

CEC *inside your* co-op

For members of Choctaw Electric Cooperative | NOVEMBER 2024



In the photos: A crowd gathered at the McCurtain County Fairgrounds on Sept. 28 for CEC's 84th Annual Meeting. Top left: CEO Kooney Duncan addressed CEC's membership. Bottom right: CEC's 2024 Board of Trustees.



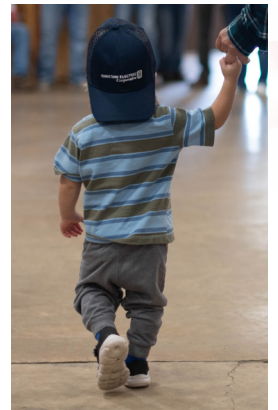
Patriotic Spirit Shines at Choctaw Electric Cooperative's 84th Annual Meeting

Choctaw Electric Cooperative's 84th Annual Meeting was a patriotic celebration of cooperative membership. Held on September 28 at the McCurtain County Fairgrounds in Idabel, more than 500 members gathered for a morning of family fun, music, delicious food, prize drawings and updates from Choctaw Electric Cooperative's leadership.

During the business meeting, Board President Brent Franks reflected on the cooperative's achievements in 2023, while CEO Kooney Duncan highlighted CEC's recent growth and reaffirmed the co-op's dedication to delivering reliable, affordable power.

Members also voted to approve a bylaw amendment, and incumbent board members Bill Woolsey, Deborah Cody, and Perry Thompson, Jr. (representing districts D, E, and F) were each re-elected to serve another three-year term.

Thank you to everyone who came out and helped make Choctaw Electric Cooperative's 84th Annual Meeting a success!



Choctaw Electric Cooperative

Serving members in Choctaw, Pushmataha, Atoka, McCurtain, Bryan and LeFlore counties.

CONNECT WITH US

Monday-Friday | 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

24 Hour Outage Line

(800) 780-6486

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Hugo, OK 74743

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Antlers, OK 74523

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Local: (580) 298-3201

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Brent Franks | President
Jarred Campbell | Vice President
Perry Thompson, Jr. | Secretary/Treasurer
Bill Woolsey
Debbie Cody
Jana Burris
Ken Autry
Stacy Nichols
Jackson Ferguson

MANAGEMENT & STAFF

Kooney Duncan | CEO
Tanya Roebuck | Executive Assistant/
HR & Benefits
Jia Johnson | Public Relations Director

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Cooperation Among Cooperatives

CEC responds to hurricanes with mutual aid assistance

This fall has been marked by unprecedented hurricane activity, reminding us of the power of nature—as well as the resilience of our cooperative spirit.

On Sept. 26, Hurricane Helene made landfall in Florida as a Category 4 storm, followed closely by Hurricane Milton on Oct. 9, which struck the west coast of the state. The devastation has been significant.

In the face of such challenges, we are proud to be part of a nationwide electric cooperative community that embodies the principle of “Cooperation Among Cooperatives.”

Choctaw Electric Cooperative has dispatched a four-man crew including Derek Baker, Breckin Allen, Jeremy Billingsley and Jeff Rector (pictured below, from left). They will assist Jefferson Energy Cooperative in Georgia with power restoration efforts. At one point after Hurricane Helene, 100% of Jefferson Energy’s system, comprising 36,878 meters,

was out of power.

As of mid-October, 111 lineworkers from 12 Oklahoma cooperatives have joined forces to provide mutual aid, restoring power and offering hope to affected communities.

Our collective efforts extend beyond hands-on assistance. The Oklahoma Association of Electric Cooperatives’ Disaster Relief Fund has generously contributed \$15,000 to the NRECA

Cooperative Development Fund. This fund plays a crucial role in supporting electric cooperatives and their employees impacted by disasters, ensuring they have the resources needed to rebuild and recover.

As we move forward, our prayers remain with all those affected by the hurricanes, along with our unwavering support for the crews working tirelessly to restore power. Together, we exemplify the cooperative spirit, proving that in times of crisis, we are stronger together.



CEO Kooney Duncan





OPERATIONS UPDATE

Coordination powers reliability and growth

Choctaw Electric Cooperative's operations rely on seamless coordination across departments to ensure reliability and support the growth of the communities we serve. With significant system upgrades and expansions underway, teamwork plays a crucial role in the success of these projects.

Distribution Engineer Jake Johnson explains that with new equipment deployments, such as larger wires and meter upgrades, CEC is not only addressing current system demands but also planning for future growth. Ongoing projects, such as the 15.5-mile Bethel to Hochatown line conversion and the inspection of over 13,000 poles in 2024, are key components of this strategy. Additionally, transformer capacity studies are underway to prepare for increased winter loads in 2024 and 2025.

Coordination is key in every phase of CEC's operations. Line Superintendent Mike Mahaffey highlights how departments work together before any project begins. The right-of-way team ensures clear areas for line work, the warehouse orders materials in advance, and dispatch and public relations are always in the loop for communication. This collaboration is especially important during large-scale projects, such as the replacement of 1,400 poles around Broken Bow and the completion of seven major developments in Hochatown this year.

Darin Kirkes, head of staking and

design, works to ensure right-of-way clearance for new projects. With over 500 miles of lines to trim and 1,000 miles of herbicide application planned in 2025, coordination with contractors ensures the system stays clear and reliable. This is particularly important in areas experiencing rapid development, where system upgrades are crucial to meet growing demand.

