



# country living

FOR MEMBERS OF EAST CENTRAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

 TOP STORY

## Fiber Broadband Beefs Up The Grid

Self-healing technology reduces outage time, enhances efficiency and safety

**Want Fiber Broadband?**  
Register your interest and sign up for updates by clicking on the ecoLINK button found at [www.ecoec.com](http://www.ecoec.com).



**B**efore streaming Netflix, online gaming, video conferencing, and the many other opportunities that high-speed internet brings co-op members, fiber broadband builds a smarter, more reliable electric system. This fact remains the prime motivator in East Central Electric's decision to install fiber.

"By deploying fiber broadband and owning it, we will be able to connect devices and equipment that will greatly enhance the performance of our electrical system," said Tim Smith, general manager of East Central Electric (ECE).

Smith explained that fiber broadband technology would make the grid smarter by allowing the co-op to engineer its system to be self-healing. The self-healing system works through remotely connected sensors, switches, and controls that can detect problems on the line and make automatic adjustments that will minimize outages and restoration time.

"In some situations, it could detect a problem before anyone calls in, and possibly help us avoid an outage altogether," Smith added.

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Through fiber technology, ECE will be able to improve service reliability and increase the efficiency of field operations. Currently, ECE dispatches crews to operate switches and reroute power manually during an outage.

With technology in place that reroutes power automatically, co-op employees can avoid common workplace hazards associated with these tasks, which are typically performed in the worst possible weather.

Smith said it could take several years before the technology is fully installed and functional throughout the system. Once complete, however, the result will be a more efficient and intelligent electric grid—and better service for members. 



 PLAY IT SAFE

# STORM'S BREWING

Prepare for foul weather with a Generac generator and GenerLink, both available from your electric co-op!

**O**klahoma weather may be unpredictable, but there's one thing we can all bet on: When it's springtime here, storms happen. Sometimes those storms cause power outages and they never occur at a good time.

Fortunately, there's a solution that will guarantee your home never loses electricity again: A whole home generator from your electric co-op!

East Central Electric (ECE) offers 16-kilowatt and 22-kilowatt Guardian Series Generac home generators to members. When you purchase a generator through ECE, you will enjoy the peace of mind that comes with safe, professionally-installed backup power.

Generac detects power loss within seconds, and switches on and off automatically. When you're away from home, the cellular monitoring system notifies you so you'll know when the generator kicks on. Another plus: Generac runs on natural gas or liquid propane (LP) fuel, so there's no need to refuel.

To increase safety for you and co-op crews who may be working on the line, ECE encourages members with portable generators to install a GenerLink

### THE GENERAC ADVANTAGE:

- Automatic operation.
- No need to refuel.
- Power flows directly to your home.
- 24-hour customer support.
- Remote monitoring notifies you via phone when your generator kicks on.
- 5 year warranty.

For details, please call **918-756-0833**.

meter collar device on your electric meter. GenerLink safely connects a portable generator to your home—and automatically disconnects your home from the power grid when the generator is connected and producing power.

Once installed, you simply plug your generator into GenerLink and select the circuit or appliances you want to run using your home's circuit panel. Unlike other generator connections, you can change your appliance selections at any time.

Find more details on GenerLink at [www.ecoec.com](http://www.ecoec.com). For more information on Generac generators, please call **918-756-0833**.

### ▶ ATTENTION LANDOWNERS ◀

## ECE Is Spraying Herbicide

East Central Electric kicked off its herbicide spraying early this year. The co-op would like to update contact information on landowners with the following:

- Apiary
- Vineyard or winery
- Orchard, tree nursery or grove
- Certified organic garden
- Sensitive crops

Please contact the right-of-way department at **918-756-0833** to update your information. When leaving a message, please include your name, phone number, address, and brief message. Thank you!



## Got power? Thank a lineworker.

This month we will celebrate National Lineman Day on April 8th. We are so proud of the job our linemen do and will be joining with the rest of America to say "thank you".

