



Board Candidacy Information

About Cotton Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Your cooperative is one of 27 member-owned and controlled not-for-profit Rural Electric Cooperatives in Oklahoma.

Our service area includes portions of Caddo, Cotton, Comanche, Stephens, Jefferson, Tillman, Grady and Carter counties.

The Cooperative's \$120,314,983 net electric plant provides service to over 23,500 meters through a network of 5,260 miles of power lines.

Service crews are stationed in Walters, Duncan, Velma, Medicine Park and Chattanooga.

Major wholesale power source is Western Farmers Electric Cooperative. The Cooperative is financed by loans from the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation (CFC), Rural Utilities Service (RUS), and CoBank and paid in capital from member/owners.

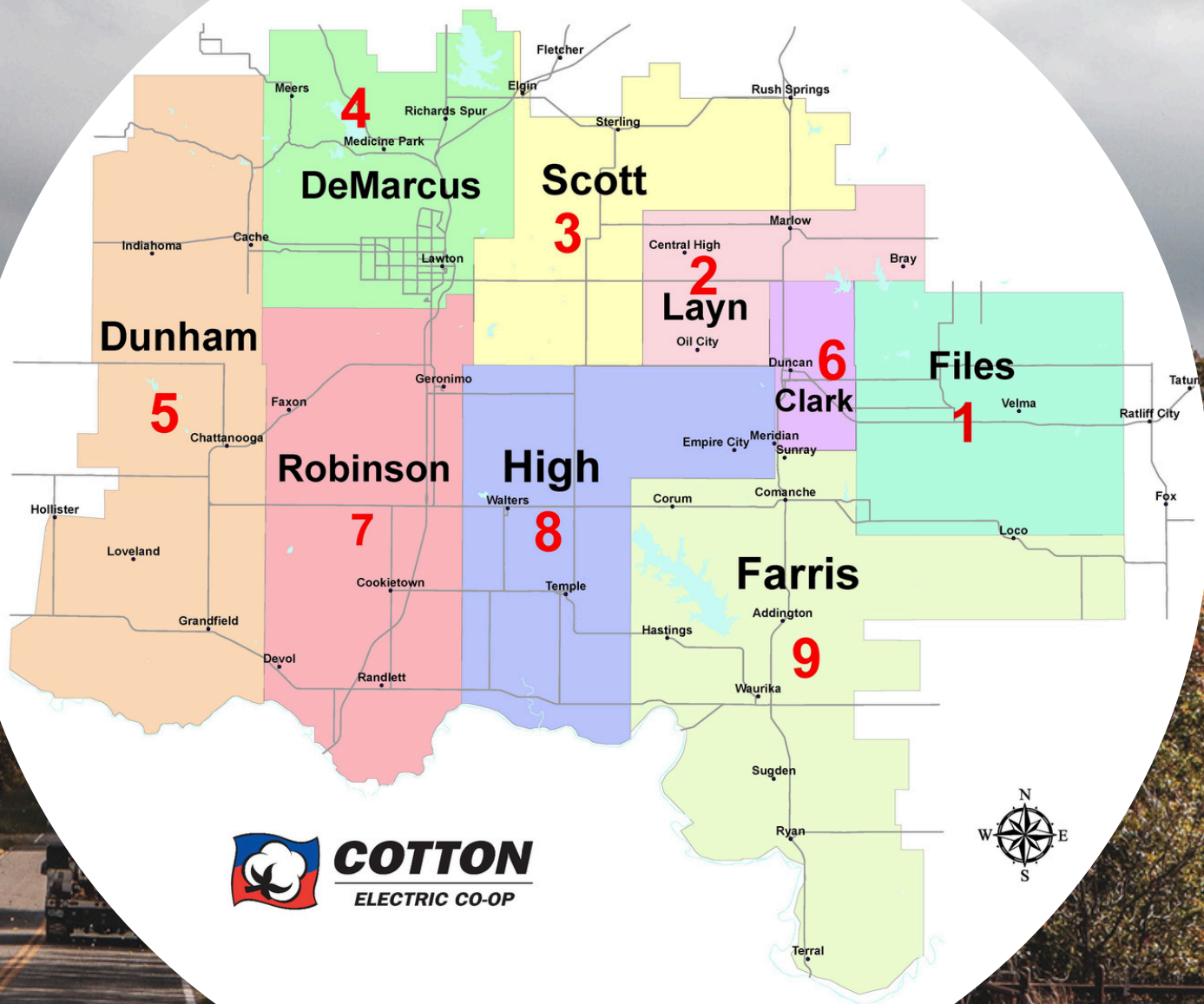
The Cooperative's policies are set by a nine-member board of Trustees, elected for three-year terms by the member-owners.

