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countryliving

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PUBLISHED FOR MEMBERS OF EAST CENTRAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Time To Choose Your Co-op Leadership

Members in Districts 2 and 5 will meet in June to nominate trustees

Every three years East Central Electric members are invited to participate in a process that sets them apart from most utility consumers. East Central Electric members get to choose who makes the decisions about their electric rates and how their co-op is operated.

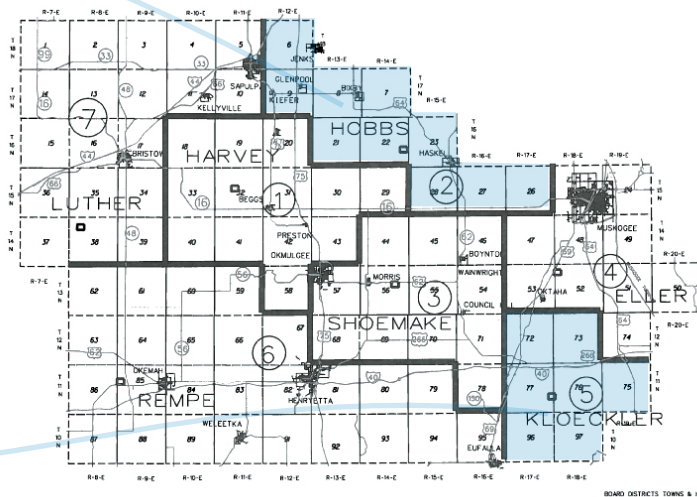
This is accomplished using a democratic process that allows co-op members to elect their electric co-op board of directors. Seven trustees serve on the East Central Electric board of trustees; one trustee representing each of the co-op's seven voting districts. Members meet once every three years to nominate individuals to serve on the East Central Electric board.

This year, members in districts 2 and 5 will hold nomination meetings. To locate your district, refer to the district map, below, or check the upper right corner of your electric bill.

If more than one candidate is nominated during a district meeting, the candidates will run for election at the East Central Electric Annual Meeting on July 23, 2015.

Members interested in serving on the board of trustees must meet certain qualifications as defined by your co-op bylaws. (See excerpt on page 2) Bylaws are available at www.ecoec.com, or pick up a copy at your co-op office on Hwy 75 South in Okmulgee.

EAST CENTRAL ELECTRIC DISTRICT MAP



Please watch your mail for an official district meeting notice that includes date, time and location.

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.

POWER OUTAGE HOT LINE
(918) 756-0833

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Lowell Hobbs, *President*

Larry Harvey, *Vice President*

Dwight Luther, *Secretary Treasurer*

Max Shoemake, *Asst. Secretary Treasurer*

Ed Kloeckler

Jimmy Eller

Tim Smith, *General Manager*

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.

operation roundup update

Operation Roundup funds support local charitable organizations, civic groups, youth programs, community services, and needy families and individuals. For more information on this voluntary bill roundup program, please visit www.ecoec.com.

Figures to date:

Applications reviewed.....701
 Applications granted.....502
 Applications denied.....186
 Applications tabled.....13
 Scholarships awarded.....\$128,000

Total Disbursements.....\$1,181,590.33

Average member contribution.....44¢



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East Central Electric's Process When Appointing Trustees

When a trustee on the East Central Electric Cooperative (ECE) board retires or is otherwise unable to fulfill his or her term of office, your co-op follows certain steps to ensure members in that district are properly represented for the duration of the term.

The recent death of Jerry Rempe, District 6 trustee, prompted the co-op to put this process in action:

1. ECE mailed letters announcing the vacancy to every member in District 6. Members interested in serving as District 6 trustee were asked to return their name and address.
2. ECE mailed information packets to those who responded. The packet included a questionnaire to assess applicant's qualifications, and a deadline to return the completed questionnaire.
3. When questionnaires are returned, the ECE board carefully reviews the information and discusses each candidate. Top candidates are invited to interview for the position.
4. The board of trustees selects the best qualified candidate from those interviewed to fill the unexpired term as outlined in the co-op bylaws.

