

AUGUST 2026

country living

FOR MEMBERS OF EAST CENTRAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

MY CO-OP IS

...



Powered By Member Voices.

Election Results, Prize Winners, and Annual Report

notes from the chair

Showing Up

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

Clark Whitaker, District 1

Lowell Hobbs, District 2

James Allred, District 3

Michael Vernnon, District 4

Jay Emerson, District 5

Jim Hall, District 6

Dwight Luther, District 7

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.

Our annual meeting requires a quorum to conduct business such as election of directors. As the closing time for voting drew near, we were closely monitoring the total count, and with only single digit minutes left the required number was registered in, so the total number was sufficient. We had 8 candidates vying for 3 board seats. Strangely the votes cast were relatively close for each candidate. Clark Whitaker had the most votes in District 1. James Allred won in District 3, and incumbent Jim Hall was the winner in District 6. There were no landslide victories. The 2 new board members will be welcomed at the July Board meeting, and we will get down to business.

In last month's article I wrote about the importance of the cell phone in our lives. When TV first came along, people said it would ruin the lives of many. I don't remember any one saying negative things about the cell phone, but in my opinion it damages more relationships than TV. Television only distracted when you were mostly sitting at home. The cell phone distracts you wherever you are...at home, in the car, at the office, cafe, church, etc. I think it's very rude to talk on the phone when you have the company of a real live person.

During my high school days a lady and her husband owned a farm and a commercial business. She ran it all. We used to talk about the good deal

he had—she ran the business and the cattle operation. She was fond of me and trusted me to groom and show her fine shorthorn cattle at the county and state fairs. That put me in a position to be familiar with her and her husband. He grew tired of her management and filed for divorce. Those of us who knew how little he provided to the marriage, laughed openly about what we predicted would happen. Strangely the judge ruled for her to pay him alimony and continue living at home with no mention of him providing any of the living expenses—Go figure.

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

Thank You Annual Meeting Sponsors

Arkansas Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Campbell's Terminating LLC

Finley Engineering Co.

KAMO Power

MidAmerica Line Solutions

Western Farmers Electric Cooperative

Irby Utilities

Whitaker, Allred Win Board Seats



DISTRICT 1 CANDIDATES CLARK WHITAKER, LEFT, AND CRAIG ALPERS, RIGHT, POSE WITH NRECA MASCOT WILLIE WIREDHAND.



DISTRICT 3 BOARD MEMBER JAMES ALLRED (LEFT) AND DISTRICT 6 BOARD MEMBER JIM HALL (RIGHT) ALSO POSE WITH WILLIE WIREDHAND.



Despite a slow and rain-soaked start to Annual Meeting on June 24, East Central Electric Cooperative Members turned out to exercise their vote in the cooperative's future.

The 5% of membership required to meet quorum and conduct business was achieved with 1,376 members registered between the drive-thru and in-person events.

Incumbent Jim Hall retained his seat representing District 6. James Allred of Morris won the open seat for District 3 and Clark Whitaker of Twin Hills won the open seat for District 1.

Allred is a financial advisor with Edward Jones and a rancher.

"Formerly I ran a construction company that specialized in concrete structures such as saferooms, slabs, and foundations. I have a bachelor's degree in civil engineering and an associates degree in surveying, and I currently work in the finance industry with licenses and registration on the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) and NASDAQ."

Allred has served on the Morris Public Schools Board; the FSA Board; as the Muscogee (Creek) Nation NRCS Commissioner; as the Oklahoma Association of Conservation District (OACD) District 3 Representative, and on the Okmulgee County Cattleman's Association.

"As demand for power increases and our community continues to grow and technology increases, I believe that it is important that we are able to prepare for the future by continuing to keep up with trends that are appropriate for our community," Allred said, regarding his vision for the future of the Cooperative. "With this in mind, ECE will need to be able to keep pace while continuing to provide the excellent service that their community has grown accustomed to."

Whitaker is a retired journeyman lineman and business owner.

"Having worked in line work since 1983, I understand the importance of affordable, dependable service, safety, and decision-making," Whitaker said. "I want to use my experience to help support the cooperative, represent the members fairly, and make decisions that benefit the future of the communities we serve."

"As technology changes and demands increase, I believe ECE can invest in dependable electric service, maintain good safety standards, and provide excellent member service. ECE should continue to focus on decisions that protect reliability while planning for future growth with solar, wind, and renewable energy," Whitaker said.

