



country living

FOR MEMBERS OF EAST CENTRAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

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The Truth About Space Heaters

- The energy cost for a typical space heater is about 17.4 cents per hour, which doesn't sound like much until you run it continuously for a month, and then **\$125 of your electric bill** is spent powering one little space heater.
- According to the Consumer Product Safety Commission, space heaters are involved in **1,700 house fires** every year, resulting in 160 injuries and 70 fatalities.

If you need a space heater, use it sparingly, with energy use and electrical safety top of mind. **Don't become a statistic.**

My Co-op Is...

"My co-op is East Central Electric based out of Okmulgee Oklahoma, and they are the friendliest and most helpful of any utility I've ever dealt with."

- KEVIN PARKS, MEMBER OF 13 YEARS

"My co-op is the greatest because they provide small businesses such as my own with high-speed internet at affordable cost."

- PENNY FRAIR, MEMBER OF 40+ YEARS

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

- FAYE ALEXANDER, MEMBER OF 40+ YEARS

In 2026, we are asking co-op members to finish the sentence, "My co-op is..." So far we have collected responses from a handful of members, but we want to hear what you think as well. Cut out the indicated space below and mail it into the co-op at P.O. Box 1178, Okmulgee, OK 74447.

My Co-op Is...

Name and Years of Membership:

Please checkmark if the co-op has permission to share your statement as part of our 2026 Annual Meeting marketing.

notes from the chair

Stay With Us



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

I am writing this during Thanksgiving weekend, so by the time you read it, not only will Thanksgiving be history but so will Christmas and New Year's. I hope you remember to be thankful for what you have. In America we waste more than some countries have.

A dear friend of mine has revealed to me several times how his Mother fed him and his siblings by harvesting food from the store's throwaway items. You can tell she did a good job by knowing his family as a God fearing Christian man and his children are successful and prosperous good people. I am thankful to get to know him.

I trust you remember that Christmas is the day we celebrate the birth of Jesus. My sincere hope is that you get to know Jesus. In times of stress, knowing Jesus as your Savior makes your life easier and happier. Also, 2025 has been a good year for those of us raising grass to feed our cattle. Hopefully the winter won't be too severe.

I never have liked the cold weather. As a young boy I had a lot of responsibility feeding the cows, chickens, and pigs. I would wear 2 pairs of britches, 2-3 shirts, cap with fold down flaps, and a sock cap over that topped off with earmuffs, 2 pairs of gloves, 2 pairs of socks, and a big heavy coat—and still froze. Winter is not my favorite season!

The mild weather during 2025 certainly reduced our kilowatt hour sale of electricity. Weather remains the largest factor in electric usage and, in turn, the co-op's monthly revenue.

The PCA (power cost adjustment) is a pass-through cost set monthly by our power suppliers. This expense is paid directly to our power suppliers for the cost of fuel in power generation. This is our largest expense and continues to increase. In addition, we have seen a large increase in the cost of our supplies like wire, vehicles, and transformers. Over 75% of the co-op's expenses are fixed or otherwise out of our control. During the last few years, we have used our credits and cash to make up the difference and to keep from raising our rates.

“In times of stress, knowing Jesus as your Savior makes your life easier and happier.”

- LOWELL HOBBS

When sales remain low, like last year, we are forced to increase the CCA (Consumer Cost Adjustment) to keep revenue and expenses aligned. The CCA is a long-standing billing tool that helps cover costs when sales fall short. This should be a short duration. Our controllable expenses remain under budget. The only thing lacking in our budget predictions was the sale of electricity. Stay with us, things will improve.

This is not one of mine but too good not to pass on—(copied from

Lowell Hobbs, District 2
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Jim Hall, District 6
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Max Shoemake, District 3

Michael Vernon, 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.

someone else): A man and his wife are awakened at 3:00 in the morning by a loud pounding on the door. The man gets up and goes to the door where a drunken stranger, standing in the pouring rain, is asking for a push.

“Not a chance,” says the husband. “It is 3 o’clock in the morning!” He slams the door and returns to bed.

“Who was that?” asked his wife.

“Just some drunken dude asking for a push,” he answers.

“Did you help him?” she asks.

“No, I did not! It’s 3 o’clock in the morning and it’s pouring out there.”

“Well, you have a short memory. Can’t you remember about 3 months ago when we broke down and those two boys helped us? I think you should help him, and you should be ashamed of yourself!”

The man does as he is told, gets dressed, and goes out into the pounding rain. He calls out into the dark. “Hello, are you still there?”

“Yes” comes back the answer.

“Do you still need a push?” calls out the husband.

“Yes, please.” comes the reply from the dark. “

Where are you?” asks the husband.

“Over here on the swing!” replies the drunk.

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

Don't miss your chance to see D.C.



The Oklahoma Rural Electric Youth Tour is an annual, week-long, all-expense-paid leadership experience in Washington, D.C., that is open to high school juniors who attend schools located in the co-op service area.

The 2026 trip will take place June 13-19.

The application deadline has been moved to January 26, 2026. Learn more and apply at ecoec.com/youth-tour.

Important Dates(for the first half of)2026

- January 1 -** Office Closed New Year's Day
- January 8 -** Office Closed Employee Meeting
- January 26 -** Youth Tour Application Deadline
- February 1 -** Operation Round Up Application Deadline
- February 12 -** Office Closed Employee Meeting
- March 1 -** Scholarship Application Deadline
Energy Camp Application Deadline
- March 12 -** Office Closed Employee Meeting
- April 9 -** Office Closed Employee Meeting
- May 1 -** Operation Round Up Application Deadline
- May 14 -** Office Closed Employee Meeting
District Meetings for Board Districts 1, 3 & 6
- May 25 -** Office Closed Memorial Day
- June 11 -** Office Closed Employee Meeting
- June 24 -** Annual Meeting of Members

Nondiscrimination Statement

In accordance with Federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, East Central Oklahoma Electric Cooperative, INC. is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, and disability.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

(1) mail:
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410

(2) fax: (202) 690-7442

(3) email: program.intake@usda.gov

If you see galloping power lines, stay clear. The combination of high winds and ice accumulation can cause power lines to gallop forcefully, which could result in the ice or the lines breaking loose. Excessive ice accumulation can cause short circuits and outages.



**TOTAL GRANTED
\$2,928,356.61**

AWARDED LAST QUARTER
\$55,025.77

APPLICATIONS REVIEWED
1,704

SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED
\$372,500

APPLICATIONS GRANTED
1,224

AVERAGE MEMBER
CONTRIBUTION
48¢

Operation Round Up 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.



Tater Tot Casserole

INGREDIENTS

2 lbs. ground beef	1/2 lb. Velveeta
1/2 C. chopped onion	2 C. shredded cheddar
1 can cream of mushroom	2 C. shredded mozzarella
1 can cream of celery	1 (2lb.) bag frozen tater tots

DIRECTIONS

Brown ground beef with onion. Drain. Mix meat with soups and melted Velveeta. Put mixture in casserole dish. Sprinkle with cheeses and top with tater tots. Bake at 350° for 45 minutes.

SOURCE: ECE 85TH ANNIVERSARY COOKBOOK



ELECTRICAL SAFETY TIP OF THE MONTH

If you are in an auto accident involving a downed power line, your vehicle is usually the safest place to be (unless it is on fire). Stay in your car, call 9-1-1, and wait for electric utility personnel to arrive to deenergize the power. If your car is on fire, make a clean jump and bunny hop to safety.

SOURCE: SAFEELECTRICITY.ORG

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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.