Bylaws List Qualifications For Board Members

East Central Electric Cooperative bylaws list qualifications for members who serve on the board of trustees. The bylaws state that no person shall be eligible to become a trustee who:

(a) is not a member and bona fide resident in the area served or to be served by the cooperative;

MEET YOUR CO-OP TRUSTEE

Lowell Hobbs

"What we're doing is providing a better way of life."

In 2005, Lowell Hobbs made a decision to serve his community by becoming a member of the East Central Electric Cooperative board. Hobbs stepped in to fulfill the term of retiring District 2 Trustee June Cumbeby.

He settled quickly into his leadership role by being elected vice president of the board in his second year as trustee. He currently serves as president of the co-op board, a position he has held for several years.



Lowell Hobbs chats with a co-op member.

A native of Haskell, Hobbs operates a cow-calf operation on land that has been in his family since 1938. His love for the area is obvious in the many ways he contributes his time. Hobbs currently serves on the board of the Oklahoma Cattlemen's Association and the Okmulgee County Cattlemen's Association. He served as director of the DEQ Water Quality Management Advisory Council, and as past chairman of his rural water district, the Okmulgee County Excise Board, and the Oklahoma 4-H Foundation. He also served on the building committee for the First Baptist Church of Haskell.

His service to his electric co-op, however, trumps all. "Serving on the co-op board is by far the best opportunity I've had to help the people in my community," Hobbs said.

From improving the right of way to embracing new technologies that make automatic meter reading, prepaid billing, and advanced outage management possible, all decisions made by the board share the same end goal—to provide reliable electric service.

For Hobbs, the progress is nothing short of amazing. "I can still recall carrying

a lantern for light. The shadows it cast were pretty spooky for a kid," he said. "When we got our first electric light, it was quite a revelation."

The development that followed the advent of electricity in rural Oklahoma continues to inspire Lowell Hobbs. "I am so proud to be a part of this co-op," he said. "I don't see this co-op as simply a utility selling electricity. What we're doing is providing a better way of life."

(b) is in any way employed by or financially interested in a competing enterprise or a business selling electric energy or supplies to the cooperative;

(c) is the incumbent of or candidate for an elected public office in connection with which a salary or compensation in excess of \$1,000 per annum is paid;

(d) has been convicted, plead guilty or plead nolo contendere to a felony;

(e) is or was an employee of the cooperative during the preceding three years prior to time of filing or being nominated.

Questions? Please call 918-756-0833.



Bylaw Changes Proposed to Members

The East Central Electric board of trustees is proposing changes to the co-op bylaws. Members will vote on proposed changes at the East Central Electric Annual Meeting on July 23, 2015. Country Living is publishing a portion of the proposed changes every month. Changes appear in blue (see below). To view the proposed changes in their entirety, visit www.ecoec.com or call 918-756-0833.

ARTICLE V. MEETINGS OF TRUSTEES

SECTION 1. REGULAR MEETINGS. A regular meeting of the Board of Trustees shall be held monthly at such the time and place to be determined by the resolution of the Board of Trustees at such place as shall be and designated in the notice of the meeting, in Okmulgee County, Oklahoma, as the Board of Trustees may provide by resolution. Such regular monthly meeting may be held without notice other than such resolution fixing the time and place thereof.

SECTION 2. SPECIAL MEETING. Special meetings of the Board of Trustees may be called by the President or by any three Trustees, and it shall thereupon be the duty of the Secretary to cause notice of such meeting to be given as hereinafter provided. The President or the Trustees calling the meeting shall fix the time and place to be determined by the Board of Trustees at such place as shall be designated in the notice of the meeting, (which shall be in Okmulgee County, Oklahoma), for the holding of the special meeting.