Hall thanked members for their vote of confidence in allowing him to continue to serve as the board member for District 6.

Election Results

District 1:

Clark Whitaker - 658 Votes

Craig Alpers - 433 votes

District 3:

James Allred - 362

John Porter - 298

Adam Hamilton - 241

Jeremy Wade - 222

District 6:

Jim Hall - 680

Steve Emerson - 442

"I have always been an advocate for rural Oklahoma, it's where I am from. I still live on the same farm that I grew up on and am also a second generation East Central member. The rural electric cooperative story inspired me to get on the board 11 years ago. I worked diligently to put our members first ever since."

The first board meeting for the newly elected members was July 24, 2026.

Annual Meeting Prize Winners

Thank you for participating in your 2026 Annual Meeting. Congratulations to our prize winners!

Grand Prize \$1,000:

Jason Steele, Eufaula

\$500:

Nathan Whitlock, Okmulgee

Delana Carter, Bristow

One Year of 1GB ecoLINK:

Tiffany Lee, Morris

Joe May, Boynton

Glenda Dixon, Morris

Three Months of 1GB ecoLINK:

Don Long, Council Hill

Kyle Brannon, Mounds

Jimmy Moore, Depew

Helen Maine, Boynton

One Month of 1GB ecoLINK:

Kenny Charles, Mounds

Trisha Bailey, Morris

Bill Tanner, Okemah

Mara Lewis, Beggs

Jay Price, Muskogee

Ronald Root, Kellyville

Carrie Stephenson, Okmulgee

Allene Starr, Okmulgee

Keith Russell, Okemah

Casey Davidson, Bristow

\$100:

Henderson Truss Co., Eufaula

Samantha Petersen, Okmulgee

William Syme, Eufaula

Jody Phillips, Mounds

Virgil Smith, Okmulgee

Paul Pryor, Morris

Zach Ledbetter, Morris

Sheila Chambers, Muskogee

P&I Oil & Gas LLC, Okemah

Tammy Fisher, Henryetta

Tom Hoggatt, Beggs

Justin Nix, Glenpool

Jennifer Hughes, Muskogee



Ron Casselman, Morris
 Sylvia Sterling, Muskogee
 Bret Green, Morris
 Bob Finley, Morris
 Fred Davis, Henryetta
 Bob Blackley, Beggs
 June Williams, Henryetta
 Katherine Willie, Morris
 Bobby Cossey, Morris
 Jeff Showalter, Mounds
 Cornerstone Solutions LTD, Okemah
 Lu Stobaugh, Muskogee
 Dallas Ewton, Morris
 Steve Ward, Morris
 Jerry House, Henryetta
 Dylan Harris, Oktaha
 Jennifer Morgan, Bristow
 Kathy Goodwin, Kellyville
 Tony Wright, Henryetta
 Mark Madlock, Okemah
 Jennifer Hopson, Okmulgee
 Jazete Adams, Okemah
 Kerry Sheffer, Eufaula
 Little Cussetah Church, Okmulgee
 Brandon Flager, Checotah
 Steve Shrum, Council Hill
 Dean Jones, Depew
 Danny Potter, Okmulgee
 Terry Witham, Okemah
 Roger Ennis, Schulter
 Timothy Williams, Henryetta



Scott Fetgatter, Okmulgee
 Tommy Sandridge, Morris
 John Alley, Muskogee
 Dayna Crawford, Depew
 Larry Goodwin, Kellyville
 Joseph Menninger, Bixby
 Peggy Weatherly, Glenpool
 Sheila Russell, Morris
 Charles Baxter, Beggs
 Michael Pennington, Beggs
 Clark Story, Okmulgee
 Janet Wallace, Henryetta
 Vonna Lampkins, Beggs
 Tim Kirk, Morris
 Janna Morgan, Haskell
 Dale Buttram, Mounds

\$100 Stay to Win Bill Credit:

Terry Russell Jr., Kellyville

Daniel Young, Kellyville

Cool Car Contest \$50 Bill Credit:

Bryan Ward, Morris

Recipe Contest \$25 Bill Credit:

Erin Neal, Haskell

Recipe: Chicken Tamale Casserole

Get it in the 2028
 Member Cookbook

MY CO-OP IS



2025 Annual Report



powering **ecōLINK**

Empowering. Connecting. Exceeding.

