

Life (and Lights) Go On

From pandemic to ice storm, CEC is prepared to handle emergencies.

■ PAGE 2

Important Dates

Bylaw proposals, candidate filing, and the CEC Annual Meeting.

■ PAGE 3

Electrical Safety Month

With more people spending time at home, make electrical safety a priority.

■ PAGE 4

For members of **Choctaw Electric Cooperative**

MAY 2020

80 YEARS CEC inside your co-op



A Booster Shot For Local Schools

Electric co-op gross receipts tax provides millions of dollars to rural schools

Electric co-ops are committed to bettering their local communities, so it makes sense they would defend a tax system that provides a direct benefit to schools in their service areas.



\$1.4 million

CEC and WFEC gross receipts tax collections paid to local schools in 2019. Taxes are distributed based on the number of miles of co-op power line in each school district.

The electric cooperative gross receipts tax does just that by pumping millions of dollars into rural schools across Oklahoma. This year, the 26 school districts in and around the Choctaw Electric Cooperative service area will receive more than \$1.4 million in gross receipts funds. Tax dollars are distributed to schools based on the number of miles of co-op power line in each district.

Oklahoma electric co-ops pay a two percent gross receipts tax on revenue at the wholesale and retail level. This tax is paid in lieu of typical ad valorem taxes paid by other utilities. Ninety five percent of gross receipts tax collections go directly to local schools. The remaining five percent is retained by the Oklahoma Tax Commission to cover administrative costs associated with collecting and distributing the money.

On a percentage basis, electric cooperatives and their members contribute more tax dollars to local school districts than other utilities. Co-ops have fought long and hard to retain the gross receipts tax because the money collected stays at home. The school boards in each district decide the best way to use the money based on their school needs.

TAX DISBURSEMENT FOR LOCAL SCHOOLS

School	WFEC Tax paid	CEC Tax Paid	Total Paid
Antlers	\$55,582.26	\$5,999.71	\$61,581.97
Battiest	\$11,242.43	\$52,895.10	\$64,137.53
Bennington	\$27,082.58	\$1,946.91	\$29,029.49
Boswell	\$36,057.61	\$20,844.04	\$56,901.65
Broken Bow	\$73,658.33	\$68,440.13	\$142,098.46
Clayton	—	\$13,659.82	\$13,659.82
Denison	\$22,925.72	\$11,899.58	\$34,825.30
Eagletown	\$661.34	\$20,955.27	\$21,616.61
Forest Grove	\$24,752.21	\$16,117.45	\$40,869.66
Ft. Towson	\$104,247.84	\$46,751.53	\$150,999.37
Glover	—	\$13,520.23	\$13,520.23
Haworth	\$2,456.33	\$64,753.71	\$67,210.04
Holly Creek	\$12,691.02	\$14,258.44	\$26,949.46
Hugo	\$59,676.14	\$82,192.27	\$141,868.41
Idabel	\$15,273.32	\$34,826.48	\$50,099.80
Lane	\$50,228.74	\$30,139.79	\$80,368.53
Lukfata	\$12,155.66	\$15,968.79	\$28,124.45
Moyers	—	\$28,061.89	\$28,061.89
Nashoba	\$251.94	\$17,938.04	\$18,189.98
Rattan	\$28,783.12	\$68,015.03	\$96,798.15
Smithville	—	\$45,648.08	\$45,648.08
Soper	\$26,736.19	\$33,218.85	\$59,955.04
Swink	\$9,908.38	\$2,662.83	\$12,571.21
Valliant	\$69,690.38	\$50,111.58	\$119,801.96
Whitesboro	—	\$2,288.20	\$2,288.20
Wright City	—	\$23,136.52	\$23,136.52
Grand Total	\$644,061.54	\$786,250.27	\$1,430,311.81

MANAGER'S REPORT



Life (and Lights) Go On

CEC is prepared to handle emergencies

BY KOONEY DUNCAN, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

As we all deal with the realities of the coronavirus, I want to assure you that keeping our employees safe and the power flowing is priority one for Choctaw Electric Cooperative (CEC).

That starts with our power supplier, Western Farmers Electric Cooperative, and extends to the 27 distribution co-ops that wheel electricity across Oklahoma, including Choctaw Electric (CEC) where business may be a bit different but our service remains the same.

