

Members to Receive \$1,000,000 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 \$1,000,000 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 51 percent of that amount, or about \$513,000,

will be paid to members who were receiving electricity from the co-op in 2014. The remaining 49 percent, or about \$487,000, is being returned to members who were receiving power in 1981 and 1982. Refund amounts are based on the electric usage of each member during 1981, 1982 and 2014.




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 mul-

iple 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 22nd consecutive year capital credits have been returned, adding that \$15,093,489 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 918-371-2584 or 1-800-850-5984 between 7:30 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. 



*Annual Meeting set for
October 10, 2015*

Robson Performing Arts Center

Claremore High School Campus

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, 289-5961**
- District 7 - **Charles Huerter, 333-3107**
- District 8 - **Ken Howard, 724-9965**
- 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 - Vickie Chamberlain

Summer Residential Rates

April through September usage,
May through October billing

Customer Charge \$25.00

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.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Qualifications to be a VVEC 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 in 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

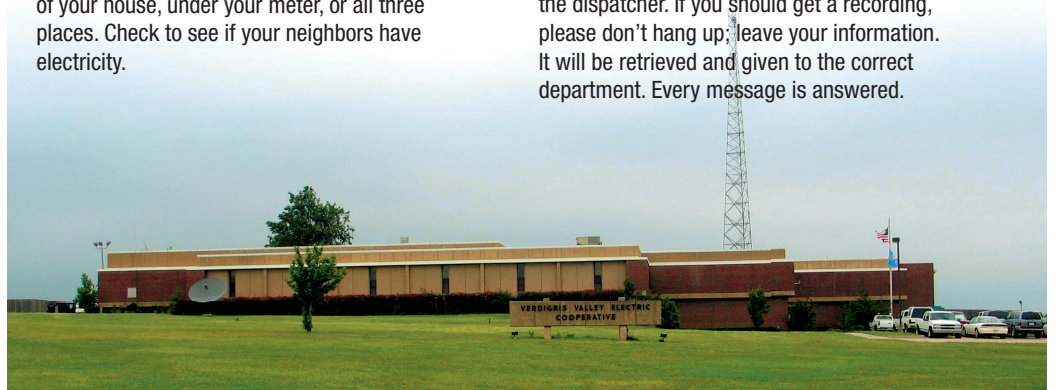
(c) has been convicted, pled guilty, or pled nolo contendere to a felony; or

(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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POSTMASTER - send address changes to Power Circuit, P.O. Box 219, Collinsville, OK 74021.

Working Hard to Keep Your Power On



Lon Lambert,
VVEC Right of
Way Coordinator

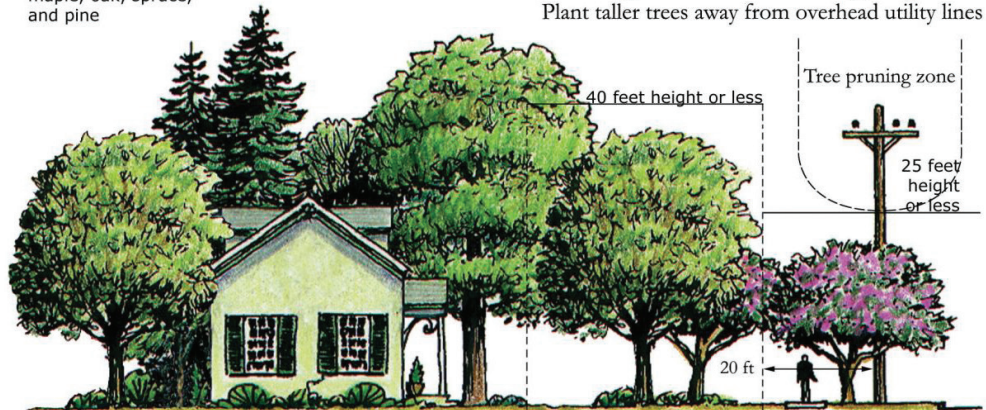
Lon Lambert came to work for VVEC in 1981. He was promoted to Right-of-Way Coordinator in 2006 where he's in charge of brush and tree maintenance.

