

VVEC

POWER CIRCUIT

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

BALANCED GENERATION



TAKING CARE
**OF OUR
PLANET**

THINKING OF
THE FUTURE



VVEC BOARD OF TRUSTEES

District 1: Jim Brackett - 720-4531

District 2: Jack Bogart - 371-9587

District 3: Vernon Lewis - 521-5461

District 4: John Hibdon - 847-2320

District 5: Jimmy Lambert - 760-7029

District 6: Dennis Lenox - 289-5961

District 7: Charles Huerter - 914-1498

District 8: Ken Howard - 724-9965

District 9: Buddy McCarty - 272-5134
or 272-5364

General Manager: Alice Lawson

CONTACT US

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.

Power Circuit Editor:

McKenzie Loffer

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NOVEMBER 2023

VOLUME 82 | NUMBER 11

ELF ON THE SHELF AND OTHER

HOLIDAY STRESSORS



Feeling overwhelmed this holiday season?
If so, you are not alone. According to a survey
of 1,000 Americans 18-55+ years old:

50%

say that holiday
shoppers cause them
the most stress

27%

with children begin to
feel stressed by early
November

TOP TWO THINGS THEY WOULD REMOVE IF THEY COULD



Black Friday

OR

Elf on a Shelf



Dislikes aside, the holiday season can cause
added stress for many people

TIPS TO COMBAT HOLIDAY STRESS



Identify negative self-talk
and replace it with more
positive messages



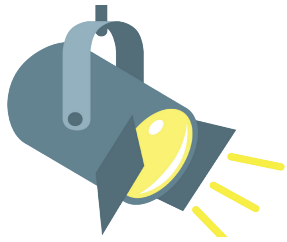
Maintain a healthy
eating and
exercise regimen



Keep your distance
from toxic or negative
people

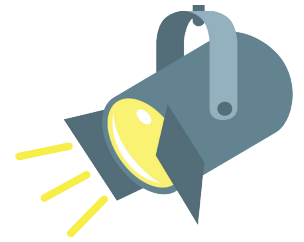


Use positive affirmations
and take the time to
pamper yourself



Employee Spotlight

Jodi Cooper



Do you ever wonder who the friendly face is on the other end of a phone call? Well, we'd like to introduce you to that friendly face from Verdigris Valley Electric Cooperative! Meet our Switchboard Operator, Jodi Cooper. After 25 years in insurance, she decided to change her view of the working world and came to work for VVEC. Jodi's been here for 5 years now earning experience in several areas. She has worked in data entry, the billing department, served as back up cashier and now really enjoys working as our switchboard operator. Jodi's favorite part about working for VVEC is the relationship and connection with our members. Sometimes when a member calls in, as she answers and without even stating her name, the voice on the other end will ask, "Is this Jodi??" It just makes her day!

Jodi resides in Skiatook with her husband, Kevin. They recently celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary with a beautiful, scenic trip to Portland, Maine. Together, they have 2 adult sons, their spouses, and between them, 9 grandchildren. Jodi and Kevin also have 2 fur babies, JJ and Duke. Those pups are the joy of her life and she loves her daily puppy hugs! On weekend free time, she and her husband love to go (spectate) dirt track racing. Jodi is no stranger to vegetable and flower gardening either, it is also something she likes to make time for. Jodi is particularly proud of her 15-foot row of hardy hibiscus plants in her front yard. Her hard work and attention have made these plants thrive!



Jodi is a valuable employee here at VVEC. She gracefully handles multiple phone calls and makes it look easy. She likes to help our members on the switchboard, daily. Thank you, Jodi, for your service!



Local Agencies Provide Emergency Assistance with Utility Bills

There are a number of government agencies and charitable and religious organizations that offer assistance with utility bills; some of them are listed here. If you realize you may have difficulty paying your electric bill, please contact our consumer service representatives as soon as possible. We will make every effort to work with you to make payment arrangements and hopefully avoid interruption to your electric service.

Organization	Serves	Phone Number
SEAC	Avant, Sperry, Skiatook	918-396-1137
Community Action	Nowata County	918-273-2868
DHS	Nowata County	918-273-2327
DHS	Osage County	918-287-5800
DHS	Rogers County	918-283-8300
Community Action	Rogers county	918-341-5000
DHS	Tulsa County	918-581-2689
Helping Hand	Tulsa County	918-584-6923
Salvation Army	Tulsa County	918-582-7201
Owasso Comm. Res.	Tulsa/Rogers County	918-272-4969
Community Action	Washington County	918-333-8115
Concern	Washington County	918-336-4693
DHS	Washington County	918-338-5700



VVEC offices will be closed on Thursday, November 23, 2023 and Friday, November 24, 2023 for the holiday. We wish all of our members a happy and safe Thanksgiving with family and friends!

