



# country living

FOR MEMBERS OF EAST CENTRAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

## TOP STORY

### Speak Up, Members: It's Time For District Meetings

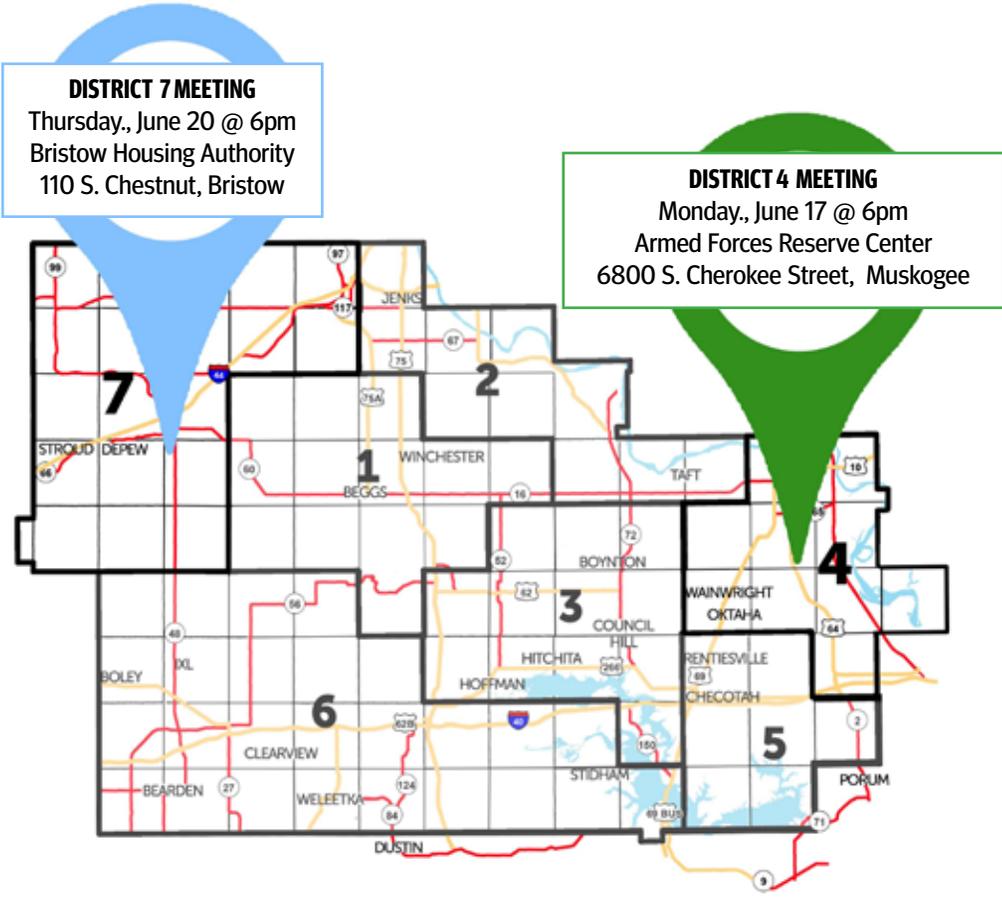
Every spring, East Central Electric (ECE) announces a series of district meetings for members, and mails an official notice to each member in the district. What's so special about these meetings?

First and foremost, the ECE district meeting is your best chance to exercise your right as an equal owner of your cooperative. During the meeting, members are invited to nominate candidates for the ECE board of trustees. To serve as trustee, a member must live in the district they represent and meet the qualifications spelled out in the ECE bylaws.

For members who want to get more involved, or who would like to learn what makes a co-op different from other companies, the district meeting is the best place to begin. The meetings provide a casual, town-hall like atmosphere where members are encouraged to ask questions and voice concerns. Not many companies encourage such open dialogue, or allow their customers to choose who runs the company. Get involved by attending! 🗳️

East Central Electric District Map

East Central Electric service territory is divided into seven voting districts. Every three years, members select a trustee from their district to represent them on the cooperative board.



 **COMING UP**



Vendor booths at the 2018 ECE Annual Meeting, above. Booth space is free. To reserve a spot for the 2019 Annual Meeting, please call **918-756-0833**.

## Annual Meeting Plans Underway

*Please be there —your vote is important!*

The East Central Electric Annual Meeting will be held on Thursday, July 25, 2019 at Covelle Hall on the campus of the OSU-Okmulgee Institute of Technology. While the meeting always draws a crowd, the co-op always encourages strong attendance at the meeting, it is especially important that you attend this year's event.

Members will vote on an important amendment to the ECE bylaws that will ensure the co-op is compliant with recent changes in federal tax laws. In order to conduct official business such as election, there must be an official quorum of five percent of ECE's total membership registered at the annual meeting. ECE needs you to be there to make sure this election can take place.

The full text of the proposed bylaw amendment is found online at [www.ecoec.com](http://www.ecoec.com). It will also be printed and distributed at the annual meeting for your review.

**Correction:** The April newsletter listed the wrong day for the ECE Annual Meeting. The correct date is **Thursday, July 25, 2019**. Sorry for the error!

