

Visit us on the Internet at: www.vvec.com
SEPTEMBER 2012

Published for the members of Verdigris Valley Electric Cooperative
A Supplement to Oklahoma Living.

[Trustees Return \\$500,000 in Capital Credits p. 3](#)

Helping Those Who Protect and Serve

The heat was brutal; the drought extreme. And the danger of fire was hold-your-breath frightening. But none of that stopped area fire-fighters from battling fires that popped up, including lending much-needed assistance to the devastating fires in Creek County.

"Because they stand between us and those fires, we wanted to lend a helping hand," explains VVEC General Manager Alice Houston. So the co-op donated over 62,000 bottles of water and more than 7,600 bottles of Gatorade to about 40 fire departments in its five-county service territory.


Each day for more than a week and a half, a handful of co-op employees, driving vehicles and trailers loaded down with pallets and cases of the water and sports drink, headed out down paved highways and dirt roads to deliver the supplies.

"Most of them seemed surprised to see us come rolling up," says VVEC Member Services Representative Chub Brewer, grinning. "And everyone we talked to seemed gen-



uinely glad to get the donation."

"These fire-fighters protect our lives, our families, and our property and do it in some of the most extreme conditions," says Houston. "Because the conditions have been

so taxing this year, many departments are already exhausting their budgets, so I'm glad we found a way to help them. It's what good neighbors do." 

VVEC Board of Trustees

- District 1 - **Jim Brackett, 720-4531**
- District 2 - **Jack Bogart, 371-9587**
- District 3 - **Vernon Lewis, 341-5225**
- District 4 - **John Hibdon, 847-2320**
- District 5 - **Jimmy Lambert, 760-7029**
- District 6 - **Dennis Lenox, 396-1574**
- District 7 - **Charles Hueter, 333-3107**
- District 8 - **Ken Howard, 371-4833**
- District 9 - **Buddy McCarty, 272-5134 or 272-5364**

General Manager - Alice Houston

VVEC Headquarters

8901 E. 146th Street N., Collinsville

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.,
Monday through Friday

Editor - Kay Rabbitt-Brower

VVEC offices will be closed Monday, Sept. 3 for the Labor Day holiday. Please call (918) 371-2584 to report an outage.

Summer Residential Rates

April through September usage,
May through October billing

Customer Charge \$20.20

Energy Charge

1st 2,000 kWh \$0.0809/kWh

Over 2,000 kWh \$0.0860/kWh

A power cost adjustment (PCA) will be applied to all bills when the actual cost of power purchased exceeds or is less than 55.993 mills per kWh.

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

Qualifications to be a Trustee


Electric cooperatives are governed by a board of trustees, who are each members of the cooperative residing in the districts they represent. They are elected to the board by members of their respective districts, at meetings held in the districts. Each trustee serves a three year term, and the terms are staggered so three different trustee terms expire each year.

Qualifications for trustees can be found in the cooperative's bylaws: Article 4, Section 4.

Those qualifications are:

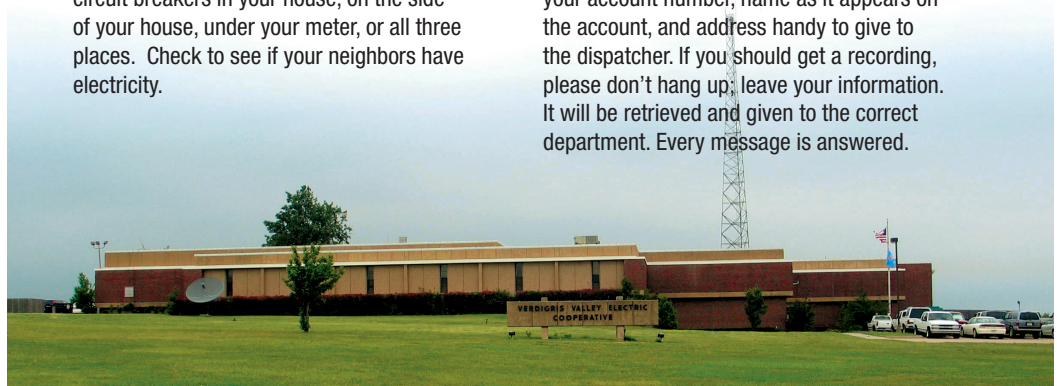
“Each year, there shall be elected trustees to succeed all trustees whose terms of office shall expire at the time of holding such election. All duly elected and qualified trustees shall serve for the term of three (3) years, or until their successors are elected and qualified, subject to the provisions of these bylaws with respect to the removal of trustees.

No person shall be eligible to become or remain a trustee of the cooperative who:

- (a) is not a member and bona fide resident in the area served or to be served by the cooperative; or
- (b) is any way employed by or financially interested in a competing enterprise or a business selling electric energy or supplies to the cooperative, or a business primarily engaged in selling electrical or plumbing appliances, fixtures or supplies to the members of the cooperative; or
- (c) has been convicted, pled guilty, or pled nolo contendere to a felony; or
- (d) is a close relative of an incumbent trustee or of an employee of the Cooperative, or
- (e) is or was an employee of the cooperative during the preceding three years prior to time of filing or being nominated. 

What to do if Your Power Goes Off

1. 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.
2. Call the Co-op at 371-2584, or 1-800-870-5948 if the call is long distance for you. 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, please don't hang up, leave your information. It will be retrieved and given to the correct department. Every message is answered.



Power Circuit is published monthly by Verdigris Valley Electric Cooperative, Collinsville, Oklahoma (ISSN 10884378) for its members in Tulsa, Rogers, Washington, Nowata and Osage counties. Periodical postage paid at Tulsa, Oklahoma and other additional mailing offices. Subscription price is \$0.19 per month. POSTMASTER - send address changes to Power Circuit, P.O. Box 219, Collinsville, OK 74021.