For more info..



580-875-3351

226 N. Broadway
Walters, OK 73572





Mission Statement

Our mission is to safely deliver reliable and affordable power, provide excellent member service, and improve the quality of life in the communities we serve.

1 VOLUNTARY AND OPEN MEMBERSHIP

Cooperatives are voluntary organizations, open to all persons able to use their services and willing to accept the responsibilities of membership, without gender, social, racial, political or religious discrimination.

2 DEMOCRATIC MEMBER CONTROL

Cooperatives are democratic organizations controlled by their members, who actively participate in setting policies and making decisions. The elected representatives are accountable to the membership. In primary cooperatives, members have equal voting rights (one member, one vote) and cooperatives at other levels are organized in a democratic manner.

3 MEMBERS' ECONOMIC PARTICIPATION

Members contribute equitably to, and democratically control, the capital of their cooperative. At least part of that capital is usually the common property of the cooperative. Members usually receive limited compensation, if any, on capital subscribed as a condition of membership. Members allocate surpluses for any or all of the following purposes: developing the cooperative, possibly by setting up reserves, part of which at least would be indivisible; benefiting members in proportion to their transactions with the cooperative; and supporting other activities approved by the membership.

4 AUTONOMY AND INDEPENDENCE

Cooperatives are autonomous, self-help organizations controlled by their members. If they enter into agreements with other organizations, including governments, or raise capital from external sources, they do so on terms that ensure democratic control by their members and maintain their cooperative autonomy.

5 EDUCATION, TRAINING, AND INFORMATION

Cooperatives provide education and training for their members, elected representatives, managers and employees so they can contribute effectively to the development of their cooperatives. They inform the general public, particularly young people and opinion leaders, about the nature and benefits of cooperation.

6 COOPERATION AMONG COOPERATIVES

Cooperatives serve their members most effectively and strengthen the cooperative movement by working together through local, national, regional and international structures.

7 CONCERN FOR COMMUNITY

While focusing on member needs, cooperatives work for the sustainable development of their communities through policies accepted by their members.

Trustee Qualifications

No person shall be eligible to become or remain a trustee who:

- Is not an active member of the Cooperative with at least one (1) year of continuous membership prior to the district meeting; or
- Who ceases to be a member of the Cooperative after election as Trustee; or
- Who has not received electric service from the Cooperative at their primary permanent residence in the particular district from which the person is to represent for one (1) continuous year prior to the district meeting; or
- Who ceases to receive electric service from the Cooperative at the Trustee's primary permanent residence in the particular district which the person represents after election as Trustee; or
- Is in any way employed by or financially interested in a competing enterprise or a business selling electric energy or a business selling supplies and services to the Cooperative. These proscriptions shall not apply if and where the degree of the prohibited activity, as determined by the Board of Trustees, is so inconsiderable and incidental as to pose no reasonable prospect of conflict of interest; or
- Is the incumbent of or candidate for an elective public office in connection with which a salary or compensation in excess of one hundred dollars per month is paid; or
- Has been convicted, plead guilty or nolo contendere to a felony offense under the laws the of the State of Oklahoma or another jurisdiction; or
- Is, becomes, or was an employee of the Cooperative or a subsidiary of the Cooperative during the preceding five (5) years prior to the time of filing his/her Notice of Candidacy; or

A trustee shall inform the Board of Trustees of any act or fact that would disqualify him/her under this section.