 **MEET YOUR TRUSTEE**

*If you live in East Central Electric Districts 4 or 7 and plan to attend your upcoming district meeting, you'll enjoy the opportunity to visit with your elected trustee, as well as other East Central Electric directors and staff members. If you are not familiar with your trustee, the following information will help you get to know them better.*

### DISTRICT 4 TRUSTEE **MIKE VERNNON**

**M**ike Vernnon represents East Central Electric (ECE) members in District #4. Vernnon currently works as environmental health and safety manager for Dal Tile in Muskogee. Prior to that, he served 24 years in the Oklahoma Army National Guard while also working as safety and security manager at Georgia Pacific. This included deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan. While serving in the National Guard, he met and married his wife, Erin.

Vernnon was appointed to the ECE board of trustees in 2015 to fill a mid-



ECE Trustee Mike Vernnon and his wife, Erin. The Vernnon's live near Muskogee.

term vacancy. His appointment followed the standard application and interview process as outlined in the ECE bylaws.

A self-professed family man, Vernnon and his wife cherish their new granddaughter, Violet.

### DISTRICT 7 TRUSTEE **DWIGHT LUTHER**

**D**wight Luther serves as District 7 trustee on the East Central Electric (ECE) board. Retired from Oklahoma Department Of Wildlife a little over a year ago, Luther worked for the department as state game warden for 33 years. Since retiring, he stays busy working cattle and the land on his farm.

"I'm doing all the things that I needed to be doing over the years," he says.

Luther also does contract security work for Bristow Spirit Bank.

He and his wife, Patricia, enjoy spending time with their granddaughter, Reagan. Luther refers to her as "our little Grand Princess."

Luther began serving on the ECE board in August of 2004. Over the years, he has served on the boards of Bristow Social Services, the Farm Service Agency and Creek County Soil Conservation.



ECE Trustee Dwight Luther recently retired after 33 years as game warden for the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife. Luther and his wife, Patricia, live east of Bristow.

 YOUR SERVICE

## The Process Of Getting A New Electric Service

Is there a new home, cabin, or barn in your future? If so, you will need to request new electric service for your building. Many members are surprised to discover there is more to the process than simply filling out a form and paying a deposit. Your co-op team will need to draw up

a construction design and review service details with you on site to ensure the work flows smoothly and meets all necessary safety requirements. From start to finish, the process takes roughly 30 days. Questions? Please give ECE a call at **918-756-0833**.

### Step 1.

Property owner requests new electric service, provides legal description of property and other necessary details

TIME: ONE DAY.

### Step 2.

Engineering department contacts property owner to verify information, and meets them on site to review project and confirm details.

TIME: SIX TO 10 DAYS.

### Step 3.

After visiting with the property owner, ECE engineering department draws up a construction work order, and informs the property owner of any right of way easements required or additional costs or variances to construction time.

TIME: THREE TO FIVE DAYS.

### Step 4.

Property owner completes and returns membership application with fee and deposit. Engineering obtains notarized easement forms. A work order is issued after all details are confirmed.

TIME: FOUR TO SIX DAYS.

### Step 5.

Okie One Call locates all service on the property. Work order is routed to warehouse where materials are gathered and issued. Construction begins and is completed

WITHIN 10 DAYS.

 CO-OP PEOPLE


Russell Lytle, director of ecoLINK.

## New Face At ECE

Russell Lytle supervises ECE's new fiber subsidiary

Russell Lytle recently joined East Central Electric (ECE) as director of the fiber subsidiary, ecoLINK. Lytle brings more than two decades of experience in information technology (IT), telecom, and workforce management to the position.

Lytle comes to ECE from Verizon, where he spent the last 13 years managing various aspects of the company's FiOS fiber-to-the-home product, DSL, sales and service, technical support, national operations, and global workforce management. Lytle is a team builder with a track record of launching successful startups and improving processes while managing large-scale projects.

Lytle is an Eagle Scout and enjoyed being active in his former hometown of Denton, Texas. A graduate of Saint Leo University in Saint Leo, Florida, he earned a Bachelor of Science in computer information systems, and holds master certification in workforce management.

Lytle will be managing all aspects of ECE's new fiber broadband subsidiary, ecoLINK.

For questions about ecoLINK fiber services, please visit [www.ecoec.com](http://www.ecoec.com), or call **918-365-1293**.



### Please Note Our Holiday Hours

East Central Electric Cooperative (ECE) will close on **Monday, May 27, 2019**, in observation of Memorial Day. To report a power outage during this time, please call **918-756-0833**, or report your outage using Smarthub.

# 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¢



## Asparagus Side Dish

### INGREDIENTS

- 1 bunch fresh asparagus, trimmed
- 2/3 cup water
- 1/4 cup olive oil
- 1/2 cup grated Parmesan cheese
- 10 grape tomatoes, halved

### DIRECTIONS

Combine the asparagus and water in a 10 inch skillet and place over medium heat; cover.

Allow the asparagus to steam until tender, about 10 minutes; drain. Reduce heat to low and return the skillet to the heat.

Drizzle olive oil over the asparagus; sprinkle with Parmesan cheese. Add the grape tomatoes to the skillet and replace the lid. Allow to sit covered until the cheese melts and the tomatoes are slightly steamed, about 2 minutes.

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



## ELECTRICAL SAFETY TIP OF THE MONTH

When working with outdoor equipment, use lighting and tools that carry the label of an independent test laboratory such as UL, and make sure your tools are made for outdoor use.

SOURCE: NATIONAL FIRE SAFETY PROTECTION ASSOCIATION



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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).