NE CONNECTION

A PUBLICATION OF NORTHEAST OKLAHOMA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

NOEC TEAMS UP
TO LIGHT FOOTBALL STADIUM

THANKSGIVING
FEATURED RECIPES

NOVEMBER 2021

Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives

NE CONNECTION

A PUBLICATION OF NORTHEAST OKLAHOMA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Northeast Connection is published monthly to communicate with the members of Northeast Oklahoma Electric Cooperative.

VINITA HEADQUARTERS

27039 South 4440 Road, Vinita, OK 74301

GROVE OFFICE

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BUSINESS HOURS

Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Offices are closed Saturday, Sunday and holidays.

DISPATCHING AVAILABLE 24 HOURS AT

1.800.256.6405

If you experience an outage:

1. Check your switch or circuit breaker in the house and on the meter pole to be sure the trouble is not on your side of the service.
2. When contacting the cooperative to report an outage, use the name as it appears on your bill, and have both your pole number and account number ready.

Please direct all editorial inquiries to Public Relations at 800.256.6405 or email publicrelations@noec.coop

TAKE A TREE INVENTORY

Ray Davis
Vegetation Management Supervisor

The fall season is upon us and that usually means a nice transition into cooler weather. If you find yourself spending time outdoors enjoying that beautiful fall weather, I would encourage you to take a moment and inventory your property plantings. You may want to consider planting a new tree in your yard, removing a dead or dying tree, or trimming (or altogether replacing) a trouble tree.

Many people associate spring with planting, but with sap production slowing and trees entering dormancy, fall is actually the best time to take care of these projects. Here are a few more reasons why fall is superior for tree planting:

- Soil is still warm enough to encourage root growth; lower air temperatures slow top growth yet allow root systems to thrive
- A steady supply of moisture means less drought risk to threaten your tree
- Trees will be established by spring, reducing potential stress by having a healthy root system already in place

As you inventory, pay particular attention to the location of buildings and power lines in relation to potential planting sites. As young saplings grow, you want them to be able to spread without invading nearby structures. It simply makes no sense to plant a tree that you will have to constantly trim or even remove once it matures.

As vegetation management supervisor here at NOEC, it is my responsibility to provide safe, reliable electric service to our membership. Everyone wants dependable electric service that is free from blinks, outages, and delays in service restoration that result from preventable encroaching vegetation growth.

Educating our membership is also an important step to help eliminate potential safety hazards such as tree houses or swings in trees located near power lines. Trees and other vegetation are conductors of electricity. *Continued on page 2.*

Events are published as space allows and must be submitted at least 60 days in advance. Send information, including phone number for publication, to Northeast Connection Events Calendar, PO Box 948, Vinita 74301 or email to publicrelations@noec.coop

$100 IS HIDING!

Search the pages of NE Connection for a 6-digit account number with an asterisk on each side. For example: *XXXXXX*. Compare it to your account number, which appears on your monthly electric bill. If they match, contact the cooperative at 918.256.6405, by December 1, 2021, to claim a $100 credit on your electric account.

