

NE CONNECTION

A PUBLICATION OF NORTHEAST OKLAHOMA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

REC DAY
WRAP-UP & WINNERS

NOEC REPRESENTS
AT SHOOT FOR THE NATIONS

NOVEMBER 2025



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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John L. Myers - District 4, Vice-President
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Sami Jo Frisby - Administrative Services
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VINITA HEADQUARTERS

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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

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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SMALL GESTURE, BIG IMPACT

Ashley Millikan Executive Assistant

Sometimes the smallest gestures make the biggest difference. Through NOEC's **Operation**

Round-Up program, co-op members can make a positive impact in their communities, simply by allowing their monthly electric bill to be rounded up to the nearest dollar. The average yearly donation from a participating member is only six dollars.

Those few extra cents every month—combined with contributions from other NOEC members—go right back into our communities. Together, we help local nonprofit organizations, backpack nutrition programs, senior citizen meal services, crisis centers, area food pantries, volunteer fire departments, and other important causes that bring our communities together.

Since the program began, **Operation Round-Up** has awarded countless grants that have purchased lifesaving equipment, improved public safety, reduced food insecurity, and provided essential resources for neighbors in need. Every dollar stays local and goes right back into the areas NOEC serves—your communities.

Join your fellow NOEC members in making a difference. Enroll today in **Operation Round-Up** and see how a little change can truly change everything.

Contact us: 918.256.6405

Learn more: www.noec.coop

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DELAWARE CO. RECIPES

\$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 December 1, 2025, to claim a \$100 credit on your electric account.

NOVEMBER EVENTS

Zena Fall Fest

Nov 1 | Zena

Zena Community Center

11th Annual Willie Run

Nov 1 | Miami

Osborn Drugs

Sock Hop

Nov 4 | Grove

Grand Lake YMCA

A Day of Honor, A Day of Thanks: Spavinaw's Veteran's Day Community Gathering

Nov 8 | Spavinaw

119 S Main Street

Princess of America Oklahoma/Southern State Pageant

Nov 8-9 | Miami

Coleman Theatre

Winterset in the Ballroom

Nov 8 | Afton

Shangri-La Resort

Christmas on Route 66 Holiday Market

Nov 14-15 | Miami

Main Street

Diary of a Dayworker: Cowboy Music & Poetry

Nov 15 | Miami

Main Street

Christmas Paint Night

Nov 20 | Vinita

346 S 4th Street

Santa's Ozark Mountain Village

Nov 28-29 | Grove

Har-Ber Village Museum

2nd Annual Native American Holiday Market

Nov 29 | Grove

Grove Community Center



SMALL GESTURE, BIG IMPACT

RECENT GRANTS

continued from inside cover



Grand Lake Community Ministry Bluehouse



Ketchum Senior Center



The Sliver



Vinita Day Center



REGISTRATION RECORD SHATTERED AT REC DAY 2025

Conditions were ripe for a record and that's exactly what occurred on September 11 at the 87th REC Day.

Energized by the **9/11 Day of Remembrance** and an opportunity to participate in the cooperative's democratic process, Northeast Oklahoma Electric Cooperative members turned out en masse at **REC Day 2025**. A total of **2,815** NOEC members were greeted by an afternoon of beautiful weather as they showed up and shattered the all-time registration of 2,590 set three years ago at the first-ever Thursday afternoon drive-thru event. Requirements for quorum were met at 3:05 p.m., a little over an hour after the official start of the event.

REC Day 2025 was held at four locations across NOEC service territory: the Craig County Fairgrounds in Vinita, the Mayes County Fairgrounds in Pryor, the Delaware County Fairgrounds in Jay, and the Miami Fairgrounds. The Vinita site led the way with **816** members registered, followed by Jay at **783** registrations, Pryor at **628**, and Miami with **588**. This year's event marked the return of a Delaware County site after a one-year hiatus due to unavailability in 2024.

Since the adoption of the drive-thru format in 2019, the cooperative has eclipsed the 2,000-member registration benchmark six consecutive years, establishing new registration records three of those years. The format is popular because it brings annual meeting closer to members, making participation in the event more convenient.

New this year was an opportunity for cooperative members to *register with purpose*. In remembrance of the anniversary of 9/11, **two dollars** from every member registration at **REC Day 2025** was donated to the **9/11 Memorial & Museum**. Local firefighters also passed the boot for anyone wanting to make a personal donation to this meaningful cause. At the Vinita location, local firefighters passed the boot for those wishing to contribute to the families of the two individuals involved in the August 18 turnpike collision that claimed the life of firefighter Zac Rinehart.

Continued on next page.



► Thanks to NOEC members, a total of **\$10,641.18** was donated to the **9/11 Memorial & Museum—\$5,360** from member registrations and **\$5,011.18** in direct member donations in the firefighters "pass the boot" campaign.

"We have a caring and conscientious membership to thank for making this a special day for our entire organization," remarked NOEC General Manager Daniel Webster.

"Not only were we able to celebrate our individual freedoms as cooperative members by participating in the democratic process, we were also able to recognize an important event in our country's history while also assisting two local families enduring a difficult season of life. Yes, we set a new registration record, which was memorable, but more importantly we made an impact that was meaningful."

