



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

### A Solid Foundation — Construction & Energy

We recently had an interesting and educational meeting with our power generating co-op (Associated). CEO and general manager, David Tudor, (some early years spent in Muskogee) presented facts regarding reliable energy. Wind and solar, although cheap to produce power, is expensive to transport to consumer. Government subsidies make this source popular, but still not reliable. Solar takes 379 times more land than nuclear, and wind 421 times more land. Renewables take 60% more minerals—processing of these minerals is controlled by China.

David Tudor will soon testify before the Congressional energy subcommittee, encouraging them not to abandon coal generation because it is the most reliable source we have to produce electricity.

We only have one atmosphere, and if the U.S. had no emissions, China and India still have little to no restrictions on emissions. They buy a lot of coal and fuel oil from U.S. for their power generation.

Associated is in the process of building new gas generation in Oklahoma. Reliability is paramount to East Central’s mission to keep the power on for our members. Prosperity is tied to high energy

use. Poor countries invariably have less electric power.

We are studying our involvement in home solar panels. A co-op out of Texas has presented to us a program (much like Conexon has helped us with Broadband) to advocate on members’ behalf. Maybe 15 to 20% of our members have a stated interest in solar panels. The program will allow us to document energy improvements in your home to help you save on your energy requirements. As your trusted energy advisor, we will share more information as we get it.

In the early 1950’s we started gathering rocks from Cleveland and would bring a pickup load down to the ranch anytime we did not have a load of something else. A family southeast of Cleveland had called on my Dad for help with their livestock numerous times. On their farm were many perfectly shaped large rocks. My Dad asked them if he could have some and they wanted him to take any and all he wanted. So we took our 2 ton truck with the use of a borrowed old Chevy pickup chassis with a winch and loaded some of the big rocks for transport to Haskell.

We had no mechanical way to off load the huge rocks. All of our rock barn was built with hand labor. We

put header rocks over the door and window openings. We put an inner room in the barn--double walled (16’ x 12’). We mixed all the cement by hand. Our large piles of rocks accumulated over several years disappeared in the foundation.

The time of build was getting longer so we started using larger rocks to finish faster. Two of the larger rocks are 12’ long x 20” wide x 12” high. We put these 2 and some of the other large rocks directly off our truck and worked them higher on the wall with a pry bar and short pieces of pipe to roll them into position. We put the mortar under the rocks and let them down using the pry bars.

A huge beam washed up on our place on the Arkansas River that was 12” x 12” x 20’ long (probably pine wood), and we used that to span our barn loft. My Dad actually carried that beam on his shoulder, one end at a time, up a home made ladder, with me up on the wall helping pull on a rope around the beam.

We sawed all the wood from logs harvested where the Keystone Lake would be and sawed at sawmills in Bixby and Coweta.

The 2 x 6 rafters and 2 x 8 loft floor supports were red oak. Cottonwood flooring boards were 1” x various widths, some up to 18”. By 1959 the finished barn was 42’ long and 26’ wide--open on the South side with about 12’ clearance.

I am pleased to report to you that with all the massive weight of the rocks we used, there is no structure fracturing after 64 years.

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

### School’s out, but online bullies aren’t.

Keep your child’s summer break free with Bark.



bark  from 

Comprehensive parental controls and monitoring to manage and protect your children’s online lives.

