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country living

FOR MEMBERS OF EAST CENTRAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Share in the Sweet Benefits of Co-op Membership at Annual Meeting

As an electric cooperative, East Central is led by the members we serve.

We power homes, support community development efforts, encourage youth leadership, and connect rural areas to fiber broadband, all in the service of our member-owners. An Annual Meeting of the membership will be held July 28, 2022.

When: Thursday, July 28, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Where: OSUIT Campus - 1801 E 4th, Okmulgee, OK 74447

How: Beeline Drive-Thru Meeting or Traditional In-Person Festivities

How You Get Involved is up to You

Beeline

Drive-Thru Registration & Voting

11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Along the west side of campus.

Register, vote, get goodies, and be on your way.



In-Person

In-Person Registration & Voting

5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

At Covelle Hall

Operation Roundup Scholarship Presentation at 6:30 p.m.

Business Meeting at 7 p.m.

Informational booths, vendors, and children's activities beginning at 5 p.m.

Whether you attend in-person or through the beeline drive-thru, you will receive a goodie bag containing your annual report, ecoLINK swag, receipt of your bill credit, and a survey you can fill out for the chance to win an additional \$50 bill credit.

Participate and Win

2022 Annual Meeting Prizes

Grand Prize - \$1,000

2 - \$500

60 - \$100

Once you register **in-person or drive-thru**, you will also be entered to win our prize drawing. You don't have to be present to win.

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

Meeting Challenges with Values

It is an issue for me to write, 30 days in advance, things I want to share with you. By the time you read this, our district meetings for 4 and 7 will be history for 2022, but at this time we do not know if additional people will have filed for board seats. Stay tuned to our ECOEC website for that and other information relating to our annual meeting which will occur on Thursday, July 28, 2022.

The annual meeting this year will be a combination drive thru, which has been very popular the last 2 years, and a traditional inside sit down like we have had up 'til the last 2 years. The drive through option will start at 11 a.m. at the OSUIT campus entering from 4th street and continuing as directed through the, hopefully smooth process, parking lots and exit onto Mission. The inside meeting, for those that wish to go inside, will start promptly at 7 p.m. Registration, voting, bill credits, and drawing for door prizes will all be done electronically so you may drive through and go inside if you so desire. Your option--either one or both!

We have had a couple of meetings with our power suppliers since I last wrote you. Such great presentations and information to consume.

There is a big push to do away with coal fired production of electricity because of the carbon issue. Much reduction in carbon output has been accomplished in the last few years, and coal is still the least cost to produce electricity.

“I am so proud of the family I have and the Co-op family I have been privileged to be a part of.”

- LOWELL HOBBS

During the polar vortex of last year, coal was the only reliable source of production. Gas froze up, sun didn't shine, wind didn't blow, and water didn't run. Coal kept us with electricity. One of our leaders insists we don't give up that reliability until we get something to replace it with.

The vision statement at East Central is, in part, to offer competitive rates and provide safe, reliable, electric energy and related services to our members. If we had not had the coal fired generators

in our possession last winter, we would not have had the reliable portion.

In recent years, our Co-op has been plagued with thieves stealing copper from our system. Our Okmulgee County Sheriff, Eddy Rice, and his posse worked diligently with us and by arresting some of the guilty parties, the copper thefts slowed down. I heard just yesterday that there is a new surge of this crime over in Creek County area. ECE offers a cash reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of those that destroy and steal from our Co-op. Keep your eyes open and your pencils on ready to copy a tag number, description and make of vehicles, etc., if you see suspicious activity affecting our power lines. Do not engage with the thieves but report what you see.

I mention to you often about some of my early life and the lack of material things we all had. I was lucky for my family was never hungry or had to stay cold. We had a wood heater and a formidable house. Home was a comfortable place to be. My Dad was very strict about responsibilities. When I was about 13 -15, he was even hard to like, not to mention love, but as time progressed my training from him began to reach new heights and by the time I graduated college he had improved exponentially! We worked together very well and built our ranch together. He was a very hard worker and taught me many of the values I live by today. I am so proud of the family I have and the Co-op family I have been privileged to be a part of. Thank you, Co-op members, for all your calls and comments about these articles. It means more to me than I can readily express.

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

Get Plugged In to Savings

East Central Electric Members can take advantage of a time-of-use discount on electric consumption when participating in our EV Charging Program. Learn more and see if you qualify at www.ecoec.com.

Co-op Membership is Sweet

One Member, One Vote 2022 Ballot Guide

During the 2022 Annual Meeting, voting will be conducted on iPads, using a trustworthy, third-party service.

Every member will have the opportunity to vote to approve the 2021 Annual Meeting Minutes and vote for board candidates.

To review the 2021 Annual Meeting Minutes and find information about what's on the ballot visit www.ecoec.com. This information will also be included in the official notice you will receive in the mail in mid July.

Every cooperative member has a voice and a vote in the cooperative. That's another sweet benefit to your co-op membership.