NOVEMBER 2021 EVENTS

NEO Foundation Gala
Nov 4 | Miami
Online Event

Made in Miami
Nov 5 | Miami
Miami Fairgrounds

St. Mark Cathlic Church Fall Craft Fair
Nov 6 | Pryor
St. Mark Catholic Church

Anglers in Action Bass Fishing Tournament
Nov 6-7 | Grove
Wolf Creek Park

Blue Star Mothers Benefit Auction
Nov 11 | Pryor
Mayes County Fairgrounds

Grove Merchants' Christmas Open House
Nov 12-13 | Grove
Downtown

City of Miami Holiday Market
Nov 13 | Miami
Miami Civic Center

Christmas at the Creek
Nov 13 | Big Cabin

Santa's Ozark Mountain Village
Nov 13, 26 & 27 | Grove
Har-ber Village Museum

America's Best Pageant
Nov 14 | Miami
Coleman Theatre

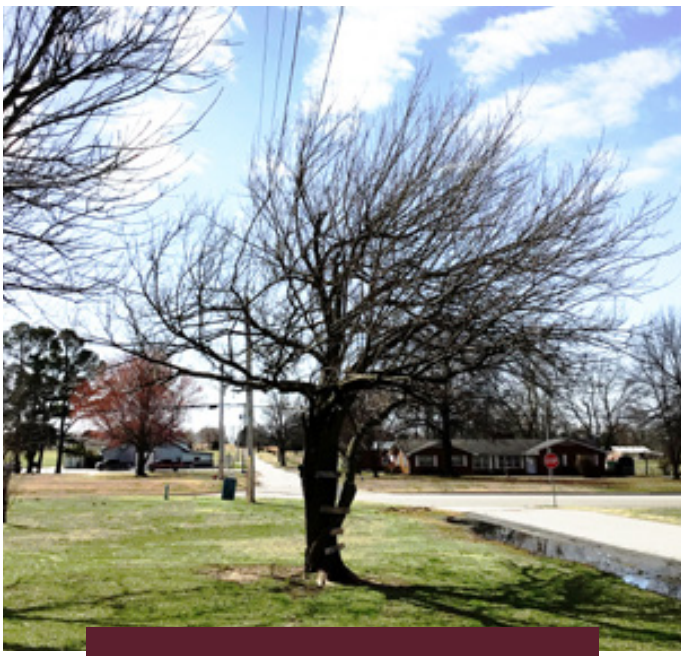
26th Annual Dickens on the Boulevard
Nov 19-20 | Claremore
Claremore Lilac District

Annual NEO Recruiting Rodeo
Nov 20 | Miami
NEO Multi-Purpose Arena

NSCA Registered Pre-Turkey Day Shoot
Nov 20-21 | Miami
Shawnee Skies Shooting Complex

November events are subject to date change or cancellation. Please contact the host for most current event information.

TAKE A TREE INVENTORY



LOOK UP BEFORE PLANTING A TREE

Continued from inside front cover.

Here at NOEC, we have a commitment to safe and reliable electricity. Our obligation to keep the lights on and restore power quickly after storms roll through in the middle of the night is something we take seriously. When poles are broken and lines fall from storm damage, the restoration time frame is much quicker and safer when our employees don't have to contend with untangling vegetation from downed lines. Preventing this scenario allows our employees to restore power quickly, safely, and get to the next outage sooner.

Our cooperative even has a comprehensive vegetation management plan in place to ensure systemwide maintenance. This plan, which allows us to be proactive rather than reactive, requires us to cover 5,400 miles of overhead line fed by 33 different substations on a seven-year rotation.

Once again, I would encourage you to first "look up" before planting a tree. Research the species of tree you are considering and then visualize the mature height and canopy width. Keep in mind that side growth must remain at a 15' distance from the conductor, pole, and other components (such as guy wires and anchors). Anything more and the tree could end up requiring trimming to maintain proper distance like the tree pictured at lower left.

If you have questions about how your plantings may affect nearby power lines, please give us a call at 800.256.6405 and let's discuss them.

945527

OPERATION ROUND UP

SMALL CHANGE THAT CHANGES LIVES

A total of $16,927.54 in grants were awarded to six different organizations during the July 2021 meeting of the Operation Round-Up Trust Foundation Board of Directors. The largest grant awarded was a check for $5,062.52 that the Community Crisis Center of Miami will be used to replace damaged office furniture.

If you would like to sign up to participate in Operation Round-Up, or if you need additional information, contact a Northeast Oklahoma Electric Cooperative member services representative at 1.800.256.6405.

