

**VVEC**

# POWER CIRCUIT

DECEMBER 2023 | PUBLISHED FOR THE MEMBERS OF VERDIGRIS VALLEY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE | A SUPPLEMENT TO OKLAHOMA LIVING | WWW.VVEC.COM



**CELEBRATING OUR  
85TH  
ANNUAL MEETING!**





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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.

**DECEMBER 2023**  
**VOLUME 82 | NUMBER 12**

# 85th Annual Meeting Fun!



Members in attendance as VVEC celebrated its 85th Annual Meeting on Thursday, October 12th at Bartlesville Community Center enjoyed a cool, clear evening, yummy food and prize drawings! Once registered, members were given vouchers to enjoy food, drinks and desserts from a variety of food trucks and snap a picture with Willie Wiredhand! Members were also able to browse through the booths of the vendors present before heading into the auditorium to enjoy live music by Thomas Martinez. Once the evening's business was resolved, 27 lucky members won a \$50 bill credit while many others received door prizes. The evening concluded with the Grand Prize drawing for a \$500 bill credit! Thank you all for your attendance!



# Winter Storm Preparation: Outages, Essential Needs, and Weathering the Storm

With the mild temps we experienced this past Fall, it's hard to believe that Old Man Winter will be knocking on our door at any time. Ice, heavy snow, and wind storms can cause significant damage to an electrical system and when this happens, longer than usual outage times can be expected. Our crews work long and hard to get power restored as quickly and safely as possible. To do this in an efficient and safe manner, our crews follow a step by step process that is used by every other electric cooperative.

The first order of business is to restore power to individual feeders that leave the substation and can serve several hundred members. Crews will then move down the feeder working on tap lines, starting with the largest, serving the most members. Once all feeders and taps have been restored, crews will begin restoring service to individual, single meter outages.

Large outages that last for extended periods of time can be frustrating for our membership, especially those who have an individual meter outage. As explained above, priority goes to the largest outages. Restoring these outages first will get electricity to the largest number of members in the shortest amount of time.

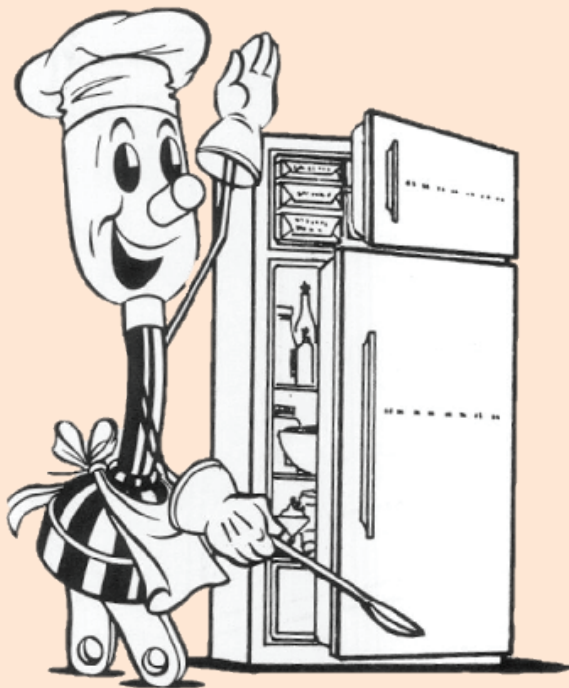


## With winter and the possibility of ice and snow just around the corner, here are a few things you can do to prepare:

- Be prepared with emergency generators and/or backup batteries for medical equipment
- Stock your pantry with non-perishables and bottled water
- Insure flashlights are in working order with spare batteries on hand
- Charge cell phones and any portable power banks
- Top off fuel tanks in vehicles
- Have a back-up plan for preparing meals (local restaurants may be without power as well)
- Turn down the temperature in your refrigerator and freezer prior to a severe storm, both will stay cooler longer in the event of a power outage
- Keep faucets at a trickle to keep pipes from freezing and bursting
- Locate warm clothing and extra blankets



## **Willie's Throwback Recipe**



### **Holiday Sugar Cookies**

- 2 eggs
- 2 sticks butter
- 1 c. powdered sugar
- 1 c. granulated sugar
- 1 tsp. almond extract
- 4 1/2 c. flour
- 1 c. vegetable oil
- 1 tsp. cream of tartar
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- 1 tsp. baking soda

Mix all ingredients together, refrigerate over night. Form dough into balls the size of a quarter. Place on cookie sheet and flatten with bottom of a glass that has been dipped in sugar. Bake in a 350 degree oven for 10 minutes. Remove from cookie sheet to wire rack to cool. Can decorate with frosting and sprinkles, enjoy!