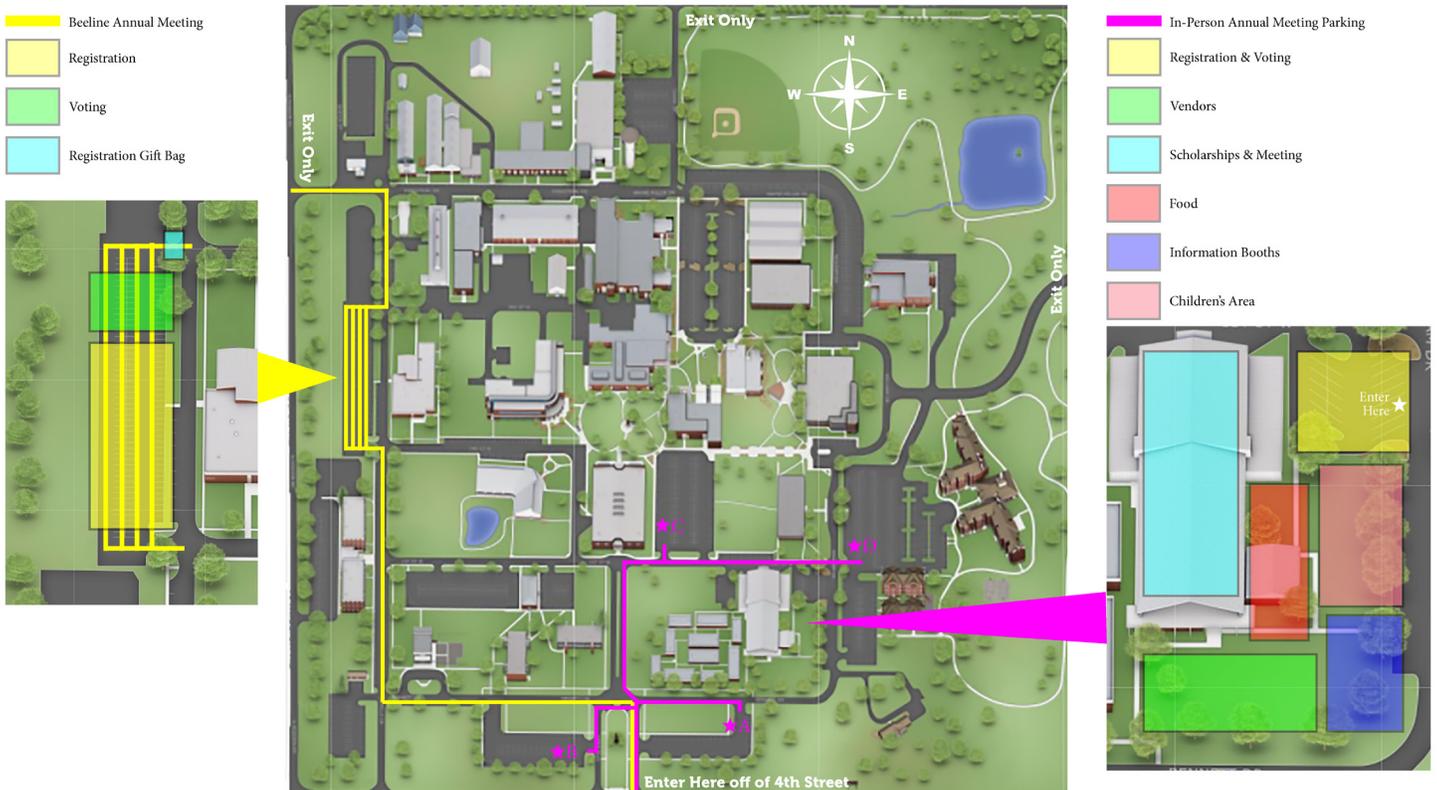
\$1 Million Returned to ECE Members

In May, the East Central Electric Cooperative board of trustees approved a capital credit return of approximately \$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 1988 and 2021 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.

OSUIT Campus - 1801 E 4th, Okmulgee, OK 74447



ecoLINK Expands Package Options

In an effort to provide more options to ecoLINK subscribers, a middle tier package has been added. The new 'Standard' package includes 250 Mbps for \$75.

"This package is for those that want a little more bandwidth. For an additional \$20, subscribers can more than double their speed," said Director of Broadband Operations Jeremy Hendrickson.

ecoLINK Package Options:

- Basic – 100 Mbps download/upload - \$55.00/mo.
- Standard – 250 Mbps download/upload - \$75.00/mo.
- Premium – 1 GB Mbps download/upload - \$85.00/mo.

How much speed do I need?

Internet speed is measured in Megabits per second (Mbps) or Gigabits per second (Gbps). Your internet speed is the amount of data that can be transferred every second over your internet connection. Your speed determines the type of activities that you can do online and how quickly you can do them.

Certain minimum speeds are needed to enjoy different types of online activities. Video streaming is the best example of this. The better the video quality, the faster your internet speed needs to be to enjoy it.

A connection speed of 1 Mbps, for example, allows you to browse web pages easily, but it's not fast enough for you to stream 4K videos on Netflix. According to Netflix, that requires a minimum connection speed of 15 Mbps. If

you tried to stream HD or 4K videos at 1 Mbps, your video would be poor quality and would likely stutter or pause altogether. On the other hand, a speed of 1 Gbps – one thousand times faster than 1 Mbps – is blazing fast, allowing you to do almost anything, including letting multiple family members stream 4K video simultaneously.

Call us to upgrade service, free of charge, or discuss options at (918) 756-0833.



TOTAL GRANTED
\$2,180,451.50

APPLICATIONS REVIEWED

1,301

APPLICATIONS GRANTED

909

SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

\$304,500

AVERAGE MEMBER CONTRIBUTION

48¢

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.



East Central

ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

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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

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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, or set up online payments through your bank. No convenience fee.