

A close-up portrait of an elderly man with white hair, wearing glasses and a dark pinstriped suit jacket over a light blue shirt. He has a serious expression and is looking slightly to the left of the camera.

HOT WATTS

COOKSON HILLS
EST. 1945
ELECTRIC CO-OP

Remembering William T. Mills

CHEC recently lost one of its longtime trustees. William T. “Bill” Mills, a member of CHEC’s Board of Trustees, passed away on July 23, 2019.

Bill joined the Board on February 20, 1978 and served CHEC and its members for over 41 years. He served as President of the Board of Trustees from 1996 to 2018. He also served on the Board at KAMO for many years.

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BOARD OF TRUSTEES

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------|
| Kenneth Kelley, <i>President</i> | District 5 |
| Joe Ogle, <i>Vice President</i> | District 6 |
| Theron Croisant, <i>Sec.-Treas.</i> | District 2 |
| Rocky Woods, <i>Sr., Trustee</i> | District 1 |
| Vacant, <i>Trustee</i> | District 4 |
| Ronnie Pevehouse, <i>Trustee</i> | District 7 |
| John Dillard, <i>Trustee</i> | District 3 |

STAFF

- Juli Orme, General Manager
 Chris Morris, Chief Financial Officer
 Jason Fontaine, Director of Engineering
 Mark Blaylock, Director of Operations
 Eric Johnson, Director of Operations - Sallisaw
 Ellen Mattison, Manager of Accounting Services
 Kristie Cash, Manager of Office Services

Russell V. Barber, *General Counsel*

Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative, Inc. welcomes members to submit photos, and articles which will be subject to editing. Cookson Hills reserves the right to publish or modify any article. Companies and individuals featured in the Hot Watts newsletter do not necessarily reflect the official policy, position, or view of Cookson Hills.

Felicia Wixom, *Editor*
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Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative, Inc. is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



If you find your account number hidden in this issue of the *Hot Watts*, you'll receive a \$25 credit on your electric bill.

Gross Receipts Tax to Local Schools

For many years, CHEC has paid, in accordance with Oklahoma statutes, two percent of the gross receipts derived by the sale and distribution of electric energy each month. Ninety-five percent of the gross receipts taxes paid by CHEC to the Oklahoma Tax Commission is then distributed to the schools within CHEC's service territory, and is distributed based upon CHEC's miles of powerlines within each school district. For the 2018-2019 fiscal year for Oklahoma, CHEC paid \$636,669.24 on 2,946 miles of line for 24 schools in the seven-county service territory.

Belfonte	\$12,270.73	Moffett	\$509.86
Bokoshe	\$160.85	Muldrow	\$48,470.03
Brushy	\$14,654.15	Porum	\$30,420.93
Canadian	\$21.85	Quinton	\$13,335.49
Central	\$27,816.89	Roland	\$17,694.11
Gans	\$25,872.42	Sallisaw	\$63,898.52
Gore	\$51,181.52	Stigler	\$87,228.42
Keota	\$49,393.31	Vian	\$63,413.64
Kinta	\$37,013.57	Warner	\$13,274.03
Liberty	\$10,063.25	Webbers Falls	\$18,866.32
Marble City	\$13,654.10	Whitefield	\$11,281.56
McCurtain	\$25,931.34	Wilburton	\$242.35

Annual Meeting Around the Corner

Please mark your calendars for Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative's 71st Annual Meeting. The meeting is scheduled for Saturday, October 5, 2019, at the Sallisaw High School Gymnasium. Registration will open at 10:00 a.m. with the business meeting starting at 11:00 a.m.

Annual meetings are designed to be enjoyable, informative, and entertaining for the members. The Ritter's Family Band will return this year and will provide entertainment prior to the business meeting. Notices will be mailed on September 13. Each CHEC member who registers at the meeting will receive a gift bag and a \$20 energy credit per membership. As a member you can help make that process easier by presenting your annual meeting notice at one of the registration tables. Once you are registered at the meeting, you will then be entered into drawings for additional prizes. [1450903]

If your name is not on the account and you are responsible for the bill, please contact us by September 6. Your name must be on the account and the annual meeting notice, and you must be present to register, vote, and to claim the \$20 energy credit and prizes. Also, you must present a photo ID to claim prizes. If you have any questions, you may contact our office at 800-328-2368.

Please join the employees and the Board of CHEC for the 71st Annual Meeting. We hope to see you there!

HARVEST SAFETY TIPS FOR FARMWORKERS

- **Maintain a 10-foot clearance** around all utility equipment in all directions.
- **Use a spotter and deployed flags** to maintain safe distances from power lines and other equipment when doing field work.
- **If your equipment makes contact with an energized or downed power line, contact us immediately** by phone and remain inside the vehicle until the power line is de-energized. In case of smoke or fire, exit the cab by making a solid jump out of the cab, without touching it at the same time, and hop away to safety.
- **Consider equipment and cargo extensions of your vehicle.** Lumber, hay, tree limbs, irrigation pipe and even bulk materials can conduct electricity, so keep them out of contact with electrical equipment.

