

## VVEC returns capital credits

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 members in the form of capital credit retirements.

VVEC Director of Finance Clyde Willard says approximately 50 percent of that amount or \$250,000 will be paid to members who were receiving electricity from the co-op in 2015. The remaining 50 percent or about \$250,000 is being returned to members who were receiving power in 1982. Refund amounts are based on the electric usage of each member during 1982 and 2015.

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.

According to Willard, 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 23rd consecutive year capital credits have been returned, adding that \$16,093,489 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 800-850-5984 between 7:30 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday.

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## Rural fire departments receive VVEC grants

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VVEC Member Services Representative Chub Brewer presents a grant to Jim Wilson and Dustin Ray of the Collinsville Rural Fire Protection District. Photo by Misti Frazier

**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., Mon.-Fri.

**Editor - Laura Araujo**

**Summer Residential Rates**

April through September usage,  
May through October billing

Customer Charge       \$30.00

Energy Charge

1st 2,000 kWh     \$.08272/kWh

Over 2,000 kWh   \$.08782/kWh

A power cost adjustment (PCA) will be applied to all bills when the actual cost of power purchased exceeds or is less than 59.87 mills per kWh.

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

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

# Students travel to Washington, D.C.



Youth Tour delegates Katelyn Shearhart of South Coffeyville and Michael McGill of Barnsdall represented VVEC at the nation's capital in June 2016. Along with 67 other delegates from Oklahoma's electric cooperatives and more than 1,500 students from across the nation, Shearhart and McGill spent a week learning about U.S. history and what it means to be an engaged citizen. Photo by Nikki Withey/OAEC



**Save the date!**

VVEC's annual meeting is scheduled for **Saturday, Oct. 8, 2016**, at the Robson Performing Arts Center in Claremore. Check next month's *Power Circuit* for more details.

## 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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# Incumbent trustees seek re-election



**Chuck Huerter**  
District 7

Chuck Huerter holds an associate degree in electronics, a bachelor's degree in personnel administration, and has 20 years' experience with Phillips Petroleum. He owned a small business in the health care industry for 15 years before retiring.

Huerter has represented District 7 since 1985, watching the district grow to more than 2,600 members. He holds certified director status from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), which he earned after completing the required number of continuing education classes offered to board trustees; he has also earned his board leadership certification.

Huerter is a bicycling enthusiast and has ridden in Oklahoma Free-wheel, a cross-state bike tour.

He is an active member of the Bartlesville community. He has three children and seven grandchildren.



**Ken Howard**  
District 8

Ken Howard is a production supervisor with American Airlines, where he has worked since 1998. Prior to his career with American Airlines, he owned and operated a local aviation business.

He is a lifelong resident of Collinsville, living on VVEC lines, and a graduate of Collinsville High School.

Howard continues his trustee education by attending classes designed for cooperative trustees and has received his certificate in the Credentialed Cooperative Director program sponsored by NRECA.

He has represented the more than 3,200 members in District 8 since his election to the board of trustees in 1992.

Howard and his wife, Dana, have three children and are also grandparents. They are active members of Life Church, Owasso.



**Buddy McCarty**  
District 9

Buddy McCarty was appointed to the board of trustees in 1995 to fill the unexpired term of a trustee who was moving, and now represents one of the fastest-growing areas in VVEC's service territory. District 9 has more than 3,400 members.

McCarty is an agent for State Farm Insurance, recently celebrating 34 years with the company.

He is an involved and active member of the Owasso community where he and his wife, Diana, have lived for more than 25 years. They both attended Northeastern State University. Diana is now retired.

McCarty and his wife have two daughters, two granddaughters and one grandson.

He encourages the members in his district to contact him at 918-272-5364 if they have questions about their cooperative.

# VVEC awards grants to rural fire departments



Seventeen fire departments submitted applications for this year's Rural Fire Department grant program. VVEC awarded grants to the following 11 fire departments: Avant Fire Department; Barnsdall Rural Fire Department; Boulanger Rural Fire Department; Collinsville Rural Fire Protection District; Dewey Fire Department; Lenapah Fire Department; Limestone Fire Protection District; New Alluwe Volunteer Fire Department & First Responder; Owens & Company Fire Service; Rock Fire Department and Sperry Fire Department. Left: Kenny Spears and Mike Brown of the Barnsdall Rural Fire Department receive a grant from VVEC Member Services Representative Chub Brewer. Middle: Ryan Witter and Barry Campbell of the Dewey Fire Department receive a grant from Chub Brewer. Right: Tommie Richards of the New Alluwe Fire Department with Chub Brewer and Rocky Seals of the New Alluwe Fire Department. Photos by Misti Frazier

## RECIPE

### Chicken Burrito Salad

Serves 6

- 1 head romaine lettuce, torn into small pieces
- 1 cup cooked brown rice
- 15-ounce can black beans
- 14-ounce can diced tomatoes
- 10-ounce can chicken breast
- 10-ounce can corn kernels
- 4-ounce can diced green chilies
- 2-ounce can sliced black olives
- 2 tablespoons lime juice
- 1 tablespoon chopped cilantro
- 3 tablespoons olive oil
- Salt and black pepper to taste



Recipe and photo courtesy of cansgetyoucooking.com

Drain all canned items. In a large platter or individual bowls, place lettuce leaves. Top with brown rice, black beans, diced

tomatoes, chicken, corn, green chilies and black olives. In a small bowl, combine lime juice

and cilantro; whisk in olive oil. Add salt and pepper, to taste. Drizzle dressing over salad.