"I'm well aware of what problems a tree can cause," Lon explains. "A little wind on the limbs can cause your lights to blink. Rain on the limbs can cause the lines to short. And an ice storm can cause literally millions in damage. We've gotten really serious about removing trees in easements. Serious or fatal shocks can occur if your children play in trees near power lines, or if you come in contact with power lines while working outdoors."

VVEC covers 5 counties with 22 sub-stations. The bigger sub-stations can take almost a year to remove all the hazardous trees and brush. Outage rates are dropped drastically when trees and brush are trimmed or removed. It's Lon Lambert's job to manage keeping your electric lines clear.

"This has been a wet year so it's slowed us down, but so far 4,776 trees have been removed. And when I say trees, I'm not talking about the little 2 inch trunks. Those are considered brush. A tree trunk is at least 4 inches or more. With the bucket crews, 333,031 ft. have been cut

Tall trees, such as:
maple, oak, spruce,
and pine



Medium trees, such as:
washington hawthorn
and goldenrain tree

Small trees, such as:
redbud, dogwood,
and crabapple

and with the mechanical crews 248,177 ft. have been cut," says Lon. "I treat all our customers the same. We are targeting everything inside the easement that will reach the line. We hope to get this in shape to make it easier to maintain in the future."

VVEC has 20 ft. easements on their single phase lines and 30 ft. easements on the 3 phase lines. Customers need to put trees far enough away from the easement that the limbs will not encroach into the easement as they grow.

It is extremely dangerous for the customer to trim their own trees. Even some professionals cannot trim trees around the high voltage uninsulated lines. OSHA and the National Electric Safety Code require that tree trimmers working on trees within 10 ft. of energized primary lines be line clearance certified. If VVEC detects that a customer has been trimming a tree to avoid a line, they will remove the tree for the safety of the customer. ⚡




Pictured with Lon is Ryan Wilson (Foreman at Hardin Tree Service) and crew in background.

VVEC Gives Grants to Area Fire Departments

Every year VVEC reviews applications submitted by area fire departments and then awards grants based on those applications. The grants help purchase much needed equipment, personnel training and even help with building costs.

VVEC General Manager Alice Houston strongly believes in supporting our fire departments throughout the cooperative. “These grants help area fire departments protect our neighbors,” she says. VVEC members benefit as well, because when the fire department’s ISO (Insurance Service Office) rates improve, home insurance rates are reduced.

Fire departments receiving grants this year are:

- Barnsdall Fire Dept.
- Boulanger Fire Dept.
- Collinsville Fire Dept.
- Foyil Fire Dept.
- Hulah Volunteer Dept.
- Lenapah Fire Dept.
- New Alluwe Volunteer Dept.
- Ochelata Volunteer Fire Dept.
- Owens and Co. Fire Dept.
- Pershing Rural Fire Dept.
- Rock Fire Dept.
- Sperry Fire Dept. 



Electric Water Heater Purchases

As of June 23, 2015, VVEC has discontinued the sale of electric water heaters through our warehouse. VVEC will continue to offer rebates on eligible electric water heaters purchased elsewhere.

RECIPE



Lazy Woman Pickles

Pack cucumbers (whole) in a gallon jar.

Fresh from the garden is best.

Add:

4 tbsp. canning salt

1 ½ tbsp. mixed pickling spices

2 tbsp. alum

4 cups apple cider (dark vinegar)

Fill with cold water. Seal and store for one month. (Store on shelf at room temperature.)

Pour off liquid and slice pickles, return pickles to jar.

Add 6 cups sugar.

Leave for 3 more days in refrigerator.

Hint: Shake the jar around every day or so for the sugar to melt. You can add a little cold water if sugar remains at top of jar and is not melting.

These pickles are easy to make and sweet to eat. They will stay good in the refrigerator.

Enjoy!