

country living

FOR MEMBERS OF EAST CENTRAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Attention Members

Attend Your District Meeting Without Leaving Home

Districts 2 and 5 to meet virtually on June 8

For one reason or another, many co-op members have never attended their electric co-op district meeting. That could change for East Central Electric (ECE) members in Districts 2 and 5. This year, members may attend their meeting without leaving their living room. On June 8, Districts 2 and 5 will meet virtually.

Members with meters in these districts will receive an official meeting notice in the mail. The notice will contain instructions for logging in to the meeting.

Interested members who meet the qualifications to run for a board seat should contact the cooperative during the week of district meetings, June 7-11, to request a board candidate packet. Candidates must obtain at least 15 petition nomination signatures from other members in their

district. Signed petitions must be turned in to the co-op by the close of business on June 18.

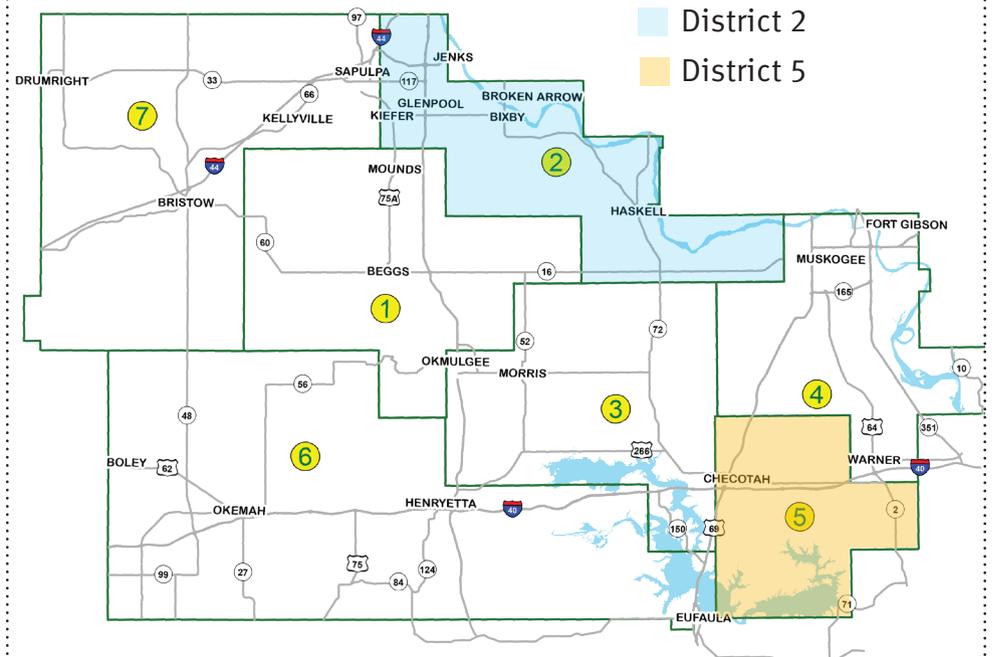
ECE will verify all signatures before contacting the candidate to schedule a time to draw for ballot placement.

Candidates should be prepared to record a brief video the week of June 21 at ECE headquarters in Okmulgee.

Trustee elections will be held at the ECE Annual Meeting on July 22. 🗳️

For details on trustee qualifications and responsibilities, please turn to page 3, or refer to Section III of your co-op bylaws. Bylaws are available at ECE, or view them online at www.ecoec.com.

ECE District Map



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

Surprising Year-End Analysis

East Central Electric staff is still checking meters that recorded high usage during the winter storm.

So far no inaccurate readings have been discovered. We are trying to schedule personal visits with those that reported problems. Everyone is busy so it is a struggle to get on site visits coordinated, but we will continue to address the concerns of those members that had unusually high usage.

Keep in mind that on February 16, 2021, ECE set a new peak usage for the history of our Coop. Fortunately very few ECE members were without power during the polar vortex.

We welcome Katherine Russell as the new manager of Member-Public Relations replacing Billy Moore, long time employee of ECE, who has retired. We wish him well. He was a good one!

Plans for our district 2 and 5 meetings are still being discussed. It will be virtual and our annual meeting will be a drive through at OSUIT to save money and limit traffic concerns.

We will keep you updated on our website and through our newsletter as more information is available about

trustee candidates. I will not use this column to campaign, but I do plan to file for re-election in District 2. Due to Ed Kloeckler's untimely death we should have an active campaign in District 5. Stay tuned.

My friend J.Y. did business with the Farmers Home Administration and visited the office of Mark, the County Supervisor, in regard to his loan. As he was leaving through the secretary's office, J.Y. heard her say "next time you come in bring your urine analysis." He mulled these words over in his mind as he approached his pickup. Puzzled he went back, opened the office door and asked "what did you say to me?" He heard her say again "we need your urine analysis."

He started to his pickup, turned around and entered the office saying he wanted to ask Mark something. In Mark's office he asked "why do you need my urine analysis?" Mark replied, "--we need your year-end analysis!

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

“We welcome Katherine Russell as ECE's new manager of member and public relations. Katherine replaces Billy Moore, who retired recently. We wish him well. He was a good one!”