■ Professional personalized dog grooming at your home. Over 40 years experience. Most dogs only \$40. Contact 918-381-1170.

■ Requesting seeds for Mexican Sunflowers. Please call 918-894-9719 with information.

■ Antique Royal Ironstone China Alfred Meakin England Pitcher (12.5") and bowl (15"). White. \$100 OBO. 918-344-6374 please send text.

■ Young Toulouse and Buff Geese, \$35 each. One five month old Kiko Buck goat, \$150. Contact 918-230-1356

■ Little Einstein floor gym, like new. \$30. Contact 918-288-8829

■ ANTIQUE Bassett Oak Two Tier Hutch and Matching Dining Table. 5'x6' with 6 matching chairs. Two captain chairs. Elephant Legs. Has 12" table extension leaf. Very heavy. Must sell. Asking \$900. 918-344-6374 please send text.

■ Bassinet with music. \$60. Contact 918-288-8829

■ Dogloo Igloo Large Dog House. Excellent Condition. \$100 OBO. 918-344-6374

■ Red Wing and Wolverine (lace-up) boots. Size 8.5 and 9.0, great shape. \$50 each pair. Contact 918-344-6374

■ GE Electric clothes dryer. Model GTDX200EM1WW, 4 prong electric cord included cheap. Contact 918-808-9051. Please send text.



ATTENTION!

For the December and January issues we will not be running classified ads. We encourage members to send classified listings in January 2024 for publishing in the February issue.

RESPONSIBLE GENERATION

Taking care of the environment is a way of life for Associated Electric

Associated Electric

*Member-Owned,
Member-Focused*

by Mark Viguet

An old saying states that people who live and work in rural America are the original environmentalists. After all, communities so connected to the land, air and water for their well-being are naturally tuned to safeguard them today and for future generations. When it comes to power generation for member-consumers, Associated Electric Cooperative reflects the values of the people who receive its electricity. Generating power responsibly is a key priority.

Power generated the right way

Balancing reliable and affordable electricity with environmental responsibility is a longstanding commitment Associated Electric makes to those receiving its electricity. By adding significant amounts of wind power to diversify generating sources, investing in environmental controls and staying up to date with regulations and technologies, Associated continues to comply with environmental regulations at an affordable cost for members. This requires teamwork throughout the generation cooperative.

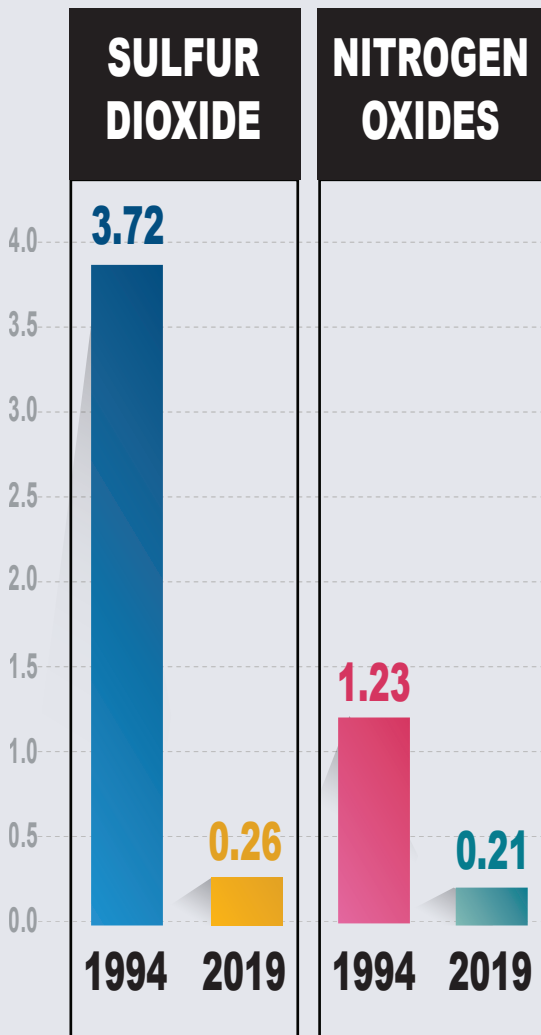
Environmental commitment delivers results

“Making sure our power generation activities safeguard air, water and land is a big responsibility. Our track record shows Associated delivers meaningful results members can be proud of,” says Brent Ross, Associated’s managing director of environmental, health and safety. “It’s a team effort.”

