



2 Teens Chosen For Youth Tour



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4 Beer Batter Fried Fish

country living

For members of East Central Electric Cooperative



PHOTO/BILLIE BEEN, ECE.

LEADERSHIP

Long Life of Co-op Values

Trustee Ed Kloeckler believes in ECE's mission

Serving for 23 years on the East Central Electric Cooperative (ECE) board, Ed Kloeckler admits to witnessing a few changes in the electric co-op business. The advent of solar power, the possibility of electric vehicles and broadband Internet service, to name a few.

But most important to Kloeckler is what hasn't changed. "We're still doing what we did when the co-op first started," Kloeckler

"Our number one priority is to focus on providing affordable and reliable power. It's what made us what we are."

says. "Our number one priority is to focus on providing affordable and reliable power. It's what made us what we are."

As new energy technologies bring more options and opportunities to co-op members, Kloeckler believes East Central Electric will continue to play a vital role as a trusted energy resource and reliable service provider.

"We want to be our member's complete energy provider," he said. "Whether it's solar panels or ground source heat pumps or plug-in stations for electric cars, we want

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CO-OP YOUTH

ECE Picks Six!

Local students win a spot on the Youth Tour



East Central Electric Cooperative has a habit of picking winners. The co-op's annual Youth Tour competition requires local students to combine creativity and smarts as they vie for a position on the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour. Open to high school juniors from 32 local schools, the students selected for the tour are young leaders in the making.

This year, East Central Electric's "pick six" are:

- Kylie Atwell, Liberty High School
- Caleb Coburn, Home School
- Carter Hobbs, Haskell High School
- Sabriah Hoover, Haskell High School
- Joshua Mills, Coweta High School
- Rylie Theolar, Depew High School

The high school juniors will travel to Washington, D.C. on June 9 for a week of non-stop site seeing at historic monuments,

museums, and cultural attractions. The teens will also participate in a question and answer session with Oklahoma's congressional representatives and staff.

Youth Tour is one of the largest youth gatherings to converge on Washington D.C. East Central Electric winners will tour the city with other Oklahoma Youth Tour teens, but will have the opportunity to meet students from other states.

"These shared experiences forge lifelong friendships among our Youth Tour winners," said Billie Been, East Central Electric Youth Tour coordinator. "This is a trip they will never forget and we are proud to provide them with the opportunity."

For more information on the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour, please visit www.ecoec.com, www.oaec.coop, or call your cooperative at **918-756-0833**.

Holiday Closing

East Central Electric Cooperative will close on May 28 to honor Memorial Day. To report a power outage during this time, please call **918-756-0833**.

Have a safe holiday!

Electrical Safety #1

May is National Electrical Safety Month, which reminds consumers nationwide to be mindful of common electrical hazards. At East Central Electric, electrical safety is our number one priority all year round. From employee policies and member services, to right of way maintenance and management, we put safety first.

Find out about our free safety programs for the public, free safety curriculum for classrooms, home surge protection, and more at www.ecoec.com or call at **918-756-0833**.

■ TELL US ABOUT IT

We appreciate suggestions or comments that will help us improve services to our members. Please give us a call at **918-756-0833**.

COMING UP:

District Meetings Scheduled in June

East Central Electric service territory is divided into seven voting districts. Members in each district meet every three years to elect a trustee to represent them on the co-op board.

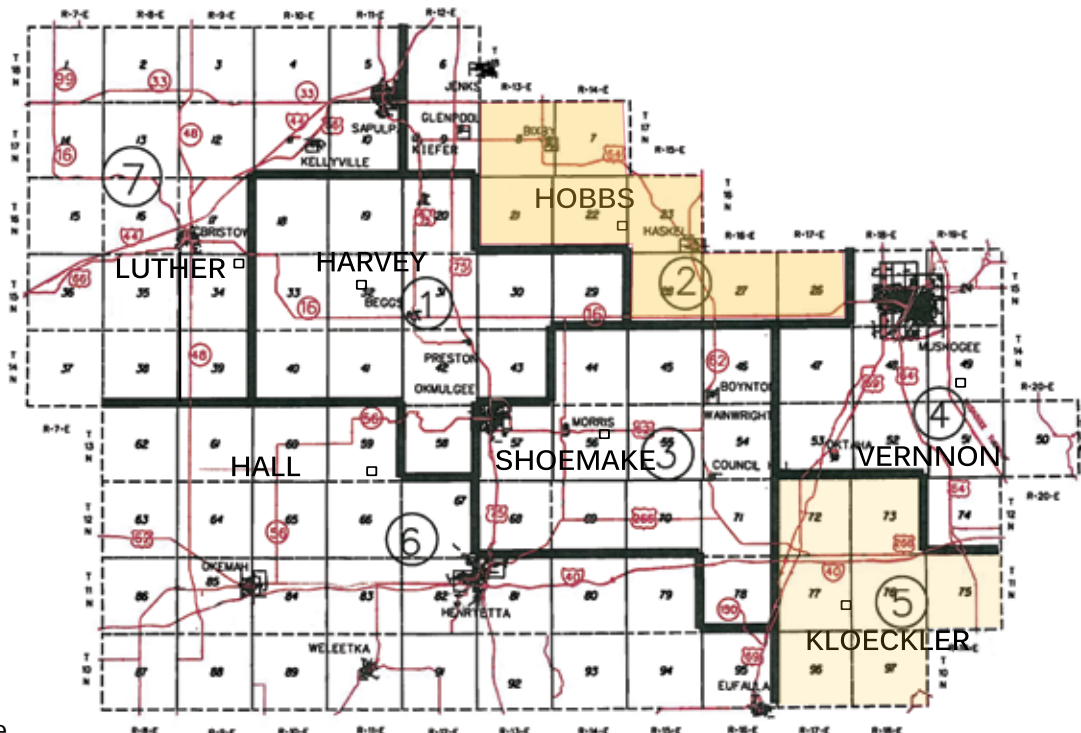
Members in Districts 2 and 5 will meet on the following dates:

■ DISTRICT 5

Thursday, June 14, 2018 • 6:30 pm
 Checotah High School Ag Bldg
 491 Paul Carr Drive, Checotah
 (Signs will be posted.)

