

inside *your* co-op

Published for members of Choctaw Electric Cooperative

TOP STORY

Understanding CEC's Capital Credit Payback Process

Answers to common questions about your share of co-op margins

Choctaw Electric isn't a typical utility company, it's an electric cooperative. Being a cooperative, it is bound by certain principles and ways of operation that set it apart from traditional investor-owned companies. For one, it returns profits to members in a process known as a capital credit retirement. End-of-year financial margins are allocated to members based on their kilowatt-hour use for that particular year (See notice, right). The co-op uses these funds as a source of operating capital, and serves as an important rainy day fund during disasters.

Members who belonged to CEC in 1989 will receive their credit check for that year in September. If you have questions about capital credits, the following Q&A may help.

How long do I have to cash the check?

Checks must be cashed within 90 days. If not cashed within 90 days, you may return the check. Another check will be issued following identification and confirmation that you are the CEC account holder.

Will I get a refund every year?

CEC trustees determine when capital credits are paid to members based on CEC's financial condition and the provisions of your cooperative bylaws.

Why do I only receive part of my capital credit allocation?

Each year the board of trustees decides if capital credits will be retired. Next, they approve an equity distribution plan that includes the total amount to be paid and the years to be retired.

Why didn't I get a check?

Three possible reasons: 1) Your allocation amount was less than \$5 and will remain in your account until it accumulates to \$5 or more. 2) CEC doesn't have your current mailing address. Please complete a Patronage Capital Credit Record Update form, available at www.choctawelectric.coop or any CEC office, and a check will be re-issued. 3) The capital credit amount was applied to an outstanding account balance.

A check was sent to my address, but it's in the name of a former resident. What should I do?

Please mark it "Return to Sender"

NOTICE OF PATRONAGE ALLOCATION

Issued in accordance with the bylaws of Choctaw Electric Cooperative, Inc.

After reviewing the 2018 year-end financial statements, CEC allocated \$4,045,310.47 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 based on the total kilowatt-hours (kwh) of electricity purchased from the cooperative during 2018. 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 multiplying the allocation factor of 0.0084303619 by their kwh purchased from the cooperative in 2018. 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.

If you have any questions concerning this allocation, please call your cooperative at 800-780-6486.

and mail it back to us or drop it off at your nearest CEC office.

I received a check with the name of a deceased family member. What do I do with it?

A representative of the deceased member's estate may apply for the Estate Capital Credit with documentation. Forms are available at your nearest CEC office, by mail, or online at www.choctawelectric.coop.

What happens to my credits if I move?

Keep CEC informed of address changes by completing a Patronage Capital Credit Record Update form, available CEC offices, by mail or at www.choctawelectric.coop.

 **MANAGER'S REPORT**

Talk to Us. We're Listening.

CEC is taking big steps to meet member needs. To do this effectively, we need to hear from you.

Next month CEC will hold its 79th Annual Meeting. Historically, an electric co-op's annual business meeting is the best time for its members to use their vote to ensure co-op policies and services reflect the wishes of the majority. Outside of the formal business session, which runs according to co-op bylaws, everything about CEC's Annual Meeting is designed to get you, the member, to attend. If you can't make it this year, you can still participate by using the mail-in ballot enclosed in your CEC voter packet. Look for the packet in your mailbox during the first week in September.

I've heard it said that a person shouldn't complain about our federal and state government if they aren't willing to get out and vote. The same is true for your co-op, so please let your vote speak for you.

For the past several years, CEC has made huge strides by reducing its debt load and tightening up operations. At the same time, we're trying to do all we can to keep the lines of communication with our members open. To keep members in the loop, we try to promote our meetings and events in advance. We insist on an open door policy in our offices, and take your phone calls and respond to emails as quickly as possible. Videos of board meetings can be viewed via Smarthub, minutes of our monthly board meetings are readily available for members on our website, and we publish the bar code (*below*) every month that you can scan to read the proceedings on your phone. At CEC's Member Appreciation Days, we survey members to gauge their satisfaction and better determine what is most important to them. At staff meetings, I encourage all of our employees to view every interaction with members as a time to listen and learn.

This year, we're trying another approach to reach out by hosting focus group meetings around our service area. Last month, we held one in Valliant for volunteer firefighters (*See page 4*). Chances are we will host one near you in the coming months. When that happens, please try to be there.

