

P.O. Box 220, Cheney, KS 67025  
316-542-3131 or 866-542-4732  
[www.sedgwickcountyelectric.coop](http://www.sedgwickcountyelectric.coop)



Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative

**SEDGWICK COUNTY  
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE**

# currentnews

## Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative

### Board of Directors

**Clint DeVore**  
President

**Cindy Foster**  
Vice President

**Margie Conyac**  
Secretary/Treasurer

**Joe Baalman**  
Director

**Donald Metzner**  
Director

**Eugene Scheer**  
Director

**Alan J. Smarsh**  
Director

**Rex Smith**  
Director

**Stan Theis**  
Director

### Staff

**Scott Ayres**  
General Manager/CEO

**Marcia Kampling**  
Office Manager

**Kyle Pipkin**  
Line Superintendent

### Contact Information

Headquarters  
P.O. Box 220  
1355 S. 383rd St. West  
Cheney, KS 67025  
316-542-3131  
Fax: 316-542-3943

## FROM THE MANAGER

# We're Thankful for Our Sister Co-ops

When you think about Sedgwick County Electric Co-op, you probably associate us with the local community. And you would be right. Our leadership team, board of directors and employees all live and work here in the community we serve. But you may not realize Sedgwick County Electric Co-op is actually part of a much larger cooperative network bringing additional value, tools and knowledge that benefit you, the members of the co-op.

### Cooperation Among Cooperatives

A defining characteristic of a cooperative is "cooperation among cooperatives." Mutual aid is a way co-ops work together to meet bigger challenges such as power restoration after a severe weather event.

When a severe weather event is predicted for our region, we call on our sister co-ops in areas unaffected by the approaching storm. Through this system of mutual aid, we coordinate with other co-ops to bring additional trucks, equipment and manpower to our area. We work together and share resources to efficiently and safely restore power to our community. And Sedgwick County

Electric Co-op reciprocates by assisting other electric co-ops when they request help.

Another area in which Sedgwick County Electric Co-op benefits from cooperation among cooperatives is cybersecurity. Through the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's (NRECA) "Rural Cooperative Cybersecurity Capabilities Program," we are able to access training, resources and tools to strengthen our efforts to combat cyber threats.

Sedgwick County Electric Co-op's ability to tap into the larger electric cooperative network and access tools, products, resources and leading practices from across the nation ultimately makes our co-op and our community stronger.

November is a time of year for reflection and giving thanks. I am grateful for our sister co-ops that enable us to better serve you and our broader community. When electric co-ops collaborate, we strengthen each other and the communities we serve—and that is something to be truly thankful. Happy Thanksgiving, everyone.

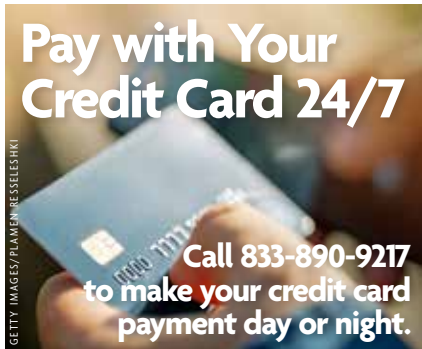


Scott Ayres

## Offices Closed for Thanksgiving

Our offices will be closed Thursday, Nov. 28, and Friday, Nov. 29, in observance of the holiday. From our co-op family to yours, Happy Thanksgiving!





## Board of Trustees Nomination Process

**BY-LAWS SECTION 4.04** - The Board shall appoint a nominations committee, not less than sixty (60) days nor more than one hundred eighty (180) days before the date of a meeting of the members at which Directors are to be elected. The Nominating Committee shall consist of not less than five nor more than thirteen members who shall be selected from different sections so as to ensure equitable representation. No member of the Board of Directors may serve on such committee.

The Nominating Committee, keeping in mind the principle of geographical representation, shall validate the qualifications of candidates nominated and shall prepare and post a list of nominations for Directors at the office of the Cooperative at least forty five (45) days before the meeting. Candidates may also be nominated by a petition signed by at least fifteen (15) members for Director Elections. The Secretary shall mail a statement to each member of the number of Directors to be elected, and the names and addresses of the candidates nominated at least ten days before the date of the meeting.

If the Directors determine that the election of Directors shall be by mail, only those nominees nominated by the nominating committee or by petition received at least sixty (60) days before the meeting, shall be on the ballot and there shall be no nominations from the floor. Minor or immaterial deviations from strict compliance with the provisions of this section shall not affect the validity of any elections of Directors. The By-Laws can be found in its entirety on our website.

