

WVEC LINE LIFE

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We enjoyed a great turnout for our Member Appreciation Lunch!

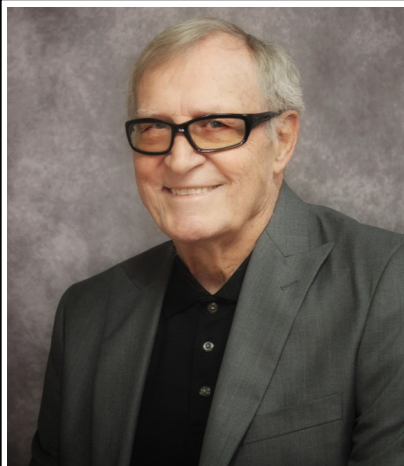
With grilled hot dogs, friendly faces, and a chance to connect, it was a simple way to say thank you to the members at the heart of our cooperative.

Thank you to everyone who stopped by - we appreciate your continued support and the community we've built together!



INCUMBENT TRUSTEES SEEK RE-ELECTION

This fall, VVEC members in Districts 7, 8, and 9 will have the opportunity to vote for their board trustees during their respective district meetings. These regular elections will determine who will represent each district for a standard three-year term. All members are encouraged to attend, participate, and make their voices heard in shaping the future of our cooperative.



DISTRICT 7 - CHUCK HUERTER

Chuck Huerter has served District 7 since 1985, witnessing its growth to over 3,100 members. He holds an associate degree in electronics and a bachelor's in personnel administration, with 20 years of experience at Phillips Petroleum and 15 years as a small business owner in the healthcare industry.

A strong advocate for continued education and excellence in cooperative governance, Mr. Huerter has earned the Credentialed Cooperative Director designation, the Board Leadership Certificate, and the Director Gold Credential through NRECA.

An avid car enthusiast, he's been a proud member of the Caney Valley Corvette Club for over 25 years and enjoys car shows and cruises. He remains active in the Bartlesville community and cherishes time with his family, including eight grandchildren.



DISTRICT 8 - KEN HOWARD

Ken Howard has represented District 8 since 1992, serving more than 5,900 members. A lifelong Collinsville resident and Collinsville High School graduate, he spent over two decades with American Airlines as a production supervisor and previously owned a local aviation business.

Dedicated to cooperative education and professional development, Mr. Howard has earned the Credentialed Cooperative Director designation, the Board Leadership Certificate, and the Director Gold Credential through NRECA.

He is a proud father of three and grandfather. He and his late wife, Dana, were longtime members of First Baptist Church, Collinsville.



DISTRICT 9 - BUDDY MCCARTY

Buddy McCarty has represented District 9 since 1995, serving more than 4,100 members with nearly 30 years of leadership. A proud member of the Cherokee Nation, he is deeply invested in the growth and well-being of the Owasso community.


Mr. McCarty has worked with State Farm Insurance for over 40 years and holds NRECA's Credentialed Cooperative Director certification, reflecting his commitment to strong governance.

He and his wife, Diana, have lived in Owasso for over four decades. Both are Northeastern State University alumni, and Diana is now retired. They have two daughters and three grandchildren.

Members in District 9 are encouraged to reach out to Mr. McCarty with questions at 918-272-5364.



Verdigris Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc.®

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

MARK COULTER



For 35 years, Mark Coulter has been a steady presence at VVEC — the kind of person who's done a little bit of everything and is always willing to lend a hand. From his early days in the warehouse to his current role in the Meter Shop, Mark's journey through the co-op has touched nearly every department: services, satellites and heat pumps, customer service, dispatching, engineering — you name it, he's been there.

For the past 27 years, Mark has called the Meter Shop home, where he manages the AML system and helps get large power accounts wired up and running smoothly. What Mark loves most about VVEC is the people: "We're one big happy family here. Everyone's willing to pitch in and help when needed."

When he's not at work, Mark enjoys the great outdoors — hunting, fishing, and running cattle — but his favorite place to be is with his family. He and his wife Chasidy share three children, four grandchildren, and are excited to welcome another grandbaby in early August!

