

country living

FOR MEMBERS OF EAST CENTRAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE



Members to See Rate Realignment in October

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East Central Electric is a not-for-profit, member-owned electric cooperative that works hard to control costs while still providing our members with safe, reliable electricity. Our team members strive to minimize the impact of any necessary price increases. In fact, our last rate increase was in 2015 – almost a decade ago.

In that decade we have seen run-away inflation caused by a global pandemic, 100-year storms, and supply chain failures.

The ECE Board of Trustees, seeking to alleviate the effects of rising costs on members and the co-op, hired the firm C.H. Guernsey to perform a cost-of-service study.

Our rates have historically included a flat amount that helps cover the cost to have access to electricity, such as poles, wire, and transformers, and a variable amount that helps cover the cost to deliver the electricity from the substation to your home, such as maintenance of the right of way, equipment at the substation, wire, poles, transformers, and meters.

The cost of service study indicated it was time to realign these two parts of our rate. Therefore, the flat amount was increased and the variable

amount was decreased to more closely align the cost to serve our members.

The plan indicates a 2.9 percent increase in electric rates, however, the increase will not be felt the same by all members. Those that use very little electricity, such as barns and water wells, will see a greater increase than those that use more electricity.

The goal of this realignment is to help the Co-op cope with rising costs. After considering many options, the Board of Trustees felt this option was the least impactful for co-op members.

The Board approved this plan earlier this year, to take effect in October.

For more information visit: ecoec.com/rates-and-pricing

Questions?
Call 918-756-0833



Cost Increases Since 2015

↑↑↑ 108.9%
Increase in Wire

↑↑↑ 74.9%
Increase in Transformers

↑↑↑ 172.2%
Increase in Poles

↑↑↑ 25%
Increase in Purchased Power

Overall Rate Increase
2.9%

To learn more about your elected trustees, or to view a district map, please visit ecoc.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

Miracles, Meetings and Mishaps

About a year ago our son Craig was diagnosed with bladder cancer just as he was preparing to leave for one of his many mission trips to Malawi, Africa. His doctor reminded him that if he got sick over there, he would not be in the midst of medical help; but told him those people needed to hear God’s word through him and to go.

Craig eventually took one round of chemo but told me he was not going to do that again.

If God was ready to take him to Heaven, he was ready to go; and if He wanted him to stay, he was ready to do God’s will.

On his recent return from Africa about the 1st week of July, he returned to his doctor and went through all the extended tests to see how he was doing and learned an amazing fact.

There was no evidence of cancer nor any sign of damage! What a blessing!

Craig reminds me and others that his healing is not solely for me and him, but for others to learn that God can and still performs miracles.

East Central Electric has just completed our 2023 annual meeting on a high note. At our annual meeting 1,322 people are required to have a quorum, and we had 1,737 registered.

Our drive-thru process seems to be widely accepted. Less than 5 minutes to drive through, register, vote, and drive away.

Results of the election were:

District 1 -	Larry Harvey	880
	Mike Rice	606

District 3 -	Max Shoemake	869
	Adam Hamilton	348
	John Porter	345
District 6 -	Jim Hall	1,208
	(no opponent)	

I visited with the candidates and was impressed with their character and genuineness. All, in my opinion, are quality men and would have served us well.

The regular board meeting was held the next day and election of officers always follows the first meeting after annual meeting and all your officers were re-elected, too. I get a little emotional at the trust they place in me to continue as chairman of the board for another year. Our board is a remarkable group to work with and accomplish things that are beneficial for our members through the Co-op employees.

Several years ago we had hired a full time ranch hand, Randy. We had no overhead bulk feed bin so we bought all our feed in sacks and fed from the truck out of a sack. The large number of sacks accumulated quite rapidly, and Monty and Randy stacked the empty sacks in the barn. I was disturbed by a barn becoming full of sacks, so one cold sunshine morning while they were feeding I decided to clear the barn.

I carried a few sacks out quite a distance from the barn and set them on fire. Our expectant first calf heifers were in this pasture so we could observe them more often, and as I was burning the sacks a

few at a time, they gathered around probably thinking of feed—not fire.

There was no wind, so the burning embers drifted high in the air and were out by the time they reached the ground. Our 1 year old ‘new’ John Deere round baler was down the hill about 50 to 100 yards.

I was busy wondering what a heifer would do if one of those embers landed on her before it quit burning. While watching that I forgot to look beyond until I noticed smoke at the baler. I raced down the hill to do something, then I ran up the hill to a water faucet, grabbed two 5 gallon buckets full of water and raced back to the baler.