■ DISTRICT 2

Monday, June 18, 2018 • 6:30 pm
 ECE, 2001 S. Wood Drive, Okmulgee



LEADERSHIP

Leading Through Change

Trustee Lowell Hobbs says co-op teamwork makes the difference



PHOTO/BILLIE BEEN, ECE.

Lowell Hobbs will tell you straight up he's no part-timer. When he isn't working cattle on his ranch near Haskell, he's busy representing electric co-op members in East Central Electric (ECE) District 2.

"I'm full time involved," Hobbs admits.

As ECE trustee for 14 years and president of the ECE board for the past seven, Hobbs said the work is challenging at times, but it pays off in job satisfaction. "This is the most rewarding organization I've been involved with," he said. "The work we

do and the services we provide make a real difference in our members' quality of life."

Hobbs is quick to praise fellow trustees, employees, and staff for their part in building a cohesive co-op that focuses on the future. "With our leadership and management, we're constantly reaching for new technologies that allow us to offer better and improved services," he added.

As energy efficiency measures curb the nationwide demand for power, electric co-ops are looking at new revenue streams that will also complement their member's needs. ECE is currently researching the

potential of offering fiber broadband service to members. Electric vehicle charging stations are another possibility.

Running fiber to rural homes is a monumental task, Hobbs admits, but no less daunting than bringing electricity to rural areas. "Back then we stepped out and did what others thought was impossible. There's no reason why we need to stub our toe over a similar challenge now," he said.

ideas that will enhance their member's quality of life.

the flickering light of coal oil lanterns, the advancements made possible today through co-op ingenuity and advanced technology are astounding.

"To go from traveling by horse and buggy to going anywhere using your phone, well, it's been an exciting trip," Hobbs exclaims.

Through it all ECE manages to own and maintain over 6,300 miles of electric line yet deliver power at rates lower than most co-ops. Keeping them affordable is a job the board takes seriously, Hobbs pointed out. Meanwhile, ECE strives to educate members about energy efficiency. "We're the only industry that works hard to teach its customers how to use less of its product," Hobbs said.

That's the co-op difference—and it's working. "What we do is amazing when you think about it, and it's a tribute to our crew," he said. "Everyone at East Central is a strong employee and our members reap the benefits." ☺

Trustee Ed Kloeckler

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to be the one source our members can turn to for help and information on these things."

It's not unlike the early years when co-op employees helped members learn how to operate their first electric stove. Oftentimes, the co-op helped install it, too.

"I see all of this as pretty similar to what we've always done, which is to serve our members," said Kloeckler.

As ECE trustees weigh the benefits and risks of installing electric vehicle charging stations or providing fiber-based broadband service to members, they find themselves faced with decisions that require a great deal of consideration,

research, and learning. "Being a trustee takes a lot more time now than it used to," Kloeckler admits. "We have a lot more going on and we have to be informed about it to make the best decisions."

When he isn't working for members in ECE District 5, Kloeckler and his son, John, raise grass and Angus cattle on the family ranch south of Checotah. Kloeckler and his wife, Betty, will celebrate 48 years of marriage this year. "It's what I'm most proud of in my life" he says. "She'd probably get rid of me, but I don't have much trade-in value." ☺

Find details on trustee qualifications, elections and more in your ECE bylaws. Bylaws are available at www.eceoc.com or call 918-756-0833.

Shade this area

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.....	961
Applications granted.....	661
Applications denied.....	286
Applications tabled.....	19
Scholarships awarded.....	\$218,000
Total Disbursements.....	\$1,563,497.80
Average member contribution.....	44¢



ELECTRICAL SAFETY TIP OF THE MONTH

Assume all overhead wires are energized at lethal voltages. Never assume a wire is safe to touch, even if it is down or appears to be insulated.

SOURCE: OSHA

RECIPES



Beer Batter Fried Fish

INGREDIENTS

3 eggs	2 tablespoons cornstarch
¾ cup beer	salt and pepper to taste
1 ½ cups milk	⅛ teaspoon garlic powder
4 cups pastry flour	1 ½ pounds fish
1 tablespoon baking powder	2 quarts vegetable oil for frying
½ teaspoon baking soda	

DIRECTIONS

In a medium bowl, stir together flour, baking powder, baking soda, and cornstarch. In a large bowl, beat together eggs and milk. Mix in beer. Stir in flour mixture. Season with salt, black pepper, and garlic powder.

In an electric deep fryer or a heavy saucepan, heat oil to 375°F. Coat fish in batter, and submerge in hot oil. Fry until golden brown, about 4 to 5 minutes. Serve.

Source: allrecipes.com



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OFFICE HOURS:

Monday-Friday, 8 am - 4:30 pm.

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(918) 756-0833

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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-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.

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