

Perks of Membership

CEC retires more than \$1 million in capital credits to members.

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Loans Available For Members

Find storm shelter and appliance loan applications online.

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Safe and Connected

Use CEC's safe, convenient options to pay your bill, sign up for service, and more.

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For members of **Choctaw Electric Cooperative**

AUGUST 2020

80^{YEARS} CEC **inside your co-op**



We'd Like Your Opinion

Help CEC serve you better by completing our member survey.

As a member of Choctaw Electric Cooperative (CEC), you have preferences for how you communicate and do business with your co-op. To help us improve our services and better meet your needs, we need your help.

CEC is asking members to complete a brief member survey that includes questions such as:

- How do you prefer to receive news and updates from CEC?
- What bill payment method do you use?
- How do you prefer to report outages?
- How do you prefer to receive outage updates?
- Do you follow CEC on Facebook?

Survey forms are included in the gift bags given to members who register at the CEC Annual Meeting. If you can't make it to the meeting this year, please

stop by our office in Hugo, Antlers, or Idabel and pick up a survey. You can fill it out while you're there, or mail the completed form to us later.

To increase participation, every member who turns in a completed survey will be entered into a drawing for a \$25 electric bill credit.

"This survey helps us gauge member interest in certain services, and determine the best ways for us to keep members informed," said Kooney Duncan, CEO of CEC.

It only takes a minute or two to complete the survey. Space is included for any comments, criticisms or observations you wish to share. Remember, your opinion matters and CEC wants to hear from you! 🗣️

For more information on the annual member survey, please call your co-op at 800-780-6486 or contact us via email at info@choctawelectric.com. Member survey forms are available at the CEC office in Hugo, Antlers and idabel.



**CORONAVIRUS
COVID-19**

CEC UPDATE

CEC Plans for Annual Meeting

Choctaw Electric's Annual Meeting is scheduled for September 26 at the McCurtain County Fairgrounds. While plans for the event continue on schedule, co-op officials continue to monitor the Covid-19 situation closely.

"Our annual meeting is a big event that allows us to share important information with our members in a family friendly environment," said Kooney Duncan, CEO of CEC. "But the safety of everyone who attends is also important to us. If we have to alter our plans to protect our members and employees, we will certainly do that."

CEC will notify annual meeting vendors of any changes or cancellations by August 21. The co-op will also announce any changes on the CEC website, newsletter, social media, SmartHub, and local newspapers and radio stations.

"The pandemic makes it difficult for us to know what to expect," said Duncan. "In the meantime, we appreciate our members' patience and understanding."

MANAGER'S REPORT



Perks of Membership

CEC retires \$1 million in capital credits

BY KOONEY DUNCAN, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

There are a lot of reasons to feel good about what Choctaw Electric has accomplished over the past several years. Here's another one: At their monthly meeting in July, the CEC board of trustees approved a capital credit retirement of \$1,089,007.77 to members.



Your Credit Is On The Way!

If you belonged to Choctaw Electric in 1990, 1994, or 1995, please watch for your credit to arrive this month. Some members will receive a check in the mail; those with refunds of less than \$10 will notice a credit on their electric bill.

This money represents your share of CEC financial margins, and it's a nice perk of co-op membership. Capital credit refunds are to co-op members what dividends are to stockholders at for-profit companies. The difference is your co-op operates at cost—collecting enough revenue to run and expand the business, but

without the need to raise rates to generate profits for shareholders.

At year-end, after all CEC expenses are paid, any money left over is allocated back to our members as capital credits. Your allocation is based on how much electricity you used during the given year.

Each year, CEC trustees evaluate the co-ops financial condition to determine when and how much of the capital credit allocation to retire, or pay, to members.

CEC has paid capital credits consistently for the past few years. Our ability to do this is an excellent indication that we are doing things right. I hope you recognize that your electric cooperative has crossed a significant milestone. Thanks to the decisions made by your trustees, and the ability of CEC employees to effectively implement these decisions, Choctaw Electric is healthy and growing strong. Now, you, our members, can enjoy the rewards. ☺

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

Brent Franks, *President*

Stacy Nichols, *Vice President*

Mike Brewer, *Secretary Treasurer*

Bill Woolsey Debbie Cody

Ken Autry Perry Thompson Jr.

MANAGEMENT AND STAFF

Kooney Duncan, *Chief Executive Officer*

Jennifer Boling, *Executive Assistant*

Jia Johnson, *Director of Public Relations*

Tiffany Hempsted, *Chief Financial Officer*

Lucky Acct #38857374(\$50)

If this account number belongs to you, contact CEC by the 5th of the month to claim your \$50 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.





