

country living

FOR MEMBERS OF EAST CENTRAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

COVID-19 UPDATE

Adjusting To The New Normal

ECE makes changes to district and annual meetings



With more than 82 years in business, East Central Electric Cooperative (ECE) is adept at making changes to meet the needs of its members. From new services such as broadband fiber internet to improved workplace safety practices, your electric co-op knows how to adapt, and survive. With public safety on high alert, the ECE board of trustees voted in April to reschedule the ECE district meetings and the co-op annual meeting to protect the safety and well being of members and employees.

"Given the global pandemic, this action was taken to place the highest priority on the safety and health of all likely attendees," said Tim Smith, ECE general manager.

Save the Date!

ECE Members in Districts 1,3, and 6 will meet on **Tuesday, August 4.** More details to come!

Originally scheduled for June 20, meetings for Districts 1, 3 and 6 will be held on August 4. Members with accounts in these districts will receive an official meeting notice in the mail. The notice will include the date, time, and location of their meeting.

The ECE Annual Meeting, traditionally scheduled in July, will be held September 10. "Our employees are busy making all the needed plans and changes to ensure business is conducted as safely as possible," Smith added.

ECE will publish more details on the meetings as it becomes available. Please watch for updates in your ECE newsletter, website, and social media.

For more information on ECE's Covid-19 policies, please call **918-756-0833**, or visit www.ecoec.com.

GOOD NEWS!

One Million Dollars Returned to Members

In April, the East Central Electric Cooperative board of trustees approved a capital credit return of more than \$1.1 million to members.



The return of capital credits to members is a process that is unique to electric co-ops and ensures that co-ops operate on a not-for-profit basis. While investor-owned utilities return profits to shareholders, cooperatives retain a portion to cover operating costs and then share the remainder with their members. This money is allocated to each co-op member based on their annual electricity use for that fiscal year. ECE returns funds on a schedule, with members who have belonged to the co-op the longest being first in to receive their credits.

This year, members who belonged to ECE in 1987 and 2019 will receive their capital credit check in the mail. Checks will be mailed in July, so keep an eye on your mailbox. Members with less than \$10 in capital credits will receive their funds as a credit on their electric bill.

To learn more about your elected trustees, or to view a district map, please visit www.ecoec.com. To contact your trustee, please call 918-756-0833.

notes from the chair



Change Can Be A Good Thing

The The East Central Electric(ECE) board of trustees just completed our second meeting via teleconference. It is such a change from "the way we've always done it."

At the meeting, we made some decisions regarding our district and annual meetings. District meetings are rescheduled for August 4. The ECE Annual Meeting will take place on September 10, 2020. Other changes will apply, so please follow the details on the ECE website, Facebook page, or call the co-op office to stay informed.

In our face to face meetings, I can sometimes read the expressions of each participant and better understand what they are thinking. This helps in getting the most out of every respondent. We have such a good board of directors to work with, and I can assure you we are focused on serving our members to the best of our ability.

Coronavirus has certainly changed our lives, and I believe it will continue to evoke change for the rest of our lives. One thing we have learned is that we can change the way we do things, and maybe some of those changes will result in a better way of life.

East Central Electric crews and staff are focused on getting high-speed internet to your home. All are pushing on tirelessly to get you connected. Members need to go online or call the office at **918-756-0833** to register for ecoLink. We need your information.

I also want to remind you to be a part of the 2020 census count. It is extremely important—and your responsibility—to complete the census questionnaire. Further, I want to encourage you to be involved in the political

“One thing we have learned is that we can change the way we do things, and maybe some of those changes will result in a better way of life.”

process. Please be informed and vote!

I recently wrote about the town kids and the country kids. I had a cousin who lived in downtown Tulsa. He was a town kid, one year older than me, and an only child. He liked to visit me, a country boy, at the farm but would be ready to go back to town in a few days. After we grew older and started our families, I asked him to bring his family down, and we would go camping out. His reply, "Just coming to see you is like camping out to me!" ☺

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

Health Concerns Prompt Changes to Candidate Filing Process

East Central Electric is adjusting its candidate petition process due to COVID-19. Traditionally, trustee candidates are required to file their intent to run with a petition signed by 15 ECE members in their district. This year, trustee candidates will receive letters they can mail to members requesting their signature.

Members interested in running for the board should request a candidate information packet from ECE. Packets will be available the week of August 3. Packets include petition/letters from the cooperative, information on qualifications, and other details. Petition letters must be returned to ECE by 4:30 pm on August 11.

Questions? Please call **918-756-0833**. Trustee qualifications and the election process are detailed in the ECE bylaws, viewable at www.ecoec.com.

Your Member-Elected Trustees ...

1. Work to ensure ECE remains focused on the needs of its members.



2. Make decisions based on careful study and review of co-op finances and information, understanding of the electricity industry, and what's best for the majority of members.



3. Devote themselves to enhancing their knowledge of key issues and trends in the utility industry, and to understanding their roles and responsibilities as a cooperative director.



Did You Know? Your electric cooperative service area is divided into seven voting districts. Every three years, ECE members elect a trustee from their district to represent them on the co-op board of trustees.

