



# inside your co-op

For members of Choctaw Electric Cooperative | NOVEMBER 2025



## 85 Years Strong: Choctaw Electric Cooperative's Annual Meeting Brings Members Together

Choctaw Electric Cooperative members gathered at the Pushmataha County Fairgrounds on Sept. 27 for a morning of community, connection and celebration. With beautiful fall weather and a great turnout, the 85th Annual Meeting was a great success.

With more than 900 attendees on-site and over 1,500 mail-in ballots returned, participation was strong and CEC easily met our quorum early in the day.

Members enjoyed visiting with board directors,

exploring more than 20 local vendor booths and sharing a delicious brisket lunch prepared by Three Rivers Meat Company in Octavia. Youth Ambassador Ella Herron hosted a voter registration table.

CEO Kooney Duncan and Board President Brent Franks provided operational updates, including information about capital credits returns, ongoing projects and future plans for the cooperative. Board Treasurer Perry Thompson Jr. gave the financial report. All incumbent board directors were reelected.

A highlight of the celebration was a special 85th anniversary centerpiece: a large "cake" built from wire spools, topped with a glowing "85." In addition, CEC awarded members more than \$10,000 in prizes and bill credits.

Reflecting on the day's success, CEC Director of Communications Jia Johnson says the cooperative was thrilled by the turnout and positive energy. "We were so pleased with the great crowd and how much everyone enjoyed themselves," she says. "It was a wonderful way to celebrate 85 years together."

## Choctaw Electric Cooperative

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

### CONNECT WITH US

Monday-Friday | 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

### 24 Hour Outage Line

(800) 780-6486

### Hugo Office

PO Box 758  
1033 N. 4250 Rd.  
Hugo, OK 74743

Toll free: (800) 780-6486  
Local: (580) 326-6486  
Fax: (580) 326-2492

### Idabel Office

2114 SE Washington  
Idabel, OK 74745

Toll free: (800) 780-6486

### BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Brent Franks | President  
Bill Woolsey | Vice President  
Perry Thompson, Jr. | Secretary/Treasurer  
Jarred Campbell  
Debbie Cody  
Jana Burris  
Ken Autry  
Stacy Nichols  
Jackson Ferguson

### MANAGEMENT & STAFF

Kooney Duncan | CEO  
Tanya Roebuck | Executive Assistant/  
HR & Benefits  
Jia Johnson | Public Relations Director

### FOLLOW US ONLINE

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



[www.facebook.com/choctawelectriccooperative](http://www.facebook.com/choctawelectriccooperative)

### MANAGE YOUR ACCOUNT

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



Download the free SmartHub app in your device's app store

# Member Participation Drives CEC Forward

One of the greatest privileges of being an electric cooperative is serving the very people who guide and govern us—our members. Our 85th Annual Meeting on Sept. 27 was a perfect example of that partnership. Members came together to conduct the business of the co-op, help set our trajectory and elect the board of directors.

This year, we also asked our members to provide feedback through an Annual Meeting questionnaire, and the response was incredibly encouraging. We focused on four key areas:

- **Preferred methods for conducting business:** Members told us how they like to interact with the co-op, whether online, by phone, mail or in person. Your input helps us ensure your experience is as convenient as possible.

- **Outage response:** After reporting an outage, we asked whether the response time met your expectations. This feedback helps us improve our service and response protocols.



CEO Kooney Duncan

- **Reliability:** We asked how satisfied you are with the consistency of your electric service. The overwhelming majority expressed confidence in our reliability.

- **Overall cooperative experience:** Most of our members were satisfied with the co-op experience, a clear affirmation that the work we do every day is making a difference.

We welcome feedback in every form—through surveys, at meetings, by phone or in person at our offices. Questions, comments and concerns help us improve. Hearing the positives is equally important, as it reassures us that our approach is working and inspires us to keep serving you with the same commitment and care.

For 85 years, CEC has reflected the enduring strength of the cooperative model. I'm proud to share that CEC is among the state's top electric cooperatives in both financial stability and reliability. Thank you for your continued support, engagement and trust.

## SURVEY SAYS ...

Members were asked to respond to four questions on this year's Annual Meeting questionnaire. Here are the results:

**97%**

satisfied with  
outage response

**94%**

satisfaction with the  
co-op experience

**96%**

said reliability is  
“great” or “good”

### How members prefer to conduct business with us?

(Members could select more than one response.)



**39%**  
electronically



**39%**  
by phone



**28%**  
by mail



**22%**  
in person

# DO YOU KNOW THE SIGNS OF A UTILITY SCAM?



- Scammers exploit your trust in Choctaw Electric Co-op.
- They use pressure and surprise to confuse you.
- When you ask a question, they respond with more pressure.
- They create urgency to prevent you from verifying their claims.

## IF YOU SUSPECT A SCAM:

Hang up on the phone call, delete the suspicious email or text message, close the door on the in-person scammer. Call Choctaw Electric Co-op immediately.

