

Right of Way Maintenance Brings Benefits to Members

Maintenance of trees and foliage around power lines has always been a tough issue. No one wants to see the tree that they've carefully watered, protected from the Oklahoma wind, and watched grow to maturity, pruned back on one side or even down the middle. And yet trees that have grown into the power line right-of-way are one of the leading causes of outages and reduced power quality -- costing members tens of thousands of dollars annually and leaving many searching frantically for candles and flashlights.

On top of the cost and hassle, a tree that has grown too close to a line can be deadly. Contact caused by growth, wind or broken branches can leave a tree energized making it a fire hazard and creating serious danger for anything that could come into contact with it.

In 1996, Indian Electric Cooperative launched an aggressive, system-wide project in an effort to provide maximum benefit and protection to members and their property by establishing safe and manageable right-of-ways. IEC's General Manager Terry Jech remarked recently on the project's mission, "Providing our members with safe and reliable power is one of our top priorities. That's why our crews put considerable time and energy into clearing and maintaining the cooperative's rights-of-way -- particularly during the summer, when trees are in full bloom and brush is at its highest level."

Simply put, IEC's Right-of-Way Maintenance Program is designed to prevent trees from coming into contact with power lines. To accomplish this, all lines are routinely inspected and pruning

is performed on a regular cycle. Trees native to Oklahoma produce as much as 72" of re-growth each year, making initial pruning practices and ongoing maintenance strategies critical. In rural areas, many of our property owners request that we clear the entire right-of-way. This practice produces a clear cut, reducing the need for tree crews to revisit the site while creating excellent small animal habitat and encouraging growth of bluestem and other native grasses. In neighborhoods and around homes and outbuildings, the progress is much slower and more precise.

Our method of pruning, sometimes called "directional pruning" is recommended by the National Arbor Day Foundation and the International Society of Arboriculture. It is the accepted industry pruning standard.

Directional, or target pruning involves removing only those limbs that will come in contact with energized conductors. It removes branches at a joint, or lateral, of a limb, where the tree would be likely to lose a branch under natural conditions. At this lateral, the tree's natural defenses protect against decay and disease. Directional pruning reduces the

number of times the tree must be pruned, reduces the number of fast-growing and weakly attached sprouts, and by directing growth away from the power lines, allows the tree to achieve its natural height and shape.

IEC's Operations Supervisor, Roger McAllister, says to date IEC has cleared more than 1,600 miles of right-of-way and members are already beginning to enjoy the benefits.

During the ice storm that struck Oklahoma last January, a substantial part of IEC's distribution system remained unaffected, surviving some of the harshest weather in the state's history. One of the reasons: A properly maintained right-of-way eliminates the chances of overhead branches falling and destroying wires when they become heavy with ice or are broken by wind. Pruning trees also reduces blinking lights, resetting clocks and other inconveniences caused by brief power interruption from limbs touching lines.

Have a question about a right-of-way near you? Give the IEC Operations Department a call at (918) 295-9567 for more information.

WANT TO KNOW MORE? CHECK OUT WWW.IECOK.COM

Thinking about planting a new tree or want to know when our right-of-way crews will be in your area? Follow the "Tree Trimming" and "System News" links on our site at www.iecok.com for detailed information and links to a wide variety of tips on everything from landscaping selection and placement to safe and efficient digging practices.



IEC Annual Meeting - Saturday - October 19

Indian Electric Cooperative would like to extend to you an invitation to attend the 2002 annual meeting.

As a member-owner of IEC, we count on your involvement to help us provide the best possible service to all of our customers. The Annual Meeting is one of the best opportunities you have to get a first-hand look at how your cooperative is doing and share your ideas to help us serve you better in the future.

And since you may not have attended IEC's Annual Meetings in the past, we wanted to personally let you know how much we'd like to have you attend this year's meeting.

The Annual Meeting will be Saturday, October 19th 8:15a.m. to noon in the Cleveland High School gym. Registration begins at 8:15 a.m. And just to show you how important your attendance is, at the time of registration the first 1,000 members will receive a cap bearing the IEC logo along with a bud vase. Your registration will also enter you in the drawing for cash and prizes worth over \$3,500.00 plus a grand prize drawing of \$1500.00 in cash.

