

country living

FOR MEMBERS OF EAST CENTRAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE



NEW LOOK, NEW FEATURES, MORE CONTROL



2 *Accomplishments & Forgiveness*

3 *First Director Gold*

4 *Apple Dumplings*

BILL ANALYSIS

Details how this month's bill compares to last month's, or to the same bill period last year and provides an explanation for the differences you may see.

ENERGY DETAIL

Breaks down your electric bill based on the devices and appliances used.

BILL PROJECTIONS

Sends an email half-way through the month with an estimate of what your bill could be if usage remains the same. You can also set up high usage alerts to solve a problem before it becomes an even bigger one.

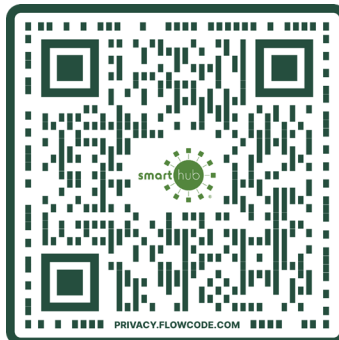
REMINDER



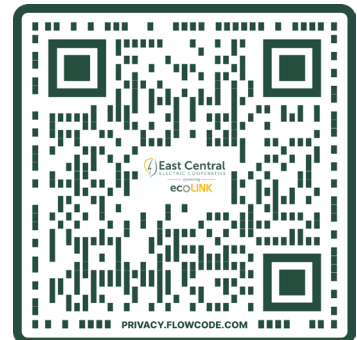
Fall is the best time to start preparing your home for cold temps. For tips to save money and stay safe, visit the link below.

ecoec.com/winter-savings-and-safety

Scan to
Download the App



Scan to Watch a
Walk-Through on YouTube



If you have never logged in to SmartHub before, you will need to register your account using your primary electric account number. If you aren't sure what your account number is or would like help registering your account, give us a call at 918-756-0833.



Lowell Hobbs, District 2
President

Larry Harvey, District 1
Vice President

Dwight Luther, District 7
Secretary / Treasurer

Jim Hall, District 6
Assistant Sec. / Treasurer

Max Shoemake, District 3

Michael Vernnon, District 4

Jay Emerson, District 5

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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.

Jim Hall has set a new benchmark for East Central Electric. As directors we are required to take several courses of instruction to learn how to effectively govern a Co-op. All of your directors have satisfactorily completed the required courses.

Additional advanced courses that we can elect to complete are offered through NRECA and most of us have completed many hours of those. Jim Hall recently completed the highest level of courses and is the first in East Central Electric history to achieve the Directors Gold Level. I was honored to present his pin and certificate on behalf of NRECA and ECE at our August board meeting. Well done, Jim!

During our board meetings it is not unusual for me to remind the others that I remember when we did not have electricity on the farm. Even telling them of the excitement when we first got to turn a light on without striking a match. I get the feeling they get tired of hearing about it, so I remarked recently that do you realize there are kids today that one day will be telling 'I remember when we did not have high speed internet in the country?'

East Central Electric is on good financial ground, but our rates are taking a small (2.9%) increase in October. Not bad for our first increase since 2015.

Some statistics you might want to know: ECE has just under 6,500 miles of line, just over 36,000 meters, and boasts a 99.94% reliability rate. Thanks to our coop employees working on the same goal. We welcome your input. My phone number is listed at the end of each of my articles.

Back in the early 1970's while having lunch in Haskell at my favorite cafe, a fellow came in and sat down across the room from me. He was a stranger; but as I was looking at him, he made eye contact with me and locked on. I looked away but later took another look and he was still watching me. When I finished my lunch and left, I took one more look and he was still eyeing me. I stopped up the street at a service station to have a tire repaired, and I saw the same fellow go by. He saw me standing by my pickup and he turned around and came back. As he approached me he asked "aren't you Lowell Hobbs?"

I confirmed and he told me he was Charles Dell, and the last time he saw me was in 1953. He said 3 of us had coaxed him into the back of my Dad's pickup, hauled him down to the city dump, and left him! I probably weighed about 125 pounds then, and he looked like 6'4", 250 pounds and was not accepting my hand I had extended when he first walked up to me.

I said, "No I didn't, did I? No I didn't, did I?"

He turned and walked away without another word or shaking my hand. After another 10-12 years I was at the Cleveland all school reunion and asked one of my classmate friends if he knew Charles Dell. He pointed him out, so I went to him and reminded him of our encounter in Haskell.

He laughed and said, "you all came back to get me, but I hid not knowing what you would do next, but I haven't forgotten that." I apologized, and we have communicated several times since.

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

DID YOU KNOW...



2/3 fire deaths occur in homes with missing or non-functioning smoke alarms?