Thank you, Mark, for your decades of dedication, your work ethic, and your heart for this co-op family. Congrats on a job very well done!



AUGUST MYSTERY PICTURE

Think you recognize the location? Call Megan Jackson at 918-586-6241 **starting August 1** to submit your guess. The first correct answer wins a \$50 bill credit! Contest runs through the end of August.

July's Mystery Location: Healing Rock at Skiatook Lake below Corps of Engineers office

Tree crews are working to clear right-of-way on the Elm, Vera, and Ramona substations.

Brush Coordinator:
Chub Brewer
918-586-6208



IS YOUR
ACCOUNT
NUMBER
2661300102?

If so, call Megan Jackson at 918-586-6241 during the month of August and claim your \$50 bill credit! CONGRATS!



Our offices will be closed on
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2025
in observance of Labor Day.

We will re-open on
Tuesday, Sept. 2, 2025 at 7:30 AM.

WEATHERING THE WORST, DELIVERING THE BEST

How VVEC Crews Faced The Floods and Fought Back With Power

When the skies opened up and storms tore through Verdigris Valley Electric Cooperative's service area once again, our communities were tested - and so were we. But as always, the VVEC team stood ready.

Heavy winds, flash flooding, and more than two dozen broken poles left thousands without power. Roads became rivers. Yards turned to mud pits. And yet, amid the chaos, something remarkable happened: crews grabbed their gear, fueled their trucks, and hit the ground running.

For days on end, linemen worked shoulder-to-shoulder in grueling conditions - battling the elements, navigating washed-out roads, and finding ways to reach members in even the most inaccessible areas. Whether it meant crossing flooded fields or repairing poles deep in the woods, the mission was simple: get the lights back on.



Behind the scenes, dispatchers, warehouse staff, and office employees kept everything moving - coordinating logistics, delivering materials, and answering countless member calls with patience and compassion.

Restoration isn't just about power lines - it's about people. Every outage we restored meant comfort returned to a home, safety returned to a farm, and normalcy returned to a neighborhood. That's what keeps us going, even when the hours are long and the conditions are tough.

We're proud to report full restoration following this most recent round of severe weather. But even more than that, we're proud of the way our co-op family pulled together to meet the moment - just as we always have and always will.

To our members: thank you for your patience, your kindness, and your trust.

To our linemen and staff: thank you for showing up, every time and with everything you've got. In the darkest hours, you brought hope — one light at a time.





LINEMEN GO BEYOND THE CALL OF DUTY DURING STORM RESTORATION

Amid the demanding work of storm recovery, two VVEC linemen demonstrated that service goes far beyond restoring power.

Unable to sleep the night before, Lineman Logan Wells hit the road earlier than usual — a decision that placed him in the right place at exactly the right time. On his way to work, he noticed the lights of a car off the road, down a steep bridge embankment. Something about the scene didn't sit right, so he pulled over and climbed down to investigate. When he reached the vehicle, he discovered a man still inside — trapped and unable to call for help. With no cell service at the bottom of the bluff, Logan ran back up the hill to get a signal and call 911. He then returned to check on the driver and began rendering aid.

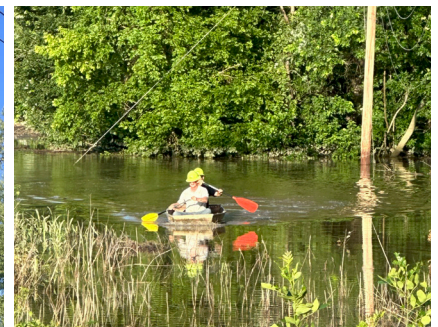
Shortly after, fellow lineman Adam Prickett came upon the scene while heading to work. Without hesitation, he stopped to assist — bringing water and joining Logan in caring for the driver until emergency responders arrived. It was then confirmed the man was the subject of a Silver Alert.

Thanks to their quick thinking, compassion, and willingness to act, the individual received timely medical attention — and a potentially tragic situation was avoided.

We are so proud and very thankful to work alongside linemen who show this level of vigilance and heart — both on and off the job.