**\$12**  
/month

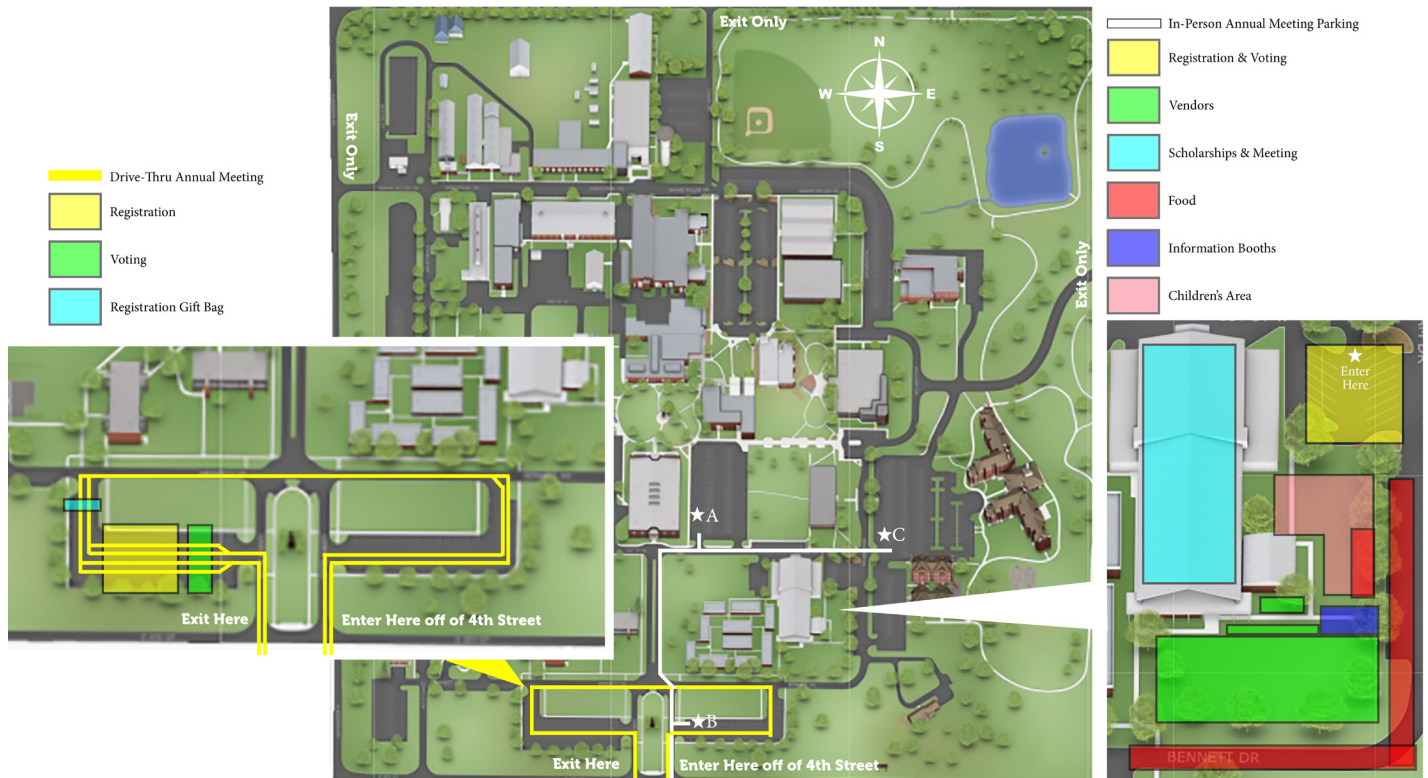
**Call to subscribe (918) 756-0833**

Scan the code to learn more





# Annual Meeting at OSUIT - 1801 E 4th, Okmulgee



## 2023 Ballot Guide

During the 2023 Annual Meeting, voting will be conducted on iPads, using a trustworthy, third-party service.

Every member will have the opportunity to vote for board candidates.

To review information about what's on the ballot, visit [www.ecoec.com](http://www.ecoec.com). This information will be included in the Official notice you will receive in the mail in mid July.

Since our founding in 1938, every cooperative member has had a voice and a vote in the cooperative. Use yours by attending Annual Meeting July 27.

**More Information at:**  
[www.ecoec.com/2023-annual-meeting](http://www.ecoec.com/2023-annual-meeting)

## \$30 MILLION MILESTONE IN CAPITAL CREDIT RETURNS

The East Central Oklahoma Electric Cooperative (ECE) Board of Trustees voted to return \$1 million to members.

With this return, ECE surpassed a milestone of more than \$30 Million in would-be profits returned to the pockets of co-op members since 1963.

“The return of capital credits is a process that is unique to electric co-ops and ensures that co-ops operate on a not-for-profit basis,” said ECE General Manager Tim Smith. “While investor-owned utilities return profits to shareholders, co-ops retain a portion to cover operating costs and then share the remainder with their members.”

The money is allocated to each co-op member based on their annual electricity use for the fiscal year.

This year members who belonged to ECE in 1989 and 2022 will receive their capital credit allocation notice and check in the mail. Members with less than \$10 in capital credits will receive their funds as a credit on their electric bill.

“Members of electric co-ops have the unique advantage of being co-owners in a people-first business model,” Smith said. “Since ECE was founded in 1938, we have operated on our 7 Cooperative Principles, and a stringent commitment to serving our members and communities.”



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).

**TOTAL GRANTED**  
**\$2,331,397.67**

APPLICATIONS REVIEWED  
**1,382**

APPLICATIONS GRANTED  
**980**

SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED  
**\$327,500**

AVERAGE MEMBER CONTRIBUTION  
**48¢**



## Aunt Bonnie's No Bake Cookies

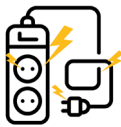
### INGREDIENTS

- |               |                             |
|---------------|-----------------------------|
| 1/2 C. butter | 1 tsp. vanilla              |
| 2 C. sugar    | 3 C. oats (quick or minute) |
| 1/2 C. milk   | 1/2 C. peanut butter.       |
| 1/4 C. cocoa  |                             |

### DIRECTIONS

Bring butter, sugar, milk and cocoa to a hard boil. Boil 1 minute only. Add vanilla, oats and peanut butter. Spoon onto wax paper and let set at room temperature.

SOURCE: ECE 85TH ANNIVERSARY COOKBOOK  
PICK YOURS UP AT ANNUAL MEETING JULY 27



## ELECTRICAL SAFETY TIP OF THE MONTH

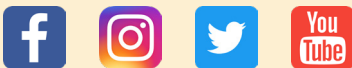
It is tempting for kids to sit or play on those big green boxes in the yard, but those padmount transformers can be incredibly dangerous. Teach kids to stay away, and report damage or an unlocked box.

SOURCE: SAFELECTRICITY.ORG



## 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 Vernon, 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.