The cash and prizes are only the beginning. You will have a great opportunity to visit with and see the wares of area business owner at the IEC business fair or stop by the health fair. We haven't forgotten the kids; there will be a safety demonstration and prizes for them as well.

Entertainment this year will be provided by The Whistler, a unique and talented entertainer who has been featured in Reader's *Digest*, *Dear Abby* and *Esquire Magazine*

During the business meeting that begins at 10 a.m., members will have the opportunity to vote on Bylaw changes and District Trustees.

Why is it so important that you attend? Simply put, YOU are the reason that we are in business. As one of our members, you are also an owner of IEC. We value you as a member-owner and look forward to many more years of service to you.

We look forward to seeing you at the Annual Meeting. In the meantime, if you have questions or suggestions, or if we can be of any further assistance, please don't hesitate to contact us at

918-358-2514 or 800-482-2750.

First Official Notice of Annual Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the 2002 Annual Meeting of Members of Indian Electric Cooperative, Inc. will be held at 10 a.m. Saturday, October 19, 2002 at the Cleveland High School Gymnasium located in Cleveland, Pawnee County, Oklahoma.

Purpose of the meeting is to act on the following matters;

1. Reports of Officers and Trustees;
2. Election of Trustees of Cooperative from Districts 1, 4 and 7;
3. All other business that may come before the meeting or any adjournments thereof.

Registration for the 2002 Annual Meeting will commence at 8:15 a.m., Saturday, October 19, and the meeting will be called to order at 10 a.m.

Each membership, whether it is a single membership or a joint membership, shall be entitled to one vote in any matter that may come before the meeting.

Memberships other than residential must present a letter on organizational stationery, signed by a recognized official of the organization, indicating the bearer as the official voting representative of the organization. The bearers must present the letters at the time of registration.



Wanda Foster
Secretary, Board of Trustees

THE LAMP

Indian Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Office Hours

7:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Monday through Friday
918-358-2514

To report an outage call
358-2514 or 1-800-482-2750
(if you live outside the expanded Tulsa
calling area)
24-hour Service Center
918-295-9520

Board of Trustees

Greg Fielding, President
Loris Peckenpaugh, Vice-President
Wanda Foster, Sec.-Treas.
LeRoy Meyer
Mike Spradling
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District 8
District 6
District 5
District 1
District 2
District 3
District 4
District 7
District 8
District 9
District 9

General Manager



The Lamp (USPS 942-940) is published monthly by Indian Electric Cooperative, Inc., P.O. Box 49, Highway 64 Southeast, Cleveland, Oklahoma 74020 for the interest of its membership. Subscription price was \$0.17 per month in 2001. Periodical postage paid at Cleveland, Oklahoma and additional mailing offices.

- Postmaster: Send address changes to The Lamp, P.O. Box 49, Cleveland, OK 74020.

NOTICE OF PROPOSED AMENDMENT OF BYLAWS

There has not been an amendment to the Bylaws of Indian Electric Cooperative, Inc. since 1997 and your Board of Trustees recommends the following changes in the Bylaws which govern the method and qualifications by which Trustees are elected to the Board of Trustees.

Your Board of Trustees recommend the following changes represented in bold type to sections 4.02, 4.05 and 4.06.

Section 4.02

Qualifications no person shall be eligible to become or remain a trustee of the Cooperative who:

(f) is the incumbent of or candidate for an elective public office. **This provision does not apply if the public office is an exception to the duality rule as provided in 51 Okl.Stat.(2000) § 6, (or other comparable statute);**

Section 4.05

(f) Quorum

Business shall not be transacted at any district meeting of members unless there are present in person at least **five percent (5%)** of the members residing in the district, which number shall constitute a quorum. Members of other districts present in person at the voting may be heard but shall have no vote.

