

Co-op Leadership

Jerry Rempe serves co-op members in District 6. **PAGE 2**

Winning Teens

Co-op announces Youth Tour and scholarship winners. **PAGE 3**

Exede For Zero Down

Get Exede Internet for zero down until May 30. **PAGE 4**



East Central Electric Cooperative
PO Box 1178 • Hwy 75 South
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*
- Jerry Rempe
- 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 in person using our drive-through window or lobby during regular office hours, Monday through Friday, 8 am to 4:30 pm.
- Pay via automatic draft of your checking or savings account. Sign up electronically or download the ebill form for easy automatic payments at **www.ecoec.com**.

Country Living is published monthly by East Central Oklahoma Electric Cooperative, Inc., 2001 S. Wood Drive, Okmulgee, Oklahoma 74447. Second class postage paid at Okmulgee, Oklahoma 74447 and at additional mailing office. Subscription price: 60 cents /year. POSTMASTER: Send address corrections to ECE Country Living, PO Box 1178, Okmulgee, OK 74447.

countryliving

MAY 2014

PUBLISHED FOR MEMBERS OF EAST CENTRAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Attend Your District Meeting

Members in District 1,3 and 6 will meet June 16 in Okmulgee

If you live in District 1, 3 or 6 of your electric co-op, you're invited to a special meeting at East Central Electric headquarters in Okmulgee on June 16.

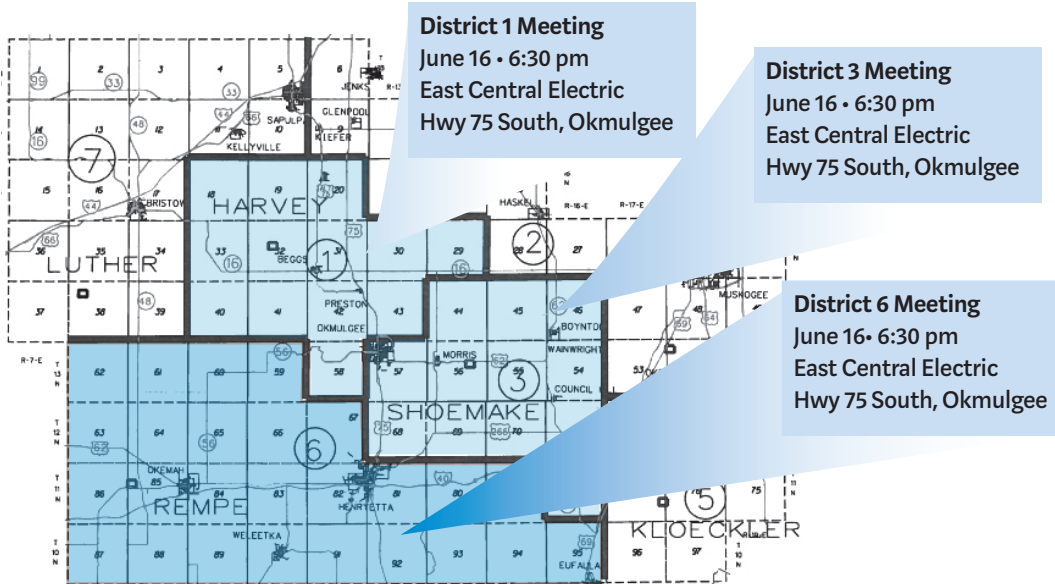
District meetings are open to all members in the co-op district, and are a great way for you to get involved in your co-op. Members attending the meeting will nominate candidates for the cooperative board of trustees. If more than

one candidate is nominated, the candidates will run for election at the East Central Electric Annual Meeting on July 24.

District meetings are an important part of your co-op's democratic process. By allowing members to elect their co-op leaders, East Central Electric remains focused on local needs.

Your East Central Electric board of trustees is comprised of seven members, with one

trustee representing each of the co-op districts. Candidates for the board must meet certain qualifications to serve as a co-op director. Qualifications and details about running for the board are published in the co-op bylaws. An excerpt from the bylaws is printed on page 3, or download a copy of bylaws at **www.ecoec.com**. Copies are also available at the co-op-office on Highway 75 South in Okmulgee.



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..... | 630 |
| Applications granted..... | 453 |
| Applications denied..... | 167 |
| Applications tabled..... | 10 |
| Scholarships awarded..... | \$128,000 |
| Total Disbursements..... | \$1,189,904.08 |
| Average member contribution..... | 44¢ |





Co-op Bylaws List Trustee Qualifications

East Central Electric Cooperative bylaws list qualifications for members who are interested in serving 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 bonafide resident in the area served or to be served by the cooperative;
- (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.

