

JUNE 2024

country living

FOR MEMBERS OF EAST CENTRAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE



Imagine an electric utility that responds to the needs of it's consumers ...

2 Accountability

3 Meet Our Next Level Team

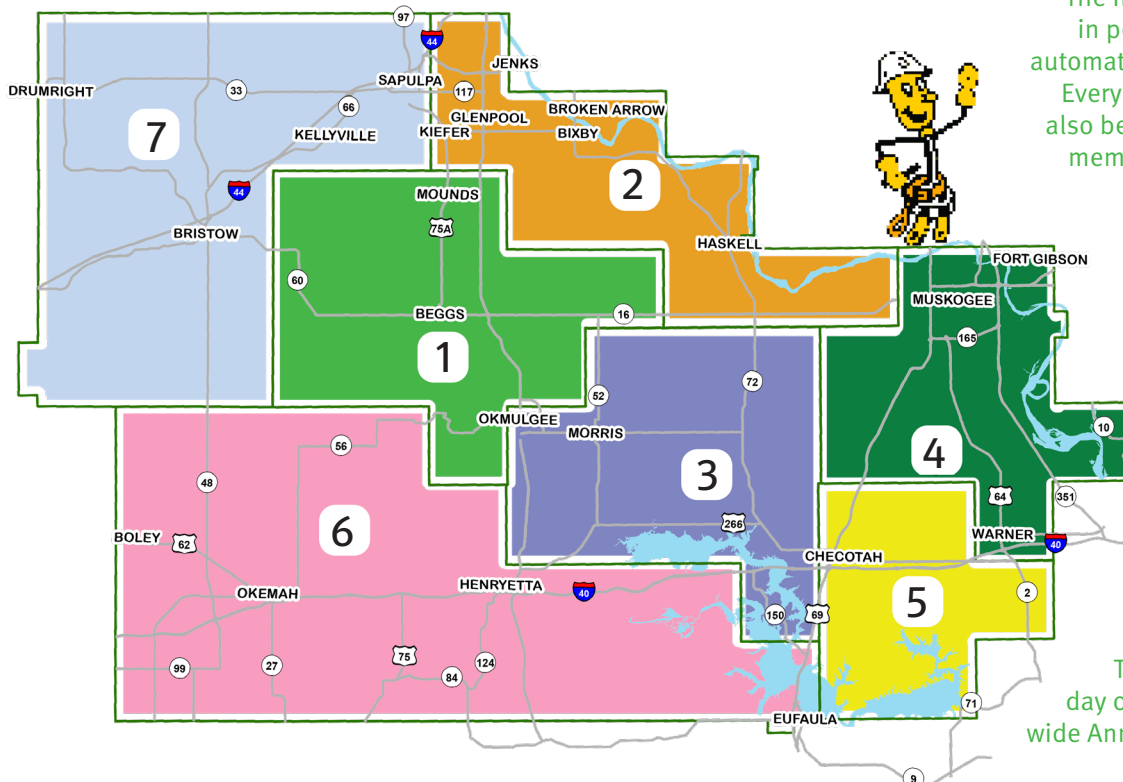
4 Apricot Nectar Cake

Oh Wait! You don't have to imagine, because you're a member of the Next Level East Central Oklahoma Electric Cooperative!

Our co-op holds District Meetings each year before Annual Meeting to give members the opportunity to learn about how their co-op is performing, to ask questions, and to meet their elected board members and co-op employees.

This year we will hold District Meetings for:

Board Districts 2 & 5



INFORMATION & PRIZES

When:
Tuesday, June 11 - 6:30 p.m.

Where:
East Central Oklahoma
Electric Cooperative
Multipurpose Center
2001 S. Wood Drive, Okmulgee

District Prizes:
The first 50 members who register in person for each district will automatically receive a \$10 bill credit. Every member in attendance will also be entered into a drawing with members from their district for:

- 1 - \$100 Bill Credit
- 1 - Three free months of 1GB ecoLINK service
- 2 - Gifts valued at \$50
- 3 - One free month of 1GB ecoLINK service

Official Notices:
If you live in Districts 2 or 5, look for your Official Notice in the mail the week of May 27th.