Serving Our Members and Communities

Co-op Stats

Miles of Electric Line

6,465

Miles of Fiber Line

4,682

Total Employees

103

Total overtime hours
worked by employees

13,040

Total Miles Driven

1,054,681

In order to become a journeyman lineman, East Central Electric Cooperative requires apprentices to go through four years of on-the-job training and continuing education. The safety of our employees is our highest priority, because without that, we couldn't effectively serve you, our members.

Dear ECE Member,

As you look through this annual report, you'll see a simple phrase repeated throughout: "My Co-op Is..." followed by the words of the people who own this cooperative — you.

Some members said their co-op is **reliable**. Others said **trying to improve rural living** and **quick to respond to outages**.

Those words remind us of something important: this cooperative belongs to all of us.

Unlike most businesses, an electric cooperative isn't owned by investors in a distant office. It's owned by the people who use the services every day. That's what makes the cooperative special. That's what makes it work.

Shared ownership also means shared responsibility. A cooperative works best when each member plays a role in the success of the whole. That might mean voting in board elections, attending meetings, sharing feedback, or simply staying engaged with the cooperative on your own.

Ownership is powerful, but it isn't always easy. When members take that role seriously, the cooperative becomes stronger, more accountable, and more responsive to the needs of the community.

This past year gave us a strong reminder of what's possible when a cooperative works well. Your cooperative earned a **Top-5 American Customer Satisfaction Index (ACSI) score among electric cooperatives nationwide**, a recognition that reflects the dedication of our employees and the trust of the members we serve.

But awards alone aren't what make a cooperative successful. The real strength of a cooperative is an engaged membership that takes pride in the organization it owns.

So as you read through the stories and voices in this report, we encourage you to think about what "My Co-op Is..." means to you. The future of this cooperative depends on something simple, but powerful: members who stay involved, stay informed, and take ownership of their part in the whole.

Your co-op works best when **you** take part in it.

Thank you for being a member-owner of your cooperative.



Dwayne Elam
Chief Executive Officer



Lowell Hobbs
Board President

Community Impact

Youth Power

Our co-op is a launchpad for the next generation. Through youth leadership opportunities, scholarships, and hands-on learning programs, we invest in young people today so they can power stronger communities tomorrow.



16,233 students reached
via Safety & Youth
Programs



4 Students Sent to Youth
Tour in Washington D.C.



4 Students Sent
to Energy Camp in
Oklahoma



\$12,751.41 Youth &
Agriculture Program
Sponsorships

Give-A-Watt

Our co-op is neighbors helping neighbors. During the Christmas season, members quietly lend a hand by donating to help fellow members keep the lights on when times get tough—proving that the power of community goes far beyond electricity.

- \$4,249 raised in 2025
- Helped 83 members pay their electric bill

Energy Efficiency

Our co-op is trusted guidance in energy saving solutions. Programs and services like free home energy audits and rebates for efficiency upgrades encourage members to use less and save more.

- \$24,270.44 awarded in rebates
- Provided energy saver guidance to 139 members

Operation Round Up

Our co-op is the place where small change makes a big difference. As members round up the change at the end of their electric bill to the next whole dollar, members who comprise the Operation Round Up Board carefully and dutifully reinvest that change to serve the needs of our members and communities.

- \$270,953.47 granted in 2025
- 48¢ average member monthly contribution
- 39 \$1,000 house fire grantees
- 20 \$1,000 scholarship recipients
- \$2,945,942 granted since 2006