First Baptist Church of Miami
$3,000 | Food for Backpack Program

First Baptist Church of Salina
$3,000 | Food

Community Crisis Center
$5,062.52 | Office Furniture

Craig County Farmer's Market
$650 | Support

Delaware County Sheriff
$2,215.02 | Processors for Deputies Office

Vinita Senior Citizen Center
$3,000 | Groceries for Daily Meals

THE IMPORTANCE OF MUTUAL AID

Electric cooperatives have a strong track record of maintaining high levels of reliability. At times, however, natural disasters occur that result in significant damage to the energy grid, creating widespread power outages. Following these events, electric cooperatives must respond swiftly and safely to restore service to affected members.

Restoring power after a major storm is a complex task. Efficient restoration requires skilled line workers, specialized equipment, and significant logistical expertise. Electric companies affected by significant outages often turn to a Mutual Aid Assistance network of voluntary neighboring cooperative partners to help speed restoration.

Mutual Aid Assistance is an essential part of the restoration process and contingency planning. It is a cornerstone of cooperative utility operations during emergencies.

These NOEC Operations employees spent two weeks helping restore power in and around the Zachary and Livingston communities following Hurricane Ida. Pictured from left are: Colin McDaniel, Dalton Hale, Hayden Cunningham, Mike Knowles, Jerod Tynon, Jasper Smith, Charlie Coble, and Trent Greenwalt.

LOUISIANA COOPERATIVE MEMBER GRATEFUL

"On behalf of my community, I would like to thank the men of Northeast Oklahoma Electric Cooperative for coming to our community, as well as their loved ones at home who support them. Our community appreciates all the work you are doing to help speed up the recovery efforts from Hurricane Ida. Since the flood of 2016, my aunt lost her mom, dad, and her husband. We, along with her siblings and her daughter were there to help her clean her yard that was destroyed. We were so thankful they were able to get electricity hooked up for her that afternoon. The men we talked to were so nice, and even though we know they had to be hot, they had smiles on their faces. Tell these guys thanks so much for all they did for our little town. Thank you and God Bless!"

GeeGee Baronet
Holden, Louisiana

A second rotation of NOEC Operations employees helped Louisiana utilities pick up the pieces in the wake of Hurricane Ida. Pictured from left are: Todd Workman, Roy Tanner, Tim Fink, Hunter Cunningham, Jake Ornder, Jake Bullard, Caleb Reynolds, and Clint Cupp. These eight men spent a week restoring power near the Livingston and Greenwell Springs communities.

NOEC SENDS MULTIPLE CREWS
to Assist with Hurricane Restoration

Hurricane Ida made landfall August 29, pummeling the Gulf Coast with relentless wind, drenching rain, and a massive storm surge. The Category 4 hurricane left well over a million customers without power across a four-state region that included Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida.

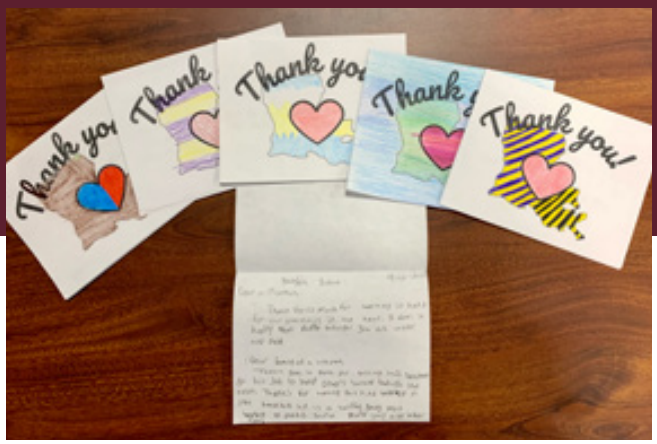
Northeast Oklahoma Electric Cooperative responded to the call for mutual aid assistance in the aftermath of the event by sending crews to Louisiana to help with restoration. NOEC crews worked under the coordination of the Association of Louisiana Electric Cooperatives and were assigned to help one of the hardest hit utilities, Dixie Electric Membership Corporation (DEMCO). Based in the East Baton Rouge parish, DEMCO is the largest electric cooperative in Louisiana and serves more than 113,000 members and maintains 8,887 miles of line. At outage peak, DEMCO reported 100,000 of its 113,500 meters without power—nearly 88% of its membership.

