

# “Hotlines”

Published Monthly  
for the Members of  
Alfalfa Electric Cooperative, Inc.  
Cherokee, OK  
www.aec.coop

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April 2017

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A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



## AREA NEWS BRIEFS

**April 7 Annual Meeting**  
Members from AEC's eight counties will gather at Cherokee High School for the 81st Annual Meeting.

**April 10 National Lineman Appreciation Day** Thank your AEC Linemen who put their lives at risk to keep the power running throughout our communities

**April 16 Easter Sunday**  
Celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ with family and friends.

**WARMER DAYS ARE EXPECTED SOON. CALL AEC SERVICES, INC. TO HAVE YOUR A/C UNIT CHECKED OUT. (580) 596-3333 or 1-800-853-4969**



## Pennies make a difference

Many may think that Alfalfa Electric Cooperative is just another electric company. However, those that are familiar with cooperatives, know this is far from the truth.

Operation Roundup started as a simple idea 28 years ago at one co-op in South Carolina. Just round up the co-op member's electric bill to the next dollar, and then use it to do good work in your community. Today, hundreds of electric co-ops, including Alfalfa Electric Cooperative, use this idea to help their members and area organizations.

All co-ops adhere to the seven cooperative principles, including "Concern for Community." The Operation Roundup program is the perfect embodiment of this core principle. The average co-op member donates \$6 with a maximum possible contribution of \$11.88 per year. This may not seem like a large amount, but when combined with thousands of other co-op members, it adds up to make a significant impact.

Each co-op decides how they want to operate the program, and the vast majority is governed by a board of volunteers that is different from the board of directors for the electric co-op. This ensures that the decisions are made in the best interest of the community.

After 14 years, AEC's Operation Roundup has distributed \$400,102 (December 31, 2016) to meet the needs in the 7 counties served in Kansas and

Oklahoma. AEC has a member from each district that serves as a trustee on the Roundup Board. The Roundup Board consists of the following trustees: District 1-Terry Pederson, Burlington; District 2-Larry Dewitt, Cherokee; District 3-Charla Turner, Freedom; District 4-Paul Jackson, Ringwood; District 5-Debbie Biby, Wakita; District 6-Stan Michel, Kiowa, Kansas; District 7-Cari Dietz, Cleo Springs; and District 8-Joe Royster, Cherokee.

The program is voluntary. Once members see the beneficial work the program does in their community, they almost always keep contributing.

The mission of Alfalfa Electric Cooperative Foundation's Operation Roundup Program is the accumulation and disbursement of funds for charitable purposes in Harper and Barber counties in Kansas and Grant, Alfalfa, Woods, Garfield, and Major counties in Oklahoma.

This shall be accomplished by disbursement of funds to individuals and organizations for food, shelter, clothing, health needs, and education. Operation Roundup will also award financial assistance for the purchase of equipment and supplies needed by non-profit organizations for the purpose of providing beneficial services to area residents.

Over the years, millions of dollars have been collected and distributed

*(continued on pg.2)*

## ALTERNATING CURRENTS...

### Regina Waugh Accountant



Many might think that Regina (Gina) Waugh has lived here all of her life. She, in fact, was born in McAlister, OK. Gina did move to Cherokee with her parents Gene and Deanna Davis when she was just 3 years old.

Gina and her husband Jeff will have been married 26 years ago this month. They raised 4 kids of their own, nurtured 3 more, and have been blessed with 5 grandchildren.

In 1994 Gina began working for AEC as a billing clerk. After two short years, she was promoted to billing specialist. Gina worked at that position until 2001, when she became an accountant for AEC.

Gina's family and their activities have become her hobby. Her kids have kept her busy with their interests in football, track, basketball, softball, FFA, Rainbow, and rodeo. To say the least, Gina has been a loyal fan of the Cherokee Chiefs.

With her youngest child graduating from high school this year, she should try to rest up for the grandkids' activities, which will begin very soon.

Gina is proud of her family. "We may not always follow the easiest path, but we always manage to get the job done." Her Grandma Erma has been her inspiration in life. "She was always someone I could look to for advice, and she lead by example."

Gina would like to take her family to Disney World someday. With all the kids and grandkids, she should plan that dream vacation to a beach *before* the Disney trip. Rest up, Gina!

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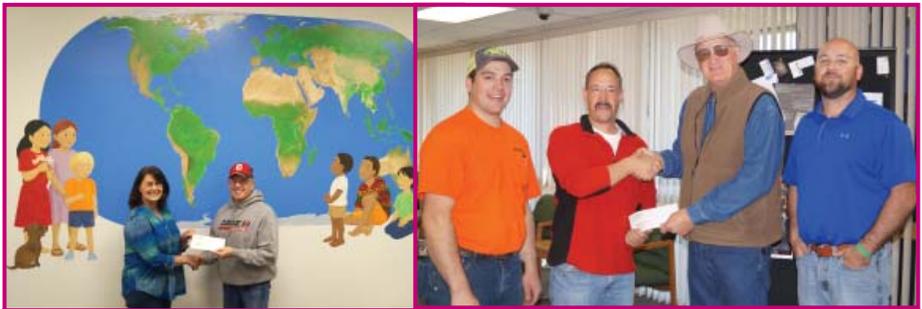
for a wide range of activities. This can include helping a family in need after a house fire. Assisting the local food pantry. Providing funds so that the local fire department can get a needed piece of equipment. Or dozens of other humanitarian efforts that bring electric co-ops even closer to the communities we serve.