Ross and his staff keep up with complex federal and state regulatory changes, conduct safety and environmental training and audits, and monitor employee safety. They also handle reporting to state and federal agencies, permits, plus monitor and take samples of water, air and soil to ensure Associated continues to be a good steward of natural resources.

Significant investments make the difference

More than \$1.1 billion has been invested by Associated to reduce air emissions since 1994, resulting in tremendous improvements in air quality. Emissions from Associated’s coal power plants have





Cow Branch Wind Farm helps diversify energy sources

“Making sure our power generation activities safeguard air, water, and land is a big responsibility. Our track record shows Associated delivers meaningful results members can be proud of.”

- Brent Ross, Associated’s director of environmental, health and safety

dropped 80 to 90 percent, depending on the specific emission being monitored. While the current results are impressive, compliance with new and changing land, air and water regulations is an ongoing priority.

“We understand how important our environment is to everyone we serve, so making a difference with measurable results is what we strive for each day,” Ross said.

Wind power diversifies generation sources

Associated was the first utility provider in Missouri of large-scale wind power and remains a leader. Already receiving power from seven wind farms, an eighth wind farm later this year means Associated will have 1,240 megawatts of wind power delivered from 626 wind turbines across three states. Locking in long-term, fixed-cost wind power helps Associated diversify its generation sources for years to come.

Electric cooperatives comply with net metering laws

While large utility-size solar installations have yet to make sense for Associated, about 30 megawatts of solar power is being produced by member-consumers connected to Associated’s member systems. Net metering laws mandate the process for local cooperatives to purchase any excess energy produced by the solar systems located at the homes and businesses of member-consumers connected to Associated’s member systems. Net metering laws mandate the process for local cooperatives to purchase any excess energy produced by the solar systems located at the homes and businesses of member-consumers.

A legacy of environmental excellence

Associated Electric received the U.S. Department of Interior’s highest honor for its innovative, successful reclamation that improved water quality and transformed 1,000 acres that previously served as a coal mine into productive pasture, wetlands and forest.

Today, the land features ponds that provide fishing and wildlife habitat, woodlands that provide shelter for many species, land leased to neighboring farmers for pasture, soil and crop research and planted habitat for Monarchs and other pollinators.

Responsible generation for today and tomorrow

Whether the challenge is managing generation sources or making investments to ensure land, air and water are protected, Associated Electric takes its responsibilities seriously. Members wouldn’t have it any other way.



Employees plant Monarch habitat

Help prevent copper theft

Thieves sometimes think of it as a crime that won't hurt anybody. The truth is that tampering with electrical equipment or attempting to steal copper can harm many people.

Those who steal copper (or power) are not only risking their own lives but also the safety and well-being of others.

Common targets for copper theft include farm equipment, air conditioners, vacant buildings, construction sites and electric utility properties, including substations and power poles.

How homeowners can help

- If you notice anything unusual with electric facilities, such as an open substation gate, open equipment, hanging wire and so on, contact your electric utility immediately.
- For empty homes, install lighting systems that operate using a timer to make the property a less likely target. For all homes, install motion-sensor lights on the outside of the house to deter possible thieves.
- Store tools and wire cutters in a secure location, and never leave them out while away.

How businesses can help

- Report suspicious activity.
- Eliminate or secure all external access to buildings and roofs.



- Remove items that allow for easy access to buildings, such as ladders, scaffolds, trees, dumpsters and accumulated materials, such as pallet piles.
- Install security cameras and alarm systems. The location and the type of object will determine what kind of surveillance is needed. For example, for heating and cooling units, there are alarms that are triggered if the unit stops working.
- In areas that contain valuable objects such as air conditioners, install fences and lighting fixtures around them. The amount of copper in most commercial air conditioners is never worth a great amount, but the real cost is paid by the owner of the unit.

Copper theft can affect more than the person stealing; in fact, it can cost a life. Detecting and reporting illegal activity could help save a life.

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 to report outages from your smartphone.