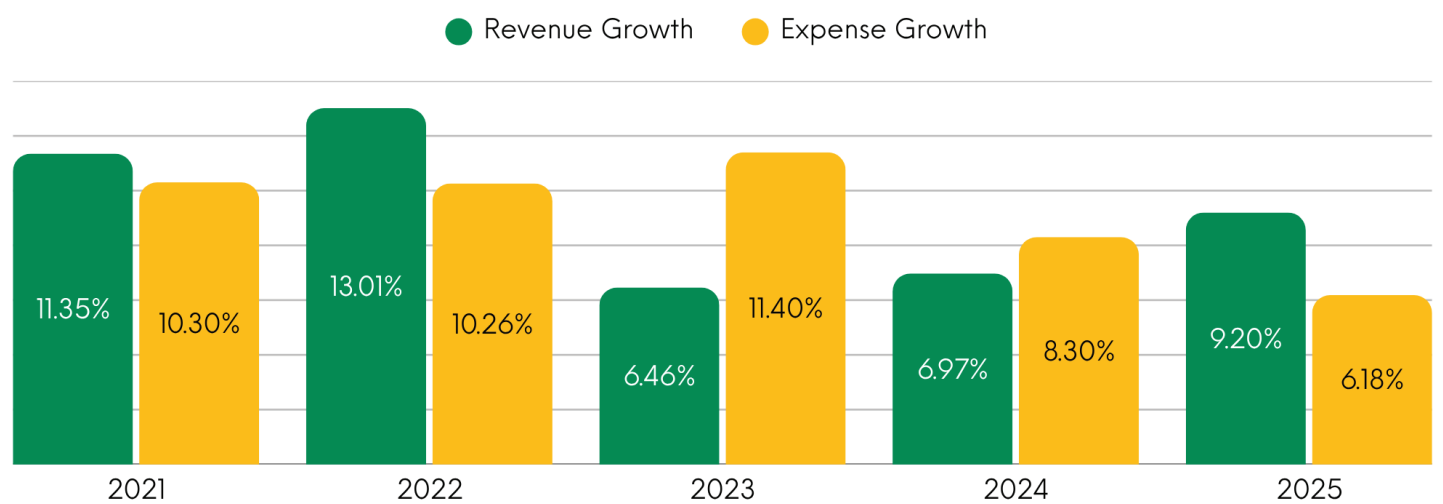


Paradise Point Volunteer Fire Department was one of 113 grant recipients, using funds to purchase much-needed equipment.

Cooperative Financials

The books and financial statements of East Central Oklahoma Electric Cooperative, Inc. are audited each year as of December 31. An audit for the year ended December 31, 2025, has been completed by the firm of Briscoe, Burke & Grigsby LLP, Certified Public Accountants, Tulsa, OK.

The Comparative Financial Statements shown here are for the years ended December 31, 2024 and 2025. **East Central Electric’s balance sheet reflects 9.86% increase in assets. Membership fees decreased by 0.19% and Capital Credits and Other Equities increased by 4.94% from 2024, which gave our members an equity level of 24.66%.**



Operating Report:

Electric Sales	\$96,069,704
Less Cost of Purchased Power	47,328,545
Net Sales	48,741,159
Operating Expenses	69,338,624
Interest on Debt	11,642,953
Depreciation	11,335,570
Total Expenses	92,317,147
Net Income from Electric Sales	3,752,557
Allocations from Suppliers	4,021,421
Total Margins and Capital Credits	\$7,773,978

