

"Hotlines"

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



Spring is here, anyway...

April, 2013

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Area News Briefs

**ANNUAL
MEETING
FRIDAY
APRIL 5**

**HAPPY
SPRING!**



Earth Day! April 22



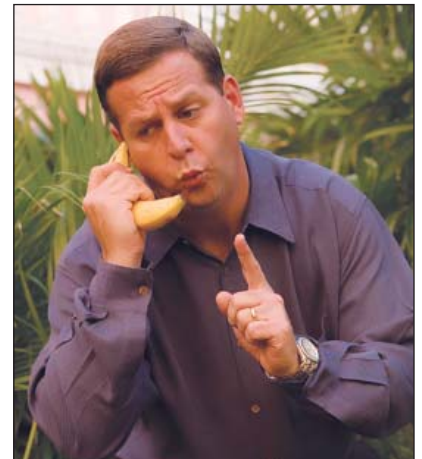
**POWER
OUTAGE?
(580) 596-3333
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To place brief announcements
in "Hotlines" please call
(580) 596-3333 EARLY

Last terms for two Trustees

When Dennis Ferrell, District 1; and Debbie Ferguson, District 3; first ran for positions as AEC Trustees little could they imagine serving for 18 years. But each will begin their seventh term at Annual Meeting. The bylaws clearly state Trustees may serve *seven* uninterrupted terms. Both Ferrell and Ferguson were unopposed during the filing period (February 1-10, 2013). Dr. Carl Newton, District 8; will begin his fifth term since he was also unopposed.

General Manager Colin Whitley looks forward to addressing the crowd at his first AEC Annual Meeting, April 5, 2013. After 9 months the new manager



Buzz Sutherland, comedian.

Are you REALLY PREPARED for any emergency?

Living in AEC territory has its benefits but this past month was a lesson in patience.

With as much as 15 inches of snow, wind blowing a gale and ice freezing the lines some members were without electricity 9 days last month.

Hopefully, most families were prepared for such an emergency. Other disasters such as fire, spread by cedar trees could demand a quick exit from your home.



AEC crews battle icy weather conditions repairing many miles of downed lines in March.

ALTERNATING CURRENTS...

One To Remember

By Ron Shafer

In our business, we all think that every storm we work is worse than the last big storm, damage-wise at least. This storm was the worst storm, in terms of downed poles, that AEC has encountered since at least 1973. These poles each cost a certain amount of money to replace, material and labor. Hence, the more poles destroyed, the greater the damage repair costs will be. Of course, the more poles you lose, the longer it takes to make those repairs and restore the power to all services.

We prioritize the order of importance in our efforts to restore power with homes and necessary services such as city water well fields being first, and non-residential and commercial services being last. We obviously cannot get to all areas of damage at the same time due to road and weather conditions so that is also a main consideration to weigh when making plans to send crews out in the field.

During this storm that hit on February 25, we had as many as 13 five-man crews spread throughout our system from daylight to after dark for a total of 9 days before most of the homes that were ready for service were back on. As of this writing, we have already replaced about 700 poles. We still have about 20-30 poles down that we are aware of and it seems we find more each day, mostly in very remote areas.

We felt that we were as prepared as we could be for this storm. We have identified some weak points in our response plan and we will be reviewing all the information coming back in from our consumers, our employees and any other information source that will help us to be even better prepared for future occurrences of this nature and magnitude.

Thanks to all for your patience and especially for your acts of kindness and support shown to our workers in the field. We are very proud of not only our employees but also the many great lineman from other cooperatives and contract companies that responded to our call for help. This was definitely "One To Remember".



The north end of Grand Avenue in Cherokee reflects the rapid growth in the area. A new Western Farmers Electric Cooperative substation packs 138,000 volts of electricity along the 400 block. AEC crews helped smooth the transition from the old 69,000 volt location with the project beginning last April.