Source: Safe Electricity

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Bill graduated from Keota High School in 1956 and attended Eastern Oklahoma State College, where he earned an Associate's Degree and then a Bachelor's Degree in Electrical Engineering. He lived in Altus, Oklahoma where he worked on missile silos, and then relocated to work at the Keystone Dam until 1966. He then moved back to Keota to raise his family. Bill worked at Kerr Lock and Dam 15 for 28 years.

He loved baseball and all booster clubs, livestock shows and Vo-Ag. Bill coached and heavily supported youth sports. He was a deacon at Keota First Baptist Church and a Mason 32nd degree. Bill loved working on the farm, baling hay and quail hunting with his pet pointers.

Bill is survived by his wife of 58 years, JoAnn, three children, four grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren. CHEC would like to extend our condolences and prayers to the Mills family. Bill will be greatly missed.

News & Notes

- CHEC offices will be closed September 2 in observance of Labor Day.
- CHEC does not allow meter seals to be cut or the meter to be pulled by anyone other than a CHEC employee. If you plan to have work done on your service, we ask that you please call 800-328-2368 or 918-775-2211 to schedule a time to have the meter pulled.



Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Cookware Efficiency
Tip: Copper-bottomed pans heat faster on the stove. In the oven, ceramic and glass dishes are better than metal. With ceramic and glass dishes, you can turn the oven down about 25 degrees, and your meal will cook just as quickly.

Source: energy.gov

	Y			S	
	F	T	Y		E
T	S		E		A
					F
Y		E	T	F	S
F			A		

SAFETY Sudoku

Place the word **SAFETY** in the grid so each column, row, and block only contain unique letters!

Answer:

A	E	V	S	T	F
S	A	T	E	T	Y
F	T	S	A	E	V
T	S	F	Y	S	T
A	Y	E	F	S	T
S	F	T	A	E	V
E	V	A	F	S	T



Don't Wait. Be Prepared Before the Storm

It's your worst-case scenario. A major storm was predicted and this time, the predictions were right. Many power lines are down, and your electricity may be out for several days. You are low on everything—food, pet supplies, toilet paper, batteries, diapers and your medication.

Imagine how you would feel in this situation. While you can't predict which weather forecast will come true, you can plan ahead so when a severe weather event strikes, you have the tools and resources to effectively weather the storm. The Department of Homeland Security offers several resources to help you prepare for major weather events and natural disasters. Visit www.ready.gov/make-a-plan.

Preparedness Actions and Items

- Stock your pantry with a three-day supply of non-perishable food, such as canned goods, energy bars, peanut butter, powdered milk, instant coffee, water and other essentials (i.e., diapers and toiletries).
- Confirm that you have adequate sanitation and hygiene supplies including towelettes, soap and hand sanitizer.
- Ensure your First Aid kit is stocked with pain relievers, bandages and other medical essentials, and make sure your prescriptions are current.
- Set aside basic household items you will need, including flashlights, batteries, a manual can opener and portable, battery-powered radio or TV.
- Organize emergency supplies so they are together in an easily accessible location.

With advance warning

If a severe storm is expected with high winds and sustained rain, you may need to take extra steps to safeguard your home, such as securing exterior doors, and trampolines and other outside items that could become a moving target due to high winds. Fully charge all cell phones, laptops and devices so you have maximum power in the event of a power outage. If you plan to use a small generator, make sure it's rated to handle the amount of power you will need, and always review the manufacturer's instructions to operate it safely. Always remember to notify CHEC if you are using a generator. Generators can backfeed onto the grid, and could energize a dead line, leading to injury or even death for our linemen.

During a prolonged outage

In the event of an outage, turn off appliances, TVs, computers and other sensitive electronics. This will help avert damage from a power surge, and will also help prevent overloading the circuits during power restoration. That said, do leave one light on so you will know when power is restored. If utilizing a small household generator, consider using LED holiday lights to illuminate a living area. A strand of 100 white lights draws little energy yet produces considerable light. Solar lights also work, if they can receive some sunlight during the day for charging.

During thunderstorms, the American Red Cross recommends avoiding electrical equipment and land-based telephones. Use battery-powered TVs and radios instead. Keep away from windows. Listen to local news or NOAA Weather Radio for emergency updates, or check CHEC's website or Facebook page for restoration updates.

After the storm, avoid downed power lines and walking through flooded areas where power lines could be submerged. Allow ample room for utility crews to safely perform their jobs – including on your property.

Power in planning

Advance planning for severe storms or other emergencies can reduce stress and anxiety caused by the weather event and can lessen the impact of the storm's effects. Sign up for NOAA emergency alerts and warnings. Act today, because there is power in planning.