CEC is trying to be the best cooperative it can be by satisfying the most comprehensive needs of our membership. We can't do this without you. Please come to the Annual Meeting, call, or stop by the office. Talk to us. We're listening. 🗣️



Lucky Acct #38846566

(\$75) If this account number belongs to you, contact CEC by the 10th of the month to claim your \$75 bill credit. Unclaimed bill credits will roll over each month by \$25 for a maximum credit of \$100. To claim your credit, please call 800-780-6486, ext. 207.

OFFICIAL MINUTES OF YOUR CEC BOARD MEETING

Scan this code with your smartphone or tablet to read the monthly minutes of your co-op board meeting. Minutes are also available at any CEC location and online at www.choctawelectric.coop.

To scan the code, install a Bar Code Scanner app, available at the App Store.



BY KOONEY DUNCAN
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Choctaw Electric Cooperative

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

Monday-Friday • 8 am - 5 pm

HUGO OFFICE

PO Box 758
Hwy 93 North
Hugo, Oklahoma 74743

Toll Free: (800) 780-6486
Local: (580) 326-6486
FAX (580) 326-2492

IDABEL OFFICE

2114 SE Washington
Idabel, Oklahoma 74745

Toll Free: (800) 780-6486
Local: (580) 286-7155

ANTLERS OFFICE

HC 67 Box 62
Antlers, Oklahoma 74523
(One mile east of Antlers)

Toll Free: (800) 780-6486
Local: (580) 298-3201

On the Web:

www.choctawelectric.coop



24 Hour Outage Hotline

800-780-6486

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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Mike Brewer, *Secretary Treasurer*

Stacy Nichols Bill Woolsey

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MANAGEMENT AND STAFF

Kooney Duncan, *Chief Executive Officer*

Jennifer Boling, *Executive Assistant*

Jia Johnson, *Director of Public Relations*

Tiffany Hempsted, *Chief Financial Officer*



QUICK TAKES

Heat Index Affects Electric Bills



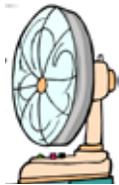
Mesonet reports the heat index soared to over 100°F on several days in July. Along with the humidity, the soaring temperatures force your air conditioner

to work overtime to keep your home cool. Remember, any increase in usage during July will appear on the electric bill you receive in August.

If you find yourself struggling to pay your bill, please reach out to your co-op before the debt mounts and your service is in jeopardy. Our billing representatives can help you find a payment option that works for you. The co-op also provides a list of agencies that offer bill payment assistance to qualifying individuals. Please don't put it off: Call 800-780-6486.

Donate Fans For Folks

Got an old box fan or wind machine lying around your house? Please bring it your nearest CEC office. The co-op is collecting fans for Senior Awareness Committee's annual summer fan drive. Fans are delivered to local elderly residents who need them to stay cool during the summer. Please make sure fans are operable and safe to use. Thank you!



Teen Leaders Take On DC



CEC's 2019 Youth Tour winners Alaura Gilmore, Dillon Bodine, and Mahala Battiast at the US Marine Corp Memorial in Washington DC. The memorial honors the lives lost in the Battle of Iwo Jima, and the lives of all Marines who have died serving their country. The memorial is one of many stops on the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour, which took place in June. The teens earned their place on the tour with their winning submissions in the co-op's annual multimedia competition.

Find more details on their adventure on CEC's Facebook page. For more about Youth Tour and how your teen can participate, please visit www.choctawelectric.coop.



THE HOME

Energy DETECTIVE

By Brad Kendrick, CEC Energy Use Specialist

In summer, we expect higher electricity bills and taller grass, but what's the connection? Grass and weeds can grow over the outside of your HVAC unit, not allowing it to get the air it needs to "breathe." By keeping the exterior of your unit cleaned and washed, you encourage better air flow, which makes it operate more efficiently. When weed eating, make sure you don't clip the thermostat wires going from your home to the unit. This will cause your unit to not run properly or cool correctly.

Do you have questions for CEC's energy sleuth? Please call Brad Kendrick, CEC energy use specialist, at 800-780-6486, or email questions to: bakendrick@choctawelectric.coop.

