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country living

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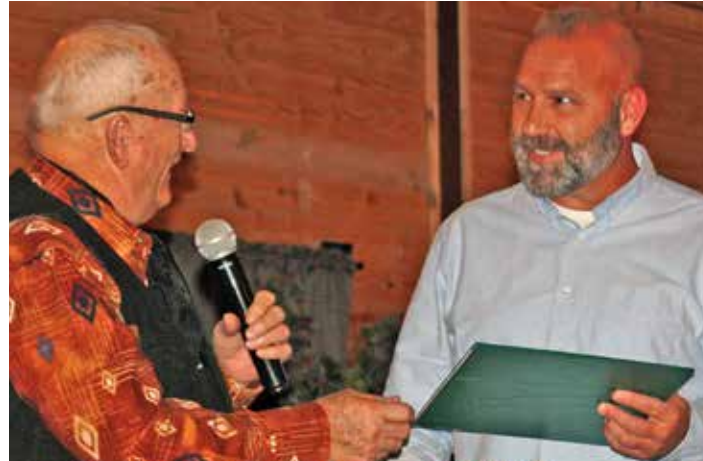
Trustees Earn Cooperative Certification

Five courses in 44 hours educates directors on industry issues

Forty-four hours. That's how long it takes an electric cooperative trustee to gain the knowledge to serve effectively. For trustees, this means attending professional development courses on topics essential to electric co-ops.

East Central Electric's trustees Michael Vernon and Jim Hall recently completed the Certified Cooperative Director (CCD) program. ECE policy requires trustees to earn the CCD certificate within their first term of office.

The CCD curriculum consists of five courses designed to provide essential knowledge and skills required of cooperative directors. The courses are generally held in conjunction with regional and national electric cooperative meetings and conferences. The Oklahoma Association of Electric Cooperatives also sponsors programs and on-site training at its facility in Oklahoma City.



Michael Vernon, District 4 trustee (right) receives his CCD certificate at the ECE Christmas party. Presenting the certificate is ECE President Lowell Hobbs.

The curriculum includes the following courses:

- Director Duties and Liabilities
- Understanding the Electric Business
- Board Operations and Process
- Strategic Planning
- Financial Decision-Making

ECE CEO Tim Smith said the CCD program is essential. "These courses are vitally

important for our directors to complete," he said.

"Being a director requires an ongoing effort to stay engaged and aware of industry issues, he added. "By completing this training, trustees are better equipped to lead and guide," Smith said.

Trustee qualifications are found in Article IV, Sect. 3 of the cooperative bylaws. Bylaws are available online at www.ecoec.com under "About Us."

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.....	848
Applications granted.....	592
Applications denied.....	244
Applications tabled.....	16
Scholarships awarded.....	\$169,000

Total Disbursements.....\$1,413,449.85
Average member contribution.....44¢



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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*
 - Jim Hall, *Asst. Sec. Treasurer*
 - Ed Kloeckler
 - Michael Vernon
 - Max Shoemake
 - 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.

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Raymond Godfrey



Karen Starr

Thirty Years of Service—Sal-ute!

Thirty years is a long commitment by any standards, but in today's workforce it's becoming less common. At the East Central Electric Christmas party in December, the co-op recognized two employees for crossing the noteworthy 30-year mark.

Raymond Godfrey, supervisor of fleet maintenance, and Karen Starr, billing supervisor, received 30-year service pins and a healthy round of applause from their peers.

If you see these employees out and about, please offer your congratulations. Their service and commitment is appreciated.



Connect with East Central Electric on Facebook for updates on power outages and information on member benefits and services, energy saving tips and more. If you like what you see, we'd appreciate your "thumbs up."



Apply for College Money Now

Scholarships available for students from 41 schools

Every year East Central Electric's Operation Roundup program makes thousands of dollars in college money available to students from 41 local high schools. More than half of that money is never distributed due to a lack of applicants.

If your child could use an extra \$1,000 for college, please encourage them to apply for an Operation Roundup scholarship.

One \$1,000 scholarship is available for the following schools, including home schools and private schools in the ECE service area.

- | | | |
|------------|------------|---------------|
| Beggs | Haskell | Oilton |
| Bixby | Henryetta | Olive |
| Braggs | Hilldale | Porter |
| Bristow | Kellyville | Porum |
| Checotah | Kiefer | Preston |
| Coweta | Liberty | Sapulpa |
| Depew | Mason | Schulter |
| Dewar | Midway | Stroud |
| Drumright | Morris | Warner |
| Eufaula | Mounds | Webbers Falls |
| Ft. Gibson | Muskogee | Weleetka |
| Glenpool | Okemah | |
| Graham | Okmulgee | |
| Hanna | Oktaha | |



\$169,000

Total scholarship dollars awarded to local students through ECE's Operation Roundup program.

Scholarship applications and eligibility requirement are available online at www.ecoec.com. Click on Services and then Youth/Community Programs. The deadline to apply for scholarships is March 1, 2017.