Trustee Terms

Trustees are elected for a period of three (3) years. These terms are staggered so that at least three (3) Trustees are elected each year.

Time Commitment

On average, trustees devote 40 hours per month to the Board. This includes attendance to monthly board meetings, committee meetings, and preparation for meetings. Additional hours are devoted for travel and attendance to training seminars and conferences.

Board Responsibilities

The responsibilities of the Board are to offer competitive rates and provide electric and related services needed by the members while remaining financially sound and continuing to uphold the Cooperative philosophy. To further this objective by formulating such policies as may be required to provide this service.

Trustee Opportunities

In addition to attending seminars and conferences, trustees are strongly encouraged to obtain the Credential Cooperative Director (CCD) Certificate from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA). Trustees receive per diem compensation for meetings attended and are reimbursed for mileage.

Candidate Process & Timeline

Candidates must complete and return the packet and Background Check Authorization form to the Cotton Electric Cooperative headquarters in Walters at least thirty (30) days prior to the District Meeting.

The Cooperative's business hours are 8 am to 5 pm., Monday - Friday.

Affidavit of Trustee Qualification

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Alternate Phone: _____

Email: _____

Specific qualifications to be eligible to become and remain a Trustee are set forth in Cotton Electric Cooperative, Inc. bylaws and policies. In addition, statutory and common law imposes certain duties upon Trustees. The following questions are designed to ensure that you are eligible to be a candidate for a Trustee and to remain a Trustee. False or misleading statements made on this form are grounds for removing you as a candidate or from the Board.

Are you a member in good standing of Cotton Electric Cooperative? YES NO

Do you receive electric service from Cotton Electric Cooperative at your primary address? If "NO", please explain. YES NO

Do you have a joint membership with a current member of the Board of Trustees? If "YES", please explain. YES NO

Are you a "close relative" of a trustee or employee of Cotton Electric? YES NO
"Close Relative" means a person who is a spouse, child, step-child, daughter-in-law, son-in-law, parent, mother-in-law, father-in-law, brother, sister, grandparent or grandchild of an employee or trustee.
If "YES", please explain.

Are you an incumbent of, or candidate for, an elective public office in which a salary or compensation in excess of \$100 per month is paid? YES NO

Are you employed by or financially interested in a competing enterprise or a business selling electric energy or a business selling supplies and services to Cotton Electric? If "YES", please explain. YES NO

Are you a full-time employee or agent of another Trustee or CEC employee? If "YES", please explain. YES NO

Are you a full-time employer or principal of another Trustee or CEC employee? If "YES", please explain. YES NO

Have you been convicted of a felony whether by judgment, order, settlement, conviction, pleas of guilt, or plea of nolo contendere? If "YES", please explain. YES NO

Are you willing to refrain from disclosing confidential information of Cotton Electric Cooperative and thereby avoid material harm to the Cooperative and/or all members? YES NO

A Trustee is responsible for and must actively participate in the management of the business affairs of the Cooperative. It is anticipated that, on a monthly basis, you will devote 40 hours to the board preparing for and attending meetings of the Board of Trustees, the Cooperative Members and Board Committees. The Board of Trustees meets regularly on the fourth Tuesday of every month at 8:30 a.m. and normally concludes by 1:00 p.m. In addition, as a newly appointed board member you will be expected to attend necessary trainings and seminars as needed to obtain the Credential Cooperative Director (CCD) Certificate.

Are you able to commit that amount of time to be actively involved in the affairs of the Cooperative? YES NO

I attest, to the best of my knowledge, the above information is true and accurate.

Signature: _____ Date: _____