Loans For Storm Shelters Or Appliances

Online loan forms make it easy to apply

An in-ground storm shelter is the best way to stay safe during a tornado or violent storm. To help co-op members afford this level of protection, Choctaw Electric Cooperative (CEC) offers financing on in-ground storm shelters. Storm shelters are available in two sizes, with prices starting at \$2,500. Price includes installation.

To apply for a storm shelter loan, please download the application found at www.choctawelectric.coop.

CEC also offers financing on the purchase of electric-powered appliances via the Energy Star Small Appliance Loan. If your oven won't bake, your fridge stops cooling, or your



To apply for a CEC loan, click the Forms and Applications from the menu of options found online at www.choctawelectric.coop.

window AC starts blowing hot air, check with your co-op about an Energy Star Small Appliance Loan. Loans will cover the cost of an energy efficient appliance up to \$2,500.

Find loan applications online at www.choctawelectric.coop. If you'd like to speak to a CEC representative about the loan program, please call **800-780-6486**.

DATES WORTH REMEMBERING

► **August 27** | CEC voter packets and mail-in ballots mailed to members. Mail-in ballots must be received by the date of the CEC Annual Meeting to be counted in the election. Please make sure your ballot is mailed in time to meet the deadline.

► **September 26** | Mail-in ballots due. To be valid, you must use the ballot and envelope found in your CEC voter packet.

► **September 26** | CEC Annual Meeting, McCurtain Co. Fairgrounds, Idabel. *NOTE: Plans subject to change due to Covid-19 health and safety concerns. We will keep you posted via our newsletter, website and social media.*

Attention Vendors:

Plans for the CEC Annual Meeting may change depending on social distancing recommendations from local health department officials. We will notify you of any changes by August 21. Thank you, we appreciate your understanding.



2020 CEC Annual Meeting

Vendor Booth Reservation Form

Saturday, September 26 • McCurtain Co. Fairgrounds • Idabel

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 18, 2020

Please send booth reservation form to:

Jia Johnson, Choctaw Electric Cooperative PO Box 758, Hugo, OK 74743

THE HOME Energy DETECTIVE

By Brad Kendrick, CEC Energy Use Specialist

High Usage Mystery Solved

Recently, I visited with a member who was experiencing high usage. Every day, their usage would drop at 10 am, and shoot back up at 2 pm. They checked everything from their swimming pool to their water heater. They didn't realize they had a programmable thermostat on a running cycle that shut off at 10 am and came back on at 2 pm. When their HVAC unit came on at 2 pm to cool the house, their heat strips were kicking on, too. The member wasn't aware of the problem until they received their bill. To avoid these sort of problems, remember to have your HVAC unit serviced once a year.



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.



A GLANCE BACK

Tent Meeting

Some Choctaw Electric Cooperative (CEC) members can still remember when CEC's Annual Meeting took place under a big tent. This photo from the CEC archives shows a meeting from years ago at the Choctaw County fairgrounds.



For safety reasons, the coronavirus is putting a healthy distance between people around the globe. But that doesn't mean you shouldn't reach out when you need help.

At Choctaw Electric, our employees are still at work every day, committed to providing you with the best possible service. While we are limiting our in-person interactions in the office and in the field, our lobby and drive-thru remain open, and we offer a wide range of online services to help you conduct business with us while staying safe.



Connect via SmartHub. With CEC's SmartHub, you can use your mobile phone, tablet or computer to report outages, view your usage, pay bills, receive outage alerts, edit your account information, and more. Log on using your computer, or download the SmartHub mobile app from the App Store or Google Play.



Connect online. Log on to www.choctawelectric.coop for helpful information about CEC and its many services. You can also track power outages throughout our system, download applications for CEC loan programs, new residential or commercial service, and payment plans such as auto pay and prepaid.



Connect via Facebook. View CEC's Facebook page for important news and updates from your co-op, quick tips to lower energy costs and stay safe around electricity, and post questions and comments.



STAY CONNECTED

With Your Co-op



Connect via email. Use email to reach us by sending your questions to info@choctawelectric.coop.



Call us. Need help? Please give us a call at **800-780-6486**. Our representatives are available to help you Monday-Friday, 8 am - 5 pm, or call after hours to report outages and other service problems.

Thank you for your cooperation!