The first round of NOEC Operations employees to respond included Hayden Cunningham, Trent Greenwalt, Jerrod Tynon, Mike Knowles, Colin McDaniel, Charlie Coble, Jasper Smith, and Dalton Hale. They spent two weeks helping restore power in and around the Zachary and Livingston communities. A second rotation followed helping Louisiana utilities pick up the pieces and included Todd Workman, Roy Tanner, Tim Fink, Hunter Cunningham, Jake Ornder, Jake Bullard, Caleb Reynolds, and Clint Cupp. These eight men spent a week restoring power near the Livingston and Greenwell Springs communities.

Line crews work double shifts, which means 16-hour days, seven days a week, in oppressive heat and humidity while working mutual aid assistance missions. They eat meals in tent cities at the end of each long day. They also sleep on cots in tents. Showers are taken in specially-designed semi-trailers. The tent city operates on large generators that run around the clock. Weather is hot and humid, and bugs are in no short supply.

Knowles, who has been a part of several such missions, including three hurricane recoveries, said he is always taken aback by the hospitality and kindness shown by Louisiana residents who have been suffering in the heat and humidity without power for weeks on end.

"Some of them have lost everything and they still have smiles on their faces," said Knowles, a journeyman lineman/serviceman. "They always make sure that we have water and something to eat. The 'thank yous' we get from them make the long hours and heat a lot more bearable."

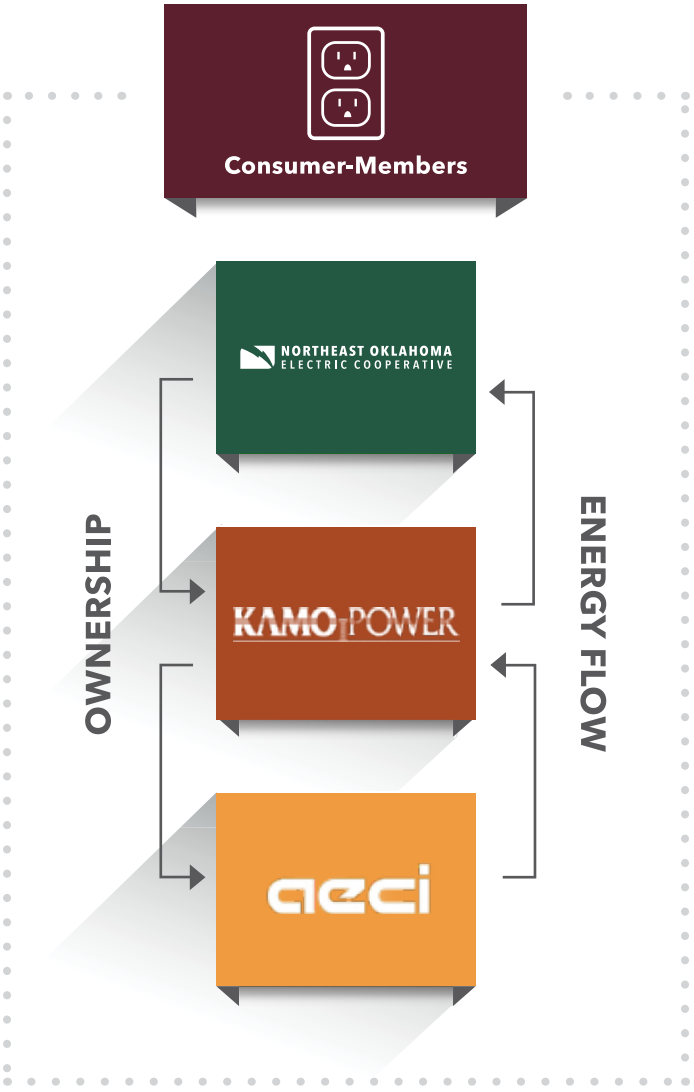


Thank you letters sent to NOEC from Yvette Surla's class at Dutchtown Middle School in Geismar, Louisiana

BALANCE

RELIABLE. AFFORDABLE. RESPONSIBLE

Associated's Focus on Member-Owners' Priorities Clear



The people behind your power: Associated Electric Cooperative (AECI) generates your power.

