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

[Bring Your Electric Bill to Annual Meeting and Register Electronically! p. 4](#)

Pay•As•You•Go Pre-Pay Kiosks Available in Early September

Four Pay•As•You•Go kiosks for our new pre-pay program are in place and available for members to use, while we are finalizing locations for more of them.

Beginning Wednesday, Sept. 4, you can pay your electric bill at two kiosks in Bartlesville and one in Nowata. They are all located in Homeland grocery stores.

You can also use the kiosk in the front lobby of our Collinsville headquarters facility. The building's front doors will remain unlocked 24 hours a day, seven days a week. However, the second set of doors opening into the lobby, will be locked after business hours.

We are working to finalize details for kiosks in Skiatook, Claremore and Owasso.

How Pay•As•You•Go Works

Pay•As•You•Go works by allowing you to purchase electricity when you want and in the amount you choose.

The pre-pay program allows you to pay for your electricity before it's used. Instead of getting a bill telling you what you owe for the amount of electricity you have used, you can now pay in advance for what you can afford or for as much as you want to

use. You can make your purchase as often as you like; you are not limited to buying power just once a month.

You can also check your balance online.

"Members now have the option of paying their electric bills over the telephone, online, in our office, or at one of the kiosks," explains Clyde Willard, VVEC director of finance.

"VVEC lets you know via a text message or phone call when you are almost out of credit. You can pay using cash, checks, credit or debit cards.

"If payment is not made, then your electric can be shut off when your account reaches zero, similar to a car stopping when it runs out of gas."

Studies show consumers enrolled in prepaid programs practice better energy use habits and enjoy lower energy costs than the average rate-payer.

Energy Savings

Members who pre-pay generally use less energy than folks on traditional billing arrangements because they are more aware of how much power they are consuming.

You can go online to view details about your electric use. By monitor-

Prepay Kiosk Locations

Bartlesville Homeland grocery stores

811 S.E. Frank Phillips Blvd.
915 S. Madison Blvd.

Nowata Homeland grocery store

813 E. Cherokee Ave.

ing your energy usage and adjusting lifestyle habits and appliance operation, you can reduce the amount of electricity you use each day and save money.

Pay•As•You•Go is available both to current VVEC residential members, and people who become members when they apply for service.

If you would like to enroll in the Pay•As•You•Go program or have questions about enrolling, please visit with our consumer service representatives at 918-371-2584. Office hours are 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday.

WVEC 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 Huertter, 333-3107**
- District 8 - **Ken Howard, 724-9965**
- District 9 - **Buddy McCarty, 272-5134 or 272-5364**

General Manager - Alice Houston

WVEC 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

WVEC offices will be closed Monday, Sept. 2 in recognition of Labor Day. Please call 918-371-2584 or 1-800-870-5948 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 WVEC Trustee

Electric cooperatives are governed by a board of trustees, who are 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:

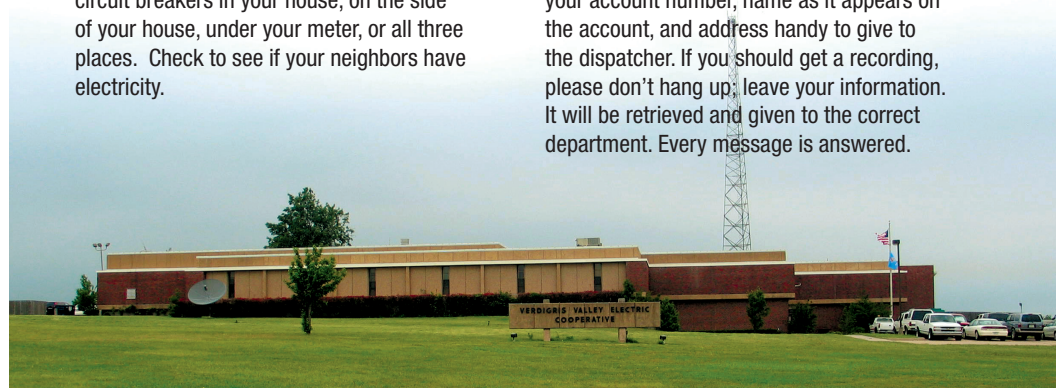
"Each year, there shall be elected trustees to succeed all trustees whose terms of office shall expire at the time of holding such election. All duly elected and qualified trustees shall serve for the term of three (3) years, or until their successors are elected and qualified, subject to the provisions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



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VVEC Begins Billing, Collecting Dues for Skiatook FD and EMS

Beginning in September, VVEC will be collecting monthly dues for co-op members who are served by the Skiatook Fire Department and/or EMS.

According to Bryn Burgess, interim fire chief, fire department dues are \$5 a month for residences up to 20 acres. An additional \$5 a month is required per 100 acres beyond the initial 20 acres. EMS dues are also \$5 a month.

“Fire response charges can be as high as \$250 per truck per hour, and the average EMS transport cost is currently about \$1,800,” says Burgess. “But members of our fire and EMS

districts pay nothing other than their \$60 a year membership dues for each service.”

Clyde Willard, VVEC’s director of finance, explains the dues will appear on VVEC members’ monthly electric bills. VVEC will collect and forward the dues to the fire department once a month.

