

### Co-op Karma

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

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### Safe Rooms Included

CEC's storm shelter loan program offers an option for safe rooms.

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### Avoid Seasonal Surprises

CEC's Average Monthly Payment Plan (AMP) helps you balance out high bills.

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For members of **Choctaw Electric Cooperative**

OCTOBER 2020

# 80<sup>YEARS</sup> CEC *inside your* co-op



From a very blessed Louisiana resident,

I just want to thank you for the men you sent to our state during this hurricane. The only regret I have is I didn't get their names today. I tried to give them water, snacks or anything they needed but they just kept working. We finally left them a box of drinks and snacks on one of your trucks. They were hot tired but never complained or stopped trying to get our power on and they did before they left. Thanks you for sending them to us in our time of need

Gracious North Louisiana resident,  
The Highes Family

## Hurricane Heroes

*CEC crew helps Louisiana co-op get the power flowing after Hurricane Laura*

When Hurricane Laura plowed into Louisiana on August 27, she left a wide trail of damage and debris in her wake. To help storm victims return to normal, Choctaw Electric Cooperative dispatched an experienced five-man crew to the area.

The team traveled to the affected area on August 31 to assist two Louisiana co-ops and their members. Several of those members posted words of gratitude for their out-of-state heroes. To read more about the co-op karma, please turn to page 2.



Derek Baker, Jeremy Billingsley, Jeff Rector, and Joseph Antu pause for a photo before departing for Louisiana on August 31. Not pictured is Destin Moore. The crew worked 20 days in the affected areas.



### Annual Meeting Highlights?

If you missed the CEC Annual Meeting on September 26, please look for event highlights on our Facebook page, or read about it in next month's issue of *Inside Your Co-op*. Printing deadlines make it impossible for us to include the news in this issue. Thank you for your patience.



### Remember To Vote on Nov. 3

*Unregistered voters must register by October 9. For voter registration forms and polling locations, please visit: <https://okvoterportal.okelections.us>*

*To apply for an absentee ballot, please visit: <https://www.ok.gov/elections/> Absentee ballots must be received by 7 pm on November 3. Ballots that arrive late but are postmarked prior to election day will not be counted.*

MANAGER'S REPORT



# Co-op Karma At Work

*CEC pays it forward in Louisiana*

BY KOONEY DUNCAN, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



October is Cooperative Month, a time for co-ops around the world to celebrate what makes them unique. What better way to do this than to highlight one of the ways CEC puts its co-op values in action? Kooney Duncan puts it into perspective, below. To learn more about co-ops and our values, visit [www.electric.coop/seven-cooperative-principles](http://www.electric.coop/seven-cooperative-principles).

**M**ix the heat and humidity of August with the disastrous aftermath of a hurricane. Top it off with a pandemic that elevates safety risks in an industry that's already rife with danger. Sprinkle it with people suffering from a power outage in the sweltering heat.

It sounds like the recipe for a bad day to me. That's precisely what Choctaw Electric (CEC) linemen stepped into when they traveled five hours to help two Louisiana electric co-ops rebuild lines damaged by Hurricane Laura. The storm made landfall on August 27, bringing 150 mph winds and a whole lot of misery.

The fact that CEC linemen leave their homes and families to work long hours helping total strangers says a lot about their character; however, they aren't the only ones making a sacrifice. When our field crew responds to a call for help from a distant co-op, the employees who remain here are left shorthanded. To ensure reliable service for our members, these employees must also step up their game. It's the ultimate team effort, and a life-size example of cooperative values in action.

Cooperation Among Cooperatives is number six of the Seven Cooperative Principles. These principles guide the

**“The fact that CEC linemen leave their homes and families to work long hours helping total strangers says a lot about their character; however, they aren't the only ones making a sacrifice.”**

actions of every cooperative, including CEC. The sixth principle states that co-ops work together to improve service, bolster local economies, and deal more effectively with community needs.

There's a bit of karmic magic going on here, too. Electric co-ops step up to help one another because we realize that, sooner or later, the winds will shift. The ice storm, tornado, flood, or wildfire will dump its special load of misery on us. When the worst possible scenario happens, and we broadcast our SOS, we can depend on our fellow co-ops to be there for us. That's the Cooperative Way, and I am thankful for it. 🙏

**Lucky Acct #38851231(\$75)**

If this account number belongs to you, contact CEC by the 5th 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](http://www.choctawelectric.coop).

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



## Choctaw Electric Cooperative

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

Monday-Friday • 8 am - 5 pm

HUGO OFFICE

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Hugo, Oklahoma 74743

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FAX (580) 326-2492

IDABEL OFFICE

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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](http://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*

## Safe Rooms Added To CEC Loan Program

Above ground option makes sense for aging members

For some members, taking shelter beneath the ground is not a comfy option. Some have physical limitations that make a quick dash down the stairs unsafe. Others simply don't like being underground, and neither do their pets.