In an unpredictable year for energy companies, the leadership at Associated Electric Cooperative continues to focus on reliable and affordable electricity for its six transmission owners, their 51 local distribution cooperatives, and the 2.1 million people who receive electricity from the three-tiered system.

Associated was created by members in 1961 to ensure member control of electric supply. Throughout its history, the goals of Associated and its member-owners haven't changed.

"Our mission, to provide economical and reliable power supply, has served us well throughout decades of change in the power generation industry," says John Killgore, a board member for United Electric Cooperative and vice-president of Associated's board of directors. "We never forget that focus."

CLIMATE CHANGE PROPOSALS WON'T CHANGE MEMBER FOCUS

Evaluating federal climate change proposals to reduce or eliminate carbon is among Associated's top priorities as the Biden administration seeks to quickly and fundamentally change how energy companies generate electricity. The current administration's goals propose to reduce carbon from electric generation 50% by 2030 and envision net zero carbon by 2035.

As our nation continues to debate, one thing is clear: Associated's member-led board of directors and staff believe in putting members and their needs first.

RUSH TO RENEWABLES CREATES CONCERNS

"As a member-owned and governed wholesale power generation cooperative, we are alarmed by a rush to renewables without technologies available today to ensure reliable power at affordable prices," said David Tudor, Associated Electric's CEO and general manager. "Member-owners clearly prioritize reliability and affordability in the electricity they depend on. We cannot sacrifice reliable electric supply or affordable rates."

Associated's generation sources have evolved through the years. The primary way Associated preserves reliability and affordability for members is with a balance of generation sources. By maintaining a diverse mix – coal, natural gas, wind and hydropower – the cooperative has options to ensure reliable power at a competitive cost.

MEMBER RELIABILITY IS NOT FOR SALE

Aggressive climate change proposals from Washington, D.C., challenge Associated's balanced strategy.

"Today, there are attempts to get energy companies like ours to take a deal for money and agree voluntarily to close fossil fuel plants and replace them with renewables," Tudor said. "We don't see that as a path that preserves reliability, so we cannot support that approach. Our members' reliability is not for sale."

Tudor points out that since 2005, Associated's carbon emissions have been reduced more than 33%. "We take generating electricity in responsible ways seriously. Safeguarding the environment is not a recent development for us. Reliability and affordability co-exist with responsible generation at our cooperative and have for a long time."

A key part of Associated's member-focused power strategy includes significant wind energy and hydropower as part of its generation mix. In 2020, Associated added generation from two more wind farms, bringing its total to eight farms and 1,240 megawatts of energy. Those additions continued a legacy of leadership: the power generation cooperative brought the first utility-scale wind power to the region with wind farms starting in 2007. Hydropower from lakes and dams provide another 478 megawatts of renewable power.

"OUR MISSION, TO PROVIDE ECONOMICAL AND RELIABLE POWER SUPPLY, HAS SERVED US WELL THROUGHOUT DECADES OF CHANGE IN THE POWER GENERATION INDUSTRY. WE NEVER FORGET THAT FOCUS."

- John Kilgore
vice president of AECI

"We value the land, air and water we and everyone in our cooperative network depends on. That's why our power generation always considers how best to generate reliable and affordable power in a way that preserves our natural environment," Killgore says.