Guy Dale, operations manager and Safety and Loss Control director, says operational improvements extend to the warehouse. With new technology and processes, CEC is modernizing inventory management and staging materials for crew members to increase efficiency. With improvements, he notes that safety is always at the forefront of their operations.

"Safety is continuously on our minds. It's something we're always working on, trying to find ways to be safer and not become complacent," Dale says, noting that CEC has been without a lost time accident since December 2019.

With a dedicated team working closely together, CEC remains committed to maintaining a reliable system, adapting to growth and ensuring the safety of our operations for years to come.

"With the amount of growth we've experienced, coordination among our operations is key to maintaining our system and planning for future," CEO Kooney Duncan says. "Ultimately what we're doing is ensuring reliability."

Office Closure

CEC's offices will be closed Nov. 28-29. We wish our members a Happy Thanksgiving!

Go paperless and win!

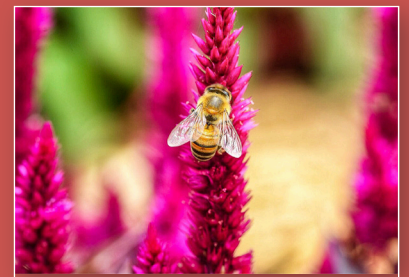
Sign up for paperless billing via the SmartHub app or call Choctaw Electric Cooperative at 800-780-6486. Any member who signs up during the month will be entered into a drawing for a chance to win a \$100 bill credit!

Warming Tree

Help us make this holiday season warmer for those in need! Now through Dec. 6, CEC's Warming Tree is accepting donations of blankets and warm clothing for all ages (socks, gloves, winter hats, scarves and other cozy apparel). Drop off items at any CEC office, or donate cash, and CEC will shop for you.

Lucky Acct #38868502

If this is your account number, please contact CEC at 800-780-6486, ext. 241 by the 5th of the month to claim your \$25 bill credit. Unclaimed bill credits roll over each month by \$25 for a maximum credit of \$100.



Bee Kind!

Congratulations to CEC member Ashkea Logan on winning the Oklahoma Living Magazine Okie Snaps Readers' Choice competition with her entry of "Bee Kind" (pictured above). Check out your October issue of OKL magazine to see other winners throughout the state.

Preserving Our Legacy: CEC Partners with the Oklahoma Historical Society for 85th Anniversary Photo Project

As Choctaw Electric Cooperative looks ahead to our 85th anniversary in 2025, we're embarking on a project to honor and preserve our history. The initiative aims to shine a light on the cooperative's past by identifying and organizing a collection of cherished photos—some dating back decades. Many of these photos capture the faces of co-op members, employees, and memorable moments—but sadly, many remain unidentified.

Kenny Sivard, CEC's purchasing agent and a board member of the Oklahoma Historical Society, recognized the importance of preserving this legacy for future generations. He proposed a project to not only organize the photos, but also share them with the community.

"I think any time you can preserve the history, it's value you can bring to members today as well as members in the future," Sivard says.

With the enthusiastic support of his colleagues, the idea took root. Sivard

reached out to the Oklahoma Historical Society (OHS) on behalf of the co-op, and they graciously offered to digitize the collection, free of charge. The images will become a part of a permanent Choctaw Electric Cooperative Collection in the OHS's Gateway to Oklahoma History.

"The OHS Gateway will host high-resolution photos along with detailed information about them, making the collection both accessible and user-friendly," says Jia Johnson, CEC director of public relations. "This resource will be invaluable to the co-op, preserving our history for generations to come."

CEC members and employees are invited to take part in this project. By helping to identify the people, places and events captured in the photos, members will add their own personal connections to this living history. As the collection grows and evolves, it will serve as a bridge between the cooperative's past and future.

This project is not just about preserving photographs; it's about keeping the cooperative's spirit alive for generations to come. It's a way to ensure that the memories and milestones of CEC continue to inspire, educate and connect members into the future.

If members have photos they wish to donate to the collection, please contact Johnson at 800-780-6486, ext. 241.



NOTICE OF PATRONAGE ALLOCATION

This Notice of Patronage Allocation is issued in accordance with the bylaws of Choctaw Electric Cooperative, Inc.

After reviewing the 2023 year-end financial statements, CEC allocated \$3,393,018.75 in excess margins. Margins are calculated each year by subtracting total operating expenses from total operating revenues. These margins are allocated to members' capital account first based on their specific revenue classes gross margin and then on their total KWH of electricity purchased from the cooperative during 2023. This allocated patronage capital is combined with total patronage capital that has not been retired (paid) and provides working capital for the cooperative.

Members can determine their amount of this allocation by selecting their Revenue Class

| REVENUE CLASS | RATE CLASS | 2023 ALLOCATION FACTOR |
|--------------------|------------------|------------------------|
| General Service | 5, 7, 11, 95, 96 | 0.0099010441 |
| Seasonal | 14 | 0.0125294805 |
| Small Commercial | 10, 23, 56 | 0.0048740352 |
| Large Commercial 1 | 34, 44 | 0.0080255791 |
| Large Commercial 2 | 40 | 0.0018983343 |
| Industrial | 60 | 0.0003674589 |

and Rate Class (which can be found on their billing statement) allocation factor shown above and multiplying their designated factor by their KWH purchased from the cooperative in 2023.

The amount of a specific allocation is available from the cooperative upon member

request. Refund of this amount, in full or in part, at any time, shall be based on the decision of the board of trustees that the financial condition of the cooperative shall not be impaired by making such refund.

Please contact CEC at 800-780-6486 if you have questions about this allocation.