2025

Net Income from Electric Sales 2025

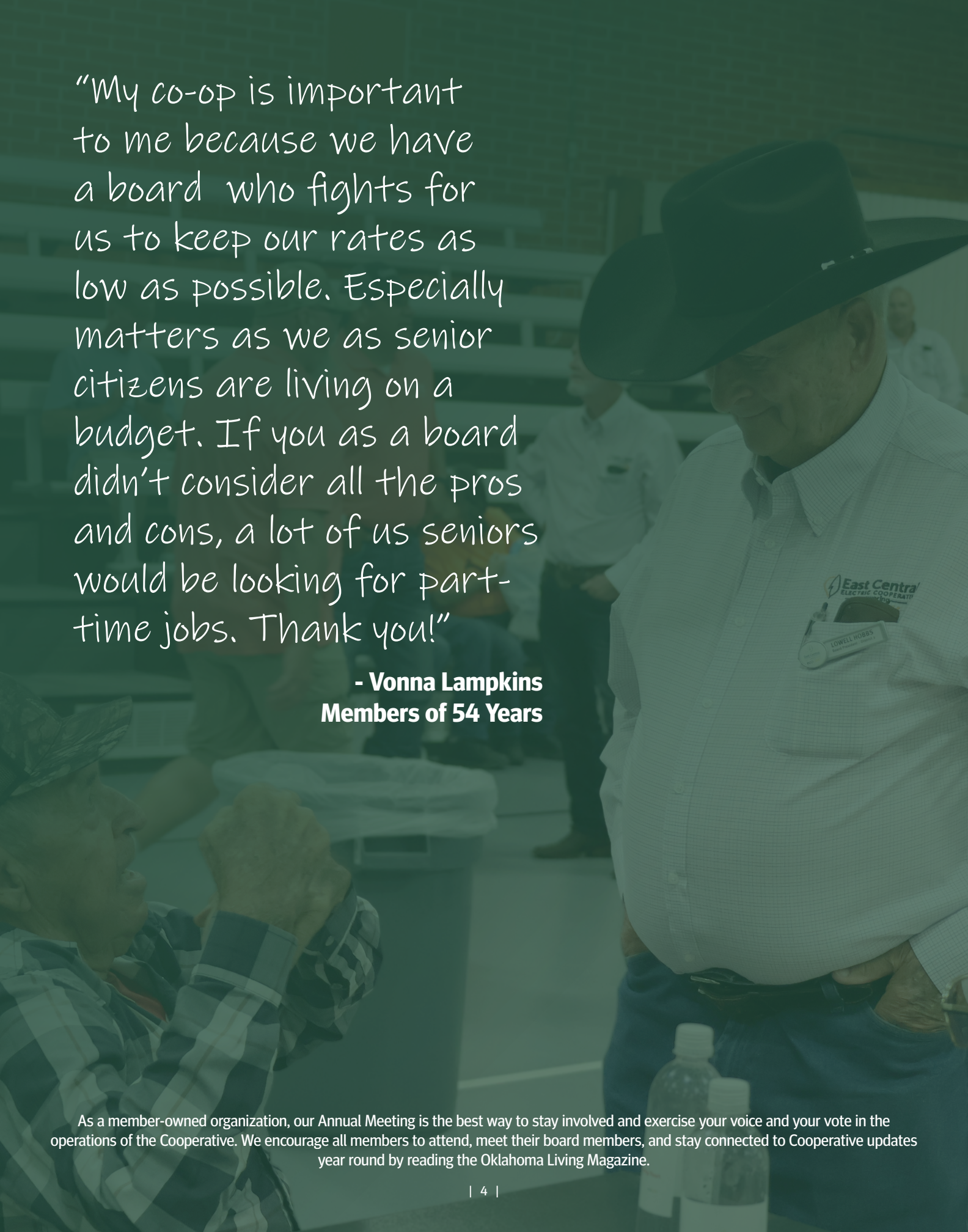
Net Income from Electric Sales represents cash that can be reinvested into the maintenance of the grid to build reliability as well as allocated and returned to members as capital credits.

\$3,752,557

Allocations from Suppliers 2025

Capital credit allocations represent non-cash allocations assigned to East Central Electric Cooperative from other cooperatively-owned businesses of which we are a member. This includes our power generation and transmission providers KAMO Power and Western Farmers Electric Cooperative, among others. This is the allocation amount that is tracked based on the margins of those businesses, but is not returned as cash to the cooperative.