With booming oil activity throughout AEC's service areas

(in Oklahoma as well as Kansas) the Cooperative recognized a need for additional power. Electricity is needed to pump the oil, gas and water and to light the derricks that dot the landscape at night.

As partners WFEC and AEC are prepared to serve industry growth as well as our individual members.

Library rounds up a little help



Edith Jones, Operation Round-Up Board Member, (at left) presents a \$500 check to Loreta Green to apply towards a new computer for Carmen's Library.

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Last term for three AEC Districts

feels confident the Cooperative has a bright future.

The first Friday in April, diners will start through the cafeteria serving line at 5:00 sifting through the building, to register for the Member's Door Prize and retrieve capital credit checks.

Music entertainment will be provided by PeeWee's Mobile Music

in the gym until the entire crowd empties out of the cafeteria. Members are invited to view commercial booths in the hallways.

Comedian Buzz Sutherland brings funny stories and songs for the young and old after the business meeting. The program is appropriate for family entertainment.

Lucky winners will take home

cash and a variety of door prizes with the grand finale presented at the close of the meeting. Those registered **must be present** to win the \$1,000 check. The winner will also receive a free photo to memorialize the event.

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Are you prepared?

The following guide was prepared by the **Stillwater, Oklahoma Emergency Coordination and Communications Center**. The information is current and worth considering:

If you become aware of a hazardous highway or railroad spill, approaching fire or explosion DO NOT PANIC!

- If you are directed to evacuate, do so immediately!
- Take your disaster kit (see page 3.)
- Lock your home.
- Cover your nose and mouth with a wet cloth.

- Travel on routes specified by local authorities.
- Escape up-wind of the incident.

If you are sure you have time:

- Take your cellular phone and a battery-powered radio.
- Shut off your home's water and electricity.
- Make arrangements for your pets.

If instructed to stay inside ("shelter in place"):

- Close and lock windows and doors.
- Turn off ventilation systems and water.

- Seal gaps under doorways and windows with wet towels and duct tape.
- Emergency personnel are trained to respond to hazardous material emergencies. They will instruct on site or over radio and television.
- Review the procedures with your family members.

Disaster supply kit spells PREPARATION

Spring brings surprises to Oklahoma and Kansas. It is a trade-off for living in such sunny climate. Mid-western natives shrug when tornadoes are mentioned but preparation can bring peace-of-mind to any resident during emergency-storms, flooding, fire or contamination.

During real emergencies, services are the first to go. Electricity, (ouch), water, heat, air conditioning and communications.



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A **disaster supply kit** can save precious time if you or your family needs to evacuate for an extended period of time. It could even save your life or those of your family. The following items are recommended for inclusion;

- At least a 3-day supply of water (1 gallon of water per person per day.) This should be sealed in unbreakable containers and should be replaced every 6 months.
- A 3-5-day supply of nonperishable packaged or canned food for each individual and a *non-electric* can opener.
- A change of clothing, rain gear and sturdy shoes for each individual.
- Blankets, bedding or sleeping bags.
- A first aid kit and prescription medications. (Check expiration dates!)
- An extra pair of glasses or contact lenses & solution for each person as needed.
- A list of family physicians, important medical information and the style and serial number of medical devices such as pacemakers.
- Special items for infants, elderly and/or disabled family members.

- Battery-powered radio, one or more flashlights and extra batteries for all.
- Identification for all family members, credit cards, cash and photocopies of important family documents including home insurance information.
- Extra set of house and car keys.
- Tools, such as screwdriver, hammer, cutters and scissors. Also duct tape, waterproof matches, and ABC fire extinguisher, flares, plastic storage containers, needle and thread, pen and paper, a compass, garbage bags and regular household bleach.

Store material in sturdy, easy-to-carry containers such as duffle bags, plastic bins or covered trash containers.



Prioritize your families emergency supplies in portable backpacks or dufflebags for easy transport.

(The above items should be stored together if possible for easy access. Review and replace to freshen as necessary.)

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ON
FACEBOOK**