Some of the steps we've taken in order to keep our employees and members safe include closing our lobbies to prevent the spread of germs. Instead, we encourage members to use our night deposit box, drive thru, PaySite kiosks, online and phone payment options, or the "good old" U.S. Postal Service to pay bills.

Some of our employees are working from home. For those who must come to the office, we practice social distancing at all times. If you call, we will answer the phone and help you, as always.

We have separated our line crews from other employees and even from each other to limit possible spread of the virus. Trucks are being relocated so that lineworkers can head to the job

site without coming to the office. New routines are in place for contractors working on our system in order to keep them away from employees. All deliveries are quarantined.

Our management team and board continue to meet to take care of business and discuss further emergency measures. We are in constant contact with the other electric co-ops in Oklahoma and with our statewide association, which in turn is working closely with our national association, the state legislature, the governor's office, and health officials.

So far, it is working well and everyone is adapting to the new norm. That's because we are experienced in handling emergencies, and nothing brings out the best in our employees better than a crisis situation.

At CEC, we continue to focus on doing our part to keep your life as normal as possible through this situation and beyond. The cooperative way has brought us this far, and the cooperative way will help us through it. In the meantime, stay healthy, stay home, and stay safe. 🙌

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*

Joe M. Silk, *Vice President*

Mike Brewer, *Secretary Treasurer*

Stacy Nichols Bill Woolsey

George Burns 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 #38852617(\$50)

If this account number belongs to you, contact CEC by the 10th 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.



MEMBER MATTERS

Gearing Up For Annual Meeting

Dates and deadlines may change due to pandemic

How do you plan a big meeting in the midst of a global pandemic? *Verrry carefully.* At Choctaw Electric Cooperative, staff continue to plan for the annual membership meeting on September 26 in Idabel, but are keeping a careful eye on the rise of infection and the advice of health experts.

Without a crystal ball to the future, much is uncertain. Please note the dates for submitting bylaw proposals, candidate filing, and mail-in ballots, but remember some dates may change due to the unusual circumstances. We will keep you informed via our newsletter, website, Facebook, and SmartHub, or call us at **800-780-6486**. Thank you for your patience.

- ▶ **June 29** | Bylaw revisions due at CEC Hugo. Attorney opinion due 30 days upon receipt of the proposed amendment.
- ▶ **July 28** | Candidate filing for Dist. A, B, C, and G due by 5 pm at CEC in Hugo.
- ▶ **August 12** | Revisions of proposed bylaw amendments due at CEC Hugo.
- ▶ **August 27** | CEC voter packets and mail-in ballots mailed to members. Mail-in ballots due by September 26.
- ▶ **September 26** | CEC Annual Meeting, McCurtain Co. Fairgrounds, Idabel

We Aren't Being Rude, We're Just Keeping Our Distance



If CEC employees aren't very chatty when they visit your property, it's not a case of bad manners. To protect the health and safety of members and employees, CEC personnel must abide by social distancing guidelines. If you have questions, please don't approach the employee or their vehicle. Instead, call us at **800-780-6486**. We are happy to help you. Thank you, we appreciate your cooperation.

THE HOME Energy DETECTIVE

By Brad Kendrick, CEC Energy Use Specialist



Make Some Efficiency Upgrades And Win A \$25 Bill Credit!

With the COVID-19 virus, social distancing and quarantining, what a better time to do some upgrades to make your home more efficient. Caulk around doors and windows, clean your HVAC unit, and fix the underpinning or other areas around the house that need a little attention. When you're finished, you can do a little gardening.

I have my share of to-do's and what a huge difference it makes doing a little cleaning.

For some fun and a chance to win a \$25 bill credit in May, send us the before and after pictures of your energy efficiency projects. We will evaluate them and give the three top winners a \$25 credit. Make it a fun project for your whole family. To enter, please email your photos to bakendrick@choctawelectric.coop by May 31. Please include your name and CEC account number in your message.

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.



