

# VVEC LINE LIFE

SEPTEMBER 2024 | PUBLISHED FOR MEMBERS OF VERDIGRIS VALLEY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE | A SUPPLEMENT TO OKLAHOMA LIVING | WWW.VVEC.COM

## JOIN US FOR OUR

# 86<sup>TH</sup>

# Annual

# MEETING



**OCTOBER 17, 2024**  
**5:00 PM**

**BARTLESVILLE COMMUNITY CENTER**  
**300 SE ADAMS BLVD**  
**BARTLESVILLE, OK 74003**



Bring your bill to get registered and receive your gift bag and food vouchers for the food trucks! Once you've enjoyed a meal in the dining hall and snapped a picture with Willie, head up the ramp to listen to live music by Thomas Martinez!

The business meeting will open at 7:00 PM - there must be a quorum of 5% of the cooperative's members present to conduct business. Stick around for door prizes and a chance to win the **GRAND PRIZE: A \$500 BILL CREDIT!**



**5:00 - 7:00 PM**  
**Registration!**

**5:00 - 6:45 PM**  
**Food trucks on site!**

**5:00 - 6:45 PM**  
**Live music by the**  
**THOMAS MARTINEZ BAND**  
**in the auditorium!**

**7:00 PM**  
**Business Meeting &**  
**Door prizes!**

For the next few months, tree crews will be working to clear right-of-way in the North Bartlesville and Verdigris substation areas. Once completed, crews will move to the Collinsville and Skiatook substation areas until it is complete.

VVEC Brush Coordinator:  
Thomas Martinez 918-586-6208



# CONNECT



with us!



[facebook.com/VerdigrisValleyElectric](https://facebook.com/VerdigrisValleyElectric)



**September Mystery Picture!** Do you know where this is? Be the first to correctly guess the location during the month of September and receive a \$50 bill credit! Call Megan Jackson at 918-586-6241 to submit your guess!

August's Location correctly guessed by George:  
Moore's Fish Farm in Inola

Is your account number 0921200804? If so, call Megan Jackson at 918-586-6241 during the month of September and claim your \$50 bill credit! **CONGRATS!**

## MEET The Editor



Hello! I'm Megan Jackson, editor of "Line Life" and 4 year employee of VVEC! During my time here, I've worked as an Office Services Representative, in Data Processing, at the front counter, as Office Services Secretary and most recently, Communications Specialist.

Graphic design, journalism, marketing, photography - it's all a big passion for me and I love that I get to create content for the newsletter. I thrive on celebrating the extraordinary talent at VVEC whether that be our linemen in the field or our office staff. It also gives me a chance to continue interacting with our members through things like "Mystery Picture" guesses, social media and photographing events in our communities!

Photography is a love that goes back to childhood where I watched and learned from my Mom who was a photographer. It's a huge part of who I am as an adult so I'm very happy I'm able to utilize that with my work!

When I'm not in the office, you can find me spending time with my husband, Josh, our kiddos, family and friends, watching true crime documentaries or googling where I can cage dive and snuggle a Great White! We are also BIG sports fans and take every opportunity to cheer on the OU Sooners, New York Yankees and Oologah Mustangs!

It's not exactly normal to look forward to going to work but that's exactly what I get to do and I am exceptionally grateful to work for and alongside the wonderful people at Verdigris Valley Electric. I truly love what I do and thank God everyday for this opportunity!

**Life motto: "Mental toughness, kiddo!" - my Dad**





# EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

## COLLIN CREECH



Chief Mechanic Collin Creech has jumped headfirst into the spotlight this month after over 19 years as a VVEC employee! Collin is married to his beautiful wife, Bre, and together they have two children - JoLeigh and Drake!


Collin has worked as a mechanic over the entirety of his career but that doesn't mean his days are static. In fact, what he loves most about his job is the fact that he never knows what the day will bring or what tasks will come his way. "It keeps it interesting!" says Collin.

When he's not at work, he's likely hunting, fishing, watching his kiddos compete in sports or participating in their latest obsession: golf!

Congratulations on a job very well done, Collin!

*"The best part of working at VVEC is that I get to work with wonderful people every day and we are just all here working toward the same goal of providing great service to our members."*

HELLO   
September

09.02 Labor Day - Offices closed!  
09.08 Grandparents Day!  
09.22 First day of Fall!  
10.17 Annual Meeting! 



NEED A NEW  
LEAF  
BLOWER?  
MAKE IT  
ELECTRIC!

After years of endorsing gas-powered leaf blowers over electric, Consumer Reports has changed its tune, saying that electric models outperform traditional gas devices for vacuuming, handling and noise. In fact, the magazine, known for its objective testing of appliances and other products, said in a comparison of leaf blowers that "electric is the clear winner."