For these reasons, the Choctaw Electric Cooperative board of trustees added above ground safe rooms to the co-op's storm shelter loan program. Manufactured by Hausner, the above ground rooms are built with your choice of steel or concrete. Steel safe rooms can be sized to fit your house plan. The concrete model may require a new pad at an additional cost. Concrete rooms are available in two sizes: 4-ft by 8-ft, or 6-ft by 8-ft.



Safe rooms are available in concrete(left) or steel (right).

Prices start at \$2,500 for storm shelters, and \$4,000 for safe rooms. Price includes installation and site inspections by experienced storm shelter professionals. To keep things easy, loan payments will appear on your monthly electric bill.

For more details on our program or to apply for a loan, please visit [www.choctawelectric.coop](http://www.choctawelectric.coop), or call Jennifer Boling at 800-780-6486, ext. 207.



To apply for a CEC storm shelter loan, click the Forms and Applications from the menu of options at [www.choctawelectric.coop](http://www.choctawelectric.coop).

## THE HOME Energy DETECTIVE

By Brad Kendrick, CEC Energy Use Specialist

### Be Sure To Have Your HVAC Checked Before Winter



Fall is here and it's time to switch from air conditioning to heat. Now is the perfect time, before it gets too cold, to have a check-up on your HVAC unit. Having your HVAC unit serviced before winter can help you avoid high heating costs. Heat pumps use freon for heating and cooling, and that should be checked before winter sets in. If your unit seems to be running longer or freezing up, it needs a checkup. Remember to keep filters changed monthly, and keep coils cleaned on both the inside and outside units for maximum performance.



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](mailto:bakendrick@choctawelectric.coop).

## NOTICE OF PATRONAGE ALLOCATION

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

After reviewing the 2019 year-end financial statements, Choctaw Electric Cooperative (CEC) allocated \$4,796,207.24 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 first based on their specific revenue class gross margin, and then on their total kilowatt-hour (kwh) of electricity purchased from the Cooperative during 2019. 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 selecting their Revenue Class and Rate Class allocation factor shown in the following chart, and multiplying their designated factor by their kwh purchased from the Cooperative in 2019.

REVENUE CLASS	RATE CLASS	2019 ALLOCATION FACTOR
General Service	5, 7, 11, 95, 96	0.0162268609
Seasonal	14	0.0202106007
Small Commercial	10, 23, 56	0.0072632272
Large Commercial 1	34, 44	0.0132589968
Large Commercial 2	39, 40	0.0032558733
Industrial	60, 62	0.0005436529

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 Hilary Pound at **800-780-6486**.

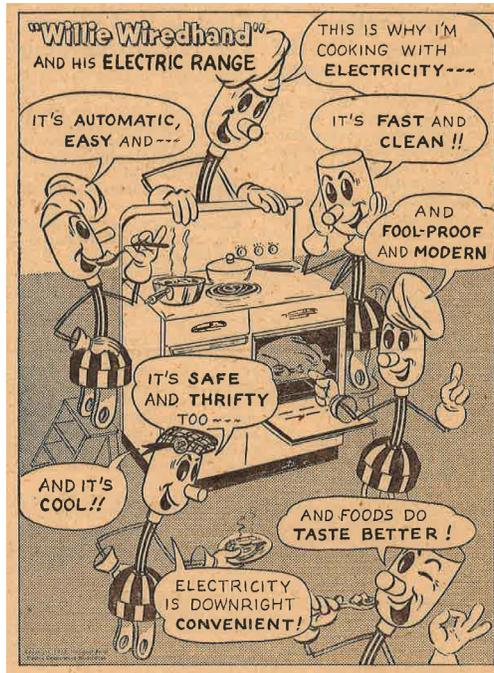


A GLANCE BACK

## Willie Wiredhand Mascot For A Movement

Created on October 30, 1950, Willie Wiredhand quickly became the official mascot of the rural electrification movement. The plucky plug appeared frequently in Choctaw Electric's Push Button News (right), and on co-op signs, caps, billboards, letterhead, and more. With Willie's help, members came to understand the wonders of electricity, and how to use it safely and wisely.

When Willie fell out of style in the 1990s, some electric co-ops refused to let him retire. At CEC, Willie still works a daily shift, greeting members as they enter the lobby.



In the 1950s, a partnership between the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association and Sylvania Electric Products resulted in the Willie Wiredhand incandescent light bulb, above. In the 1960s and 70s, Willie appeared in two comic books: *Cousin Johnny Discovers Power in Rural America* and *It's Annual Meeting Time for the Davis Family*.

Happy 70th  
Birthday, Willie!

You'll always be a  
superstar to us.



# No Surprises.

Sign up for average monthly payments with CEC, and avoid the jolt of seasonal high bills.

High winter heating and summer cooling bills can wreak havoc on any household budget. CEC's Average Monthly Payment Plan (AMP) is designed to level out the peaks and valleys so your monthly electric costs remain more consistent.

Call CEC today to learn more about the AMP advantage—or find information about AMP and other payment options. Members who enroll now can avoid the higher bills that typically accompany winter.

800-780-6486

[www.choctawelectric.coop](http://www.choctawelectric.coop)



CHOCTAW ELECTRIC  
COOPERATIVE