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



A GLANCE BACK

Hooking Up Hochatown

While many utility companies would jump at the chance to serve Hochatown today, it wasn't always so lucrative. The formation of Choctaw Electric Cooperative changed all that by bringing electricity, lights, running water, and indoor toilets to the area. And then came the tourists. To serve the increasing number of home and cabin owners in the area, WFEC built a new substation in Hochatown in 1997, and CEC upgraded the section of line from north of Broken Bow to Carter Mountain at a cost of \$162,512. To replace an equivalent span of line at today's prices would cost CEC roughly \$1.3 million. Those were the good old days. ☺

Hochatown Substation Becomes a Reality



Construction of the new Hochatown Substation began in early July. WFEC has already completed the work of clearing transmission right-of-way. David H. Elliott, contractor for CEC is in the process of upgrading the distribution lines to the Substation. Jackie Grimes, General Manager, says "It is our intent to have CEC's portion completed before the new Substation is on-line. This will expedite the improvements to the members of this area." Grimes quoted a cost of \$162,512 for the co-op to replace old line with new line from north of Broken Bow to Carter Mountain. This includes the Hochatown area, which is considered to be one the fastest growing areas in the state. CEC management and the Board of Trustees along with WFEC Board of Trustees have been addressing this situation for several months. After evaluating and researching all alternatives for a possible solution to the problem area, WFEC Board of Trustees decided the most feasible alternative would be to build a new Substation in the Hochatown area.

The construction of the new substation will lessen the load at both the Broken Bow and Bethel Substations. The addition of the new Substation will also accommodate CEC with an opportunity to back feed portions of the Broken Bow and Bethel Substations when major outages occur. A mid-September completion date is expected.

Reprinted from the August 1997 issue of CEC's newsletter.



Times Are Tough.

Due to the coronavirus, many co-op members are unable to work, and bills are piling up. Please let CEC help you by calling us **before your bill is overdue**. Let's work together and get through this. Call **800-780-6486** today.

May Is Electrical Safety Month

Is your home up to codes?

The National Electrical Code us revised **every three years** and outlines the minimum requirements for **safe electrical installations**. Many older homes may not have an adequate electrical system to meet the electrical demands of today. If you're updating your home, **make sure to have the following devices installed** so your home is safe.

Safety Devices



Ground-Fault Circuit Interrupters (GFCI): Available as a circuit breaker and receptacle. GFCIs protect against electric shock and are required in areas where water and electricity may come in contact.



Surge Protective Devices (SPD) protect against surges that can damage or reduce the lifespan of your electrical system and devices.



Arc-Fault Circuit Interrupters (AFCI): Available as a circuit breaker and receptacle. AFCIs protect against electrical fires from malfunctions. The Consumer Product Safety Commission estimates that 50% of home electrical fires can be prevented by proper AFCI protection.

ESFi.org www.facebook.com/ESFi.org www.twitter.com/ESFiDotorg



CEC Kilowatt Kid's Camp

Hugo | June 3 Idabel | June 9

CEC's Kilowatt Kid's Camp offers a fun, educational experience for kindergarteners through third graders. Campers spend the morning making crafts and playing games that teach them about renewable fuels and other energy sources, energy conservation, and how to stay safe around electricity.

CEC is currently enrolling students for our half-day camps in Hugo and Idabel. The camp is free and includes all snacks and camp activities. To enroll, please fill out the form to the right and return it CEC by May 31, 2020. For more information, please call Jia Johnson or Brad Kendrick at **800-780-6486**, ext. 241. *Please note: Dates may be rescheduled due to the coronavirus. We will keep you posted.*

2020 KILOWATT KID'S CAMP ENROLLMENT FORM

Student Name (Print): _____
 Age: _____ Grade: _____
 Parent Name: _____
 Mailing Address: _____
 Home Tele: _____ Work Tele: _____
 Cell: _____
 Allergies: _____
 Medications: _____
 T-shirt Size (Circle): Youth XS (4-6) | Youth S (6-8) | Youth M (8-10)
 Youth L (10-12) | Adult S | Adult M | Adult L
 Emergency Contact: _____
 Home Tele: _____ Cell: _____

Camp (Please circle):

Hugo Camp | June 3

Idabel Camp | June 9

K-3rd grade: 9 am to 11:30 am

K-3rd grade: 9:00 am to 11:30 am

Mail enrollment form by May 31, 2020 to:
 Jia Johnson or Brad Kendrick/ CEC/ PO Box 758/Hugo, OK 74743