2019 CEC Annual Meeting Vendor Booth Reservation Form

Saturday, September 28 • Hugo Agriplex

Organization _____
 Contact person _____
 Daytime Telephone _____
 Mailing Address _____
 Products to be displayed/sold _____
 Number of booth spaces _____



Note: Booth spaces are available first come, first serve. Vendors must bring their own tables, chairs and electrical cords.

Deadline to reserve booth: September 20, 2019

Please mail reservation form to: Jia Johnson, Choctaw Electric Cooperative PO Box 758, Hugo, OK 74743

COUNT DOWN TO ANNUAL MEETING:

Save These Dates!



- ▶ **August 14**
Second revision of proposed bylaw amendments due at CEC Hugo.
- ▶ **August 29 - September 3**
CEC voter packets and mail-in ballots mailed to members.
- ▶ **September 27**
Mail-in ballots must be received by 5 pm on this date to be considered valid.
- ▶ **September 28**
CEC Annual Meeting, Hugo Agriplex



CEC CEO Kooney Duncan (center) presents volunteer firefighters with a \$2,000 grant the cooperative secured through CoBank. The presentation took place at a special focus group meeting CEC hosted for firefighters in Valiant on July 13. PHOTO/JENNIFER BOLING.

Homing In:

CEC Reaches Out To Volunteer Firefighters

Among local organizations serving rural residents, southeast Oklahoma's volunteer fire departments (VFDs) provide an essential service that protects lives and property. Because many of these units are located on Choctaw Electric (CEC) lines, the co-op invited firefighters to share their comments, questions, and concerns at a special focus group meeting in Valliant on July 13.

The second in a series of focus group meetings CEC plans to host over the next year, the casual format offers a good way for CEC to connect with members and find out what they need.

"This meeting is CEC's way of letting you know how much we appreciate your dedication to our communities," said CEC's Kooney Duncan. "We realize our working relationship with local fire departments and the potential safety concerns that pose a risk for you all."

More than 75 firefighters attended the meeting, with volunteers present from Swink, Soper, Garvin, Spencerville, Bluff, Speer, and Messer VFDs. With food and refreshments available, the atmosphere prompted a lot of productive conversation between co-op staff and firefighters.

CEO Duncan said the co-op came away with a list of needs that will help firefighters do their jobs more effectively and safely. Suggestions from firefighters included providing a detailed map of co-op service territory, plus photos of CEC meters and pole numbers so firefighters can identify them and know which utility to contact in an emergency. Safety being the utmost priority among firefighters, the co-op will also provide safety videos to help volunteers understand how to handle electrical situations during a fire.

RECIPES



Pineapple Cream Pie

INGREDIENTS

1 cup sugar	1 (15 oz) can crushed pineapple, drained
3 tablespoons all-purpose flour	2 egg yolks
½ teaspoon salt	3 tablespoons butter
1 cup milk	1 (9 inch) baked pie crust

DIRECTIONS

Whisk sugar, flour, and salt together in a saucepan over medium heat.

Add milk and cook, whisking constantly, until mixture thickens and begins to bubble, 3 to 5 minutes. Remove from heat.

Stir pineapple, egg yolks, and butter into milk mixture. Return to heat and cook over medium heat until mixture begins to bubble, 3 to 5 minutes. Continue cooking, stirring constantly, until hot and thick, about 2 minutes more. Pour mixture into prepared pie crust. Refrigerate until chilled, at least 3 hours.

Pay Your Electric Bill Using A PaySite Kiosk Near You

PaySite kiosks are ready to accept your electric bill payment at the following locations; or use the kiosk locator at <http://paysitekiosklocator.com/> to locate a kiosk near you.

Save A Lot Grocery, Hugo. CLOSED

OPEN SUNDAY, 9 AM - 8 PM;
MON-SAT, 7:30 AM - 9 PM

Country Market, Clayton.

OPEN 6 AM - 10 PM, 7 DAYS/WK

Choctaw Travel Plazas in Hugo, Atoka, Antlers, Broken Bow, and Idabel.

OPEN 24 HRS.

CJ's Corner Store, Smithville

OPEN MON - FRI, 6 AM - 7 PM;
SAT, 6:30 AM - 7 PM; SUN, 9 AM - 5 PM



Check out our new kiosk location at the Choctaw Travel Plaza in Hugo!