TECHNOLOGY, TRANSMISSION AND TIME KEY TO TRANSITION

The technology does not exist today to replace all fossil fuel plants with renewable generation and battery storage. Reliability will suffer and prices will go up. While adding large volumes of generation like wind and solar, which are not constant, to replace 24/7/365 generation like coal and natural gas may sound good, adding too much too quickly will have reliability consequences.

The current transmission system has been designed and used for years to manage member energy load, not for a future where energy from intermittent sources like renewables displaces consistent electricity from coal and gas.

"Trying to force climate-change initiatives by 2030 or 2035 will not work. In fact, that's a reckless approach. Time is needed to thoroughly think through realistic options," Tudor said. "I'm concerned when all the attention is on quickly eliminating coal and natural gas power plants, with no technological solution for their replacement."

The historic 2021 winter storm, when our three-tiered system kept the lights on while many other utilities were forced into blackouts, serves as an important reminder and demonstrates the value of a balanced electric generation strategy for member-owners and the nation.

"We will continue to make sure our members' needs come first. It's a time-tested and proven strategy that has resulted in real benefits," Killgore said.

For more information about Associated Electric Cooperative and its responsible generation efforts, visit www.aeci.org.

FEATURE RECIPES

THANKSGIVING

Prep Time: 20 minutes

Total Time: 1 hour

Makes: 8 Servings

SWEET POTATO CASSEROLE WITH MARSHMALLOWS

DESSERT/SIDE DISH

INGREDIENTS

- **4 large sweet potatoes, peeled and cubed**
- **1/2 cup packed brown sugar**
- **8 tbsp (1 stick) butter, melted**
- **1 tsp pure vanilla extract**
- **1/2 cup milk**
- **2 large eggs**
- **1/2 tsp kosher salt**

TOPPING

- **1 cup packed dark brown sugar**
- **1/2 cup all-purpose flour**
- **4 tbsp butter, melted**
- **1 tsp pure vanilla extract**
- **1 cup chopped pecans**
- **2 1/2 cups mini marshmallows**

Step 1: Preheat oven to 350° F and grease a 9 x 13" baking dish with cooking spray. Place sweet potatoes in a large pot and cover with water. Bring to boil then reduce heat and simmer until the sweet potatoes are tender, about 15 minutes. Drain and let cool slightly then transfer to a large bowl.

Step 2: In a large bowl, stir together sweet potatoes, sugar, butter, vanilla, milk, eggs, and salt until smooth. Pour into prepared dish.

Step 3: In a medium bowl, stir together sugar, flour, and butter until it clumps. Stir in pecans, then spread evenly over potatoes. Top with marshmallows.

Step 4: Bake until cooked through and golden, about 30 minutes.

INSTANT POT CRANBERRY SAUCE

DESSERT/SIDE DISH

Prep Time: 5 minutes

Total Time: 27 minutes

Makes: 10-15 Servings

INGREDIENTS

- **24 oz fresh or frozen cranberries**
- **1 cup granulated sugar**
- **1/2 cup fresh orange juice (2 to 3 oranges)**
- **1/3 cup maple syrup or golden cane syrup**
- **2 tsp finely grated fresh orange zest**
- **1/2 tsp vanilla extract**
- **1 cinnamon stick**

Step 1: Rinse the cranberries and pick them over, discarding any mushy or damaged berries. Add the cranberries to the Instant Pot.

Step 2: Add the sugar, orange juice, maple syrup, finely grated orange zest, vanilla extract, and the cinnamon stick to the pot with the cranberries. Gently stir to combine the ingredients.

Step 3: Lock the Instant Pot lid in place and set the vent to sealing. Choose the manual setting, high pressure, for 2 minutes. Let the pressure release naturally for 10 minutes, and then open the vent to manually release the remaining pressure.

Step 4: Remove the cinnamon stick. Turn on the sauté setting and cook for another 2 to 3 minutes, stirring frequently, until thickened. The sauce will continue to thicken as it cools.