Any fifteen (15) or more members residing in such district, acting together may make other nominations by petition not less than twenty-five (25) days prior to the annual meeting or special meeting of members at which trustees are to be elected.

Questions? Please contact your cooperative at **918-756-0833**.

Co-op Wins Award

East Central Electric Cooperative won an award of excellence in the Oklahoma Association of Electric Cooperatives newsletter competition. The contest includes categories for newsletter content, layout and design, promotion of services, photography, and annual report.

East Central Electric won the highest level of honor for its annual report, which is published for members prior to the ECE Annual Meeting in July.



Doing the Job Right

If you judge an elected official by his attendance record, Jerry Rempe earns an “A+.” Since his appointment as District 6 representative on the East Central Electric board some 20 years ago, Rempe has missed just one board meeting. But Rempe concedes it takes more than perfect attendance to make a positive contribution.



JERRY REMPE

“To be a good director you need to participate in discussions at the meetings, understand how co-ops operate, and educate yourself about the issues that affect your co-op,” he said.

“There’s a lot that goes into serving on the board; that is, if you care about doing the job right,” he added. From monthly meetings to director training and regional conferences, the job requires a real commitment of personal time.

Rempe himself learned to balance the time devoted to co-op duties with the responsibilities of raising beef cattle and alfalfa on his farm west of Okemah. “I learned to structure my time wisely,” Rempe noted. “If not, I would meet myself coming and going.”

Rempe knows a thing or two about the challenges of public service. He also serves on the board of the Okfuskee County Farm Bureau. Until three years ago, he served on the board of the Okfuskee County Soil Conservation Service (SCS).

As an SCS trustee, he played a role in the federal partnership that constructed 27 flood structures in Okfuskee County, including the 700 acre lake that serves as Okemah’s water supply today.

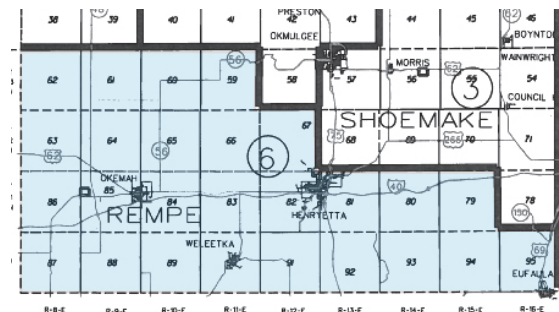
“I’ve always had conservation in my blood,” Rempe noted.

He has witnessed similar advancements at East Central Electric—the construction of a new office building in 2010, and significant and ongoing upgrades to miles of co-op electric line. “We made these infrastructure improvements, yet we were still able to return close to \$1 million in patronage capital to our members every year for the past 10 to 12 years,” Rempe pointed out.

The growth and development of his electric co-op mirrors the economic growth of the region. Rempe said ECE adds from 10 to 12 new services every month, many of them new homes with owners who prefer the rural lifestyle.

Rempe and wife Rosemary certainly understand that desire. They raised six kids on their Okemah farm, and now enjoy a sprawling family of grandkids and great grandchildren. How many? “Well,” Rempe chuckled. “Let’s just say a lot.”

Rempe will be on hand to welcome co-op members at the District 6 meeting on June 16, 2014 at East Central Electric Cooperative on Highway 75 South in Okmulgee. The meeting will be begin at 6:30 pm. Members who live in District 6 will receive an official meeting notice in the mail. Please make plans to attend.



Co-op Announces Youth Tour and Scholarship Winners

Six teens will travel to DC; 21 others will enjoy money for college

East Central Electric Cooperative announced the winners of its 2014 Youth Tour Contest and winners of the Operation Roundup college scholarships.

Youth tour winners will spend a week in June touring the sites and museums in Washington D.C. Winners are:

- Carl Launius**, Eufaula
- Nathaniel Flippin**, Liberty
- Billy “Trey” Wade III**, Haskell
- Clayton Fulton**, Oktaha
- Brooklyn Gunter**, Wilson
- Cameron Pak**, Henryetta

The teens competed for the opportunity by writing letters to an elected official of their choice on an issue that concerns them.

Scholarship Winners

The Operation Roundup board of trustees awarded \$21,000 in college scholarships to eligible teens from each high school in East Central Electric Cooperative service territory. Teens from 21 schools applied for the \$1,000 scholarship.

Scholarship recipients were selected based on academic achievement, leadership activities, civic involvement, and financial need.

