

NE CONNECTION

A PUBLICATION OF NORTHEAST OKLAHOMA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE



85TH REC DAY
SECOND LARGEST EVER

NOVEMBER 2023



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.

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Dandy A. Risman - District 5, President
John L. Myers - District 4, Vice-President
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Sean Friend - Chief Financial Officer (CFO)
Sami Jo Frisby - Administrative Services
Shane Burgess - Engineering
Ricky Hignite - Information Technology
Darryll Lindsey - Member Services
Nick Sutton - Operations

VINITA HEADQUARTERS

27039 South 4440 Road, Vinita, OK 74301

GROVE OFFICE

600 South Main, Grove, OK 74344

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

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A 'Sharp' Workforce

Kristen Sturgess
Director of Human Resources

A famous quote attributed to one of our nation's former presidents offers some timeless insight into the importance of workplace strategy.

Abraham Lincoln is reported to have said: "Give me six hours to chop down a tree and I will spend the first four sharpening the axe."

Our 16th president knew first-hand the value of careful planning before tackling a job.

I'm certain everyone has experienced this on some level. We've all attempted to perform even a menial task without the right tool or accurate instructions. We may or may not have completed the task, but either way we were left with a valuable lesson—a reminder going forward that improved performance requires better preparation.

It's also true on a larger scale. If you are a business owner, you understand the productivity of your business is dependent on the resources at your disposal. Trying to get work done without the right resources is a study in futility.

We are blessed here at Northeast Oklahoma Electric Cooperative to have qualified employees in every position. That's important because a skilled workforce gets the job done more safely and more efficiently—both of which translate to a better member experience.

We consider qualified workers an essential component of our organization. Employees arrive at NOEC with the tools they need to perform their jobs at a high level. Many are already familiar with us, thanks to internships here that gave them an opportunity to take what they've learned at school and put it to work in a real-life setting.

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MAYES COUNTY RECIPES



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REC DAY WRAP-UP



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FALL ENERGY SAVING TIPS

\$100 IS HIDING!

Search the pages of *Northeast 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 November 1, 2023, to claim a \$100 credit on your electric account.

FUN FACT!

Northeast Oklahoma Electric Cooperative is celebrating its 85th year serving you!



NOVEMBER EVENTS

The Great Deer Hunt

Nov 2 | Miami

Contact host for location

GOAT ADV MotoCamp Tour

Nov 2 | Langley

Speedy's 3

The FarmHer's Market

Nov 4 | Afton

Clayton Corner Farm

Afton Craft & Vendor Fair

Nov 4 | Afton

Afton Community Center

The Cowgirl's Guide to Confidence

Nov 4-5 | Afton

Clayton Corner Farm

Oklahoma/Southern States POA Pageant

Nov 4-5 | Miami

Coleman Theatre

Fall Gathering

Nov 7 | Vinita

Piguet's Prime Time

Remember When Gala

Nov 9 | Miami

Galgano Family Ballroom

Christmas Open House

Nov 10-11 | Grove

Downtown

Winterset 2023

Nov 11 | Afton

Shangri-La

Morning Brew

Nov 17 | Miami

Newell Coach

Coleman Holiday Market

Nov 17-18 | Miami

Coleman Ballroom

Holiday Harmonies & Harps

Dec 3 | Vinita

St. John's Episcopal Church

A 'SHARP' WORKFORCE

CONTINUED FROM INSIDE COVER

Our operations team, for example, partners with local vocational schools such as Oklahoma State University Institute of Technology (OSUIT), Cherokee Nation, Northeast Tech Centers, and Platt College. On any given day, you'll find line program interns from those institutions working alongside seasoned NOEC crews across our system.

Along the same lines, we host an outing where a graduating line program class from Northeast Technology Centers visits for a day of on-the-job training. We are excited to be able to help the next generation of Oklahoma linemen gain practical, hands-on experience during this field trip.

You'll also find our employees attending career fairs and career days sponsored by area schools, speaking with students about some of the excellent job opportunities available to them without leaving the area.

For current NOEC employees, learning doesn't stop at employment. We offer training opportunities and ongoing education our employees need in order to complement their existing experience and expertise. They understand the importance of growth and keeping skills sharp. Electric cooperatives are blessed to have state and national associations that help our employees remain on the forefront of industry knowledge. After all, we're never too old to learn.

Like Lincoln with a sharp axe, a business is only as effective as its employees. And we're blessed with the best.



**FOR THE LATEST EMPLOYMENT
OPPORTUNITIES AT NOEC,
VISIT ONLINE AT NOEC.COOP
OR FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK.**

NOEC SUPPORTS AREA SCHOOLS THROUGH TAX DISTRIBUTIONS

Northeast Oklahoma Electric Cooperative paid gross receipts tax totaling \$1,472,583.34 in 2022 and \$1,470,402.41 in 2023. This total was divided among the 32 schools in the cooperative service area.