Step 5: Transfer the cranberry sauce to a storage container and cool completely. Refrigerate until serving time. Serve it chilled or at room temperature.

BOURBON PECAN PIE

DESSERT/SIDE DISH

Prep Time: 10 minutes

Total Time: 35 minutes

Makes: 6-8 Servings

INGREDIENTS

- **1 cup sugar**
- **3 tbsp melted butter**
- **1/2 cup dark corn syrup**
- **3 large beaten eggs**
- **1 1/2 cups pecan halves**
- **2 tbsp quality bourbon**
- **1 9-inch unbaked deep dish pie shell**

Directions: Preheat oven to 375° F. In a medium bowl, stir together the sugar and melted butter. Add the corn syrup, eggs, pecans and bourbon, and stir until all ingredients are combined. Pour mixture into an unbaked pie shell, and place on a heavy-duty cookie sheet. Bake for 10 minutes. Lower the oven temperature to 350° F, and continue to bake for an additional 25 minutes, or until pie is set. Remove from oven and cool on a wire rack.

REC DAY DRAWS EARLY CROWD

REC Day 2021 brought excellent participation areawide as Northeast Oklahoma Electric Cooperative members once again responded positively to the drive-thru format. Even with new sites and incentives in place, a total of 2,068 members registered for the event, marking the ninth time in our cooperative's 83-year history that annual meeting registration has eclipsed the 2,000-member benchmark.

Quorum was met at 10:12 a.m.—the second earliest time on record for that metric.

"We would like to take a moment and commend our membership for their support of the cooperative year after year. We host these meetings for them and I truly believe they understand the value of their participation," remarked General Manager Daniel Webster. "We also want to thank our hard-working employees for contributing to the overall success of the day."

Registration sites this year included the Grove Civic Center, the Craig County Fairgrounds in Vinita, Mayes County Fairgrounds in Pryor, and Miami Fairgrounds. Members could select any of the four drive-thru locations at which to register and could do so between the hours of 8 a.m. and 12 noon. Sites were once again offered in strategic locations across the cooperative's multi-county service territory with preference given to sites that afforded greater protection for both members and employees in case of inclement weather. Priority was also given to locations where set-up could be performed the day prior to the event.

Along with an opportunity to cast an electronic ballot in the trustee election, each registered member was presented with a gift voucher representing the $20 electric bill credit they would automatically receive for registering. Members were also presented with an optional souvenir hat and were entered into the big REC Day prize drawings—all without leaving their vehicle.

Members were asked to decide the outcome of one runoff for a seat on the cooperative board, as well as confirm one nominee. John Myers retained his District 4 seat in a runoff with challenger Lana Daugherty while Nancy Kimbrell was welcomed to the board after having her unopposed bid for the District 8 seat confirmed.

"Member allegiance to our organization is strong," said Webster. "We can see now that even a second and third generation of members feel the same way about the cooperative that their parents and grandparents did. We are more than just an electric company to these families. We have a presence in these communities and relationships with our members. Those are qualities we certainly want to work hard to keep."

THANK YOU

FOR ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL YEAR!

Employee Kathy Markham registers a member at the Mayes County Fairgrounds

These members brought their pup to an REC Day drive-thru

Employee Natalie Mullins awards the Stihl prize package to Rachel, Bethany, Parker, and Gary Burkybile

Employees Dana Striebich, Roger Boren, Melanie Downs, Kanann Nichols, and Michael Gray at Craig County Fairgrounds

REC DAY CONTINUED

Four $1,000 cash grand prizes and four $500 electric credits were awarded—one each per site. Winners of the $1,000 cash grand prizes were: Richard L. Davis of Fairland, John W. Hensley Jr. of Afton, Gary D. Shamel of Salina, and Heather M. Sharp of Welch. Winners of the $500 electric credit were awarded for using their electric bill barcode page to register. They were: Eldan Patrick of Jay, Brad E. Powers of Chelsea, Connie S. Kellehan of Ketchum, and Steve Cummings of Miami. Rachel Burkybile of Miami submitted a completed member survey and had her name drawn as the winner of the special STIHL Power Tools prize package.

