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country living

FOR MEMBERS OF EAST CENTRAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE



In November, 2023, East Central Oklahoma Electric Cooperative will celebrate 85 years of providing, safe, reliable, affordable electricity to rural co-op members.

As a co-op, we were built by our membership with a clear purpose. The co-op was founded to improve the quality of life for rural folks by providing electricity where no one else would.

Today, we have come full circle, providing fiber internet service in the same way.

Whether you've been a co-op member your whole life, or you're new to our lines this year, we hope you'll take the opportunity in 2023 to get involved. Take full advantage of the many benefits that come with your co-op membership.

Benefits like:

- Having a vote in board membership and bylaw changes at our Annual Meeting.
- Affordable, high-speed internet.
- Rebates and savings for energy efficient purchases.
- Post-secondary scholarships and youth leadership programs.



Your electric co-op offers so much more than electricity. Learn more at www.ecoec.com.

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

Children, Prayer, Guidance, and Faith

The Lord continues to bless my family. Craig's report came back cancer free-no lingering signs of cancer!! Craig preached in a recent sermon that his healing was not just for him but to reveal God's power for all to see.

Monty was in a test group for Parkinson's Disease and taking physical and speech therapy. He has improved a lot, however, the FDA pulled the plug on the test, and his insurance ended their support of his therapies. He is continuing some of that on his own, and though much improved, is not there yet.

My family believes in prayer and we are aware that many prayers are being offered up for our sons. Thank you so much for your part in their healing.

ECE offers a \$1,000 scholarship at each of the 44 schools in our service area. Sadly not all of the 44 are applied for. These scholarships are for seniors, and entry deadline is March 1, 2023. Additionally, ECE sponsors 6 junior students an all expense paid trip to Washington D.C., and for the 8th graders a youth camp during the summer. March 1, 2023 is also deadline to apply for those trips. I urge you to reach for these goals.

We continue to get many requests about solar panels for the home. Battery energy storage systems are an important part of wind and solar power. Batteries are a great way to leverage unused solar and wind power for later consumption, otherwise there is no way to use these renewable

sources when the sun isn't shining or the wind isn't blowing. This makes them hard to rely on. I encourage those that are considering adding solar power to seek guidance from ECE. We do not want to discourage your thoughts, but our staff can guide you through some of the things that will help you make good decisions.

I married in June of 1957 between my junior and senior years at OSU. I graduated in May of 1958, returned home to the ranch and expected a baby in September, 1958. My income from the ranch was minimal. I had a 55 Ford pickup, and my wife woke me to go to the hospital. We arrived at St. John's hospital in Tulsa at 2:45 am. I parked on the curve of the sidewalk at the front door. I had heard about the long wait at the hospital and the long hours of labor, so we sat in the pickup waiting. At 3:15 my wife said we had better go in. I stayed in the waiting room while they took her back. Before long the nurse came out, said they were going to admit her and that they would keep me informed. Soon they came out and advised me to call my mother-in-law. I sauntered down the hall, found a pay phone, and called Stillwater. I looked around, found a pop machine, searched through some magazines for something to read and barely got settled when the nurse announced: you have a 9 pound baby boy!

The story of baby boy #2 next month.

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



Wishing you...

A happy, healthy, and connected New Year!

2023



CONNECT MORE!

100 Mbps \$55
250 Mbps \$75
1 Gbps \$85

Call **TODAY**
918-756-0833

EAST CENTRAL OKLAHOMA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

NOTICE REGARDING CONSIDERATION OF NEW PURPA STANDARDS

Pursuant to Section 2621 of the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 (hereinafter, PURPA), as amended by the Infrastructure, Investment and Jobs Act (IIJAct) of 2021, the Board of Directors (hereinafter, Board) of East Central Electric Cooperative, Inc., at its regularly scheduled meeting during the month of October, 2022, approved a resolution initiating a proceeding to consider and determine whether to adopt the following federal standards.

(20) DEMAND-RESPONSE PRACTICES

Each electric utility shall promote the use of demand-response and demand flexibility practices by commercial, residential, and industrial consumers to reduce electricity consumption during periods of unusually high demand.

A nonregulated electric utility may establish rate mechanisms for the timely recovery of the costs of promoting demand-response and demand flexibility practices as described above.

(21) ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING PROGRAMS

Each electric utility shall consider measures to promote greater electrification of the transportation sector, including the establishment of rates that a) promote affordable and equitable electric vehicle charging options for residential, commercial, and public electric vehicle charging infrastructure; and b) improve the customer experience associated with electric vehicle charging, including by reducing charging times for light-, medium-, and heavy-duty vehicles; and c) accelerate third-party investment in electric vehicle charging for light-, medium-, and heavy-duty vehicles; and d) appropriately recover the marginal costs of delivering electricity to electric vehicles and electric vehicle charging infrastructure.

The determination of whether to adopt these new standards will be made by the cooperative Board based on consideration of evidence presented to it. All evidence shall be in written form submitted to the appropriate contact and in compliance with the

procedural schedule below. Evidence includes but is not limited to written testimony, written analysis or written comments regarding the impact that the adoption of the standards would have on the cooperative.

All parties interested in participating in the proceeding should contact Katherine Russell at 918.756.0833 by phone, or by mail at PO Box 1178, Okmulgee, Oklahoma 74447, or in person at 2001 S. Wood Drive, Okmulgee, Oklahoma 74447 to receive a Request to Participate form. Request to Participate forms are also available online at www.ecoec.com.

Procedural Schedule for Consideration Proceeding

Deadline to submit testimony, analysis or comments - February 1, 2023

Note: must include Request to Participate form

Deadline to submit responses to testimony, analysis or comments - March 1, 2023

Determination by Board of Directors - April 2023

Youth Tour, Energy Camp, and scholarship applications open now



Applications Due March 1st. Visit ecoec.com/youth-power.



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
1,345

SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED
\$304,500

APPLICATIONS GRANTED
945

AVERAGE MEMBER CONTRIBUTION
48¢



The Best Blondies

INGREDIENTS

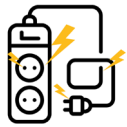
- | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1 C. butter (melted) | 2 tsp. vanilla |
| 2 eggs (beaten) | 2 C. flour |
| 1/2 tsp. baking powder | 1/4 tsp. salt |
| 1 C. white chocolate chips | 1 C. chopped pecans |
| 1 1/2 C. brown sugar | 3/4 C. toffee or caramel chips |

DIRECTIONS

Spray 13x9" pan with non-stick spray. Mix butter and sugar. Beat in eggs and vanilla. Stir in flour, baking powder, and salt. Mix in pecans and chips. Bake at 375°F for 30 minutes. Cool before cutting.

SOURCE: ECE 80TH ANNIVERSARY COOKBOOK

Submit your recipes for the 85th anniversary cookbook to kharrison@ecoec.com.



ELECTRICAL SAFETY TIP OF THE MONTH

When using an alternate heat source during a winter storm, please follow operating instructions, use fire safeguards, and be sure to ventilate properly.

SOURCE: SAFELECTRICITY.ORG



East Central ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

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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 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.