



# inside *your* co-op

Published for members of Choctaw Electric Cooperative

## ■ DOWN TO BUSINESS

### Members Elect Trustees, Approve Amendments

**C**hoctaw Electric members, family and friends gathered on Saturday, September 22 for the CEC Annual Meeting. While enjoying the music, arts and crafts, food and prizes, members also took care of important business matters, including electing trustees and voting on bylaw amendments.

In trustee elections, Perry Thompson Jr. of Hugo ran unopposed for the District E position previously held by Becky Franks. In District F, Debbie Cody of Fort Towson defeated incumbent trustee Norm Ranger. District D Trustee Bill Woolsey of Valliant drew no opponents and will continue to serve on the CEC board for another three-year term.

Members approved eleven of twelve proposed amendments to CEC bylaws. One of the approved amendments prohibits trustees from removing any

amendment that violates state or federal laws. Another requires the support of a majority of trustees on amendments that could have an adverse impact on CEC's financial condition.

Members voted against an amendment that would limit the board's ability to approve increases in salary or bonuses for the co-op CEO.

CEC elections are coordinated by E Space Communications, an independent election management company that provides election services for variety of small organizations and associations across the U.S. Find information on the company at [www.espacecommunications.com](http://www.espacecommunications.com). For more highlights from the meeting, please see page 3.



CEC Board President Brent Franks (left) with newly elected trustees Debbie Cody, District F; Perry Thompson Jr., District E; and Bill Woolsey, incumbent trustee for District D.

■ **MANAGER'S REPORT**

# Thank You, Members

Your participation makes CEC what it is—a cooperative.

**C**hoctaw Electric Cooperative (CEC) celebrated its 78th Annual Meeting on September 22. It was a productive meeting and we owe special thanks to everyone who participated. We also appreciate the members who took the time to vote, either in person or by absentee ballot. We wish all of our members would do that.

Whether voting in your local co-op, county, state or national elections, the action of casting a ballot means your opinion gets counted. That's important, so please get out and vote.

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**"We can continue making southeast Oklahoma a better place, but we can't do it without you."**

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I generally use this space to let members know how CEC is progressing on projects and goals, but with Thanksgiving approaching, I think it's important to pay gratitude to where gratitude is due. At CEC, we get so focused on doing our jobs and trying to provide the best service possible that we often overlook the role our members play in building this co-op. When you attend co-op events, alert us to problems, provide suggestions online or to our employees, you help CEC improve its operations and better serve the broader co-op membership. Because of this support, we are able to reach into the community

and provide life changing educational opportunities for teens through the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour. We're able to offer programs that teach kids how to stay safe around electricity and learn how to use it wisely. We teach CPR classes to first responders and other groups that help them save lives, and we provide services that help you, our members, use less of what we sell—electricity. Without your support and participation, CEC would be just another company and not a cooperative.

On a more personal note, we appreciate the kindness our lineworkers and other employees receive when they're working in bad weather and dangerous conditions. Your patience and consideration means the world to us.

CEC was established 78 years ago to bring electricity to our area when no one else would. It is a reflection of our area and its evolving needs. We can continue making southeast Oklahoma a better place, but we can't do it without you. Thank you for your support.



**BY KOONEY DUNCAN**  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

## Choctaw Electric Cooperative

*Serving members in Choctaw, Pushmataha, Atoka, and McCurtain counties*

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*On the Web:*

[www.choctawelectric.coop](http://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 #38857191 (\$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](http://www.choctawelectric.coop).

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





COMING SOON

# Change In Billing Dates

Same due date every month makes it easier for members to remember

Thanks to recent changes in Choctaw Electric's billing procedure, you may find it easier to remember the due date on your electric bill. Choctaw Electric's due dates have typically fluctuated from month to month to accommodate the number of days in each billing cycle. The new process establishes due dates for each cycle that stay the same from month to month.

In its ongoing effort to reduce administrative costs, Choctaw Electric is also changing its procedure on past due notices. Instead of mailing past due notices separately, members will see their past due notice appearing on their next billing statement. CEC will continue to issue courtesy calls as a reminder to members with past due accounts.

Hilary Pound, CEC billing supervisor, says eliminating the mailing of past due notices will save the co-op roughly \$24,000 per year on printing, processing, and mailing expenses.

For your convenience, we are printing the due dates for each billing cycle below. If you questions about the new billing process, please call **800-780-6486**.

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

# And The Winners Are...



▲ Grand prize winners at the Annual Meeting include Jimmie Jesse of Broken Bow, \$500; Mrs. Delbert Nichols of Eagletown, \$250; and Mrs. Lloyd Watts of Garvin, \$250.

► Winners of the Annual Meeting prize drawing for youths include Matty Seavy of Broken Bow, girl's bicycle; Kara Lee Bundy of Denison, iTunes gift card; and Skylar Spoke of Haworth, boy's bicycle.



*Congratulations, winners! We appreciate your attendance.*

## YOUR NEW CEC BILLING DATES



Your Payment Due Date Stays The Same Each Month

Cycle	Due
Cycle 1 .....	28 <sup>th</sup>
Cycle 2 .....	7 <sup>th</sup>
Cycle 3 .....	14 <sup>th</sup>
Cycle 4 .....	21 <sup>st</sup>

## Notice Of Patronage Allocation

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

After reviewing the 2017 year-end financial statements, Choctaw Electric Cooperative (CEC) allocated \$2,081,966.52 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 in 2017. 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 0.0047287353 by their kwh purchased from the cooperative in 2017. 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 contact Choctaw Electric Cooperative at **800-780-6486**.

# DON'T BE AN *energy* **GOBBLER.**

Save energy over the holidays with a few easy tips

*Turn down the thermostat.* With a full house and a hot kitchen, your home won't require much heat.

*Replace light bulbs with LEDs.* You'll see a difference in your energy bill.

*Keep cleanup easy.* Load the dishwasher completely. With a mountain of dishes, it's more efficient than hand washing.

*Don't rush to put leftovers in the refrigerator.* Let them cool slightly before putting them away so your fridge won't work as hard.

For more ways to save at [www.choctawelectric.coop](http://www.choctawelectric.coop).



## RECIPES



### Amazing Butternut Squash

#### INGREDIENTS

- |  |                               |
|--|-------------------------------|
| 1 butternut squash- peeled, seeded and cubed | 1 teaspoon brown sugar        |
| ½ cup mayonnaise                             | salt and pepper to taste      |
| ½ cup finely chopped onion                   | ¼ cup crushed saltines        |
| 1 egg, lightly beaten                        | 2 tablespoons grated Parmesan |
|  | 1 tablespoon butter, melted   |

#### DIRECTIONS

Preheat oven to 350°F. In a large pot, bring the squash to boil. Reduce to a simmer until squash is soft.

In a large bowl, mash the softened squash. Mix in the mayonnaise, onion, egg, brown sugar, salt and pepper. Pour the mixture into a 2 quart baking dish.

In a medium bowl, mix together crackers, Parmesan and butter. Sprinkle over the squash mixture.

Bake uncovered in the preheated oven for 35 to 45 minutes, until the topping is lightly brown.

Source: allrecipes.com

# Winter brings higher heating bills.

Prepare for it now by enrolling in one of CEC's convenient bill payment programs.

- ✓ **Prepaid billing** lets you pay ahead for your usage and avoid late fees.
- ✓ **Budget billing** averages your usage over the year to balance seasonal ups and downs.
- ✓ **Bank draft** offers the convenience of paying via automatic draft of your bank or credit card account.

For more information, please call your co-op at **800-780-6486**, or visit us online at [www.choctawelectric.coop](http://www.choctawelectric.coop).