## Cold Weather Rule in Effect Nov. 30 to March 1

Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative members who are unable to pay their electric service bill during the cold weather period, Nov. 30 to March 1 annually, may qualify for the Cold Weather Rule program, provided they fulfill the following good-faith requirements below:

- ▶ **MEMBERS MUST INFORM** the cooperative of their inability to pay their service bills in full.
- ▶ **MEMBERS MUST APPLY** to federal, state, local or other financial assistance programs for which they may be eligible to receive aid in paying utility bills.
- ▶ **MEMBERS MUST MAKE** an initial minimum payment equal to one-eighth of the total amount due the cooperative which includes any arrearage. Example: If a member owed an arrearage of \$240 and a current bill of \$80, they would owe the cooperative a total of \$320. The initial payment under the cold weather rule would be equal to \$40 ( $\$320 \div 8 = \$40$  a month) in addition to your current monthly charges.
- ▶ **MEMBERS ARE REQUIRED TO ENTER A PAYMENT PLAN** agreement for past, current and future charges for electric service, with arrears paid in equal installments over the next seven months. A member and the

cooperative may negotiate other payment arrangements mutually agreeable, individualized to the member's situation, providing the most appropriate terms, after the member has been informed that he or she has at least seven months in which to pay under the Cold Weather Rule.

- ▶ **MEMBERS ARE REQUIRED** to provide sufficient financial information to enable the cooperative to determine an appropriate payment agreement. Please note, members may be ineligible for the benefits under the Cold Weather Rule if they fail to follow the mentioned requirements, illegally divert utility service, receive service by tampering or defaulting on a payment agreement.

During the cold weather period, Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative will inform members of agencies or organizations that may provide financial assistance in paying utility bills.

In no event will Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative disconnect service if the temperature is forecast to fall below 32 degrees F within 48 hours following the time of disconnection.

The Cold Weather Rule is to ensure that human health and safety are not unreasonably endangered during the cold weather months.

## Mail-in Balloting Survey Results

In May, 823 members returned the billing insert questionnaire. This is 13.83% of our membership. Survey results are listed below. As a result, the Board of Directors has decided not to proceed with mail-in balloting at this time.

### Would you be interested in mail-in ballots for director elections?

- ▶ 430 voted to proceed with mail-in ballots.
- ▶ 383 voted against mail-in ballots.

### Would you still be interested in mail-in ballots, knowing it would be an additional cost to the cooperative?

- ▶ 272 voted to proceed even if there was an additional cost to the co-op.
- ▶ 516 voted not to proceed if there was an additional cost to the co-op.



# ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE YOUTH TOUR



## WASHINGTON, D.C.

JUNE 18-25, 2020



# COOPERATIVE YOUTH LEADERSHIP CAMP



## COLORADO

JULY 10-16, 2020



FREE TRIP & \$500 SCHOLARSHIP  
APPLY BY **FEB. 14**  
SEND APPLICATIONS TO

JMATCHETT@SEDGWICKCOUNTYELECTRIC.COOP | P.O. BOX 220, CHENEY KS 67025

## ATTENTION HIGH SCHOOL SOPHOMORES & JUNIORS

Please submit the application below to Sedgwick County Electric Co-op, P.O. Box 220, Cheney, KS 67025 or scan and email to [jmatchett@sedgwickcountyelectric.coop](mailto:jmatchett@sedgwickcountyelectric.coop) by **FEB. 14, 2020**. Please complete both sections on page 16C and 16D.

Name of Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

2019-2020 Grade: \_\_\_\_\_ School: \_\_\_\_\_

Gender: M or F Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**I AGREE THAT ALL INFORMATION SUPPLIED IN THIS APPLICATION IS ACCURATE AND TRUE.**

Applicant Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**I HEREBY GRANT PERMISSION TO THE ABOVE APPLICANT TO COMPETE IN THE YOUTH TOUR COMPETITION.**

Parents Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Parent or Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_

List activities you have participated in at your school and any special honors you have received, such as class officer, plays, music, activities, etc.

Activities	Years	Remarks & Honors

Continued on page 16D ►

Continued from page 16C ▶

List extra-curricular activities you have participated in, such as FFA, 4-H, church, community, etc.

Activities

Years

Remarks & Honors

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List any hobbies, talents, special interests, etc.

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What are your future plans?

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Anything else you'd like to tell us about yourself?

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Describe how electric cooperatives operate based on the seven cooperative principles. Share which of the seven cooperative principles you think is most important and why.

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