

country living

FOR MEMBERS OF EAST CENTRAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Co-op Month: Celebrating the Cooperative Difference

2 Notes from the Chair

3 Cooperative Principles

4 Apple Dumplings

Cooperatives come in all shapes and sizes, each created to meet a specific need. Credit unions help members save and borrow money. Producer cooperatives, like Ocean Spray and Land O'Lakes, help farmers bring their products to market. Retail cooperatives, like REI and ACE Hardware, are owned by their shoppers or a membership of store owners, while housing cooperatives give residents a voice in managing their communities.

And utility cooperatives—like East Central Oklahoma Electric Cooperative—provide reliable electricity to the communities they serve.

Unlike businesses that answer to outside investors or shareholders, cooperatives are built for their members. Their goal isn't simply to earn a profit—it's to provide value, meet unique local needs and strengthen the communities they call home. That's exactly what makes East Central Electric Cooperative different.

My Co-op Is Returning Value to Members

1



BECOME A MEMBER
When you establish service with ECE, you become a member-owner.

2



USE ELECTRICITY
ECE tracks how much electricity you purchase.

3



MARGINS EARNED
In years ECE earns positive margins, a portion is set aside for members.

4



YOUR SHARE IS TRACKED
Your share of the co-op's margins is recorded as your capital credit allocation.

5



BUILDING RELIABILITY
Your investments help fund poles, wires, and equipment that keep power flowing.

6



VALUE RETURNED
When finances allow, capital credits are returned to members.

YOUR SHARE BUILDS OVER TIME

Long-Time Member	New Member
	
● Member's Allocation	● Member's Capital Credit Return

In 2026, the ECE Board Authorized the Return of \$750,000 to Members.



Lowell Hobbs, District 2
President

Jim Hall, District 6
Vice President

Dwight Luther, District 7
Secretary / Treasurer

Michael Vernnon, District 4
Assistant Sec. / Treasurer

Clark Whitaker, District 1

James Allred, District 3

Jay Emerson, District 5

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.

Donna and I attended our son Craig's Ranch Revival this week. One of the sermons I heard was about change. He talked about the change that occurs to an individual when they come to know Jesus. About how the world seems brighter and more alive.

I listened intently and immediately began to think of the changes God has allowed me to be a part of during my lifetime. It seems like God has placed me in a position to be a part of many changes in my community, not something I have done, but God has placed me so I could be a part of some else's life. As a result I try not to be a hindrance to anyone. If I can draw a smile or even laughter from you, I feel I have succeeded.

Being on the ECE Board has truly been an exciting part of my life. One of my private missions has been to encourage a rapid response and repair to an electrical outage.

There is a copy of a penny post card that circulated lately from one of our

members some 75 years ago that simply read: "Hey, fellas, our electric has been off for the last several days, and if you are out this way before long you might stop in and see if you can fix it." That patience has changed! Now if the electric blinks, it causes everything to shut off and the calls begin coming in.

"It seems like God has placed me in a position to be a part of many changes in my community, not something I have done, but God has placed me so I could be a part of some else's life."

- LOWELL HOBBS

I was thinking about some things that have happened since Donna and I married 48 years ago. We have identified the persons responsible for 17 thefts regarding ours and our neighbor's belongings, 11 events of trash dumping, 6 vandalisms.

Also, 8 beneficial community projects other than through ECE. I plan to present some of the more exciting ones in the next article.

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

ONLINE SECURITY TIPS

01 USE STRONG AND UNIQUE PASSWORDS

02 ENABLE TWO-FACTOR AUTHENTICATION

03 KEEP YOUR SOFTWARE UP TO DATE

04 BE CAUTIOUS OF PHISHING SCAMS

05 LIMIT INFORMATION SHARING

OCTOBER IS CYBER SECURITY MONTH

What Does Member Ownership Actually Mean?

When you hear the word “member,” it can sound like just another name for “customer.” But being a member of East Central Electric means you have a connection to your cooperative that goes beyond receiving electricity each month.

You have a voice. Members elect the people who serve on East Central’s Board of Trustees. These are your neighbors—people who live in the same communities, understand the challenges we face and help make decisions about the cooperative’s future.

You have opportunities to participate. The Annual Meeting isn’t just a yearly gathering. It’s an opportunity to learn what’s happening at your co-op, meet the people who serve you and have a voice in its direction. Voting in board elections, attending meetings and asking questions are all ways to take part.

And you have a stake in what we do. From the investments we make in the electric system to the programs we offer and the ways we serve our communities, the decisions made at East Central ultimately affect the people who make up this cooperative—you and your neighbors.

You don’t have to attend every meeting or know the ins and outs of the electric industry to be an engaged member. Start where you are. Read your Country Living magazine. Follow along with what’s happening at East Central. Come to an Annual Meeting. Ask a question. Share an idea.

Because membership isn’t just something you have.

It’s something you can take part in.

How Can You Take Part?



STAY CONNECTED



SPEAK UP



SHOW UP



VOTE

You’ll also find the co-op difference in the little things. It’s the lineworkers restoring power after a storm. The employees answering your questions when you call. The team members volunteering at community events. And your neighbors, who serve on the board and help guide decisions for the future.

This National Co-op Month, we invite you to join us in celebrating the cooperative difference, because this co-op belongs to you.

SEVEN COOPERATIVE PRINCIPLES

Open and Voluntary Membership



Democratic Member Control



Members’ Economic Participation



Autonomy and Independence



Education, Training, and Information



Cooperation Among Cooperatives



Concern for Community





Operation Round Up 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.

TOTAL GRANTED
\$3,152,043.57

AWARDED LAST QUARTER
\$75,024.67

APPLICATIONS REVIEWED
1,846

SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED
\$394,000

APPLICATIONS GRANTED
1,341

AVERAGE MEMBER CONTRIBUTION
48¢



Apple Dumplings

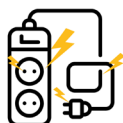
INGREDIENTS

- | | |
|---|--------------------|
| 2 cans crescent rolls | 1 tsp. cinnamon |
| 2 Granny Smith apples, peeled and cut into 8ths | 1 1/2 stick butter |
| 2 1/2 C. sugar | 1 can Mountain Dew |

DIRECTIONS

Mix together sugar and cinnamon and set aside. Take crescent rolls and tear apart as usual. Dip pieces of apple into sugar and cinnamon mixture and roll them up in the crescent rolls. Repeat this until all rolls are finished. Place in a 9x13" pan and sprinkle with remaining sugar and cinnamon over the top. Next, pour melted butter over top. Last, pour Mountain Dew over the top. Bake at 350° for 40 minutes.

SOURCE: ECE 85TH ANNIVERSARY COOKBOOK



ELECTRICAL SAFETY TIP OF THE MONTH

Did you know that smoke and CO detectors expire? Many have long-life batteries that don't need to be replaced every year, but they still need regular attention. Test and inspect alarms, and replace any that are broken or expired with a new 10-year sealed battery model.

SOURCE: SAFELECTRICITY.ORG

Happy Co-op Month!

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MORE TO BELIEVE IN**

NEW RESIDENTIAL INTERNET PACKAGES

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500 Mbps	\$75/mo
1 Gbps	\$80/mo
2 Gbps	\$90/mo

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East Central
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