To visit with a co-op representative about Operation Roundup college scholarships, please call ECE at 918-756-0833.

Great ideas for garden, landscape and home!

Visit us at the

Tulsa Home & Garden Show!

March 9 - 12 • Expo Square

Free Garden Gloves, Rain Gauges & Candy!

Pick up your free gifts at the Green Country Area Electric Cooperatives booth, located in the River Expo Building. *Please stop and say hello!*



co-op youth

Energy Camp, Youth Tour, Build Youth Leadership Skills

Hurry, the deadline to enter is March 1, 2017!

East Central Electric Cooperative is committed to helping rural students develop their highest potential. That's why we offer opportunities for teens such as YouthPower Energy Camp and the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour.

Get Energized



YouthPower Energy Camp is scheduled May 31 - June 2, 2017. The camp for eighth graders introduces teens to cooperative

principles with a teen-operated cooperative. Activities and games encourage leadership skills and help campers make new friends from across the state.

Since 1989, ECE has sponsored 100 teens at Energy Camp. Interested eighth graders are asked to submit an entry form by March 1. Forms are available online at www.ecoec.com.

Win a Trip to Washington DC

ECE will sponsor six high school juniors to attend Youth Tour on June 9-15, 2017. The one week, all expenses paid tour of Washington, DC includes stops at more than fifty historic sites, monuments and museums, plus fun cultural attractions.



To be considered for the trip, students are asked to write a 500-word essay on the difference between an electric cooperative and an investor-owned utility. Essays and applications are due March 1, 2017.

Details, guidelines and applications are available at www.ecoec.com.

To visit with a co-op representative about Youth Tour or Energy Camp, please call your cooperative at **918-756-0833**.



CALL THE HOG HUNTERS

Find out if your home is a haven for energy hogs! Your electric cooperative offers free home energy audits for members. Our energy use specialists can help you locate the energy gobblers in your home so you can determine the best way to get rid of them.

To schedule an energy audit, please call **918-756-0833**.

HELPING ONE ANOTHER *Shine!*

Concerned over high energy bills and over-reliance on fossil fuels? Be a part of the solution by joining ECE's Community Solar Project.

By subscribing to one or more solar panels, you'll enjoy a credit on your monthly bill that will increase over time as more members join in. More importantly, you are helping your co-op avoid higher wholesale power prices by supporting a clean alternative solution to high priced fossil fuels.

Please call us today for more details.
918-756-0833 • www.ecoec.com



Portable Generators Can Pose Safety Risks

If you rely on a standby generator when the power goes out, please make sure it has a transfer switch or meter collar installed before you operate it.

Without this important safety enhancement, you are violating the National Electrical Safety Code— and possibly risking the lives of others.

Generators that aren't properly wired into the home can back feed electricity onto co-op lines and electrocute linemen or others who are working with electric lines.

A meter collar device or transfer switch prevents this from happening by isolating the new, temporary power source from the main power lines feeding your home.

East Central Electric (ECE) offers Generlink meter collars to members at wholesale prices.

Please contact your co-op for more details on these products, or to visit with our energy experts about safely operating your generator. Please call **918-756-0833**, or visit our website at **www.ecoec.com**.

Generator Safety Tips:

- Never plug a portable generator directly into a home outlet or electrical system.
- Use an extension cord to plug appliances into an outlet on the generator. Standby generators require a transfer switch.
- Never operate a generator in a confined or enclosed area, such as a garage. Generators produce deadly carbon monoxide and require proper ventilation.
- Generators pose electrical risks, especially when operated in wet conditions. Protect the generator by operating it under an open, canopy-like structure on a dry surface where water can't puddle or drain under it.



- When you refuel the generator, make sure the engine is cool to prevent a fire, should the tank overflow.
- Make sure nothing is plugged into the generator when you turn it on. This prevents a surge from damaging your generator and appliances.
- Keep children and pets away from the generator, which could burn them.

Great tastes for members of East Central Electric Cooperative

Bacon Wrapped Chicken Spirals

INGREDIENTS

- 4 bacon strips
- 2 boneless skinless chicken breast halves (6 oz ea.)
- ¼ teaspoon seasoned salt, optional
- ¼ cup canned chopped green chilies
- 1½ ounces cream cheese, softened
- 1 garlic clove, minced



DIRECTIONS

In a large skillet, cook bacon over medium heat until partially cooked, but not crisp; drain on paper towels.

Flatten chicken to ¼-in. thickness. Sprinkle with seasoned salt if desired.

In a small bowl, combine the chilies, cream cheese and garlic. Spread over one side of each chicken breast. Roll up and tuck ends in. Wrap each with two bacon strips; secure with toothpicks.

Place in an 8-inch square baking dish coated with cooking spray. Bake, uncovered, at 375° for 30-35 minutes or until chicken juices run clear. Discard toothpicks. Yield: 2 servings.

SOURCE: TASTEOFHOM.COM

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150GB
\$108.90

Call Today! **918-756-0833**