Not-for-profit electric cooperatives are exempt from paying federal income tax. However, they do pay fuel, state and federal unemployment tax, Social Security, Medicare and gross receipts tax, in lieu of the ad-valorem tax paid by for-profit utility companies.

Gross receipts tax collected for a given year represents two percent of each member's electric bill. Ninety-five percent of this tax is paid directly to schools within our service area, based on the miles of line the cooperative maintains within each school district. The remaining five percent of the collected gross receipts tax is withheld by the state for collection and handling fees.

By paying a percentage of the cooperative's gross income to support area school districts, Northeast Oklahoma Electric Cooperative members are sharing in the responsibility of educating today's youth. The table provided below lists the school systems and the amounts they received.

2-YEAR TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS

\$2,889,328.41

AMOUNT RECEIVED: BY SCHOOL 2022

Adair	70,539.75	Inola	3,215.37	Pryor	41,498.84
Afton	36,670.18	Jay	139,407.01	Quapaw	35,084.16
Bluejacket	84,453.51	Kansas	66,936.61	Salina	47,620.46
Chelsea	57,724.67	Kenwood	9,660.30	Sequoyah	922.34
Chouteau Mazie	40,552.10	Ketchum	35,817.64	Turkey Ford	17,430.16
Cleora	27,793.74	Leach	20,980.66	Vinita	44,369.33
Colcord	60,671.72	Locust Grove	30,640.15	Welch	85,120.53
Commerce	18,647.99	Miami	35,215.98	White Oak	35,066.98
Fairland	52,098.93	Moseley	25,163.26	Wickliffe	14,618.96
Foyil	244.86	Oaks	12,623.97	Wyandotte	73,640.00
Grove	183,427.71	Osage	11,068.33		

AMOUNT RECEIVED: BY SCHOOL 2023

Adair	\$73,384.22	Inola	\$3,344.21	Pryor	\$43,004.40
Afton	\$38,044.56	Jay	\$144,162.50	Quapaw	\$36,395.53
Bluejacket	\$87,980.68	Kansas	\$69,309.28	Salina	\$49,501.73
Chelsea	\$59,675.05	Kenwood	\$10,079.16	Sequoyah	\$958.95
Chouteau Mazie	\$42,220.22	Ketchum	\$37,224.06	Turkey Ford	\$18,097.59
Cleora	\$28,841.07	Leach	\$21,682.58	Vinita	\$45,869.79
Colcord	\$62,734.36	Locust Grove	\$31,831.19	Welch	\$88,663.83
Commerce	\$19,334.37	Miami	\$36,574.32	White Oak	\$36,456.98
Fairland	\$54,031.02	Moseley	\$26,191.44	Wickliffe	\$15,166.52
Foyil	\$253.07	Oaks	\$13,089.83	Wyandotte	\$76,396.30
Grove	\$190,586.93	Osage	\$11,496.11		



The REC Day grand prize was presented to Jarrell Browning (left) by NOEC's Leslie Taylor

85TH REC DAY

SECOND LARGEST EVER

It was another impressive turnout for Northeast Oklahoma Electric Cooperative at its 85th annual REC Day on Thursday, September 14. The event was deemed a success, considering NOEC finished less than fifty members shy of another registration record.

A total of 2,545 members registered at four drive-thru locations across NOEC service territory between the hours of 2-6 p.m., making it the second-most attended annual meeting in organization history. The REC Day registration benchmark was established a year ago when 2,590 took part at the first-ever Thursday event.

Quorum was officially reached this year when the 1,512nd member registered at 3:18 p.m.

“I can’t thank NOEC members or employees enough for what they do to make this event successful,” remarked NOEC General Manager Daniel Webster. “Our members take time out of their busy schedules to participate in the cooperative process, and our employees invest energy and effort into what is obviously a very important day for our organization. Records are always nice, but the measure of success for us is reaching quorum and that was never in doubt. It was a great day for NOEC, all things considered.”

With four drive-thru locations offered this year, members didn’t have to travel far to participate. This convenience was reflected in the registration parity. The Craig County Fairgrounds led the way with 775 members registered, followed by Mid America Outdoors with 685 members. Next was the Mayes County Fairgrounds in Pryor at 602, and the fairgrounds in Miami registered 483 members. Less than 300 members separated the largest site from the smallest site, which is worth noting since the average difference between the largest and smallest sites the previous three years was 543 members.

“What those more balanced registration numbers indicate is that we’ve most likely found the optimal locations for our event,” said Webster.

Along with an opportunity to cast an electronic ballot in the trustee election, each registered member received a \$20 electric bill credit for attending. Members were also presented with a souvenir hat and entered into the big REC Day prize drawings—all without leaving their vehicle.

During the general election portion of the meeting, members confirmed the nominated candidates vying for a seat on the cooperative board of trustees. Incumbent trustees Charles Wyrick (District 1), Bryan Kelly (District 3), and Dandy Risman (District 5) all retained their seats unopposed.