“VVEC members can enjoy the convenience of paying two items with one payment, and the fire department and EMS will receive members’ dues without the expense of billing and collecting,” he says.

There is no charge for participating in this service.

Burgess says members will be automatically enrolled in the appropriate protection coverage plans, but can ‘opt out’ if they choose.

Members should have already received a letter from the fire department explaining this new procedure. **It includes a form which must be completed and returned to the department if a member chooses not to participate.**

Anyone with questions about this new procedure is encouraged to contact the Skiatook Fire Department at 918-396-1313.

Oklahoma’s Touchstone Energy Co-ops Sponsoring Grants for Teachers Using Technology to Transform Teaching and Learning

Oklahoma’s Touchstone Energy cooperatives, in partnership with the University of Oklahoma’s K20 Center and the Jeannine Rainbolt College of Education, are recognizing teachers from across the state who are effectively using technology to transform teaching and learning. Sponsoring grants for teachers and their schools through the Touchstone Energy Cooperatives SKIE (Supporting K20 Innovative Educators) Award is, “a natural fit that reflects our ongoing commitment to Oklahoma communities and emphasizes the guiding principles and values upon which we operate and are bound,” says VVEC General Manager Alice Houston.

“As cooperatives, we have special responsibilities to the communities in our service areas and to education and training,” Houston said. “We are thrilled to showcase—and reward—Oklahoma educators who are adopting technology in innovative ways and making academic content more engaging, relevant and effective for today’s youth.”

The co-ops have donated \$90,000 to endow teacher grants. The endow-

ment ensures permanent funding for the Touchstone Energy Cooperatives SKIE Award, which will provide six \$500 grants to regional winners in the annual competition. Regional winners become eligible for the state-wide award, which garners an additional \$1,500 for the teacher and a \$2,500 grant for the school at which the winner teaches.

“Teachers have the amazing ability to broaden our world-view, open our eyes and shape our lives,” said Dr. Leslie Williams, Director of the K20 Center. “Unfortunately, we live in an economy where teachers are forced to do more with less. It’s through partnerships like this we can reward outstanding educators and cultivate technology-rich learning communities designed to enhance student success.”

Award winners will be recognized at the K20 Innovative Learning Institute (ILI), a one-day professional development and networking conference hosted by the K20 Center.

Touchstone Energy Cooperatives and the K20 Center are currently seeking applications from innovative Oklahoma educators. To be considered for SKIE

Award, teachers – or a team of educators working collaboratively and willing to be considered as a team in the application process – must:

- Possess a record of outstanding application/integration of the K20 Center IDEALS;
- Demonstrate excellence in teaching and the use of technology; and
- Demonstrate instruction that is both engaging and effective for students.

Applications are due September 30.

To apply, applicants need to complete a questionnaire and attach a video or other multimedia artifact (PowerPoint with pictures, etc.) to demonstrate their teaching. Forms are available on the K20 ILI website, <http://k20ili.com>. For more information about the application process, contact Dr. Linda Atkinson, Associate Director for K12 Partnerships, latkinson@ou.edu.

For more information about the K20 Innovative Learning Institute, visit <http://k20ili.com> or contact Autumn McMahon at (405) 325-1266 or amcmahon@ou.edu.

Annual Meeting Returns to Claremore

Members can Register their Attendance Electronically and Save Time!

Great grand prize, registration gifts and a whole lot of door prizes, popular entertainer, delicious free food – we are planning another fun annual meeting for you!

This year’s annual meeting will be **Saturday, October 19 and we are returning to the Robson Performing Arts Center in Claremore.** It is located at 101 E. Roosa St., near the Claremore High School campus.

Registration begins at 9 a.m. and continues until 11 a.m. We will be registering members in a new way this year.

We will use hand-held scanners to read a specific barcode on members’ bills. Information in the barcode will tell us the member’s capital credit number, account number and board district.

But the most important aspect of utilizing this technology is members won’t have to stand in line to register anymore.

“It takes just a second for the scanners to read the barcode and register the member,” says Kay Rabbitt-Brower, annual meeting coordinator. “The barcode registers each member’s attendance and enters them in the prize drawings.

“We are asking members to bring the

top portion of their electric bill with them, but we will still be able to register them electronically if they don’t have their bill.”

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 blue gusseted organizer, which can be used in a home office for record keeping, or a car trunk for light groceries, etc. A favorite with VVEC members, popular Country and Western singer Paul Bogart will take the stage at 9 a.m. He 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

Bring Your Electric Bill to Annual Meeting!

Members who bring their bill with them to annual meeting for electronic registration will be eligible for one of three \$50 bill credits!

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.”



RECIPE

Chicken Parmesan Pizza

- 1 10-oz. pkg. frozen garlic bread loaf
- 1/2 cup canned pizza sauce
- 6 deli-fried chicken strips
- 1 (4-oz.) cup shredded Italian three-cheese blend
- 2 Tbsp. chopped fresh basil

Preheat oven to 400. Arrange garlic bread, buttered sides up, on a baking sheet. Bake at 400 for 8 to 9 minutes or until basil is lightly browned.

Spread pizza sauce over garlic bread.

Cut chicken strips into 1/2-inch pieces, and arrange over pizza sauce.

Sprinkle with cheese and basil.

Bake for 8 to 10 minutes or until cheese melts. Serve immediately.