Recipients of the 2014 Operation Roundup scholarships are:

- Corey Abernathy, Morris
- Andrew Banta, Okemah
- Shanyyn Flock, Bixby
- Grace Flusche, Oktaha
- Zachary Freistedt, Bristow
- Montana Gormley, Weleetka
- Dalton Hale, Depew
- Kaitlynn Harjo, Graham-Dustin
- Cary Hayes, Warner
- Eli Hobbs, Haskell
- Haylee Horton, Henryetta
- Whitney Layman, Eufaula
- Haylee Lindsey, Kellyville
- Lane Martin, Beggs
- Tiffany Peters, Dewar
- Rebecka Pitts, Stroud
- Katelyn Robinson, Valley Christian
- Petra Tapia, Hilldale
- Bailey Teague, Checotah
- Taylor Thomas, Mason
- Katherine Thompson, Preston

East Central Electric congratulates its Youth Tour winners and scholarship recipients on their achievement.

For more details on these programs, please visit www.ecoec.com, or call your co-op at 918-756-0833.

ECE Annual Meeting Is July 24 - Save the Date!

Co-op members are encouraged to attend the East Central Electric Annual Meeting on July 24. The meeting will be held in Covelle Hall, located on the campus of OSUIT in Okmulgee.

The ECE Annual Meeting is the perfect opportunity for members to meet co-op board members and staff, and learn about the issues that affect their co-op.

If you plan to make it, be sure to register when you arrive at Covelle Hall. Registration makes you eligible for prizes given away at the meeting, including the grand prize. Grand prizes in the past have included \$1,500 electric bill credits, cash prizes, lawnmowers, and more. Please mark your calendars for July 24!



ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Tip of the Month

A well-designed landscape provides both energy efficiency and curb appeal for your home. The type of vegetation you choose is as important as where they are planted. Sunlight streaming through windows and bearing down on the roof can drive up air conditioner use. Using shade trees and shrubs in your landscaping plan can help reduce cooling costs. In the winter, deciduous trees lose their leaves and let in warmth.

Source: Energy.gov

For more energy saving tips and advice, please visit www.togetherwesave.com, www.ecoec.com or contact your co-op to schedule a free home energy audit at 918-756-0833.



June billing cycles

For bill payment questions or details about East Central Electric's convenient bill payment options, visit www.ecoec.com, or call 918-756-0833.

Your prompt payment is appreciated.

| | Mailed | Due |
|----------------|--------|---------|
| Cycle 1 | May 9 | May 30 |
| Cycle 2 | May 17 | June 7 |
| Cycle 3 | May 24 | June 15 |
| Cycle 4 | May 30 | June 22 |



therecipebox

Favorite recipes from members of East Central Electric Cooperative.

Ice Chest Fruit Tea

Contributed by Rhonda Vanbrunt, Council Hill

Ingredients

- 1 (28 oz.) Instant Lipton tea (lemon flavored and sugar sweetened)
- 5 lbs. Sugar
- 8 oranges, cut in sections
- 8 lemons, cut in sections
- 8 limes, cut in sections
- large ice chest, 1/2 full of water

Directions

Add Lipton tea and sugar and stir well. Add all the fruit and two bags of ice.



playitsafe

Safety Month Targets Basic Home Hazards

May is National Electrical Safety Month, and this year's "Back to the Basics" campaign challenges consumers to make home electrical safety assessments a priority.

The Consumer Electronics Association claims the average home today has a minimum of three televisions, two DVD players, at least one digital camera, and two cell phones.

Today's increased demand for energy can overburden your home's electrical system. The following tips will help you identify and eliminate home electrical hazards:

- Make sure entertainment centers and computer equipment have plenty of space around them for ventilation.

• Use extension cords as a temporary solution, and never as a permanent power supply.

• Use a surge protector to protect your computer and other electronic equipment from damage caused by voltage changes.

• Heavy reliance on power strips is an indication that you have too few outlets to address your needs. Have additional outlets installed by a qualified, licensed electrician.

• Keep liquids, including drinks, away from electrical items such as televisions and computers.

For additional tips or to schedule a free safety demonstration for your organization or school, please contact Billie Been at 918-756-0833, or visit www.ecoec.com.



Blood Drive Needs You

East Central Electric Cooperative will host a blood drive for the American Red Cross on **Tuesday, May 20, from 9 am to 1 pm**. The drive will be held in the ECE auditorium. Please consider becoming a "giver." Your donation could save a life.

PEOPLE OF EARTH

WE BEAM YOU THE SPEED TO CRUSH YOUR ONLINE AUCTION FOES.

Limited Time Offer
\$100 off*
Up-front Setup Fee
Offer for a limited time only.

Time Left: 4 seconds
Place bid



exede
INTERNET

HIGH SPEED INTERNET FOR ALL MANKIND