**#ThankALineworker**



## Protection From **POWER SURGES!**

Visit [www.ecoec.com](http://www.ecoec.com) for details on installing a compact meter arrester, your first line of defense against surges.

 YOUR BUSINESS

# Bylaw Change Requires Vote of Members

Your vote is needed at the July 25th ECE Annual Meeting to keep your cooperative in compliance with new tax laws. Please plan on being there—*your vote is important!*



SAVE the DATE!

Thursday, **July 25, 2019**  
ECE Annual Meeting

**O**n December 22, 2017, Congress passed the new tax reform bill known as the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act. This law substantially amends the Internal Revenue Code to include provisions that directly impact cooperatives. One of the more critical aspects of the tax reform law is the change to the treatment of government grants— federal, state or local.

Many cooperatives qualify for government grants to improve their communities by funding important infrastructure projects, such as electric plant or broadband services. This includes grants from the USDA's Rural Utilities Service, the Rural Economic Development Loan and Grand (REDLG) program, and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for recovery

from natural disasters. The provision in the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act means that government grants to cooperatives are now taxable.

Compliance with new tax laws passed in 2017 will require East Central Electric members to vote on the proposed bylaw changes printed below.

## Article VII NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

*Note: Proposed changes appear in color. Language to be removed is printed in red. New language is printed in blue.*

SECTION 2. PATRONAGE CAPITAL IN CONNECTION WITH FURNISHING ELECTRIC ENERGY. In the furnishing of electric energy, the Cooperative's operation is being conducted so that all patrons will through their patronage, furnish capital for the Cooperative. In order to induce patronage and to assure that the Cooperative will operate on a non-profit basis, the Cooperative is obligated to account on a patronage basis to all of its patrons ~~for all amounts received and receivable in excess of operating costs and expenses, and other expenses properly chargeable against~~ and to declare a patronage dividend in an amount equal to the Cooperative's Federal taxable income with respect to the furnishing of electric energy ~~with or for its patrons~~. All such amounts in excess of operating costs and expenses, at the moment of receipt by the Cooperative, are received with the understanding that they are furnished by the patrons as capital. The Cooperative is obligated to pay by credit to a capital credit account for each patron, all such amounts in excess of operating costs and other expenses properly chargeable against the furnishing of electric energy.

The books and records of the Cooperative shall be set up and kept in such a manner that at the end of each fiscal year the amount of capital, if any, so furnished by each patron is clearly reflected and credited in an appropriate record to the capital account of each patron, and the Cooperative shall, within a reasonable time after the close of the fiscal year, notify each patron of the amount of capital so credited to his account. All such amounts credited to the capital account of any patron shall have the same status as though they had been paid to the patron in cash, in pursuance of a legal obligation to do so, and the patron had then furnished the Cooperative corresponding amounts of capital.

In the event of dissolution or liquidation of the Cooperative, after an outstanding indebtedness of the Cooperative shall have been paid, outstanding capital

credits shall be retired without priority on a pro-rata basis before any payments are made on account of property rights of members. If, at any time prior to dissolution or liquidation, the Board of Trustees shall determine that the financial condition of the Cooperative will not be impaired thereby, the capital then credited to patrons' accounts may be retired in full or in part. After August 14, 1975, and thereafter, the Board of Trustees shall determine the method, basis priority and order of retirement, if any, for all amount furnished as capital. In no event, however, may any such capital be retired unless the security provisions of the Deeds of Trust given by the Cooperative to the United States of America dated September 5, 1956 are, satisfied.

However, at the discretion of the Board of Trustees, a reasonable cash reserve over and above the minimum requirements of the Government's Deeds of Trust provisions shall be maintained.

Capital credited to the accounts of each patron shall be assignable only on the books of the Cooperative pursuant to written instructions from the assignor and only to successors in interest or successors in occupancy in all or a part of such patron's premises served by the Cooperative, unless the Board of Trustees of this Cooperative, acting under policies of general application, shall determine otherwise.

