grayson, told us their \$2,000 grant went to purchase playground equipment for children to enjoy at the Grayson Community Center.

# Annual Meeting Registration Prize Winners

The results are in! East Central Electric met quorum with 1,844 members registered for the 2021 Drive-Thru Annual Meeting. For District 2 board trustee, uncontested incumbent trustee Lowell Hobbs received 1,195 votes. For District 5 board trustee, Jay Emerson received 1,173 votes and Ron Everett received 576 votes. The 2020 Annual Meeting Minutes were approved with 1,728 votes. Thank you for attending your 2021 Annual Meeting!

## Grand Prize \$1,000 Cash

Bob Warner - Bristow

## \$500 Cash

Don Teel - Muskogee  
Jon Kutz - Morris

## One Year of Free ecoLINK

Town & Country Church  
Mike Avant - Okmulgee  
Cody Winkler - Okmulgee

## \$100 Cash

Edward Bailey - Morris  
Ron Casselman - Morris  
Allene Starr - Okmulgee  
Steve Jackson - Morris  
Gerald Duncan - Okemah  
Forrest Whitmore Jr. - Milfay  
Leland Thomas - Sapulpa  
George S Marshall - Warner  
Ronald Root - Kellyville  
Rainey Barnes - Okmulgee  
Robert Yandell - Beggs  
Harold Jenkins - Muskogee  
Cindy Atwell - Okmulgee  
Loveta Ennis - Okmulgee  
Dennis Treesh - Boynton  
Stacey Wheeler - Depew  
Roy Cole - Council Hill  
Diane Carter - Checotah  
Tony Smith - Depew  
John Hale - Haskell

Gary W. Story - Beggs  
Andrew Ellis - Beggs  
William Beaver - Henryetta  
Dennis R. Allen - Boynton  
Shirley Ward - Henryetta  
Andy Hickman - Mounds  
Doyle Ferrell - Sapulpa  
Fred Bowden - Oktaha  
Gary McIntosh - Council Hill  
Carolyn Adair - Henryetta  
Nellie Adams - Council Hill  
Kathryn Rash - Mounds  
Keith Smith - Bristow  
David Owens - Checotah  
Grant W. Simms - Beggs  
Emily McDaniel - Depew  
Bonnie Crowe - Muskogee  
Bret Green - Morris  
Betty Malone - Morris  
Rachael D. Castro - Henryetta

Jerry Webster - Morris  
Gene Sturgeon Jr. - Coweta  
Bobbie McGee-Benson - Checotah  
Gerald Devore - Okmulgee  
James D. Cooper - Depew  
Bonnie Boyer - Council Hill  
Lisa Nichols - Castle  
Carolyn Jacobs - Morris  
Brenda Cooksey - Okmulgee  
Rob Hudson - Glenpool  
Randy Colbert - Okemah  
Amber M. Kennedy - Beggs  
Regina L. Forsythe - Okmulgee  
Darrell Mills - Beggs  
Chad Crosby - Hitchita  
Amanda Still - Mounds  
Lloyd McCarter - Checotah  
Mike Glass - Henryetta  
Ricky Banks - Okmulgee  
Lane Scism - Morris

## Three Months of Free ecoLINK

Jacob Rowland - Bixby  
JoAnn Fox - Henryetta  
Snake Creek Oil & Gas, Inc.  
Robbie Hurt - Henryetta

## Recipe Winner

Linda Been - Henryetta

## One Month of Free ecoLINK

Joe Foster - Porum  
Patricia Needham - Porum  
Leslie Gibson - Checotah  
Pamela Whitaker - Mounds  
Joe Meek - Okmulgee  
Dan R. Kinnett - Porum  
Clint Poole - Welty  
James Fowler - Checotah  
Svetlana Coates - Beggs  
James R. Casselman Jr. - Okmulgee

Prize winners, we will be calling you to arrange how you will receive your prize. Please make sure we have your accurate contact information on file!

# 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	1,235
Applications granted	852
Applications denied	367
Applications tabled	14
Scholarships awarded	\$284,500
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Total Disbursements	\$2,052,187.68
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Average member contribution	48¢

## ELECTRICAL SAFETY TIP OF THE MONTH

Do not use extension cords on a permanent basis, and never use them with major appliances.



SOURCE: ELECTRICAL SAFETY FOUNDATION INTERNATIONAL

## RECIPES



## Cabbage Rolls

### INGREDIENTS

- |                             |                       |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 medium onion, chopped     | 2 cans tomato sauce   |
| 1 lb. ground meat           | 3 slices of bacon     |
| 1/2 lb. ground pork sausage | wilted cabbage leaves |
| 1 1/2 c. half cooked rice   | salt and pepper       |
| 1/2 tsp. cinnamon           |                       |

### DIRECTIONS

Saute onion and brown meats. Add rest of ingredients. Fill wilted cabbage leaves and roll up. Place in baking pan. Pour tomato sauce over rolls. Lay bacon slices over rolls. Bake at 350 degrees until bacon is done.

SOURCE: ECE 80TH ANNIVERSARY COOKBOOK



## East Central ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

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

Larry Harvey, District 1  
Vice President

Dwight Luther, District 7  
Secretary / Treasurer

Jim Hall, District 6  
Asst. Sec. / Treasurer

Max Shoemake, District 3

Michael Vernnon, District 4

Jay Emerson, 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](http://www.ecoec.com), or set up online payments through your bank. No convenience fee.