

## MEET THE CANDIDATES 2025

### CANDIDATES FOR DIRECTOR POSITIONS

Members of Ouachita Electric Cooperative (OEC) are voting by mail in their director elections this year. Director positions for election to three-year terms this year are Position No. 1, Position No. 2 and Position No. 3. A ballot for your use and postage-paid, pre-addressed envelope for its return will be mailed to you with the annual report.



#### **POSITION NO. 1** **(3-year term)**

WALT PIGOTT began serving Ouachita Electric Cooperative on the Board of Directors in 2001. As an OECC Director, he has completed NRECA's curriculum to achieve the level of Credentialed Cooperative Director (CCD). He has also obtained certification in Cooperative Board Leadership and has completed the Director Gold Program.

He has served two years as Board Secretary and has served four years as OECC Board Chairman. He has served on the statewide Board of Directors at Arkansas Electric Cooperative for four years. Pigott retired in June 2018 as superintendent of the Harmony Grove School District. He graduated from Fairview High School in 1983 and attended the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville receiving a Bachelor's in Kinesiology and a Master's in Administration. He served in the Arkansas Army National Guard from 1986-1990 and the Air Force Reserves from 1990-1996.

Walt and his wife, Angel Gaston Pigott, reside in Sparkman, and have three children and five grandchildren. They attend Holly Springs Baptist Church.



#### **POSITION NO. 2** **(3-year term)**

JANE MARIE DAWSON is the daughter of the late John Dawson, Jr. and Nancy Dawson. She graduated from Fairview High School and then attended Ouachita Baptist University and obtained her degree in Music Education. She has two children, Allie Marie Wofford of Camden and AJ Watson also of Camden. Jane Marie is the co-owner and vice president of Arkansas

Pulpwood Co., Inc. in Camden.

She has a heart to serve her community and as a member of Calvary Baptist Church, she has enjoyed leading in worship for the past 12 years. She has also served her community as a volunteer at The Ouachita County Recreational Center (OCRC). Her service and experience in business as well as in her community make her an ideal candidate for District 2, and if elected, she would be a positive influence on those in our community as well as OECC as a whole.



#### **POSITION NO. 2** **(3-year term)**

In 2024, KELLY BELT was appointed as the director of District No. 2 on the Ouachita Electric Board of Directors. She is currently enrolled in courses to obtain the Credentialed Cooperative Director Certification.

Kelly is a lifelong resident of Ouachita County and a 1995 graduate of Fairview High School. She has an associate of arts degree from Southern Arkansas University Tech. Kelly is a 27-year employee of L3 Harris-Aerojet Rocketdyne where she currently serves as a senior associate, configuration management in the engineering department. She is a member of Liberty Methodist Church. Kelly is married to Brandon Belt, and they share two children, Austin and Gracie Belt. Kelly is the daughter of the late Jim Garner who also served on OECC's Board of Directors. In her free time, Kelly enjoys camping and spending time with her family.



#### **POSITION NO. 3** **(3-year term)**

LISA (DUNCAN) HENDRIX is a Hampton native and 1975 graduate of Hampton High School and holds an Associate Degree in Business from Southern Arkansas University Tech. She is employed by Blann Tractor as Bookkeeper. Lisa was elected to OECC's Board of Directors in 2001. She served 15 years as secretary/treasurer and currently

serves as vice president.

She has obtained NRECA certification as a Credentialed Cooperative Director, received the Board Leadership Certification and has completed the Director Gold Program. Currently, she serves on the Arkansas Electric Cooperative Corporation (AECC) Board and also serves as Secretary on the Executive Committee for AECC.

Lisa and husband, Donnie, have two daughters, Dawn (Russ) and Kris (Chris), three grandsons, Peyton (Samantha), Garrett, and Maddox, one granddaughter, Elise, and one great-grandson, Branson. Lisa attends Victory Missionary Church where she serves as treasurer. She served on the Calhoun County Fair Pageant Committee (1984-94) and Hogskin Holidays Festival Committee (1995-2003) and currently serves on the Calhoun County Museum Board.

# Ouachita Electric in the Community

Ouachita Electric exemplifies a robust commitment to addressing community needs through active participation in a variety of events throughout the year. Thus far in 2025, the cooperative has engaged in seven community events and has sponsored numerous additional initiatives.

Throughout the months of February and March, Kari Strickland and Sabrina Estridge volunteered to judge the Ouachita County Spelling Bee at Southern Arkansas University Tech and the Arkansas 4-H SeaPerch competition at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. Also, Kari and Sabrina assisted Greg Strickland with an electrical safety demonstration booth at the 2025 Bearden School District STEM night.