Save the Date:
This all leads up to our favorite day of the year. Join us for our co-op wide Annual Meeting, Thursday July 25.

notes from the chair

Accountability

By Lowell Hobbs, President, East Central Electric Cooperative Board of Trustees

If you recall from last month's magazine, there will be a bylaw change on the ballot at this year's Annual Meeting on July 25. As a co-op board, we're hoping you'll vote in favor of our attempt to strengthen the qualifications to serve on the Board of Trustees. I left you on a bit of a cliffhanger because I wanted to take some time on the third thing this bylaw change is going to do. We're introducing a clause that will allow the Board of Trustees to remove an individual from the board if they fail to meet all the qualifications.

This would help us keep each other accountable by making sure we're all still living on co-op lines, keeping our noses clean with the law, standing by co-op policies, and not dividing our loyalties with other public offices or competing businesses. As a board, we would have the responsibility and authority to remove Trustees who are non-compliant by a majority vote of the other Trustees. As a co-op board we're elected to serve the interests of our members. The proposed bylaw change keeps us and future board members obliged to do just that.

Back to my Kerr McGee days. In my efforts to sell enough fertilizer and

chemicals at enough margin to merit a new flat storage fertilizer facility, I was approached by a Kerr-McGee wholesale customer, Andy, to ship him fertilizer in rail cars (100 tons each). This was in a period where farm supplies had become hard to purchase, and since our Haskell location was in bad shape for mixing the 'straight' materials, we were permitted by the company to sell fertilizer without blending it (which fit the rail car business perfectly). In Andy's attempt to buy from me, he offered phone numbers for his business partner, banker, mother, secretary, wife and girlfriend. He was an anxious purchaser.

K-M wholesale called K-M retail and complained why Haskell could sell product to their wholesalers. Consequently my bosses learned of my dealings and ordered me to cease and desist at once. I had several car loads in transit. One 100 ton car load of ammonium nitrate had been shipped to Empire, AL. Andy reported to me it was wet and they were unable to unload it. I eventually called the railroad agent and instructed him to send it to Haskell so we could get in the car and shovel it out. He advised me to file a claim on it and let the

railroad pay for damaged material. I had sold it to Andy at \$140.00/ton, so \$14,000 was my claim. The railroad agent said they couldn't pay because it had already been paid to Andy's group. Since Andy had quit taking calls from me, I told his partner to have Andy answer the phone the next day at 10am. I would be calling, and I did!

I soon got a check in the mail from Andy for \$10,000 marked 'paid in full.' I told him I was through playing games. I had learned he received his money for the fertilizer by bank draft the day he sold it. He told me to return his \$10,000 check and he would send another for the \$14,000. I said no—be sure the \$10,000 check will clear and wire transfer the \$4,000 balance to my bank by the time the bank opens tomorrow. I further told him I was not very big, but I am going to make a big scene in St. Louis—your partner, banker, mother, secretary, wife, and girlfriend are all going to get acquainted. Nedra called me the next morning before the bank opened and said the \$4,000 wire had arrived.

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

Lowell Hobbs, District 2
President

Larry Harvey, District 1
Vice President

Dwight Luther, District 7
Secretary / Treasurer

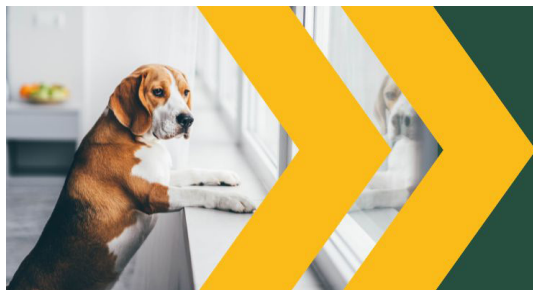
Jim Hall, District 6
Assistant Sec. / Treasurer

Max Shoemake, District 3

Michael Vernnon, District 4

Jay Emerson, District 5

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.



WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?

ecoLINK is available to YOU!

Call to subscribe **(918) 756-0833**

Meet Our Next Level Team: ecoLINK Operations, Support, and Marketing

For a service that make the world easier to navigate, everything that goes into providing internet in the home can be complicated and technical. The ecoLINK team at East Central Electric Cooperative is committed to ensuring that our internet subscribers obtain the best broadband experience possible.

The Connection Creatives



“The most rewarding thing for me is knowing I get to be part of a place that made it possible for the rural areas to have access to such an amazing service, to provide a steady income or education for their families.”