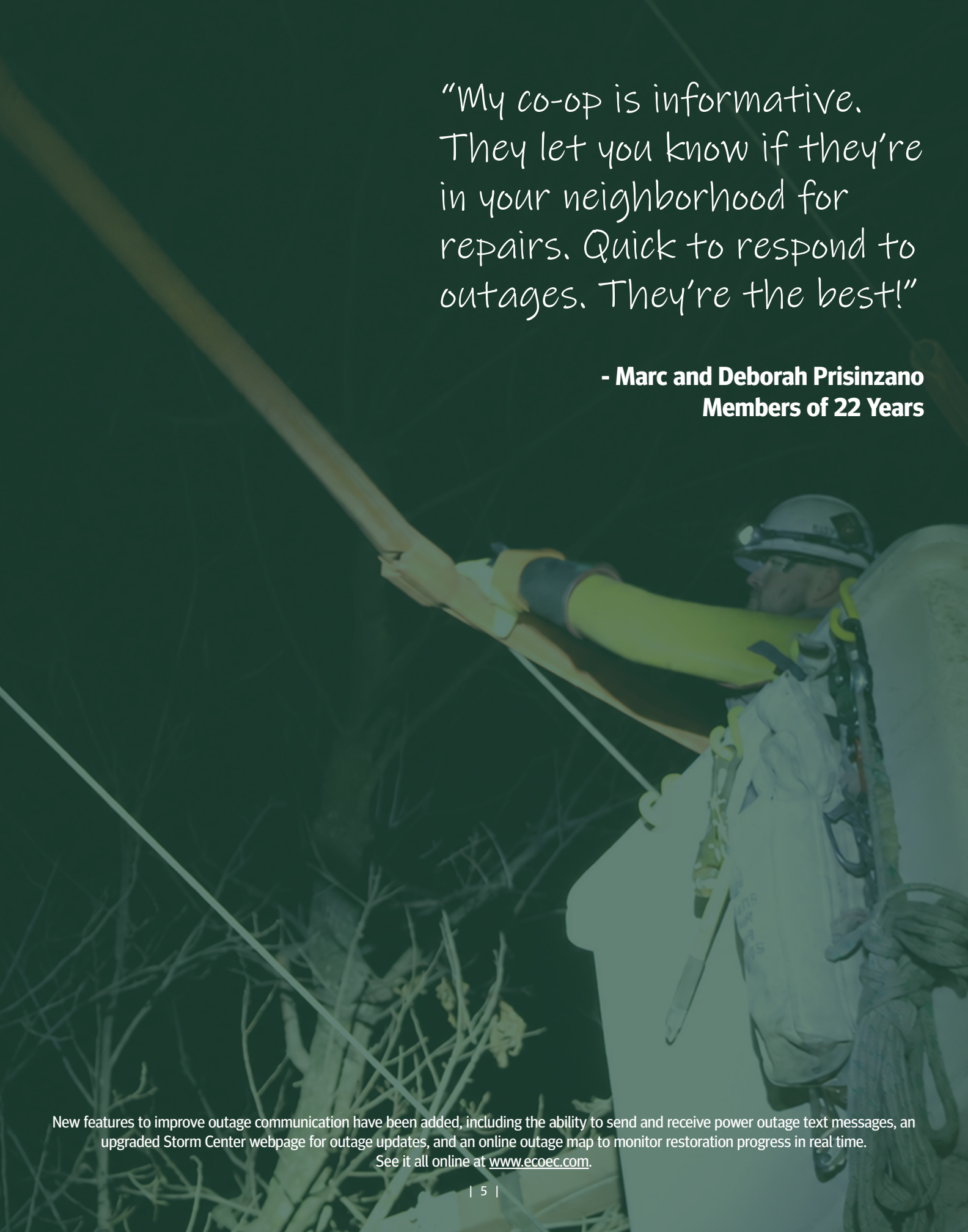
\$4,021,421



"My co-op is important to me because we have a board who fights for us to keep our rates as low as possible. Especially matters as we as senior citizens are living on a budget. If you as a board didn't consider all the pros and cons, a lot of us seniors would be looking for part-time jobs. Thank you!"

**- Vonna Lampkins
Members of 54 Years**

As a member-owned organization, our Annual Meeting is the best way to stay involved and exercise your voice and your vote in the operations of the Cooperative. We encourage all members to attend, meet their board members, and stay connected to Cooperative updates year round by reading the Oklahoma Living Magazine.