ARTICLE VI. OFFICERS

SECTION 3. REMOVAL OF OFFICERS AND AGENTS BY TRUSTEES. Any officer or agent elected or appointed by the Board of Trustees may be removed by the Board of Trustees whenever, in its judgment, the best interests of the Cooperative will be served thereby. In addition, any member of the Cooperative may bring charges against an officer and by filing with the Secretary such charges in writing, together with a petition signed by ten per centum of the members as provided by Article XI, Section 6, may requesting the removal of such officer. The officer against whom such charges have been brought shall be informed in writing of the charges at least ten days prior to the board meeting at which the charges are to be considered, and shall have an opportunity at the meeting to be heard in person or by counsel and to present present evidence in respect to the charges; and the person or persons bringing the charges against him shall have the same opportunity. During the pendency of such charges, the officer so charged shall not be allowed to vote on the charges in question. In the event the Board does not remove such officer, the question of his removal shall be considered and voted upon at the next meeting of its members.

SECTION 8. MANAGER. The Board of Trustees may appoint a manager who may be, but shall not be required to be, a member of the Cooperative. The manager shall perform such duties and shall exercise such authority as the Board of Trustees may from time to time vest in him/her. The Manager shall serve at the pleasure of the Board of Trustees. He/She is not an "officer" as that term is used in Article VI, Section 3.

ARTICLE X. FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS

SECTION 1. CONTRACTS. Except as otherwise provided in these Bylaws, the Board of Trustees may authorize any officer or officers, agent or agents, to enter into any contract or execute and deliver any instrument in the name and on behalf of the Cooperative, and such authority may be general or confined limited to specific instances.

SECTION 4. CHANGE IN RATES. Written notice shall be given to the Administrator of the Rural Electrification Administration Utilities Service (RUS) of the United States of America not less than ninety days prior to the date upon which any proposed change in the rates charged by the Cooperative for electric energy becomes effective.

ARTICLE XI. MISCELLANEOUS

SECTION 1. MEMBERSHIP IN OTHER ORGANIZATIONS.

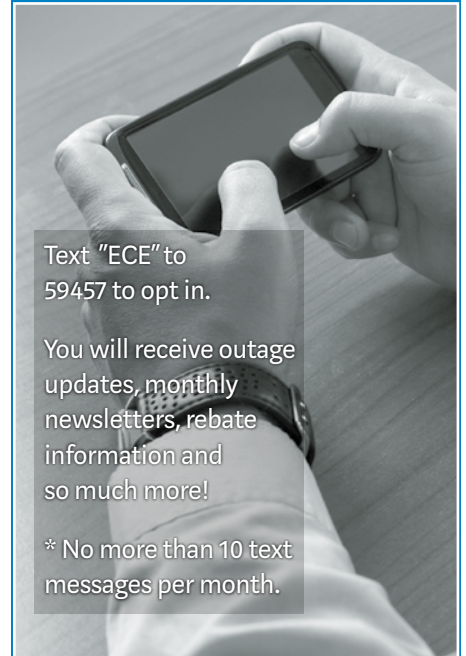
The Cooperative shall not become a member of or purchase stock in any other organization without an affirmative vote of the members at a duly held meeting, the notice of which shall specify that action is to be taken upon such proposed membership or stock purchase; provided, however, that the Cooperative may, upon the authorization of the Board of Trustees, purchase stock in or become a member of any corporation or organization organized on a non-profit basis for the purpose of engaging in or furthering the cause of rural electrification, or with the approval of the Administrator of Rural Utilities Service (RUS) REA, of any other corporation for the purpose of acquiring electric facilities.

SECTION 4. ACCOUNTING SYSTEM AND REPORTS.