Notwithstanding any other provisions of these Bylaws, the Board of Trustees, at its discretion, shall have the power at any time upon the death of any patron, who was a natural person, if the legal representatives of his estate shall request in writing that the capital credited to any such patron be retired prior to the time such capital would otherwise be retired under the provisions of these Bylaws to retire capital credited to such patron immediately upon such terms and conditions as the Board of Trustees, acting under policies of general application, and

the legal representatives of such patron's estate shall agree upon provided, however, that the financial condition of the Cooperative will not be impaired provided further, however, that the aggregate amounts so retired in any one year shall not exceed five percent (5%) of the Cooperative's capital; and provided further, however, that, if acting under policies of general application the percentage mentioned above is not sufficient to retire the capital credited to any such patron or patrons, such patron or patrons shall have the capital credited to them retired in the next succeeding year before any other retirements are made in any succeeding year.

The patrons of the Cooperative, by dealing with the Cooperative, acknowledge that the terms and provisions of the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws shall constitute and be a contract between the Cooperative and each patron, and both the Cooperative and the patrons are bound by such contract, as fully as though each patron had individually signed a separate instrument containing such terms and provisions. The provisions of this article of the Bylaws shall be called to the attention of each patron of the Cooperative by posting in a conspicuous place in the Cooperative's office.

The Board of Trustees shall have complete discretion and authority to determine the handling and ultimate disposition of the Cooperative's patronage sourced losses, as well as the form, priority and manner in which such losses or portions thereof shall be taken into account, retained and ultimately disposed of or recovered. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, the Board of Trustees may determine to cause any such patronage losses to be retained by the Cooperative and subsequently disposed of by any method of disposition as the Board of Trustees, in its sole discretion, shall determine from time to time to be in the Cooperative's best interest.

# operation round-up

MONTHLY UPDATE



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).

Applications reviewed.....	1044
Applications granted.....	709
Applications denied.....	321
Applications tabled.....	24
Scholarships awarded.....	\$218,000
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Total Disbursements.....	\$1,723,980
Average member contribution.....	44¢

RECIPES



## Too Much Chocolate Cake

### INGREDIENTS

- 1 (18.25 oz) package devil's food cake mix
- 1 (5.9 oz) package instant chocolate pudding mix
- 1 cup sour cream
- 1 cup vegetable oil
- 4 eggs
- 1/2 cup warm water
- 2 cups semisweet chocolate chips

### DIRECTIONS

Preheat oven to 350° F. In a large bowl, mix together the cake and pudding mixes, sour cream, oil, beaten eggs and water. Stir in the chocolate chips and pour batter into a well greased 12 cup bundt pan.

Bake for 50 to 55 minutes, or until top is springy to the touch and a wooden toothpick inserted comes out clean. Cool cake thoroughly in pan at least an hour and a half before inverting onto a plate. If desired, dust the cake with powdered sugar.

Source: [allrecipes.com](http://allrecipes.com)



## ELECTRICAL SAFETY

### TIP OF THE MONTH

When working outside, use a wooden or fiberglass ladder. Keep the ladder at least ten feet away from power lines. Never touch anyone or anything in contact with a downed wire. Power lines may be live. Stay a safe distance away.

SOURCE: NATIONAL FIRE SAFETY PROTECTION ASSOCIATION



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*

Ed Kloeckler, District 5  
 Michael Vernnon, District 4  
 Max Shoemake, District 3

Tim Smith  
*General Manager*

### PAYMENT OPTIONS

- Pay online at [www.ecoec.com](http://www.ecoec.com) using SmartHub, or download the app.
- Pay by phone using VISA, Mastercard or Discover at **866-999-4584**. Available 24 hours a day. 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-through window or lobby, Monday - Friday, 8 am to 4:30 pm.
- Pay via automatic draft of your checking or savings account. Sign up online or download the ebill form for easy automatic payments at [www.ecoec.com](http://www.ecoec.com).