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CEC board approved capital credit return to members.

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CEC Youth Tour winners see the sites, including the Washington Monument.

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New Look For Smarthub

Smarthub upgrade coming your way this fall.

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For members of **Choctaw Electric Cooperative**

AUGUST 2023

CEC *inside your* co-op

Spotlight

CEC Annual Meeting Promises Big Top Fun

Join us for prizes, arts and crafts, electric bill credits, games and more!

Giving a nod to Hugo's long acclaimed circus history, Choctaw Electric Cooperative (CEC) will welcome members to its 78th Annual Meeting with the flair and fun of the Big Top.

The meeting will be held Saturday, September 23 at the Agriplex located at the Choctaw County Fairgrounds. With prizes, carnival games, and a big tent full of arts and crafts and other displays, members attending the meeting can expect to be entertained.

★ **ATTRACTIONS** ★

True to its circus theme, the meeting will welcome performers from the Culpepper and Meriweather Circus who will operate the carnival games wearing their full circus attire. Free refreshments including popcorn, hot dogs, snow cones, soft drinks, and cotton candy will lend Big Top flavor to the festivities.



Members who register for the meeting could win one of many valuable prizes. Prize drawings will include electronics, small appliances, tools, and other useful items.

CEC will award a \$1,000 electric bill credit to one lucky winner. Bill credits of \$50 and \$100 will also be given away during the meeting.

Members may register for the meeting using the voting ballot found in their member voting packet. Packets will be mailed to members by August 29, so please keep an eye on your mailbox. Members who plan to attend the meeting can register at the registration booth located inside the Agriplex building.

HEALTH FAIR

Need more reasons to attend? Helping others is a good one. You can do that by giving blood at the Oklahoma Blood Institute mobile unit. While you're there, be sure to get a free flu shot.

If all of the above doesn't move you, please remember that Choctaw Electric Cooperative is owned by its members. Your participation is your voice. Please join us!

For more information on the CEC Annual Meeting, please visit www.choctawelectric.net, or call Jia Johnson at 800-780-6486, ext. 241.

Saturday, September 23
Choctaw County Agriplex • Hugo

Registration opens at 8:00 am. Business meeting begins at 10 am.



MANAGER'S REPORT



Your Share Of CEC

Capital credit return on its way

BY KOONEY DUNCAN, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

I have good news from your Choctaw Electric Cooperative (CEC) board of trustees. Because the co-op is in excellent financial shape, your trustees approved a capital credit retirement of \$1.64 million to members who belonged to the co-op in 1993 and 1994.

Members should expect to receive their credit in September. Capital credits are your share of CEC financial margins after all expenses are paid. Your share of these margins is determined by the amount of electricity you used during the years retired.

CEC's annual margins fund nearly everything we do in the business of delivering electricity, plus provide an important rainy day fund when storms and other disasters strain our budget. For that

reason, your trustees must carefully evaluate the co-op's financial situation while weighing all the "what ifs" that might occur in the future.

Their decision to release these funds is a vote of confidence in CEC's overall stability. I think that's something we should all feel proud of.

For several years now, we have invested a great deal of time, labor, and money into system upgrades and maintenance to improve our service. At the same time, we've managed our expenses and paid down debt. Bringing power to rural areas isn't easy or cheap, but we're doing it well. The proof is the financial capital we share with you. I hope you'll join us in celebrating our success at the upcoming the CEC Annual Meeting. Thank you for your support! 🙏

How Do Capital Credits Work?

Because electric co-ops operate at cost, any excess revenues, called margins, are returned to members in the form of capital credits.



Choctaw Electric Cooperative

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

Monday-Friday • 8 am - 5 pm

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On the Web:

www.choctawelectric.net



24 Hour Outage Hotline
800-780-6486

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 AND STAFF

Kooney Duncan, *Chief Executive Officer*

Jennifer Boling, *Executive Assistant*

Jia Johnson, *Director of Public Relations*



Standing Tall

In the long list of our nation's historic sites, the Washington Monument never falls short. Above, Cale Bible of Broken Bow, Kate Clifton of Soper, and Jakus Hatcher of Antlers grab a selfie in front of the 555-foot tower while participating in the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour. The teens enjoyed a full week in Washington DC, seeing all the sites and meeting students from across the country. Choctaw Electric is proud of the trio for representing the cooperative on the trip. A special pat on the back to Kate Clifton for advancing to the "final five" in the selection process for Oklahoma's delegate to the Youth Leadership Council. Teens selected for the YLC represent Oklahoma and its co-ops at the national level.

For more details on Youth Tour and how your teen can participate, please visit www.choctawelectric.net.