"The best electric leaf blowers we've tested match or beat the best gas models in every single test we conduct," the article said. Their only drawback, when compared with gas, the magazine said, is that electrics require recharging, which takes some time. So if you're in the market and still powerful leaf blower, consider a cordless electric model!

# The Fight to Keep the Lights On

## *Electric reliability under attack by government rules*

by Mark Viguet | [info@ruralmissouri.coop](mailto:info@ruralmissouri.coop)

**D**uring recent winter storms and summer heatwaves, many electric cooperatives set records for seasonal electricity demand. Through the extreme conditions, Associated Electric Cooperative — the power generator for electric cooperatives in Missouri, northeast Oklahoma and southeast Iowa— and its six transmission cooperative member owners kept the power flowing reliably using a balanced portfolio of generation sources, including coal and natural gas power plants, hydropower, wind and a resilient transmission system.

While other utility companies resorted to rolling blackouts during the harsh weather, power kept flowing from Associated Electric, thanks in large part to the 24/7 coal power plants and natural gas generation designed to work when they are most needed, regardless of weather conditions.

### **The future is cloudy**

But the potential for a less reliable electric system looms. Earlier this year, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued a new rule targeting existing coal-fired and new gas-fired power plants with a goal of shutting down all fossil fuel power plants. This controversial rule will have devastating effects on the reliability of the electric grid by speeding up the retirements of coal and natural gas plants, which produce 60% of the energy in the U.S.



Reliability is not a concern of the EPA. The result for electric cooperatives is less reliable and more expensive electricity for their members. For those reasons, the EPA has been challenged in multiple lawsuits by a coalition of utilities in 27 states.

### **Fossil fuel generation delivers unmatched reliability**

Associated's diverse mix of generation resources keeps reliability and affordability as the top priorities for the electricity generated and delivered to members. As pressure from the EPA causes more reliable fossil fuel plants to shut down prematurely, what energy source will fill the gap? Coal and natural gas plants are the backbone of reliable and affordable power for Missouri's electric cooperatives because they are available when needed 24/7. Renewable sources, such as wind and solar, cannot provide power with that same reliability.

When coal plants and natural gas generators are replaced by weather-dependent, intermittent sources like solar and wind, reliability will suffer while prices increase. Until there is a proven alternative with equal reliability, fossil fuel generation is a key part of keeping the lights on.

### **Cooperatives invest in a cleaner environment**

Those who rely on the land, air and water for their livelihoods are deeply invested in taking care of the environment they depend upon. For electric cooperatives, safeguarding rural communities is a foundational value demonstrated through a history of proactive stewardship and compliance with state and federal regulations.



*“Given that clean air, water and land resources mean so much to the electric cooperative members we serve, our commitment to the environment is not just talk, but put into action,”*

*-Buster Geisendorfer,  
Associated Electric Cooperative board president*

“Given that clean air, water and land resources mean so much to the electric cooperative members we serve, our commitment to the environment is not just talk, but put into action,” says Buster Geisendorfer, Associated board president. “Cooperative member-ownership and leadership of our cooperative ensures our values reflect those who use our electricity.”

Since 1993, Associated and its member-owners have spent more than \$1.1 billion to reduce air emissions by 90% at its coal power plants. The improvements, which included a milestone conversion to cleaner low-sulfur coal, were the leading edge of Associated’s proactive environmental work.

### Protecting water and air resources

Since 2015, Associated and its members have invested more than \$202 million to meet coal and water mandates issued by the EPA, funding coal ash and water quality projects, including pond closures, water systems and groundwater quality monitoring. Part of that total includes \$69 million in recent projects for both New Madrid Power Plant and Thomas Hill Energy Center to remain compliant.

### Make your opinion known today

Meeting reliability and environmental responsibilities is an ongoing commitment made more challenging and costly by recent EPA rules. Today more than ever, reliable and affordable power is at risk.

You can help. Send a letter to your member of Congress telling them to support reliable power by halting the EPA’s unrealistic, unnecessary and expensive rules.

# Cleaner Energy

**Associated Electric Cooperative’s long-term  
commitment to a healthy environment**



### Carbon Cut

From 2005 to 2023, AECl has reduced its carbon emissions rate by nearly 25%.



### Wind Power

The addition of eight wind farms since 2007 has lowered carbon emissions.



### Natural Gas Generation

AECl has added cleaner burning natural gas plants, which results in carbon reduction.



### Greenhouse Gas Drop

Since 1994, AECl has reduced total greenhouse gas emissions by 90%.