Trustee Qualifications

East Central Electric (ECE) trustees must meet certain qualifications in order to serve on the cooperative board. The qualifications are listed in Section III of the ECE bylaws. An excerpt from the bylaws is included below:



No person shall be eligible to serve or remain a trustee of the cooperative who:

- (a) is not a member of the Cooperative or has not been a member continuously for at least one (1) year prior to nomination; or
- (b) who ceases to be a member of the Cooperative after election as a Trustee; or
- (c) who does not receive electric service from the Cooperative at his/her primary permanent residential abode in the Trustee District from which he/she was elected as Trustee; or
- (d) is in any way employed by or financially interested in a competing enterprise or a business selling electric energy, services or supplies to the Cooperative or its subsidiary businesses; or
- (e) is the incumbent of or candidate for an elected public office in connection with which a salary or compensation in excess of \$1,000.00 per annum is paid; or
- (f) has been convicted, plead guilty or plead nolo contendere to a felony; or
- (g) is, becomes, or was an employee of the Cooperative, a subsidiary of the Cooperative or a labor union which represents, or has represented, or has endeavored to represent any employee of the Cooperative during the preceding five (5) years prior to time of filing or being nominated; or
- (h) is, and if elected and seated as a trustee will continue to be, a close relative of an incumbent trustee or of an employee of the Cooperative. A "close relative" means a person who is related to the principal person. By consanguinity or affinity. To the third degree or less - that is a person who is either a spouse, child, grandchild, great grandchild, parent, grandparent, great-grandparent, brother, sister, aunt, uncle, nephew, or niece, by blood or by law of the principal.

It is also the policy of ECE that no person shall be eligible to become a Cooperative Trustee who is a "close relative" of a person already in the employ of the Cooperative or had been an employee of the Cooperative less than five years previously.

Better Service

\$180 Million RUS Loan Keeps ECE On Track For Infrastructure Improvements

Fewer power outages, faster response times, and widespread infrastructure improvements are just some of the benefits East Central Electric (ECE) members will experience thanks to a \$179,777,151 Rural Utility Services (RUS) loan from the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

According to the USDA, this program provides funding to maintain, expand, upgrade and modernize America's rural electric infrastructure.

"With this loan, we will be able to pay off old, higher cost debt and fulfill the co-op's four-year work plan for our members," ECE Director of Accounting Teresa Sparks said. "This is a great opportunity to improve service."

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—TERESA SPARKS, ECE DIRECTOR OF ACCOUNTING

This loan will allow the cooperative to continue to serve its almost 35,000 members in Creek, Lincoln, McIntosh, Muskogee, Okfuskee, Okmulgee, Seminole, Tulsa and Wagoner counties. Repayment of the loan is expected to have little to no impact on members.



Top 10 Home Electrical Safety Tips

<p>If children are present, install tamper resistant outlets to protect against shock.</p>	<p>Use a qualified electrician for repair work.</p>	<p>Watch for hot or discolored switch plates, flickering lights or buzzing sounds.</p>	<p>Repair loose outlets and replace old cords.</p>
<p>Use bulbs with the correct wattage for the fixture.</p>	<p>Use extension cords temporarily, not as permanent wiring.</p>	<p>Keep cords out of walkways and high traffic areas.</p>	<p>Get regular checkups for older homes.</p>
<p>Educate your household on electrical safety.</p>		<p>Unplug electronics if you smell something burning.</p>	



Security Lights

Security lights for homes, farms and business let you look on the bright side with safety and convenience. That's because you're adding protection for your family and property by removing dark shadowed areas from your premises. Security lights are one of the safest, smartest, most convenient and most affordable forms of home and property protection available.



GenerLink

Plugging your generator into GenerLink gives you a safe and easy way to connect a generator to your home during those unexpected power outages.



During a power outage, more inconvenience is the last thing you want or need. The first thing you want is GenerLink installed behind your home's electric meter. With GenerLink, using your portable generator is easy and safe. Turn off appliances on your breaker panel, plug your generator into GenerLink, start your generator and turn on your appliances from your breaker panel.

Surge Suppressor

Reliably and economically protect your home against external transient power surges. Our meter socket surge arrester adapter offers a quick, cost-effective turnkey solution to the problem of transient voltage surges which can cause malfunctions in sensitive electronics. This device installs quickly and easily at the meter base and provides protection of up to 50,000 peak Amps of surge current per mode.



For pricing and additional information, visit our website at ecoec.com or call our office at 918-756-0833

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.....	1,196
Applications granted.....	815
Applications denied.....	357
Applications tabled.....	12
Scholarships awarded.....	\$265,500
Total Disbursements.....	\$1,977,438.96
Average member contribution.....	48¢



ELECTRICAL SAFETY TIP OF THE MONTH

Watch for overhead lines every time you use a ladder, work on roofs, trees, or carry long tools or loads. Keep kites, model airplanes, and metallic balloons away from power lines.

SOURCE: EDISON ELECTRIC INSTITUTE

RECIPES



To Die For Blueberry Muffins

INGREDIENTS

1 ½ cups all-purpose flour	1 egg
¾ cup white sugar	⅓ cup milk, or more as needed
½ teaspoon salt	1 cup fresh blueberries
2 teaspoons baking powder	½ cup white sugar
⅓ cup vegetable oil	⅓ cup all-purpose flour

DIRECTIONS

Preheat oven to 400° F. Grease muffin cups or line with muffin liners.

Combine 1 ½ cups flour, ¾ cup sugar, salt and baking powder. Place vegetable oil into a measuring cup; add the egg and add enough milk to reach the 1-cup mark. Mix this with flour mixture. Fold in blueberries. Fill muffin cups to the top, and sprinkle with crumb topping mixture.

Crumb Topping: Mix together ½ cup sugar, ⅓ cup flour, ¼ cup butter, and 1 ½ teaspoons cinnamon. Mix with fork, and sprinkle over muffins before baking.

Bake for 20 to 25 minutes in the preheated oven, or until done.

Source: Allrecipes.com



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 4:45 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.*