- JANA FOWLER, SUBSCRIBER SUPPORT REPRESENTATIVE

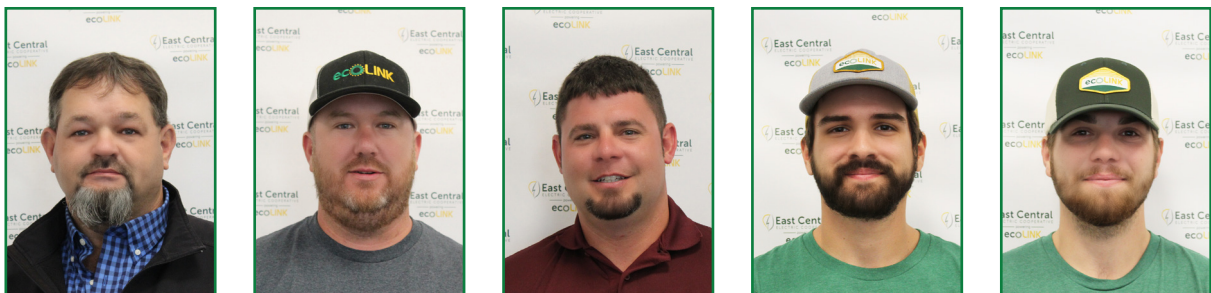
The Subscriber Support Superheroes

Our fiber subsidiary is about more than connecting our co-op members to the internet. We are also connecting members to each other, to the communities they live in, and back to the co-op itself. Our ecoLINK Sales & Marketing professionals are focused on the subscriber experience from the moment they learn ecoLINK internet is available to them, to continued satisfaction with their service long after it is installed. This team manages all forms of subscriber communication, from emails, to advertising, to social media, and face-to-face interaction. Their goal is to help subscribers feel informed about their service and the options that are available.



As a co-op member and ecoLINK subscriber, you deserve service that exceeds expectations. Our subscriber support representatives rise to that challenge each day as they help members navigate technical issues and answer questions. They make the customer service experience as smooth and satisfying as streaming your favorite shows over ecoLINK internet—no buffering or frustration. No apathetic call center drones here. Just good local folks whose timely and effective assistance ensure every subscriber feels valued and supported.

The Bandwidth Battalion



Our Field Operations Manager and Fiber Technicians are responsible for all the technical work that goes in to bringing fiber internet to our subscribers homes and businesses. The Fiber Technicians are the warm and friendly face of our fiber subsidiary. They install ecoLINK fiber equipment at the subscriber premise, provide initial on-boarding information for new subscribers, and swoop in to save the day when subscribers experience internet problems. Our Field Operations Manager also works with our contractors to plan new fiber build-outs and audit the system to ensure we continue to provide excellent service.



ELECTRICAL SAFETY TIP OF THE MONTH

We know Dads love to fix things, but dads (and everyone else for that matter) should “hire out when in doubt.” Make safety priority number one this Father’s Day, and every day. Your family will thank you for it.

SOURCE: SAFELECTRICITY.ORG



2024 Co-op Calendar

**Districts 2 & 5
District Meeting
June 11, 2024**

**Drive-Thru/In-Person
Annual Meeting
July 25, 2024**

Bylaws modifications will be presented for approval to the members of East Central Oklahoma Electric Cooperative, Inc. at the Annual Meeting scheduled for July 25, 2024. These modifications are recommended by the East Central Board of Trustees to update Article IV, Section 3 of the current Bylaws, **Trustee Qualifications.**

Learn More:
ecoec.com/proposed-bylaw-change



Apricot Nectar Cake

INGREDIENTS

1 box lemon cake mix	Icing:
1 C. apricot juice or nectar	1 C. powdered sugar
3/4 C. sugar	Juice of 1 Lemon
3/4 C. oil	
4 eggs	

DIRECTIONS

Combine cake mix, oil, sugar and juice. Add eggs, one at a time, beating well after each addition. Pour into greased and floured 9x13 or bundt pan. Bake at 350° for about an hour. Combine powdered sugar and lemon juice and pour over cake while still hot.

SOURCE: ECE 85TH ANNIVERSARY COOKBOOK



East Central
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

PO Box 1178
2001 S. Wood Drive
Okmulgee, Oklahoma 74447-1178
(918) 756-0833
www.ecoec.com



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

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