Submitted by: Donna Miller of Collinsville,  
Published in The Servin' Spoon III

**SUBMIT ADS** to 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.*

## CLASSIFIEDS

- Professional personalized dog grooming at your home. Over 40 years experience. Most dogs only \$40. Contact 918-381-1170
- Old time black metal clock with key, \$100. Contact 918-639-8492
- Square dining room table and four chairs, dark wood, Mathis Brothers, \$200. Contact 918-639-8492
- Suze Orman Set: Books & DVDs on Wills & Trusts, Retirement & Finances. New never used, in box, \$160. Contact 918-639-8492
- Old iron corner porch post, \$100. Contact 918-639-8492
- Sony soundsystem, 4 small speakers, one bar, 1 large speaker, like new, \$250. Contact 918-639-8492
- Dr. Joel Fuhrman 'Eat To Live' Books & DVD set in box, \$160. Contact 918-639-8492
- Aunt Jamama cast iron bank, old, \$100. Contact 918-639-8492
- Rolling 1968 Harley Davidson frame and parts, \$1000. Contact 918-639-8492
- Piano, brown, old but in good working order, FREE. Contact 918-639-8492
- Queen size bed, solid wood, large head and foot board, \$300. Contact 918-639-8492
- 1940's -1950's ice bucket with plastic handle, \$50. Contact 918-639-8492
- 6 piece setting Pink Tiara dishes, total of 38 pieces, \$100. Contact 918-341-3625

**FAMILY FUN**

# Winter Pleasures

**SNOWY HILL RIDE**  
Enjoy an exhilarating slide down snowy slopes for a thrilling winter adventure

**SNOWMAN CREATION**  
Shape snow into a friendly figure, crafting joy and memories with family and friends

**MAKE A TREAT**  
Bake a homemade treat using a family recipe, or Willie's in this issue of Power Circuit

**MOVIE MARATHON**  
Grab a hot chocolate, a blanket, and curl up to enjoy a holiday classic film!

# BALANCE



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*Reliable · Affordable · Responsible*

## **Associated Electric's Focus on member-owners' priorities remains clear**

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

In an unpredictable year for energy companies, the leadership at Associated Electric Cooperative continues to focus on reliable and affordable electricity for its six transmission owners, their 51 local distribution cooperatives and the 2.1 million people who receive electricity from the three-tiered system.

Associated was created by members in 1961 to ensure member control of electric supply. Throughout its history, the goals of Associated and its member-owners haven't changed.

"Our mission, to provide economical and reliable power supply, has served us well throughout decades of change in the power generation industry," says John Killgore, a board member for United Electric Cooperative and vice-president of Associated's board of directors. "We never forget that focus."

### **Climate change proposals won't change member focus**

Evaluating federal climate change proposals to reduce or eliminate carbon is among Associated's top priorities as the Biden administration seeks to quickly and fundamentally change how energy companies generate electricity. The current administration's goals propose to reduce carbon from electric generation 50% by 2030 and envision net zero carbon by 2035.

As our nation continues to debate, one thing is clear: Associated's member-led board of directors and staff believe in putting members and their needs first.

### **Rush to renewables creates concerns**

"As a member-owned and governed wholesale power generation cooperative, we are alarmed by a rush to renewables without technologies available today to ensure reliable power at affordable prices," said David Tudor, Associated Electric's CEO and general manager. "Member-owners clearly prioritize reliability and affordability in the electricity they depend on. We cannot sacrifice reliable electric supply or affordable rates."