VOLUME 71 • NUMBER 9 • SEPTEMBER 2012

Ownership has its Privileges

Members to Receive \$500,000 in Capital Credit Refunds

There are benefits to being a member/owner of a cooperative. One of those is receiving Capital Credit refunds.

Your board of trustees has recently approved returning \$500,000 in capital credits to VVEC members. **The amount will appear as a credit on your October electric bill.**

Capital credits are one of the benefits of cooperative ownership and are unique to the cooperative form of business. According to the co-op's auditing firm – Briscoe, Burke & Grigsby – one dollar in five of the co-op's equity has been returned to the members in the form of capital credit retirements.


Clyde Willard, VVEC director of finance, says about 65 percent of that amount, or about \$325,000, will be paid to members who were receiving electricity from the co-op in 2011. The remaining 35 percent, or about \$175,000, is being returned to members who were receiving power in 1981. Refund amounts are based on the electric usage of each member during 1981 and 2011.

As in the past, the credit will be identified as a 'patronage refund' and will be subtracted from the total amount due on your October bill.

Willard says members with multiple accounts will receive one credit on their membership account. That one credit will reflect the total accumulated capital credit refund from all of their accounts.

Willard says this is the 19th consecutive year capital credits have been returned, adding \$13,593,490 has been returned since VVEC was founded.

Former VVEC members will be sent a check for their refund if it is \$5 or more. Lesser amounts will be held in each individual's capital credit account until it reaches the \$5 minimum.

If you have questions about your capital credit refund, please call one of our consumer representatives at 371-2584 or 1-800-870-5948 between 7:30 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. 

Payment Arrangements Help with Hot Weather Electric Bills

According to local meteorologists northeastern Oklahoma experienced over 20 days of triple digit temperatures this summer. That's something we might not remember as temperatures begin to cool down and we progress into another season.

But the electricity we used trying to keep our homes comfortable during those hottest days of the summer is going to appear on your next few electric bills.

If you feel you are going to have difficulty paying your electric bill, please call our consumer service representatives to discuss making payment arrangements.

"When it gets as hot as it did this summer, our cooling systems can work overtime trying to maintain a comfortable temperature," says VVEC Billing Coordinator Lori Prock. "If members think they may have some difficulty paying a larger than expected electric bill, we want them to call us so we can work out a payment arrangement."


Prock suggests calling the co-op's consumer services representatives at (918) 371-2584. 



Members Owed Capital Credits Listed on Co-op's Web Site

A list of members who have not collected their Capital Credits can be found on our Web site – www.VVEC.com.

Frequently, members don't give us a forwarding address when they move off of co-op lines, or don't keep us up-to-date as they move, so we don't know where to send their Capital Credit checks.

If you know a former member, please encourage him or her to visit the Web site to see if they are on the list. Or call us if you have information on how to reach someone on the list. 

Annual Meeting Returns to Claremore

Mark Your Calendars for Saturday, Oct. 13 at the Robson Performing Arts Center

It's our biggest event; the one we plan throughout the year. And one you don't want to miss, so circle your calendars now: annual meeting will be Saturday, October 13 at the Robson Performing Arts Center in Claremore. It is located at 101 E. Roosa St., near the Claremore High School campus.

For the 74th time VVEC members will gather to enjoy the privilege of cooperative ownership. Plans call for a morning of fun and festive activities, toe-tappin' entertainment, along with members having the opportunity to visit with fellow members and their co-op trustees.

Registration begins at 9 a.m. and continues until 11 a.m. For those wanting to be some of the first to register there will be free coffee and donuts available at 9 a.m.

Registration gifts this year are a VVEC cap and a black nylon tote with leather handles.

A favorite with VVEC members, popular Country and Western singer Paul Bogart and his band take the stage at 9 a.m. They will entertain the crowd until 10:45. Paul will be available after the meeting for members who want to visit with him or buy his CDs.


A free light lunch of hot dogs with all the trimmings, chips and cold soft drinks will be served from 10:30 until noon.

At 11 a.m. the business session opens. VVEC trustees will conduct the meeting until it's conclusion when the popular prize drawings begin.

A large number of great gifts such as electric appliances, power tools, and electronics are going to be awarded.

Three members in each of the co-op's nine districts will win a \$50 credit to their electric bills.

One lucky member will win the grand prize – a \$500 credit to his or her monthly electric bill.

"Annual meeting is a highlight of our year," says VVEC General Manager Alice Houston. "We strive to make it both enjoyable and informative for the membership. We want them to enjoy the privilege of cooperative membership, while visiting with their trustees, neighbors, and co-op employees, and learning about our programs and services. We hope many of them chose to spend their Saturday morning with us." 

Convenient Ways to Pay Your Electric Bill

- In the office
- Night Depository
- Automatic Bank Draft
- Credit/Debit Cards
- Online with E-Bill
- Mail



RECIPE

Grandma's Apple Dumplings

- 2 Granny Smith apples - peeled, cored and quartered
- 1 (8-oz.) can refrigerated crescent rolls
- 1/8 tsp. ground cinnamon
- 1/2 cup butter
- 3/4 cup white sugar
- 1 cup orange juice
- 1 tsp. vanilla extract

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Wrap each apple piece in one crescent roll. Place seam side down in an 8x8 baking dish and sprinkle with cinnamon.

In medium saucepan, combine butter, sugar, and orange juice; bring to a boil. Remove from heat and stir in vanilla. Pour over rolls.

Bake for 30 minutes, or until pastry is golden and apples are tender. Spoon sauce over rolls when serving.

NOTE: Consider covering dumplings with foil for the first 20 minutes; uncover for the remaining 10 minutes so they can get a pretty golden brown.