



East Central Electric  
A member of the electric cooperative



## Board Requests Vote on Local Regulation

Oklahoma law allows members of rural electric cooperatives to vote to remove their co-op from Oklahoma Corporation Commission regulation. East Central's trustees are requesting the cooperative allow the membership to vote this year on exempting East Central from regulation by the Corporation Commission.

An affirmative vote by the membership would return the cooperative to local regulation through its member-elected board. Oklahoma law says "regulation by the Commission may be duplicative of the self-regulation by the rural electric cooperative and may be neither necessary nor cost effective."

"Actually, operating without the regulation of an entity such as the Corporation Commission isn't anything new for electric cooperatives," explains East Central General Manager Fred Smith. "Through an agreement with Oklahoma's investor-owned utilities, co-ops voluntarily submitted to Corporation Commission regula-

tion in 1972.

"For more than 30 years prior to 1972, co-ops were successfully governed by their individual boards of trustees," he says.

"We feel it is in the best interest of the membership to vote to return to local control of the cooperative," says

*"Local trustees are closer to issues affecting co-op members than are representatives of the Commission."*

*Jimmy Eller  
President,  
Board of Trustees*

Jimmy Eller, president of East Central's board of trustees. "Local trustees are closer to issues affecting co-op members than are representatives of the Commission."

Mr. Smith points out that voting out from under Corporation Commission regulation would not only return more power to the board of trustees, but would also eliminate fees mandated by the Commission.

"In the mid-1990s, the Commission started assessing utilities for its oversight of their operations. East Central members were charged \$28,984 in 2003 as part of the regulation assessment. By law this amount is passed directly to the

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## East Central Offices to Close for Memorial Day

In recognition and honor of Memorial Day, East Central Electric offices will be closed Monday, May 31.

However, dispatchers and service personnel will be on duty throughout the three-day weekend and holiday. If you experience an interruption in your electric service or spot a safety hazard, please call (918) 756-0833.

Have a safe and enjoyable holiday.

## Corporation Commission...

members in their monthly billing," Mr. Smith adds.

He says in addition to the assessment fees, it can cost the co-op thousands of dollars and take a considerable amount of time when there is a decision which requires Commission action.

"Voting to end the duplicate regulation would eliminate the need for members to pay fees to the Corporation Commission, yet still allow members to maintain control of their cooperative," Mr. Smith says. He goes on to say 20 of Oklahoma's 28

*Continued from page 1.*

electric co-ops have already voted out from under Commission regulation.

"In the coming weeks, we will be sending members information and seeking their guidance on this very important issue," adds Mr. Smith.

Plans call for members to vote by ballots which will be mailed to each ECE member.

Anyone with questions about voting out from under Corporation Commission regulation is encouraged to call customer service at East Central headquarters office in Okmulgee at (918) 756-0833.



**ECE employee Amy Nix allowed herself to be cardiac "arrested" by raising money for the American Heart Association recently.**

## From the Kitchen of a Friend

### Fresh Fruit Salad with Orange Cream

2 apples, cored and cut into wedges	1 fresh pineapple, peeled, cored, and cut into spears
2 bananas, cut into 1-inch slices	1 lb. seedless green grapes
1 Tbsp. lemon juice	Orange Cream
2 cups fresh strawberries	

Sprinkle apples wedges and banana slices with lemon juice. Arrange fruit on a serving platter. Serve with Orange Cream.

YIELD: 12 servings

### Orange Cream

1 cup whipping cream	2 Tbsps. chopped pecans, toasted
1 6-oz. can frozen orange juice concentrate, thawed and undiluted	

Beat whipping cream at medium speed of an electric mixer until soft peaks form. Slowly add orange juice concentrate, and beat until firm peaks form. Spoon into a serving dish; sprinkle with pecans. Use as a dressing for fruit salad or as a fruit dip.

YIELD: about 2.5 cups.

### East Central Menu Files

## Billing Cycle Information

### Cycle 1

Mailing Date: May 10  
Bill Due Date: May 30

### Cycle 2

Mailing Date: May 18  
Bill Due Date: June 7

### Cycle 3

Mailing Date: May 26  
Bill Due Date: June 15

### Cycle 4

Mailing Date: June 2  
Bill Due Date: June 22

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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