Along with an opportunity to vote in the annual trustee election, each registered NOEC member received a \$20 electric bill credit just for attending **REC Day 2025**. Members were also presented with a souvenir hat and entered into the big **REC Day 2025** prize drawings—all without leaving their vehicles.

During the general election portion of the meeting, members confirmed three nominated candidates vying for a seat on the cooperative board of trustees. Incumbent trustees Mike Detherage of Fairland (District 2), Jim Wade of Salina (District 7), and Jimmy Caudill of Grove (District 9) all retained their seats unopposed.

More than \$25,000 in electric credits and cash were divided among 38 drawing winners following the event. The \$5,000 cash grand prize was awarded to one lucky winner. 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 bonus \$500 cash drawing was held for members who completed the survey form on the back of their September 2025 *Northeast Connection* publication (inside *Oklahoma Living* magazine) and brought it with them when they registered at **REC Day**.

The complete list of **REC Day 2025** prize winners can be found on page 7 of this issue of the *Northeast Connection*.

"Thank you, NOEC members, for rallying once again to support your cooperative and a great cause at our 87th REC Day," Webster reiterated. "It was a historic day and you should all be proud of the role you played in making that happen. Again, thank you to all who attended and made this day memorable."

REC DAY WINNERS

Grand prize winner - \$5,000 cash

James R. Finley

Survey winner - \$500 cash

Richard Roberts

Hat contest winner - \$100 Visa card

Mike Grissett

Barcode winners - \$500 electric credit

District 1: Kylee Graham

District 2: Michael Palis

District 3: Tom Andris

District 4: Jeff Hawkins

District 5: Phyllis Baker

District 6: Delmar Holt

District 7: Glenda Aery

District 8: Jamie Raimer

District 9: Vivian Bratt

\$1,000 electric credit

District 1: Gary Cox

District 2: Billie Houston

District 3: Donald Kirkland

District 4: Glenda Messimore

District 5: Charles King

District 6: Tom Irons

District 7: Crista Henson

District 8: Jesse Reed

District 9: Robert Daugherty

\$500 electric credit

District 1: Tim Windle

District 2: Dee Boyd

District 3: Kevin Pitcher

District 4: Tracey Parham

District 5: Joe Weaver

District 6: Ronnie Donovan

District 7: Kent Hardaway

District 8: Jerry Hollenback

District 9: William Foster

\$250 electric credit

District 1: Sharon Hayes

District 2: Ghnon McArr

District 3: Tommy Callahan

District 4: Dwight Osten

District 5: Dana Striebich

District 6: Linda Dodson

District 7: Donald Griffin

District 8: Michelle Kusler

District 9: Billy Palmore



NOEC's Jaimie Sellmeyer (left) presents the grand prize to James & Patricia Finley



Darlene & Richard Roberts accept the survey prize from NOEC's Kelsie Wilson (right)



"Show Us Your Hat" contest winner Mike Grissett with his son Bear

SUPPORTING AREA SCHOOLS THROUGH TAX DISTRIBUTIONS

Northeast Oklahoma Electric Cooperative paid gross receipts tax totaling **\$1,774,070.75** in 2025 and the 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.**

YEAR TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS
\$1,774,070.75

AMOUNT RECEIVED BY SCHOOL:

Adair	\$88,374.37	Inola	\$3,947.65	Pryor	\$52,118.62
Afton	\$45,762.84	Jay	\$174,222.84	Quapaw	\$43,712.98
Bluejacket	\$104,980.05	Kansas	\$84,375.94	Salina	\$59,224.33
Chelsea	\$73,373.45	Kenwood	\$11,950.77	Sequoyah	\$1,149.07
Chouteau-Mazie	\$50,236.02	Ketchum	\$44,597.68	Turkey Ford	\$21,965.75
Cleora	\$34,711.45	Leach	\$26,422.86	Vinita	\$55,750.22
Colcord	\$76,606.34	Locust Grove	\$38,125.86	Welch	\$105,480.58
Commerce	\$23,327.15	Miami	\$43,748.38	White Oak	\$43,350.49
Fairland	\$64,848.02	Moseley	\$31,420.18	Wickliffe	\$18,402.13
Foyil	\$303.88	Oaks	\$15,474.06	Wyandotte	\$92,120.12
Grove	\$230,165.63	Osage	\$13,821.04		

READY YOUR HOME FOR WINTER

**Prepare your home for winter now to ensure safety and efficiency.
Here's a checklist you can use:**

1 INSPECT HEATING SYSTEM

- Have your heating system professionally **serviced**.
- **Replace** air filters if needed.
- Ensure vents and radiators are **unblocked** for efficient heat distribution.

2 TEST & MAINTAIN SMOKE AND CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTORS

- **Replace** batteries in smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.
- **Test** detectors to ensure they function properly.

3 INCREASE ENERGY EFFICIENCY

- **Seal** gaps at windows and doors with weatherstripping or caulk.
- Set ceiling fans to **rotate clockwise**.