Use **interconnected smoke alarms** for additional safety and early warning



Low pitch sound, and vibration smoke alarms are available for those who are **hard of hearing**



DO NOT INSTALL near windows, doors, or ducts



NEVER paint smoke alarms

REMEMBER TO:

TEST smoke alarms monthly

CHANGE battery yearly

REPLACE alarm every 10 years

Director Jim Hall First in ECE History to Receive Director Gold Commendation

East Central Oklahoma Electric Cooperative (ECE) Director Jim Hall recently became the first in the co-op's history to receive the Director Gold credential from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA).

NRECA's Director Certificate programs are specifically designed to help electric cooperative directors, at every stage of their service, understand their roles and responsibilities, stay up-to-date on the key issues and trends in the industry and prepare them to meet the challenges facing electric cooperatives now and in the future. The Director Certificate Programs are offered in three parts, taken in progression from fundamental to advanced.

First is the Credentialed Cooperative Director (CCD) certification. The certification requires completion of five courses that focus on basic governance knowledge and the essential skills required of cooperative directors. The CCD prepares directors to fulfill their fiduciary duty as elected officials serving on behalf of their membership

Next, is the Board Leadership Certificate (BLC). The second part of the director education program consists of a series of courses focusing in greater depth on specific industry and governance issues. These include risk management, power supply, parliamentary procedure, technology and policy development.

And last, the Director Gold credential recognizes directors committed to continuing their education beyond the CCD and BLC and demonstrates their ongoing commitment to advancing their knowledge and performing their fiduciary duty to the best of their ability. To maintain this certification, they must take additional courses every two years.

Hall has represented District 6 on the ECE Board since June of 2015



Board President Lowell Hobbs presents Director Gold Certificate to Assistant Secretary/Treasurer Jim Hall at the August Board Meeting.

and has served as the Assistant Secretary/Treasurer on the Board since August of 2016. He also represents ECE on the Western Farmers Electric Cooperative Board.

When receiving the award, Hall said, "It is an honor and privilege to serve our members. The least I can do is take advantage of the opportunity to educate myself about the electric utility and broadband industries. I hope it makes me a better trustee and steward of our members assets." ECE General Manager Tim Smith said, "The time commitment spent to earn these credentials speaks volumes about our Board of Trustees' dedication to serving our Cooperative.

As entrusted elected officials, as well as being co-op members themselves, they understand the value of this kind of education and how it contributes to acting in the best interest of their fellow members. We couldn't be prouder of their achievement and continuing service to our cooperative."

NRECA represents the nation's more than 900 consumer-owned electric cooperatives, which provide electric service to more than 42 million people in 47 states. East Central Oklahoma Electric Cooperative serves over 26,000 members across parts of Creek, Lincoln, McIntosh, Muskogee, Okfuskee, Okmulgee, Seminole, Tulsa, and Wagoner counties.



Lowell Hobbs speaking about Jim Hall's accomplishment at the August Board Meeting.



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.

TOTAL GRANTED
\$2,400,486.12

APPLICATIONS REVIEWED
1,414

APPLICATIONS GRANTED
1,002

SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED
\$327,500

AVERAGE MEMBER CONTRIBUTION
48¢



Apple Dumplings

INGREDIENTS

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------|
| 2 cans crescent rolls | 1 tsp. cinnamon |
| 3-4 tart apples | 1 (12 oz.) can Mountain Dew |
| 1 stick butter | |
| 1 1/2 C. sugar | |

DIRECTIONS

Mix together sugar and cinnamon and set aside. Peel and slice apples into 8ths or 16ths. Dip pieces of apple into sugar and cinnamon mixture and roll them up in crescent rolls. Place rolls in a 9x13" pan and sprinkle the remaining sugar and cinnamon over top. Pour over melted butter. Last, pour over Mountain Dew. Bake at 350° for 40 minutes.

SOURCE: SAFELECTRICITY.ORG

SOURCE: ECE 85TH ANNIVERSARY COOKBOOK



ELECTRICAL SAFETY TIP OF THE MONTH

Always look up and look out for overhead power lines before climbing, transporting or positioning a ladder. Keep yourself and all equipment at least 10 feet away from overhead lines.

CYBERSECURITY FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

October is Cybersecurity Awareness month and ecoLINK wants you to know we have you covered.

With ecoLINK, your home network receives the internet security you need. The ecoLINK+ application works quietly in the background and proactively keeps malicious websites, viruses, and intrusions away from your home 24x7.

And with add-on service Bark, your kids are protected as well. Bark empowers you to keep your children safe by monitoring devices, social media, texts, emails, and more.

ADD BARK FOR \$12/MO.
CALL 918-756-0833



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