### Environmental Investments

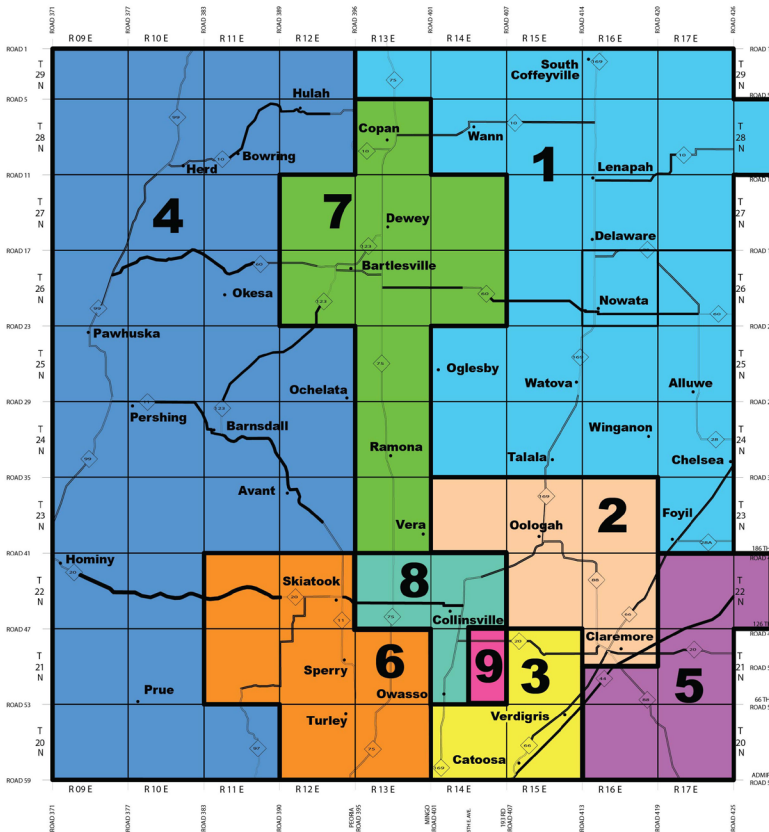
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# DISTRICTS 2, 4 & 6 TO ELECT REPRESENTATIVES

Selecting representation for VVEC's board of trustees is one of the fundamental privileges of co-op ownership. Members in Districts 2, 4, and 6 will meet this year. **Registration for all meetings will be from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m.—when the business sessions begin.** There must be a quorum of 5% of the members in the district present in order to conduct business.

Members who are the voting delegates for organizations such as churches will need to submit a completed Organization Certificate, which can be found below. The certificate needs to be submitted at the time of registration.

If you don't know which district you live in, see the district map to the left. Your board district is also printed on your monthly bill. If you have questions, please call the office at 918-371-2584 and speak with a office services representative. You will also receive a notice by mail with details of your district's meeting.



## District 2 Meeting

Friday, Nov 8th  
Zion Hill Church  
11501 S. 4060 Rd.  
Oologah, OK 74053

## District 4 Meeting

Tuesday, Nov 12th  
School Cafeteria  
401 10th St.  
Barnsdall, OK 74002

## District 6 Meeting

Wednesday, Nov 6th  
American Bank  
1525 W Rogers Blvd.  
Skiatook, OK 74070

## ORGANIZATION CERTIFICATE

RESOLVED THAT \_\_\_\_\_

(Person's name typed or written in ink)

who is a member or officer of said organization, is hereby designated official

representative by \_\_\_\_\_

(Name of Organization)

to vote at the District Meeting of Members which said organization holds a membership in the Verdigris Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc., to be held during November 2024, for Districts 2, 4, and 6, on all matters which at said meeting of Members may properly come before them; the action of said representative and all that he or she may do in this behalf is hereby ratified and confirmed as the act of

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Name of Organization)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(President)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Corporate Seal)

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Secretary)

Complete this form and present it when registering in attendance at district meeting.



# MEMBERSHIP HAS ITS PRIVILEGES!

**\$946,685.00 IN CAPITAL CREDIT REFUNDS RETURNING TO MEMBERS IN OCTOBER!**

Cooperatives like Verdigris Valley Electric are unique in that they are a not-for profit business. What this means to our member owners is that they have a stake in the finances of Cooperative. The Cooperative answers to the members not unrelated stockholders. To this end, the Cooperative distributes its revenue in excess of expenses back to the members through margins or capital credits.

This year after carefully reviewing the financial matters of the Cooperative, your board of trustees approved the return of \$946,685.00 in capital credit or patronage refunds. This is the 31st consecutive year capital credits have been returned to the members. A total of \$21,093,488 has been returned to the members since the Cooperative started business in 1938.