Pictured left to right:
Adam Prickett and Logan Wells



EMPOWERING THE NEXT GENERATION



THE YOUTH TOUR EXPERIENCE

Congratulations to Barnsdall Juniors Alexander Bruton and Hailey Gardener for winning the week-long, all-expense-paid trip to our nation's capital as VVEC's delegates to the Washington Youth Tour!

From June 13–19, 2025, Alexander and Hailey joined students from across Oklahoma and the nation to experience Washington, D.C. in a unique, inspiring way. Each summer, Verdigris Valley Electric Cooperative proudly sponsors outstanding high school students from our service area to take part in this once-in-a-lifetime experience.



During the week-long tour, delegates learn about the role of electric cooperatives, explore America's rich history, and see our government in action. From participating in

National Youth Day and meeting members of Oklahoma's Congressional Delegation to visiting iconic landmarks like the U.S. Capitol, Arlington National Cemetery, and the Lincoln, Jefferson, and Washington Monuments, the Youth Tour is packed with powerful moments and unforgettable experiences.

Along the way, they form connections with fellow delegates from Oklahoma and across the country—building friendships that often last far beyond the trip.



The Washington Youth Tour has deep roots, inspired by Texas Senator Lyndon B. Johnson in 1957. His call to bring young people to the capital to experience democracy firsthand sparked a movement. What began with just a few state delegations has grown into a nationally coordinated effort, with more than 1,500 students and chaperones participating each year. Today, it remains a powerful tradition for electric cooperatives across the country.

Delegates return home with more than memories—they come back inspired to lead, empowered to serve, and equipped with a deeper appreciation for the values that unite us as a nation.



Photos on pages 6–7 courtesy of Oklahoma Association of Electric Cooperatives Field Editor Lance Shaw



THE OBJECTIVES OF THE YOUTH TOUR

- Educate students about the vital role of electric cooperatives in the national economy
- Foster appreciation for the democratic form of government
- Inspire a deeper understanding of our nation's history and heritage
- Strengthen leadership skills to help students become positive forces in their communities





VVEC BOARD OF TRUSTEES

District 1: Jim Brackett - 720-4531

District 2: Jack Bogart - 371-9587

District 3: John Brogan - 810-7131

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 - 272-5364

General Manager: Alice Lawson

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Megan Jackson

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Statement of Non-Discrimination

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer. If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, found online at: http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, or at any USDA office, or call 866-632-9992 to request the form.

You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to:

U.S. Department of Agriculture
Director: Office of Adjudication
1400 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410
Fax: 202-690-7442
Email: program.intake@usda.gov

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CLASSIFIEDS

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.*

- Professional, personalized dog grooming at your home. Small dogs only. Most dogs only \$40.00. Over 40 years experience. 918-381-1170
- Handyman service to repair and remodel; affordable plumbing and electric. Call or text for free estimate; references available. 918-231-6385
- Goat troughs - room for 20 does; 2 troughs; \$150. 918-824-0052
- Small square bale feeders: perfect size for 65 pound square bale; 2 for \$150; 918-824-0052
- Kid or lamb self-feeder; \$300; 918-824-0052
- 26x34 working 2 burner wood cook stove with oven thermometer, stove pipe with clamper; 918-531-2239
- Miscellaneous goat items \$15 to \$20 each; 918-824-0052
- 1999 Ford F250 4WD Extended Cab - 460 Engine Automatic transmission; Hydraulic over electric bale spear - Good tires; Mechanically sound. \$3,250. 620-870-9999
- 12 ft. Patriot Kayak with custom built trailer. \$750. Call or text 918-344-6374
- Vintage Mink Stole Collar, satin lined Chicago Sachs 48". \$80. Call or text 918-344-6374
- KWA Air Soft 1911 Mark IV, PTP Series in box with manual and propane adapter : like new. \$200. Call or text 918-344-6374.
- Ruger Security-6, 357mag, 4"bbl, SS. LN \$500. 918-497-6989
- S&W SD9 VE, Laser, LN \$300. 918-497-6989

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.

SUMMER RESIDENTIAL RATES

April through September usage;
May through October billing

Customer Charge | \$40.00

Energy Charge | 1st 2000 kWh | \$.08279/kWh
| over 2000 kWh | \$.08789/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.