Incentives were plentiful at the 85th REC Day. More than \$25,000 in electric credits and cash were divided among 38 winners following the event. A \$5,000 cash grand prize was awarded to one lucky member. Electric credits of \$1,000, \$500, and \$250 were awarded to winners in each of the cooperative’s nine districts. A \$500 electric credit was presented to a member from each district who registered using the barcode page included with their August bill. A \$500 cash bonus drawing was held for members who completed the survey form on the back of their September 2023 Northeast Connection publication and brought it with them when they registered at REC Day.

“I think I speak for entire organization when I say that our members are to be commended for the interest they continue to demonstrate with their participation in our annual meeting,” Webster said. “The overwhelming support and loyalty they have for their cooperative is on display every year during REC Day.”



Shelly Allensworth assists a member at REC Day

REC DAY WINNERS

Grand prize winner - \$5,000 cash
Jarrell Browning

Survey winner - \$500 cash
Bette Emerson

Barcode winners - \$500 electric credit

District 1: Carolyn Norton

District 2: Ronnie Melton

District 3: Chris Foust

District 4: Howard Simpson

District 5: Janet Johnson

District 6: Jonathan Scheffel

District 7: David Haught

District 8: John Hopson

District 9: Mark Story

\$1,000 electric credit

District 1: Sherry Kinney

District 2: Chris Kirshiner

District 3: Chris Robert Lackey

District 4: Melissa Tyler

District 5: Norman Hinsdell

District 6: Glenn Helmuth

District 7: April Staller

District 8: Connie King-Appleton

District 9: John Leith

\$500 electric credit

District 1: Randolph Walker

District 2: Michael Matthews

District 3: Harold Christian

District 4: Raymond Sellmeyer

District 5: Rusty Brummett

District 6: Ray Wall

District 7: Thomas Goertz

District 8: Oaks Indian Mission

District 9: Wesley Davenport

\$250 electric credit

District 1: Barbara Douthit

District 2: Brian Harris

District 3: Zach Nash

District 4: Timothy Bates

District 5: Glen Powers

District 6: Russell Hamill

District 7: Edward Turner

District 8: Floyd Mott

District 9: Russell Shouse



NOEC's Erin Hill (left) awards REC Day prize to Bette Emerson



Brad Meyer assists a member



NOEC employees ready to greet members at REC Day



Meredith Richardson treats a pup



Zane Crabtree assists a member



Mike Hallacy is all smiles



FALL ENERGY SAVING TIPS



1 REPLACE INEFFICIENT LIGHTING

LEDs provide high-quality light while using less energy than incandescent lamps.



FIND & SEAL AIR LEAKS

Sealing air leaks could save you up to 10 percent on annual heating and cooling costs.

Tip: caulking or weatherstripping helps seal air leaks around leaky doors and windows.



CLEAN YOUR GUTTERS

If your gutters are clogged, water can accumulate, cause rusting, and can lead to an increased risk of decay, moisture, and leaks.

Tip: clean your gutters to control moisture in your home and reduce the cost of heating.



Feeling chilly?

Open your blinds during the day to provide natural lighting and capture heat coming through the windows. At night, close your curtains and drapes to reduce cold drafts from your windows.

SAFETY TIP AROUND DAMAGED POWER LINES:



ENERGY CAN SPREAD LIKE RIPPLES ON A POND

Storms and vehicle accidents can damage energized power lines/poles and padmount transformers (green boxes).

The damage can cause energy to spread like ripples on a pond, causing:

Step Potential

when a person walks from one voltage "ripple" to another and their feet experience a difference in voltage

Touch Potential

when someone touches something at one voltage and steps on or contacts something else at a different voltage



FEATURED RECIPES

MAYES COUNTY | TEXMEX DISHES



962809

MEXICAN CASSEROLE

PATTY WILKINS

INGREDIENTS

- 2 lbs hamburger meat
- 1 can cream of mushroom soup
- 1 can cream of chicken soup
- 1 jar picante sauce
- 1 large package of Mexican blend shredded cheese
- 1 bag Doritos chips, crushed

Step 1: Brown beef in skillet and drain. Mix in soups and jar of picante sauce to combine.

Step 2: In a large casserole dish add crushed Dorito chips to bottom and cover with hamburger mixture. Top with cheese and bake in oven at 350°F until cheese is bubbling.

7 LAYER TACO BEAN DIP

LUCINDA COUCH

INGREDIENTS

- 1 large can of refried beans
- 1 small can sliced black olives
- 1 pint sour cream
- 1/2 cup mayonnaise
- 1 package taco seasoning
- 8 green onions, chopped
- 3 medium tomatoes
- 1 cup Monterey Jack cheese, grated
- 1 cup cheddar cheese, grated

Step 1: Combine sour cream, mayonnaise, and taco seasoning in a bowl, set aside.

Step 2: Layer ingredients in a large casserole dish in this order: beans, olives, sour cream mixture, green onions, tomatoes, Monterey Jack cheese, and cheddar cheese.

Step 3: Keep in refrigerator for 4 hours then serve.