The fire had burned all the grass under the baler and a few remnants left on the pickup attachment forming a nice circle around the baler. With adrenalin flowing wildly I threw the first bucket of water at the fire and missed it all. With the 2nd bucket I was able to extinguish the rest of the grass fire. There was not a scorch on the baler!

I returned to my burning sacks and rested on the trailer as Monty and Randy returned. Randy called out “what’s up”? I replied, “I thought I would burn an area around the baler before some fool came along and burned it up.” Randy looked toward the baler and back to me and exclaimed. “I might believe you if you weren’t having so much trouble getting your breath!”

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

Thank you to the following businesses which helped contribute to the success of our 2023 Annual Meeting:

- Anixter
- Arkansas Electric Cooperatives
- Gordon Construction Co.
- KAMO Power
- MDR Construction
- Missouri Association of Electric Cooperatives
- Oklahoma Association of Electric Cooperatives
- Southern States, LLC



ecOLINK

Now Available to All Co-op Members



In 2018 we accepted the mission of providing reliable, affordable internet service to the under-served.

Our approach was with the same attitude and spirit of the cooperative that our members know and trust.

Four and a half years later, our member project is complete – impressively ahead of schedule.

Now we will begin filling in the gaps and fulfilling grant obligations in off-system areas.

We're thankful to the many who have helped with our mission.



Annual Meeting Prize Winners



Thank you for participating in your 2023 Annual Meeting. We exceeded quorum with 1,737 members registered at 7 p.m. Congratulations to our prize winners!

Grand Prize \$1,000:

Shannon Lawley, Haskell

One Year of 1GB ecoLINK:

Betty Archibald, Depew

Debbie Boman, Mounds

Julieanna Cospers, Mounds

\$500:

Philemon Thomas, Muskogee

Kristina Grist, Henryetta

Three Months of 1GB ecoLINK:

Nellie Adams, Council Hill

Bonnie Boyer, Council Hill

Betty J Berthold, Checotah

Michael Osburn, Checotah

One Month of 1GB ecoLINK:

Hailey Brown, Beggs

Gary McFarland, Porum

Billie Jay, Haskell

Charles Haddox, Okemah

Cynthia Alexander, Bristow

Robert W Winkle Jr., Checotah

Jay Rouk, Beggs

Darla McCall, Bristow

Daniel Brinsfield, Checotah

Betty Bruton, Beggs

\$100:

Rice Oil, Beggs

Johnny Wilson, Okmulgee

Michael Coulter, Eufaula

Sean McSorley, Henryetta

Tommy Tamplen, Schuler

Steven R Watts, Morris

Lynda Shoemake, Morris

Dana Daniels, Council Hill

Bryan Ward, Boynton

Laurie J McKern, Checotah

Michael Ford, Morris

Tom Holcomb, Kellyville

Billy Hannon, Mounds

Ronna Fryover, Okmulgee

Andy Dixon, Okmulgee

Stephen Gilbert, Bixby

Tim Pendley, Eufaula

Caleb Fairchild, Glenpool

Donald Harrelson, Beggs

Ted Duvall, Council Hill

Bob Weaver, Kellyville

Elizabeth A Harned, Okmulgee

Michael Ogle, Henryetta

Kale Smallwood, Henryetta

Larry Haste, Checotah

Curtis Caldwell, Haskell

Brenda Freeman, Oktaha

Judy McGuire, Depew

Robert F Kirk Jr., Mounds

Pat Wilson, Mounds

Tom Hoggatt, Beggs

Jim Lucas, Okemah

Jess Ferrell, Sapulpa

Steve Cross, Bristow

James McCullough, Henryetta

Cheryl Barnett, Beggs

Bradley Womack, Morris

Daryl Ronish, Milfay

Davis & Davis Oil, Morris

Josh Emerson, Checotah

Gary Matthias, Mounds

Jim Dowdy, Sapulpa

Vera Epperson, Muskogee

Ray Wofford, Mounds

Jack Fenton, Bristow

Stephen Newnam, Eufaula

Jim Sexton, Okemah

George Iwashita, Council Hill

Rosetta Hortman, Beggs

Quinton Harrison Jr., Haskell

Thomas R Brown II, Haskell

Norma Pullen, Boynton

Steve Rucquoy, Beggs

Debbie Landers, Checotah

George Tollette, Mounds

Loyd D Stidman, Beggs

Mary McMaster, Mounds

Carmen Still, Bristow

Linda Perkins, Muskogee

Roy Harris, Haskell

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