On April 9, Ouachita Electric provided meals for the Calhoun County community during the Hogskin Holidays festivities. On the same day, four linemen — Ethan Jordan, James Steed, Austin McDonald and Eric McGee — participated in the Arkansas Lineworker Appreciation Day event in Little Rock.

On April 11, James Steed, Ethan Jordan, Kari Strickland, Greg Strickland and Sabrina Estridge attended a career fair at Smackover Elementary School. Also on April 11, the Hampton district crew participated in the Hogskin Holidays parade.

Over the past six months, Ouachita Electric has dispatched two crews to assist affiliated cooperatives across the state during storm restoration efforts. The first crew, dispatched in March to Farmers Electric Cooperative, consisted of Ethan Jordan, James Steed, Troy Carter, Chad Davis and Jemison McPherson. The second crew was dispatched in April to First Electric Cooperative and included Jimmy Pitts, Jackson Cole, Josh Reams, Alan Ferguson, Scooter Atkins and Justin Horstkamp.

We wish to express our gratitude to Jemison McPherson, Josh Reams, Jackson Cole, Jimmy Pitts, Bryan Dunn, Chad Davis, Derek Sanders, Justin Horstkamp, Natalie Johnston and Lacey Thomason for their significant volunteer contributions during the Hogskin Holidays, as well as to all other employees who have dedicated their time to volunteer throughout the year. Most importantly, we acknowledge the efforts of our linemen crews who supported affiliated cooperatives during the recent storms.



Hogskin Holidays parade.



Lineworker Appreciation Day at the state Capitol.



Mutual aid to help with storm restoration.



Providing meals at Hogskin Holidays.



Bearden School District STEM night.



Arkansas 4-H SeaPerch Competition.



Smackover Elementary School Career Day.



## ADDRESS

700 Bradley Ferry Road  
Camden

## BOARD MEMBERS

Danny Adams  
David Kelley  
Lisa Hendrix  
Sheila Johnson  
Dr. Corbet Lamkin  
David McLeane  
Beau Morgan  
Walt Pigott  
Kelly Belt

## CONTACT US

(877) 252-4538

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## OUACHITA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

**Our offices  
will close for  
Independence  
Day on Friday,  
July 4.**





**SHAWN DORFLINGER**  
MANAGER

## The Heat is On

### *Lower your summer energy costs*

When summer heats up, our electric bills tend to increase as air conditioners are working overtime, driving up home energy consumption. Ouachita Electric is your local not-for-profit electricity provider, and we are committed to helping you beat the heat without

breaking the bank.

As the temperatures get hotter over the summer, we want to make sure you know about a range of energy-saving offerings designed specifically with you in mind. By taking advantage of these programs and services, you can manage your energy consumption and costs.

#### **Beat the peak**

Lower your energy usage and bills by shifting electric use to periods of lower demand (also known as off-peak times). These peak times are typically in the morning as people start their day and in the evening as people return to their homes. Postponing the use of major appliances and changing your times to shower or bathe are just some ways to beat the peak. Saving energy during peak times reduces your bills, keeps electric rates lower for all and relieves pressure on the grid.

#### **Levelized billing**

When you sign up for levelized billing, your energy bill is calculated by averaging your previous 12 months of use. With levelized billing, your monthly energy costs are

easier to budget and manage, especially during seasonal fluctuations when bills tend to increase based on the weather. Levelized billing is a great option for anyone on a fixed income or those with highly variable seasonal needs.

#### **Free home energy audit**

Our energy advisers are available to conduct a free energy audit of your home to identify areas where energy is wasted and provide recommendations on ways to improve efficiency and lower your monthly bills. Learn more at [oecc.com](http://oecc.com).

#### **You have the power**

Small actions combined can have a big impact on summer energy bills.

The best way to lower energy use during summer months is to raise the thermostat to the highest setting that's comfortable. Ceiling fans can also help you feel cooler, but remember to turn them off when you leave the room. On warm summer nights, fire up the grill to keep additional heat out of the kitchen. Remember to change air filters often so your cooling system doesn't have to work harder than necessary.

Don't let energy bills take a toll on your summer fun. We are here to help manage your energy use, whether through efficiency programs and services or energy-saving advice from our local energy advisers.

Contact us at (877) 252-4538 to learn more about practical strategies to lower your use, trim your bills and make this summer a breeze for both you and your wallet.

## Alexander receives Lineman Scholarship

Ouachita Electric is pleased to offer a scholarship covering books and tuition for a candidate selected to attend the High Voltage Lineman Technology program at Arkansas State University-Newport this fall. This year's scholarship recipient is Joe Alexander, III from Camden Fairview High School. Congratulations, Joe!

Ouachita Electric Marketing and Communications Specialist Sabrina Estridge presents Joe Alexander with the Lineman Scholarship.