4 PREPARE PIPES & WATER SUPPLY

- **Insulate** exposed pipes to prevent freezing.
- **Drain and shut off** outdoor faucets and irrigation systems.
- Know the **location** of water shut-off valve in case of emergency.

5 PREPARE YOUR HOME'S EXTERIOR

- **Clear** gutters and downspouts to prevent ice dams.
- **Trim** trees away from the house to avoid damage.
- **Ensure** downspouts extend away from the foundation.
- **Service and store** equipment such as lawnmowers and trimmers.

SCAN ME FOR MORE TIPS!

Or use this URL to visit:
www.noec.coop





\$73,365
RAISED FOR ENERGY TRAILS



NOEC's Dexter Farmer, Ricky Hignite, Jason Martin, Jake Ornder, Matt Lemons, Brian Kelly, Jimmy Caudill, and Tommy Bauer

SHOOT FOR THE NATIONS

SCAN ME FOR MORE!

Or use this URL to visit:
www.oaec.coop



NOEC was well represented during the 2025 **Shoot for the Nations**, a sporting clays fundraising event held September 26 at Silverleaf Shotgun Sports in Guthrie. The entire **\$73,365** in proceeds generated during the competition helps support **Oklahoma Energy Trails Foundation's** international electrification projects.

The NOEC team of Dexter Farmer, Jake Ornder, Jason Martin, and Matt Lemons brought home first place honors on the bronze course while our team of Brian Kelly, Jimmy Caudill, Ricky Hignite, and Tommy Bauer captured third place on the gold course. Congratulations to these gentlemen and all **Shoot for the Nations** competitors on their contributions to a worthwhile cause.



OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE FOR AREA STUDENTS, TEACHERS

Northeast Oklahoma Electric Cooperative (NOEC) is announcing its **youth programs** for the current school year and wants to make sure all eligible students have an opportunity to participate. Along with four \$2,000 college scholarships, the cooperative is sponsoring an all-expense-paid trip to our nation's capital for two students.

► YOUTH TOUR COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT (OR ESSAY)

Area high school juniors can complete a 6-8 hour community service project for a chance to win an all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C., June 13-19, as part of the 2026 Youth Tour contest. Winning students will also receive \$500 in spending cash. As an alternative form of entry, students can submit a 300-500 word essay on the topic "Making a Difference Where I Live." Students who are in the eleventh grade and attend school within cooperative service area are eligible to participate in this contest. Cooperative membership is not a requirement.

Entry deadline: January 25, 2026.

► COLLEGE/TRADE SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP

High school seniors whose parents or guardians are NOEC members and who live in a household served by NOEC electric can apply for a \$2,000 scholarship to a college, university, or trade school of their choosing. Four winners will be selected.

Entry deadline: April 3, 2026.

► CLASSROOM INCENTIVE

NOEC is encouraging area teachers to get involved. If a teacher administers the Youth Tour Community Service Project (or essay) as part of a classroom assignment and produces a contest finalist, he or she could be rewarded with \$100 toward the purchase of classroom materials or equipment.

For additional information, including entry forms and applications, visit noec.coop. Students can also contact the NOEC Public Relations department at publicrelations@noec.coop.



2025 Youth Tour winners Isaac Birkes and Izabel Pritchett

RECIPES

FROM DELAWARE CO.



OLD TIME CAKE DOUGHNUTS | PATTY GIBE, GROVE

INGREDIENTS

- 2 tsp butter, softened
- 1 1/2 cup sugar, divided
- 3 large eggs
- 3 tsp ground cinnamon
- 1 tsp baking powder
- 1/8 tsp pumpkin pie spice
- 4 cups flour
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 3/4 cup 2% milk
- Oil for frying

Step 1: In a large bowl beat butter and 1 cup sugar until crumbly, about 2 minutes. Add eggs, one at a time, beating well after each one.

Step 2: Combine flour, baking powder, 1 tsp cinnamon, salt, and pumpkin pie spice together and add to butter mixture, alternating with splashes of milk, beating after each addition.

Step 3: Cover and refrigerate for 2 hours. Once chilled turn dough on to a heavily floured surface and pat to a 1/4 inch in thickness. Then cut with a 2 1/2 inch doughnut cutter.

Step 4: In a deep skillet or deep fryer heat oil to 375°F and cook doughnuts on each side. Remove from oil and drain on paper towels. Roll doughnuts in remaining sugar and cinnamon to coat.

902801

PEANUT BRITTLE CANDY | REJEANIA MARTIN, AFTON

INGREDIENTS

- 2 cups sugar
- 1 cup water
- 1 cup white corn syrup
- 1 tsp vanilla
- 2 cups raw peanuts (unsalted, no skins)
- 1 Tbsp butter
- 2 tsp baking soda

Step 1: Boil sugar, water, and syrup until it forms a small ball. Then add peanuts and butter. Boil until light golden brown.

Step 2: Remove from heat then add vanilla and baking soda, mixing well. Once combined quickly pour onto buttered cookie sheet, quickly!

Step 3: Brittle should be just under a 1/2 inch thick. Let it spread on its own. Once cooled, break a part into pieces.



Have a recipe to share?

Email it to: publicrelations@noec.coop