Associated's generation sources have evolved through the years. The primary way Associated preserves reliability and affordability for members is with a balance of generation sources. By maintaining a diverse mix — coal, natural gas, wind and hydropower — the cooperative has options to ensure reliable power at a competitive cost.

### **Member reliability is not for sale**

Aggressive climate change proposals from Washington, D.C., challenge Associated's balanced strategy.

"Today, there are attempts to get energy companies like ours to take a deal for money and agree voluntarily to close fossil fuel plants and

replace them with renewables,” Tudor said. “We don’t see that as a path that preserves reliability, so we cannot support that approach. Our members’ reliability is not for sale.”

Tudor points out that since 2005, Associated’s carbon emissions have been reduced more than 33%. “We take generating electricity in responsible ways seriously. Safeguarding the environment is not a recent development for us. Reliability and affordability co-exist with responsible generation at our cooperative and have for a long time.”

A key part of Associated’s member-focused power strategy includes significant wind energy and hydropower as part of its generation mix. In 2020, Associated added generation from two more wind farms, bringing its total to eight farms and 1,240 megawatts of energy. Those additions continued a legacy of leadership: the power generation cooperative brought the first utility-scale wind power to the region with wind farms starting in 2007. Hydropower from lakes and dams provide another 478 megawatts of renewable power.

“We value the land, air and water we and everyone in our cooperative network depends on. That’s why our power generation always considers how best to generate reliable and affordable power in a way that preserves our natural environment,” Killgore says.

### **Technology, transmission and time key to transition**

The technology does not exist today to replace all fossil fuel plants with renewable generation and battery storage. Reliability will suffer and prices will go up. While adding large volumes of generation

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***“Our mission, to provide economical and reliable power supply, has served us well throughout decades of change in the power generation industry. We never forget that focus.”***

***- John Killgore, vice president of Associated Electric Cooperative***

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like wind and solar, which are not constant, to replace 24/7/365 generation like coal and natural gas may sound good, adding too much too quickly will have reliability consequences.

The current transmission system has been designed and used for years to manage member energy load, not for a future where energy from intermittent sources like renewables displaces consistent electricity from coal and gas.

“Trying to force climate-change initiatives by 2030 or 2035 will not work. In fact, that’s a reckless approach. Time is needed to thoroughly think through realistic options,” Tudor said. “I’m concerned when all the attention is on quickly eliminating coal and natural gas power plants, with no technological solution for their replacement.”

The historic 2021 winter storm, when our three-tiered system kept the lights on while many other utilities were forced into blackouts, serves as an important reminder and demonstrates the value of a balanced electric generation strategy for member-owners and the nation.

“We will continue to make sure our members’ needs come first. It’s a time-tested and proven strategy that has resulted in real benefits,” Killgore said.

*For more information about Associated Electric Cooperative and its responsible generation efforts, visit [www.aeci.org](http://www.aeci.org).*



# VVEC

## Employee Spotlight

### Jeff "Jethro" Lorton

Meet Jeff "Jethro" Lorton, the Maintenance Superintendent and 40-year Verdigris Valley employee. Jethro started his career on the construction crew running the digger and then moved to the maintenance crew. He was blessed to move inside and become the Maintenance Superintendent in April of 2021.

Jethro and his wife, Kelli, have eight grandchildren with five in sports. When asked what his favorite hobby was, he repeated that he had eight grands, five in sports. Helping them and supporting them is everything!

Being a lineman has given him the opportunity to help others during storms, natural disasters and restoration efforts. Jethro recalls the 23-days spent working to restore power during Katrina and what an eye-opening experience it was to have people who have literally lost everything hugging him with tears in their eyes and thanking the linemen for helping them. That feeling is something he won't forget. If there was a piece of advice that he could give to someone, it would be to "do your best to have a good attitude because you'll no more than turn around and retirement will be looking you in the face!"

Thank you for your hard work and dedication, Jeff! You are appreciated!

“ My favorite thing about VVEC is how it's like a second family. I feel blessed and excited to come to work every single day! ”

### WINTER RESIDENTIAL RATES

October through March usage;  
November through April billing

**Customer Charge | \$40.00**

**Energy Charge | \$.08279/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 & employer.*

### 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.