The Board of Trustees shall cause to be established and maintained a complete accounting system which, among other things, and subject to applicable laws and rules and regulations of any regulatory body, shall conform to such accounting system as may from time to time be designated by the Administrator of the Rural Utilities Service (RUS) Rural Electrification Administration of the United States of America. The Board of Trustees shall also, after the close of each fiscal year, cause to be made by a Certified Public Accountant, a full and complete audit of the accounts, books and financial condition of the Cooperative as of the end of such fiscal year. A report of such audit shall be submitted to the members at the next following annual meeting.

SECTION 5. COUNTRY LIVING PUBLICATION. Each member shall be charged an annual subscription fee of sixty cents (60¢) for the Cooperative's monthly publication of the Country Living Newsletter. The subscription fee will be determined annually based on the cost to produce and deliver the newsletter. The subscription price shall be deducted from the amounts accrued to the members as capital credits.

Join the Club!



Text "ECE" to 59457 to opt in.
You will receive outage updates, monthly newsletters, rebate information and so much more!
* No more than 10 text messages per month.

Join the ECE mobile text club today!



ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Tip of the Month

Keep cool this summer! ENERGY STAR certified refrigerators are about 9-10 percent more energy efficient than models that meet the federal minimum energy efficiency standard.

Source: EnergyStar.gov

Contact East Central Electric Cooperative at 918-756-0833 for details on energy efficiency rebates, or to schedule a free home energy audit.

May is Electrical Safety Month

Ways Your Co-op Keeps You Safe

This month your electric cooperative joins the nation in recognizing National Electrical Safety Month. With that in mind, and the advent of warmer weather and more outdoor activity, now is the perfect time to highlight East Central Electric's efforts to keep you safe.

From interactive activities and programs for kids to whole home surge protection and more, we've got you covered.

School Safety Programs: Schedule a free safety program for your classroom, and we'll share some "shocking" facts about electricity. Fun and educational, the program features interactive activities and materials that show how electricity flows to rural homes— and what happens when you touch it. Kids love it!

Surge Protection: Stop lightning from zapping your appliances with a compact meter arrestor. Suitable for 200 amp and 320 amp meter enclosures, the device protects your electric circuits and large electric appliances. Order from your co-op, and we'll install it at no charge! Price: \$165+tax.

Safer Home Generators: If you own a portable generator, you need GenerLink. GenerLink is a meter collar device that makes connecting a portable generator easy and safe by automatically disconnecting your house from the electric utility grid. GenerLink prevents risky do-it-yourself solutions that can be hazardous for you, your family and East Central Electric personnel working to restore power. When GenerLink is connected and operating, all you have to do to operate an appliance is flip a breaker in the breaker panel.

Several models are available to fit your needs. Prices begin at \$650 and include installation. Financing is available at zero interest for co-op members who wish to extend payments over six months.

During Electrical Safety Month— or all year round— let your co-op help keep your home and family safe.

For more details on school safety programs, surge protectors or GenerLink meter collar devices, please contact your co-op today at **918-756-0833** or visit **www.ecoec.com**.



CASH BACK MALL. Earn cash back when you shop online for thousands of products and services from more than 5,000 retailers! The latest service from Co-op Connections lets you shop without logging in, plus you'll enjoy access to over 20,000 daily discounts in addition to cash back. Visit **www.ecoec.com** for details. Click on Services, and then Co-op Connections.

Favorite recipes from members of East Central Electric Cooperative.



Strawberry Shortcake

Contributed by Baird Farm, Stillwell

INGREDIENTS

2 c. flour	1/3 c. sugar
3 tsp. baking powder	1/2 c. shortening
1/2 tsp. salt	1 c. milk
1/2 tsp. cream of tartar	

DIRECTIONS

Mix dry ingredients well; add shortening, cut into flour mixture and add milk. Roll out 1-inch thick; cut with biscuit cutter. Place on greased cookie sheet. Bake at 350° for 15 minutes. Slice biscuit in half, cover with fresh strawberries, slightly mashed, and top with half of biscuit. Garnish with ice cream or whipped cream. Biscuits keep well.

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