NOEC, KAMO TEAM UP

TO HELP LIGHT LOCAL FOOTBALL STADIUM

Crews from Northeast Oklahoma Electric Cooperative and KAMO Power teamed up on September 16 to help install new stadium lights at the Bluejacket High School football field.

Lee Bluejacket, athletic director and head football coach for the small Craig County school, said originally 48 of the 96 fixtures were inoperable and had been for some time. Completion of the project was no easy task. It certainly wasn't as simple as scaling a ladder and changing out a few bulbs. Most conventional bucket truck booms won't even reach the fixtures, since the stadium light standards soar some 70-80' in the air.

"I am in awe and am truly grateful for the outstanding cooperation between both companies and the people involved, including our own alumni," said Bluejacket. "Them working to help us with this was a major accomplishment. Many people have said it has been years since we've had all of the lights working. An older gentleman here said the last time he remembered all the lights being on and working was about 1978. I have no idea, but I do know we've only had half the lights working since I've been here."

NOEC Operations employees Clinton Nigh and Jason Martin, as well as KAMO employee Bryan Shaffer, are all Bluejacket High School graduates and assisted with the project.

"Being from a small rural community like Bluejacket, where resources are few and far between, it means a lot for our cooperative to be able to help out with projects likes this, especially ones that require special equipment," remarked Nigh, a foreman who has been with NOEC 19 years.

Martin, a journeyman lineman/serviceman who has 25 years of cooperative service, was also happy to help.

"I was glad to have an opportunity to assist with this project," added Martin, "This has been a need for a long time. The teamwork between NOEC and KAMO to supply equipment and manpower to make all of this possible was tremendous. I know the school, kids, and community are very appreciative. Go Chieftains!"

Pooling resources—in this case, equipment and manpower—for the sustainable development of our communities is an excellent example of Cooperative Principle #7 in action.

"It's like a whole new stadium now," said coach Bluejacket. "Again, I want to express my sincere and profound gratitude for the help we received from both NOEC and KAMO."

BENEFITS
OF LED LIGHT BULBS

Long-Lasting

LED bulbs last up to 10 times longer than compact fluorescents and 40 times longer than typical incandescent bulbs.

Durable

Since LEDs do not have a filament, they are not damaged under circumstances when a regular incandescent bulb would be broken. Because they are solid, LED bulbs hold up well to jarring and bumping.

Mercury-Free

No mercury is used in the manufacturing of LEDs.

More Efficient

LED light bulbs use only 2–17 watts of electricity (1/3rd to 1/30th of incandescent or CFL). LED bulbs used in fixtures inside the home save electricity, remain cool, and save money on replacement costs since LED bulbs last so long. Small LED flashlight bulbs will extend battery life 10 to 15 times longer than incandescent bulbs.

Cost-Effective

The cost of new LED bulbs has gone down considerably in the last few years and is continuing to go down.

Solar Lighting, Portable Generators

Because of the low power requirement for LEDs, using solar panels becomes more practical and less expensive than running an electric line or using a generator for lighting in remote or off-grid areas. LED light bulbs are also ideal for use with small portable generators which homeowners use for backup power in emergencies.

10 HOLIDAY DECORATING ELECTRICAL SAFETY TIPS

Decorating is one of the best parts about the holidays! Many Christmastime décor items require electricity or batteries, so it's important to brush up on safety concerns before accidentally pulling a Clark Griswold this season.

1. Check Lights First
2. Ladder Safety
3. Weather Watch
4. Don't Overload Outlets
5. Christmas Tree Safety
6. Turn Out the Lights
7. Avoid Using Candles When Possible
8. Switch Over to LEDs
9. Utilize GFCIs
10. Take Down Your Holiday Lights