Source: Utilities United Against Scams

## Pause Before You Pay: Tips for Avoiding Utility Scams

Scammers are constantly finding new ways to target utility customers—and Choctaw Electric Cooperative members are no exception. Fraudsters may call, text, email or even show up at your door, claiming you owe money and threatening to cut off your electricity unless you pay immediately. Their goal is simple—create panic so you act without thinking. Knowing the signs can protect you and your household.

### Common Types of Scams

Some scammers claim your bill is overdue and demand instant payment. Others promise a refund for an overpayment or promise a discount—but to get it, they ask for banking or personal information. Whether in person, by phone, email or text, these attempts all aim to trick you into handing over money or sensitive details.

### How to Protect Yourself

- **Guard personal information.** Never share or confirm details like your date of birth, account number or banking information with anyone who contacts you unexpectedly.
- **Pause before acting.** If someone pressures you to pay immediately, hang up, close the door or delete the message. Then contact CEC directly using the number on your bill to confirm your account status.

### Stay Alert, Stay Safe

Choctaw Electric Cooperative will never contact you to ask for immediate payment or offer a discount by phone. If you receive a suspicious call and are uncertain, please call our office at (800) 780-6486. By staying vigilant and reporting suspicious activity, you can protect yourself from scams.

### Office Closures

Choctaw Electric Cooperative's offices will be closed on Nov. 11 in honor of Veterans Day and on Nov. 27-28, in celebration of Thanksgiving.

### Go Paperless!

Sign up for paperless billing via the SmartHub app or call Choctaw Electric Cooperative at 800-780-6486. One lucky member will win two CEC T-shirts and two CEC caps.

### Help Us Preserve Our Legacy

CEC is celebrating 85 years of service! We're marking this milestone with a special project to preserve the co-op's rich history. The project will gather, organize and digitize a collection of photos and memorabilia that tell the story of CEC and the communities we serve. To contribute stories, photos, recipes or other memorabilia, please contact Jia Johnson at 800-780-6486, ext. 241.

### November Efficiency Tip

With the holiday season approaching and more time spent in the kitchen, consider ways to save energy in the heart of your home. When possible, cook meals with smaller, energy efficient appliances, such as toaster ovens, slow cookers and air fryers. When using the range, match the size of the pan to the heating element. Keep range-top burners and reflectors clean so they reflect heat more efficiently. After your holiday meals are complete, load the dishwasher fully before starting the wash cycle. Source: energy.gov

### Lucky Acct #38841581

If this is your account number, please contact CEC at 800-780-6486, ext. 241 by the 5th of the month to claim your \$25 bill credit. Unclaimed bill credits roll over each month by \$25 for a maximum credit of \$100.



## From Pole-Top Rescue to the Perfect Pot of Chili

On Oct. 2, Choctaw Electric Cooperative employees gathered for a day focused on hands-on safety training—with a side of friendly competition. The morning featured pole-top rescue training, and in the afternoon, staff participated in an all-employee CPR certification.

The day also included CEC's 5th Annual Chili Cookoff at lunch, where the competition was as hot as the chili! Congratulations to Chandy Abney, who took home 1st place with her Smackin' Sally chili, and Brad Kendrick, who earned 2nd place with his Razorback Brew chili.

Chandy says, "My chili is my own rec-

ipe that I came up with and stuck with because it's a favorite of many. Having our chili cookoff every year is really fun for us all."

"When I was 23, my mom taught me her recipe, and I've added a few ingredients over the years to make it mine," Brad says. "While it's not 100% the same each time, I know the ingredients by heart and start adding a dash of this and a pinch of that—always including my two secret ingredients."

Safety is at the heart of everything we do as a co-op, and training events like this show that learning to stay safe can be both engaging and fun.

## Daylight Savings Time ends Nov. 2

Don't forget to set your clock back one hour. It's also a good time to replace your smoke alarm batteries and to test the alarms to make sure they're working properly.



## Easy Weeknight Chili

Serves 4-6

### Ingredients

- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 1 small onion, diced
- 2-3 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 green pepper, diced
- 2 tablespoons chili powder
- 2 tablespoons cumin
- 1 teaspoon kosher salt
- 1 teaspoon dried oregano
- 1 pound ground beef
- 15-ounce can crushed tomatoes
- 15-ounce can fire-roasted diced tomatoes
- 15-ounce can chili-ready beans
- 1 cup low-sodium beef broth, as needed (optional)

### Instructions

Add the oil to a large pot, along with the onions, garlic and peppers. Cook over medium-low heat for 5 minutes, or until tender. Add the chili powder, cumin and oregano and cook for 1 minute. Increase heat to medium, add the beef and salt. Cook, breaking up the beef, until it's browned. Stir in the tomatoes, beans and broth, as needed. Bring to a boil, reduce heat and simmer for 15-20 minutes.