Capital Credits and Patronage refunds will be returned to members and former members that received power from the Cooperative in 1984.

For all active members a credit will appear as a "patronage refund" on their October 2024 bills. Members that have multiple accounts will receive one credit on the membership account; that one credit will reflect the total accumulated capital refunds from all of their accounts.

Former members that had service in 1984 will receive a check if the refund is greater than \$5.00; lesser amounts will be held in the account awaiting the time that accumulated capital credits reach the \$5.00 threshold.

*If you have questions regarding your capital credit refund, please call one of our Office Services Representatives at (918) 371-2584 between 7:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.*





## VVEC BOARD OF TRUSTEES

**District 1:** Jim Brackett - 720-4531

**District 2:** Jack Bogart - 371-9587

**District 3:** Vernon Lewis - 521-5461

**District 4:** John Hibdon - 847-2320

**District 5:** Jimmy Lambert - 760-7029

**District 6:** Dennis Lenox - 289-5961

**District 7:** Charles Huerter - 914-1498

**District 8:** Ken Howard - 724-9965

**District 9:** Buddy McCarty - 272-5364

**General Manager:** Alice Lawson

## CONTACT US

### VVEC Headquarters

8901 E 146th St N Collinsville, OK

### Mailing address

P.O. Box 219, Collinsville, OK 74021

### Phone number

918-371-2584 or 1-800-870-5948

### Office hours

7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Mon-Fri

### Line Life Editor:

Megan Jackson

Power Circuit is published monthly by Verdigris Valley Electric Cooperative, Collinsville, Oklahoma for its members in Tulsa, Rogers, Washington, Nowata and Osage counties.

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# CLASSIFIEDS

**SUBMIT ADS** to [classified@vvec.com](mailto:classified@vvec.com) or send to ATTN: Classified, P.O. Box 219 Collinsville, OK 74021. Ads must be in writing. Your account number, name, address and a phone number is required on all ads. The deadline for all ads is the 1st of the month. Ads submitted by the 1st of the month will run in the following month's newsletter.

*Classified ads are a free service to VVEC members only. As many ads as space allows will be included in each issue. VVEC reserves the right to delete or shorten items or descriptions..*

- **Professional, personalized dog grooming at your home. Small dogs only. Most dogs only \$40.00. Over 40 years experience. 918-381-1170**

- **Home repair, remodel and handyman service serving metro Tulsa, Owasso, Collinsville, Oologah areas; 918-231-6385**

- **Maytag gas clothes dryer; original owner; works good - guaranteed. \$150 or trade; 918-231-6385**

- **Reese hay mower; 8 ft; 3 pt.;**

**918-255-6508**

- **Grassworks weed wiper; 12 ft, pull type, foam filled tires; 918-255-6508**

- **LG Dishwasher, used very little;**

**918-255-6508**

- **Granite countertop 918-255-6508**

- **9 Wheel inline hay rake**

**918-255-6508**

- **Hardman Duo (semi-electric) upright player piano; comes with bench and approx. 50 assorted music rolls. Buyer responsible for moving. Text or voicemail 918-798-8851**

- **Yard Toy Sale: (2) 4-Wheelers; Dirt bike; Gasoline side-by-side with dump bed; bicycles; canoe; kayak; alum fishing boat, etc. Text before calling 918-798-1759**

- **ML Leddy Cutting Horse Saddle with Breast Collar; 16" seat; excellent condition; \$3,500.00; Other saddles available; 859-519-8284**

- **Motorcycle - Honda VT 1100C Shadow Spirit, 2001; \$1,500. 918-396-1868**

## WHAT IS AN OUTLET'S FAVORITE SONG?



**"I'VE GOT THE POWER!"**

## IN CASE OF AN OUTAGE

- First, check your fuses or circuit breakers. Every service is different. You may have fuses or circuit breakers in your house, on the side of your house, under your meter, or all three places. Check to see if your neighbors have electricity.

- Then, call the co-op at 371-2584 or 1-800-870-5948. Have your account number, name as it appears on the account, and address handy to give to the dispatcher. If you should get a recording, leave your information; every message will be answered.

- Download the SmartHub app at [www.smarthubapp.com](http://www.smarthubapp.com) to report outages from your smartphone.

## SUMMER RESIDENTIAL RATES

April through September usage;

May through October billing

**Customer Charge | \$40.00**

**Energy Charge | 1st 2000 kWh | \$.08279/kWh**

**| over 2000 kWh | \$.08789/kWh**

A power cost adjustment (PCA) will be applied to all bills when the actual cost of power purchased exceeds or is less than 62.088 mills per kWh.

In addition, a gross receipts tax of 2% of revenue will be included, plus additional taxes, if applicable.

*This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.*