AEC's Roundup Board meets every other month to review applications. In the first meeting of the year, the Roundup Board approved the following donations: Aline-Cleo Schools – equipment for use by the speech pathologist; Nescatunga Fire Department – air storage system tanks; Stamp Out Starvation – funding for packaged

food; and Cherokee Fire Department - portable drop tank.

While each co-op must respond to the needs of its members, one of the great attributes of co-ops across the world is their willingness to share information about the programs that have been successful. Operation Roundup is a perfect example of that cooperative spirit.

Alfalfa Electric Cooperative is pleased to be a part of the Operation Roundup Program. A few cents a month may not seem like much money. However, when that pocket change from thousands of businesses and individual households is combined, the results are amazing – just one more reason to love your co-op.



**Volunteering for  
Oklahoma  
In God We Trust**



# Bigger and better

By Robyn Turney

Is it possible to top last year's Annual Meeting? Well, Alfalfa Electric Cooperative will try to do just that as plans are falling into place for the 81<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting. Come join hundreds of other AEC Co-op members on Friday, April 7<sup>th</sup> at the Cherokee High School.

Klein's Catering will start the night off right with a delicious buffet meal that begins promptly at 5:00. The buffet will feature a selection of meats, several cold and hot sides, and some sweet desserts to round off the meal. Members can register for the annual meeting gifts and for other prizes from 5:00-7:00. This year's annual meeting gifts for our members are a new cloth bag, an AEC insulated tumbler, and an LED flashlight/lantern. Capital Credit checks can also be picked up from 5:00 until the meeting ends.

As in the past, AEC has outdoor entertainment for the kids. There will be inflatable games that are appropriate for the older kids and also something for the younger kids. The older kids will enjoy a 3-lane obstacle course, and a Backyard Clubhouse will provide fun for kids under the age of 6 years. A trackless train will be running for the old and young alike. Remember that there will be NO babysitting services. Parents *must* accompany their children to the outdoor activities. The games and the train rides will be available from 5:00-7:00. These activities *will close down* promptly at 7:00 as the 81<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting Program begins.

Come early to enjoy the "Sons of Sage" as they will only be performing from 5:45-6:50. Sons of the Sage is made up of the extraordinary team of Jim Garling, Richard Sharp, and Greg Burgess. They are Oklahomans by birth and musicians just shortly thereafter...or at least you would think so. When you hear them together, you will know they started from a young, tender age.

They offer toe-tapping, hand clapping music with a combination of cowboy, western swing, old-time fiddling, and maybe a touch

of bluegrass. Each of these fellows brings a solid musical history to the group.

AEC President Doug McMurtrey will call the meeting to order at 7:00. After the opening prayer by Brandon Holloway, First Baptist Youth Pastor, the Cherokee American Legion will present the Colors and the Pledge of Allegiance. Cherokee 8<sup>th</sup> grader Drake Williams will play the National

Anthem on his violin.

Lt. Col. Jim Warner, US Army retired, of Cherokee will be honored. Jim will then ask the military personnel in the audience to stand and be recognized. AEC appreciates our military members and the sacrifices they have made.

Attorney Marc Jungman will give the report of quorum and the notice of meeting. The minutes and treasurer's report will be given by Steve Eck. President Doug Mc McMurtrey will then share information concerning the co-op. First year CEO Greg Goetz will make some introductions and give his manager's report. The meeting will then be adjourned by Doug McMurtrey. That's when the fun will begin.

CEO Greg Goetz will begin the drawings for prizes. Once again over 30 prizes, 5-50 dollar bills, and bicycles will be given away.

One lucky member from each of the 8 districts will receive \$500.

AEC is giving away 2 Grand Prizes this year – a John Deere riding lawn mower and a Honda 4-wheeler! Last year's Grand Prize winner, Danny and Rosetta Harris from Alva, OK, won a John Deere Gator. They sent AEC several notes during this past year. "We love our Gator! We had no idea what we were missing! Thank you so much."

This will be another exciting annual meeting for our members. Mark April 7<sup>th</sup> on your calendar. Come and enjoy the food, fun, and prizes at AEC's 81<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting.



# Lives on the line

Each year we take time to thank our amazing linemen who dedicate their lives to keeping the lights on in our local communities. Sixteen linemen maintain 3,310 miles of line in Alfalfa Electric Cooperative's service territory, and without them, our world would be dark.

On April 10, 2017, we honor our linemen who often find themselves in challenging situations so our lives may be a little bit brighter and safer. These brave men repair damaged lines and

maintain critical infrastructure for our communities. Without their hard work and commitment, AEC would not thrive. No matter the time—day or night, weekday or weekend—if the lights go out, so do they.

Perhaps you have seen them raising their bucket trucks in howling winds and torrential rains or in freezing, icy conditions. They work near high-voltage power lines until electricity is restored to every member in our co-op.

In addition to AEC's service territory, our linemen are always willing and eager to volunteer when a neighboring community, county, or state is in need after a major outage occurs. These linemen are brave, committed, and critical to our success.

We hope you will join AEC in thanking the many linemen who light up our lives. Remember, your power works because they do! If you see a linemen in your area, please take a moment to stop and say, "Thanks."



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