

INSIDE THIS EDITION

- 2 | Youth Tour & Energy Camp
- 3 | Employee Spotlight
- 4 | Balanced Energy



Members enjoy a meal from a food truck



The Thomas Martinez Band provides entertainment

ANNUAL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

VVEC holds 2021 Annual Meeting in Bartlesville

Blue skies and beautiful weather in Bartlesville welcomed members back to an in-person VVEC Annual Meeting of Members on the evening of October 21, 2021.

As the COVID-19 pandemic entered into a second year, there were meetings and a lot of discussions as to whether or not the VVEC Annual Meeting could be held as an in-person event.

A great evening was had by all who attended the meeting. Live music was performed by the Thom-

as Martinez Band and the long-time favorite prize drawings were held. This year, food trucks were on hand and each registered member received a food voucher to purchase their choice of dinner items. It was nice to feel a bit of normalcy in seeing our members, friends and guests face-to-face. We are thankful to those who were able to help in celebrating a tradition of our cooperative and be a part of this year's annual meeting.

Continued on Page 2



FOLLOW VVEC ON FACEBOOK



REPORT OUTAGES ON SMARTHUB

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

ANNUAL MEETING - CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



Left: Perry Brown was the winner of the Annual Meeting grand prize—a \$500 VVEC bill credit. A variety of prizes were given out at Annual Meeting. Right: Members register for Annual Meeting 2021 in Bartlesville, Oklahoma. ■

CONTACT US

General Manager

Alice Lawson

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

Laura Araujo

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.



Youth Tour & Energy Camp 2022

Due to COVID-19, the annual co-op sponsored Youth Tour trip to Washington, D.C., was canceled in 2020 and 2021. This year, Youth Tour for high school juniors returns! Also returning is Energy Camp for eighth-graders!

Youth Tour – June 17-23, 2022
Energy Camp – May 31-June 3, 2022

Look for more information to come on our Facebook page and our website: www.vvec.com.



WARMEST WISHES FOR A
HOLIDAY SEASON FILLED WITH
LOVE AND JOY.

MERRY CHRISTMAS &
HAPPY NEW YEAR!

- VERDIGRIS VALLEY
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT



Former linemen Jeff Lorton (back left), Chub Brewer (back right), and Josh Jackson (front) now fill essential roles that support the linemen on the ground.

The men behind the linemen

Here at VVEC, we feel like we have a lot of good employees both in the office and in the field. They get their work done and take pride in the work they do.

To keep the line department running efficiently and safely takes a lot of coordination, planning, experience and patience. The three employees—all former linemen—tasked with this duty have a combined experience of 94 years.

Josh Jackson has been the construction superintendent for more than two years. He worked maintenance in the Nowata area as a helper then a lead maintenance lineman for nine years, and construction out of Collinsville as an assistant foreman then a foreman for 11 years. Josh has had a lot of experience in underground design and construction.

Jeff Lorton has recently taken on the job of maintenance superintendent after the retirement of Richard Ropp in July. Jeff worked construction

for 16 years then moved into the maintenance department where he has worked the past 22 years.

Chub Brewer has also just recently become more involved with the line department, helping both of these superintendents when called upon. Chub began at VVEC on construction, worked on maintenance for several years as well as several years as the fleet mechanic. He has worked in the member services department for the past 15 years. Chub's priority is the member services area, although his well-rounded experience makes him good candidate to help wherever needed.

Each of these men have similar interests away from work (hunting and fishing), they get along well, and are always willing to help across departments. While at work they have the same goal—to make the line department the best it can be. ■

Classified ads return to Power Circuit

Next month, we will begin publishing classified ads in the Power Circuit newsletter. Ads will be accepted in writing/by email only and are a free service to VVEC members only. Ads can be emailed to Classified@vvec.com or sent to Attn: Classified, P.O. Box 219, Collinsville, OK 74021. **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 (e.g. ads submitted by January 1, 2022 will run in February 2022). *As many ads as space allows will be included in each issue. VVEC reserves the right to delete or shorten items or descriptions.*

OFFICE CLOSED NOTICE

VVEC's office will be closed Thursday and Friday, December 23rd and 24th, in observance of Christmas. The office will also be closed Friday, December 31st in observance of New Year's.

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. Or, download the SmartHub app to report outages from your smartphone.

WINTER RESIDENTIAL RATES

October through March usage, November through April billing

Customer Charge | \$30.00

Energy Charge | \$.07772/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% of revenue will be included, plus additional taxes if applicable.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider & employer.

**VOLUME 80 | NUMBER 12
DECEMBER 2021**

BALANCE

© AECl

Reliable • Affordable • Responsible

by Mark Viguet

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 add-

ed generation from two more wind farms, bringing its total to eight farms and 1,240 MW 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 MW 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 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. ■