

FEBRUARY 2024

country living

FOR MEMBERS OF EAST CENTRAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE



picture you in

D.C.

2 *Our Part in the World*

3 *Our Next Level Team*

4 *Snow Ice Cream*

Apply Today for Youth Tour & Energy Camp

Applications are open until March 1st for 8th Grade and 11th Grade students who enjoy once-in-a-lifetime leadership experiences.

8th Graders could win a four-day, action-packed adventure at Energy Camp. Students develop leadership and teamwork skills while learning about Cooperatives, electrical safety, and future careers in energy.

11th Graders could win an all-encompassing trip to Washington D.C. to see heartbreaking memorials, walk the halls of Congress, and speak to elected officials.

To learn more about these wonderful opportunities and apply, visit ecoec.com/youth-power.



Piper Nix of Beggs and Faith Blackwell of Checotah were two of the six students East Central Electric Cooperative sponsored to attend Youth Tour in 2023. Here the ladies are pictured at the Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool with the Washington Monument faded in the background.



Lowell Hobbs, District 2
President

Larry Harvey, District 1
Vice President

Dwight Luther, District 7
Secretary / Treasurer

Jim Hall, District 6
Assistant Sec. / Treasurer

Max Shoemake, District 3

Michael Vernnon, District 4

Jay Emerson, District 5

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

A new report that analyzes economic data for the 5 year period 2018 through 2022 at the national, state and local levels shows electric cooperatives created more than \$1.1 trillion in total sales output and contributed \$554 billion to U.S. gross domestic products. Cooperatives also provided nearly 623,000 jobs annually and \$257 billion in labor income over the 5 year period.

We're seeing electric cooperatives expand their community investments and foster opportunities beyond traditional poles and wires—from creating business incubators to building broadband networks and attracting new employers.

East Central Electric is a distribution co-op with approximately 6,500 miles of line with an average of 18 poles per mile equaling 117,000 poles and 37,000 meters. ECE buys 90% of our power from KAMO, a transmission cooperative that serves co-ops in Kansas, Arkansas, Missouri, and other co-ops in Oklahoma. KAMO buys power from Associated Electric Co-op, a generating cooperative headquartered in Springfield, MO.

Co-ops (in addition to KAMO) buy from Associated and Associated can sell their surplus production into a grid. The grid is connected across the U.S. so when we have the ability to over produce co-op needs, others buy our excess. Also East Central buys about 10% of our power needs from Western Farmers Electric Cooperative. They are a generating and transmission co-op located in Anadarko, Oklahoma.

As a member/owner of East Central Electric Cooperative you are also part owners of KAMO, Associated, and Western Farmers Electric co-ops.

I share all these many facts so you will get a glimpse of the electric world and see our part in it. You are part of a huge industry that is mighty important.

The Board of Directors of East Central are continually taking training classes and learning to better provide your needs. ECE is not a little rural co-op but one with a mighty reach, and you are part of it. The ECE Board members are some of the finest individuals I have ever worked with. They are true professionals who fully grasp and understand our commitment to serve our members.

A few years ago while Nick and I were enroute to Bixby to buy some repair material, I got a phone call from Eddy Rice, Okmulgee County Sheriff, reporting the theft of 14 steers, approximately 600-700 pounds, various colors from the Morris area. I relayed to him that we would keep alert and call if we learned anything. While in Bixby getting our few repairs, we elected to eat lunch while there. As we returned to the ranch, we met a pickup pulling a stock trailer with what I determined to be the 14 steers described earlier headed toward Bixby. After we safely turned around to follow, I called Eddy telling him we were following a trailer with the suspected stolen steers. He switched me by phone to Bixby police. I heard you are in pursuit of some stolen cattle. I replied "I don't

know if they are stolen but they match the description I had been offered."

I promised to keep the caller informed of our location and that we could not see the tag or a description of the pickup of who was in it. As we proceeded to the Arkansas River bridge an OHP car was alongside the pickup and trailer. I told dispatch of the OHP location—that did not seem to impress him. Finally as we were approaching McDonald's at 121st and Memorial, dispatch reported that Bixby Police cars were behind me and for me to pull into McDonald's out of the way. They would take it from here.

Nick and I couldn't see on up Memorial so we moved over to the parking lot where QuikTrip is now and watched as two police cars stopped the pickup and trailer, got two men out, handcuffed them and had them lay on the grass just south of Colonel Sanders' Fried Chicken Place. Before long the officers stood the two men up and let them enter their pickup and drive away. One of the police officers pulled up to my vehicle and reported they were not thieves.

Soon Eddy called me and said "You caught the victims! He had 28 steers and he was moving the remaining 14 to a safer location. They are not happy about this." My feeling of accomplishment ended rather abruptly!

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

Meet Our Next Level Team: Fleet, Metering, & Warehouse Departments

For every public-facing function of the Cooperative, there are also people working behind the scenes to ensure the trucks stay running, the meters keep reading, and the flow of supplies keeps pace with the demand of jobs that need to get done. Our fleet, metering, and warehouse departments are a crucial first step in accomplishing all the work we do.