Meet Your Electric Cooperative Trustees

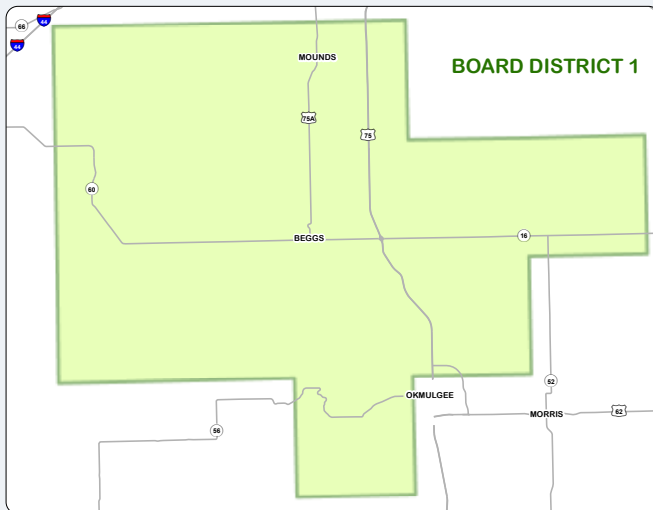
EAST CENTRAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE DISTRICTS 1, 3 AND 6

ECE DISTRICT #1

Larry Harvey currently serves as vice president of the ECE board. Harvey taught vocational agriculture at Beggs School for many years. Today, he and his wife, Helen, raise cattle on their family land northwest of Beggs. Harvey is active in the Lion's Club, Masonic Lodge, the Crossroads Baptist Church, and the FFA Foundation.



Larry Harvey



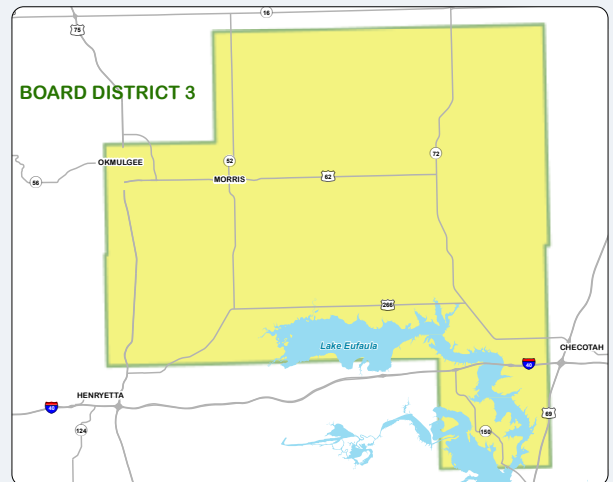
ECE DISTRICT #3



Max Shoemake

Max Shoemake represents ECE members in District 3. Shoemake and his wife, Phyllis, live north of Morris where they raise beef cattle. A member of the board since 2003, Shoemake served as secretary-treasurer for several years, and currently serves as ECE's representative on the Western Farmers Electric Cooperative board

of trustees. Shoemake is active in the local Lion's Club and the Trinity Baptist Church.

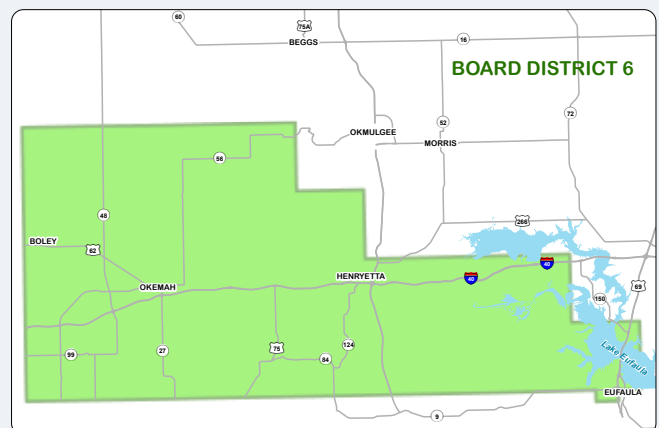


ECE DISTRICT #6



Jim Hall

Jim Hall currently serves as assistant secretary treasurer of the ECE board. Hall also works as an agent for the Oklahoma Farm Bureau and raises stocker cattle. A resident of Nuyaka, Hall currently serves on the boards of the Okmulgee Chamber of Commerce, Stonebridge Academy, Okmulgee Area Development Corporation, and the Okmulgee Education Foundation.



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.

Applications reviewed.....	1,563
Applications granted.....	784
Applications denied.....	344
Applications tabled.....	28
Scholarships awarded.....	\$265,500
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Total Disbursements.....	\$1,910,412.84
Average member contribution.....	48¢

RECIPES



Strawberry Angel Food Dessert

INGREDIENTS

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| 1 (10 inch) angel food cake | 1 (8 oz) container frozen whipped topping, thawed |
| 2 (8 oz) pkgs. cream cheese, softened | 1 quart fresh strawberries, sliced |
| 1 cup white sugar | 1 (18 oz) jar strawberry glaze |

DIRECTIONS

Crumble the cake into a 9x13 inch dish.

Beat the cream cheese and sugar in a medium bowl until light and fluffy. Fold in whipped topping. Mash the cake down with your hands and spread the cream cheese mixture over the cake.

In a bowl, combine strawberries and glaze until strawberries are evenly coated. Spread over cream cheese layer. Chill until serving.

Source: allrecipes.com



ELECTRICAL SAFETY TIP OF THE MONTH

Do you live near a lake or other body of water? Electricity and water do not mix. Dock electrical systems should be installed, and then inspected annually, and should include ground fault (GFCI) protection.

SOURCE: SAFEELECTRICITY.ORG



East Central
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

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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 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-thru/night drop window Monday - Friday from 9 am to 3:30 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.