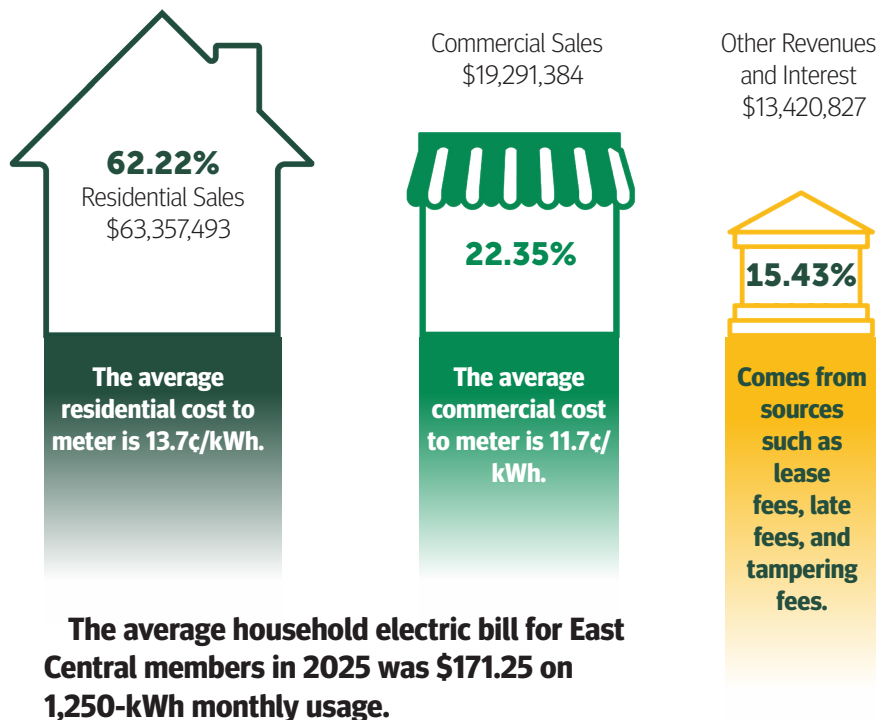


"My co-op is informative.
They let you know if they're
in your neighborhood for
repairs. Quick to respond to
outages. They're the best!"

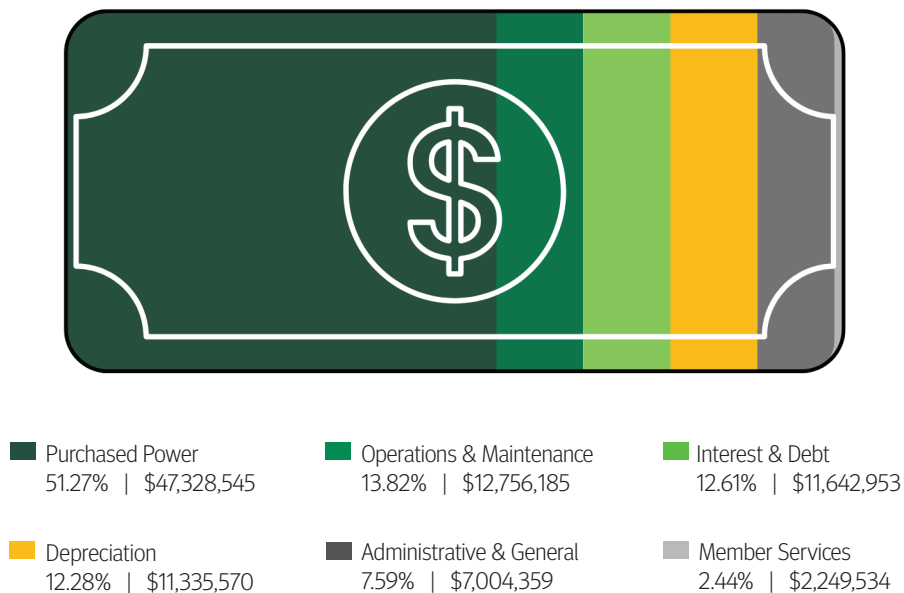
- Marc and Deborah Prisinzano
Members of 22 Years

New features to improve outage communication have been added, including the ability to send and receive power outage text messages, an upgraded Storm Center webpage for outage updates, and an online outage map to monitor restoration progress in real time.
See it all online at www.ecoec.com.

Where the Dollar Comes From



Where the Dollar Goes



Co-op Stats

37,718
Meters Served

24
Substations

5.8
Average Meters per Mile

13.19¢
Cost per kWh per Meter

99.92%
Reliability Rate

2.97
Average Service Interruptions per Meter

115,495
Phone Calls Taken

2,431,177
Notifications Sent

17,468
Active ecoLINK Subscribers

2,840
New ecoLINK Installs

Balance Sheet:

Your Cooperative Owns:

2025

Electric Plant	\$419,033,717
Less Depreciation	74,127,287
Net Utility Plant	344,906,430
Cash and Investments	5,048,600
Patronage Capital Assoc. Organization	43,602,182
CFC Investment Certificates	1,216,275
Accounts Receivable	9,597,159
Other Assets	23,852,295
Total Assets	\$428,222,941

Your Cooperative Owes:

Long Term Debt (RUS)	\$12,651,821
Long Term Debt (CFC)	—
Long Term Debt (FFB)	219,940,458
Long Term Debt (CoBank)	407,730
Consumer Deposits	4,039,613
Other Liabilities	85,589,580
Total Liabilities	\$322,629,202

Independent Auditor’s Opinion:

“We have audited the consolidated financial statements of East Central Oklahoma Electric Cooperative, Inc. and Subsidiary, which comprise the consolidated balance sheets as of December 31, 2025 and 2024, and the related consolidated statements of revenue and patronage capital, comprehensive income, and cash flows for the years then ended, and the related notes to the consolidated financial statements.