CHOCTAW ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE 2023 Board Meetings

The Choctaw Electric Cooperative (CEC) board of trustees meets at 9 am on the last Tuesday of every month at co-op headquarters in Hugo. Meetings are open to the public. Meeting minutes are available at www.choctawelectric.net or at any CEC location. To read the minutes on your smartphone or tablet, please scan the bar code to the right.



- August 29
- October 31
- December 21
- September 26
- November 28

Win a \$100 Bill Credit!

Enroll in CEC's paperless billing.

Enroll in paperless billing and your name will be entered in our monthly drawing for new paperless accounts. Enroll using Smarthub's payment options, or sign up by phone at **800-780-6486**.



Congratulations to Zachary Norsworthy of Ft. Towson our \$100 bill credit winner for the month of June. We appreciate your participation.



SAVE THE DATE!

■ AUGUST 24-29

Mail-in ballots delivered to members.

■ SEPTEMBER 23

CEC Annual Meeting
Choctaw County Agriplex
Hugo, Oklahoma

2023 Annual Meeting Vendor Booth Reservation Form

Saturday, September 23, 2023
Choctaw County Agriplex

Organization _____

Contact person _____

Daytime Telephone _____

Mailing Address _____

Products to be displayed/sold _____

Number of booth spaces _____

- Booth spaces are available first come, first serve.
- Vendors will set up outside the Agriplex.
- Vendors must bring their own tables, chairs, electrical cords and tent.
- **Deadline to reserve booth: September 16, 2023.**

Please mail booth reservation form to:

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



Coming This Fall: A New Look for Smarthub

Change is in the works for users of the Choctaw Electric Cooperative (CEC) Smarthub. According to Hilary Pound, CEC’s manager of customer service and billing, users may not notice a shift in Smarthub’s technological foundation, but they will see a more user-friendly interface.

“The upgrades will simplify how members connect with Choctaw Electric, but keep the same powerful engagement and bill payment tools they are used to,” Pound explained.

Some of the upgrades members can expect include faster, easier access to usage and payment details and a simplified menu structure that will improve site navigation.

Pound said the “new” Smarthub should be ready to launch in the fall.

“We hope members will appreciate the benefits of the new streamlined, upgraded version of Smarthub,” she said.

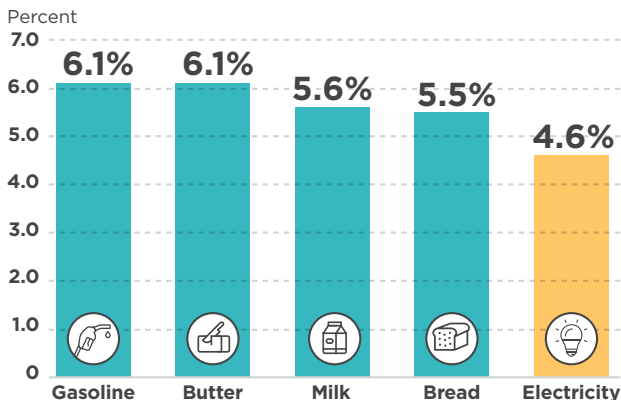
CEC members who have never used Smarthub, are encouraged to give it a try. Smarthub lets you manage your account, pay bills, report outages, monitor your usage, set usage alerts, and much more.

To use Smarthub, download the Smarthub app or log on to CEC’s website at www.choctawelectric.net and click on the Smarthub icon. First time users will be asked to enter their CEC account number so be sure to have it handy. If you need assistance, CEC’s customer service representatives are happy to help you get set up in Smarthub. Please give us a call at 800-780-6486.

ELECTRICITY REMAINS A GOOD VALUE

Although inflation has led to increasing costs in many areas of our lives, the cost of powering your home rises slowly when compared to other common goods. Looking at price increases over the last five years, electricity remains a good value.

Average Annual Price Increase 2017-2022



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics
Consumer Price Index



AT THE MARINA

...the water is NOT fine

Although the water may look inviting, marinas are not meant to be swimming areas. Docks and boats can carry sources of electricity. If this electricity seeps into the water due to faulty wiring, the water becomes energized.

If you are exposed to water that is charged with electrical current, you can be shocked and even drown — this is known as electric shock drowning. There are also other dangers of swimming near a marina.

Dangers of swimming at a marina include:

1. Electric shock drowning.
2. Carbon monoxide poisoning from boat exhaust.
3. Contaminated water from a storm or spill.
4. Impact from a boat or its propellers.



Ensure marinas have ground fault circuit interrupters installed and that they are tested often. Keep your boat’s electrical system well-maintained and have it inspected regularly.

Learn more at: SafeElectricity.org