The Mechanical Magicians



Each year, co-op employees drive close to a million miles in service of co-op members. Keeping our 50+ vehicle fleet roadworthy and safe requires dedication and vigilance. Our Fleet Department manages repairs both in-house and with outside vendors, as well as buying and selling to rotate well-worn vehicles out of the fleet. The Fleet Management Supervisor is also responsible for coordinating safety inspections with the Department of Transportation and working with our Generation and Transmission Cooperatives to ensure radios remain in working order.

The Meter Maestros

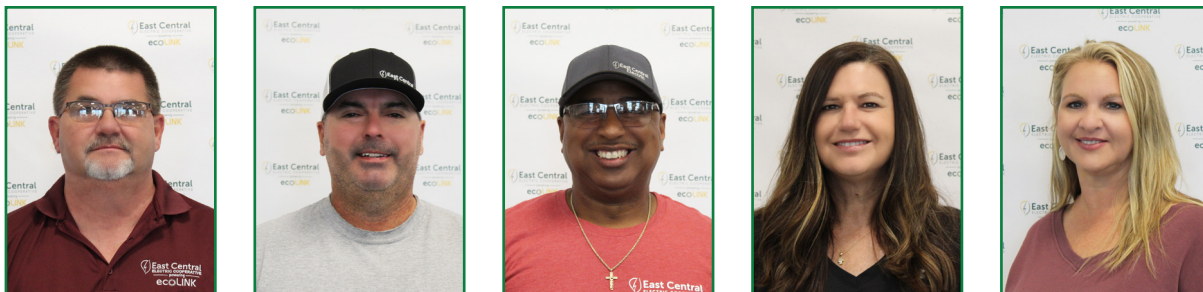


Our Meter Technicians are responsible for the supply and accuracy testing of all 37,000 meters on our co-op's distribution system. When a new meter needs to be set, or there is a change-out request, these men are on the job. Beyond the meter, these men are also responsible for programming and maintenance of other important equipment on the line, including reclosers and substation breakers. Ensuring reliability and accuracy is what they do.

“I find my job very challenging and rewarding. I take pride in knowing that keeping our fleet going is a key aspect in serving our members.”

- WILL DUVALL, FLEET MANAGEMENT SUPERVISOR

The Warehouse Warriors

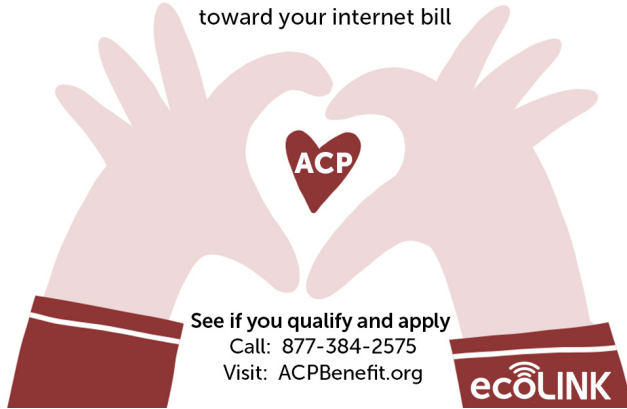


At first glance, a utility pole may just look like wood and wires. But when you stop to consider all the equipment that goes into stringing two poles together, the co-op's 6,500 miles of electric line starts to look like an engineering marvel. The daily maintenance of that marvel requires daily effort in purchasing, shipping and receiving, preparing materials for work orders, assigning materials to crews and contractors, completing work order paperwork, and maintaining and inventory of supplies. Our Materials and Purchasing Superintendent also maintains relationships with vendors to ensure our co-op gets fair pricing and quick turn-arounds on necessary equipment. The diligence of our Warehouse Department is essentially for completing every other job we need to do.

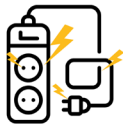
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ELECTRICAL SAFETY TIP OF THE MONTH

Although beautiful to look at, releasing balloons into the air can quickly turn from touching sentiment to serious hazard. Balloons can cause power outages and equipment damage in addition to plastic pollution. Some safe alternatives include: blowing bubbles, lighting candles, throwing biodegradable confetti, planting trees, or painting stones.

SOURCE: SAFEELECTRICITY.ORG



Snow Ice Cream

INGREDIENTS

- 8-12 cups of fresh, new-fallen snow
- 1 (10 oz.) can of sweetened condensed milk
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- 1/4 cup sugar

DIRECTIONS

Gather freshly fallen snow into a large salad bowl. Don't worry about precision, you can always add more snow later. Scoop about half into a smaller mixing bowl. In the smaller bowl, mix in vanilla, sugar, and half can of milk. Stir until fully combined. Transfer contents back into larger bowl with remaining snow and mix, stirring in the remaining milk.

SOURCE: ECE EMPLOYEE SUBMISSION

\$ 1,000

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