“In our opinion, **the accompanying consolidated financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of East Central Oklahoma Electric Cooperative, Inc. and Subsidiary as of December 31, 2025 and 2024, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the years then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.**”

The Board of Trustees reviewed and approved the annual financial audit report for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2025. The independent auditors, Briscoe, Burke, & Grigsby LLP, presented their findings and issued an unqualified audit opinion. This is the highest level of assurance an auditor can provide and indicates that the financial statements are presented fairly, in all material respects, and comply with required accounting standards.

My Co-op Is Creating Member Value

Everything your co-op owns

\$428.2 Million in Assets

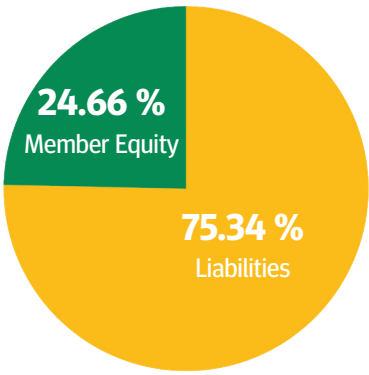
is funded by

\$322.6 Million in Liabilities

plus

\$105.6 Million in Member Equity

Member equity represents the portion of the cooperative owned by members.



\$1,062,329
Returned in 2025 as Capital Credits

\$33,376,966
Returned to
Members since 1963



"My co-op is great. They are always trying to improve rural living. Years ago with big satellite dishes to now, fast internet. Thanks."

**- David & Debbie Steele
Members of 46 Years**

Purchased power, carried along the large transmission lines pictured, is the single largest expense East Central Electric Cooperative has each month. The power we supply to our members is generated and transmitted to our Cooperative by KAMO Power in Vinita, Oklahoma, and Western Farmers Electric Cooperative in Anadarko, Oklahoma.

A photograph of two men standing in front of a stone wall. The man on the left is wearing a white and tan jacket, a white cap with the East Central logo, and glasses. The man on the right is wearing a dark blue jacket, a dark cap with the East Central logo, and sunglasses. They are both smiling. The man on the right is holding a small bell and a sign that reads "Bell Ringers Needed Please Call".

"My co-op is very dependable. Especially when you've got to call or the electric is off. They are right on point."

My co-op is also, with Operation Round Up, a hand extended to those that are in need. It is an amazing co-op."

**- Faye Alexander
Members of 40 Years**

East Central Electric Cooperative employees volunteered their time in 2025 to attend Special Olympics; participate in Christmas present programs with Henryetta Lions Club, the Oklahoma Home Builders Association, and Bristow Social Services; ring bells for the Salvation Army (pictured); and raise money for international electrification at Shoot for the Nations.



2025 was the final full year of board service for Trustees Max Shoemake and Larry Harvey. Mr. Shoemake retired from the board with 23 years of service and Mr. Harvey retired with 18. They both attended their final board meeting on June 19, 2026.

"My co-op is an electric and internet provider you can rely on."

- Max Shoemake, Board District 3

"My co-op is reliable and affordable."

- Larry Harvey, Board District 1



**Lowell Hobbs,
Board District 2
President**



**Dwight Luther,
Board District 7
Secretary/Treasurer**



**Jim Hall,
Board District 6
Asst. Secretary/Treasurer**



**Mike Vernon,
Board District 4
Member**



**Jay Emerson,
Board District 5
Member**

"My cooperative is a challenge and an interesting part of my life."

"My co-op is a member-owned partnership focused on reliable power, strong communities, and serving people over profit."

"My co-op is the best group of friends and neighbors I've ever had the honor of working for!"

"My cooperative is built on a legacy of trust and commitment to serve."

"My co-op has been a big part of my life. The people inside are extremely kind, unselfish people. I don't think you can find any better."

"My co-op is East Central. Been with the co-op 49 years. Wow, what a great electric co-op. Was a volunteer fire fighter with Brushy Mountain Fire Department. They came out and gave a safety program to our station. Best co-op ever."

- Mark Carson
Members of 49 Years



Empowering. Connecting. Exceeding.

P.O. Box 1178
Okmulgee, OK 74447
918-756-0833

www.ecoec.com
www.ecolink.coop

An equal opportunity provider and employer



Olive Volunteer Fire Department, pictured, was one of 113 Operation Round Up grant recipients, using funds to purchase truck radio communication headsets.