(g) Voting

Voting shall be by secret written ballot, provided, that when the number of candidates for trustee(s) does not exceed the number of trustees to be nominated to represent the trustee district, and there are no objections, secret written balloting may be dispensed with and voting may be conducted in any other proper manner. Each member may vote for one(1) candidate only for each trustee to be elected to represent the district. **The Official Candidate shall be determined by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote. When the Official Candidate is elected at the district meeting by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote, then nomination by petition shall not be allowed. In the event that no candidate for such office receives a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote, then the candidate who receives a plurality vote is the "Official Candidate"; the remaining candidates for that district seat may be nominated by petition as set out in ¶(h) herein.** Drawing by lot shall resolve, where necessary, any tie votes after a second ballot shall have resulted in a tie. In the event a quorum is not present at a district meeting, then and in such event the incumbent trustee(s) serving the trustee district shall be declared the official nominee(s) from such district provided said incumbent(s) shall be filled by the members of the Cooperative at the next annual meeting of the members, or special meeting called for that purpose where there is a quorum, by plurality vote from those qualified candidates who have filed notice of candidacy, as herein provided. If there is only one (1) such candidate, then that candidate shall be declared elected. In the event there is no quorum at said meeting or no qualified person has filed for the office, then the vacancy(s) shall be filled by plurality vote of the remaining trustees and the trustee(s) so elected shall serve until his or her successor is duly elected at the next regular election for that particular district.

CONTINUED ON BACK...

Enter Your Meter Readings Online!

Entering your monthly meter reading is now as simple as logging on to www.iecok.com, choosing "Pay Bill" to access IEC's e-Bill software and entering your current meter reading. This fully secure application will also allow you to view your billing and payment history, check up on your energy usage and even make payments to your account.



IEC's new website - www.iecok.com - was launched on August 15, 2002 and provides a wide array of member options. Stop by and check out the many new features including detailed rate information, tips on energy efficiency and home improvements and even access to archived copies of *The Lamp!*

Blueberry Buckle

3/4 cup white sugar	1/2 teaspoon salt
1/4 cup shortening	2 cups fresh blueberries
1 egg	1/2 cup white sugar
1/2 cup milk	1/3 cup all-purpose flour
2 cups all-purpose flour	1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon
2 teaspoons baking powder	1/4 cup butter, softened

Preheat oven to 375°. Grease one 8x8 inch pan. Cream together 3/4 cup sugar, shortening, and egg. In a separate bowl mix together 2 cups flour, baking powder, and salt. Stir into sugar mixture, alternating with milk. Stir in blueberries. Pour into greased 8x8 inch pan. To make topping: Combine 1/2 cup sugar, 1/3 cup flour, cinnamon, and butter. Sprinkle over cake batter. Bake at 375° for 25-30 minutes.

NOTICE OF PROPOSED AMENDMENT OF BYLAWS^{continued}

(h) Nomination by Petition

In addition to the above provisions contained in this article, a qualified natural person(s) from the district may become a candidate for the Board of Trustees, **if no individual has been elected by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote at the district meeting, by filing a petition at the office of the manager of the cooperative, signed by the petitioner and at least five percent (5%) (2-½ in Districts 8 and 9) of other members of the district, not including spouses, not less than twenty-five (25) days nor more than thirty-five (35) days prior to the date of the next annual meeting or special meeting of the members at which trustees are to be elected, and provided further that said candidates shall have filed notice of candidacy as provided herein. Nomination by petition is available only in those districts which failed to elect a trustee by a two-thirds (2/3) majority of the district vote.**

Section 4.06.

(a) First Notice of Annual Meeting

Not less than forty (40) days nor more than sixty (60) days before an annual meeting of the members or a special meeting of the members at which trustees are to be elected, the Secretary of the Cooperative shall cause to be mailed to each member a notice of the meeting by any reasonable means as provided by Article III, Section 3.03, stating the date, place, time and purpose of the meeting. **Further, in those districts which failed to elect a Trustee by a two-thirds majority of the District vote, the notice shall state that nominations by petition must be filed not less than twenty-five (25) days nor more than thirty-five (35) days prior to the date of said meeting as provided by Article IV, Section 4.05(h) of the Bylaws.**

(c) Ballot

The names of the nominees shall be printed on the ballot and shall designate whether the nominee(s) was nominated at the district meeting or by petition. **The name of the "Official Candidate" elected from the district meeting shall appear first on the ballot; candidates who are nominated by petition shall be listed second. In those districts where the official candidate was elected by two-thirds majority, the name of the Trustee shall appear and be designated as "Official Candidate."**