



Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative

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**

# currentnews

## Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative

### Board of Directors

**Clint DeVore**  
President

**Cindy Foster**  
Vice President

**Margie Conyac**  
Secretary/Treasurer

**Joe Baalman**  
Director

**Donald Metzen**  
Director

**Eugene Scheer**  
Director

**Alan J. Smarsh**  
Director

**Rex Smith**  
Director

**Stan Theis**  
Director

### Staff

**Scott Ayres**  
General Manager/CEO

**Lora Alloway**  
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

### Stay Safe During Severe Winter Weather

Ice and other severe winter weather  
can result in power outages



**Scott Ayres**

When severe winter weather hits, power outages can occur. Roadways can be dangerous. Do all you can to prepare your pantry, home and car for the next severe winter storm. Once you are ready, watch and listen for weather bulletins mentioning winter storms, blizzard warnings or windchill dangers.

#### Supplies for the Storm

At home, have enough nonperishable food, water and medical supplies and medicines for 72 hours. The Federal

Emergency Management Agency and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention suggest storing 1 gallon of water per person per day. Have cell phones and chargers, as well as backup charging sources, ready. Gather important documents and medical records. Protect your pets and make sure you have enough supplies for them too. Additional items to have ready: a first-aid kit, a flashlight and batteries, hand sanitizer, blankets, and warm clothing.

#### Readying the House

Weatherproof your home ahead of winter by caulking windows and doors and looking for other air leaks that need

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Our office will be closed on Dec. 23, Dec. 26 and Jan. 2 for the holidays.

# Board of Directors Election Notification

The following territories will be voted on during the annual membership meeting currently scheduled for April 5, 2022.

► **TERRITORY 1**

North of 109th St. North, (Irish Creek Road).

► **TERRITORY 2**

South of 109th St. North, North of US 54, East of 167th St. West.

► **TERRITORY 3**

► East of 167th St. West, South of US 54.

The following cooperative bylaws describe director territories, election and application processes.

**SECTION 4.02. ELECTION AND TENURE OF OFFICE.** Members of the Board of Directors shall be elected by the members of the Cooperative from nine (9) Director Territories and shall serve for a term of three (3) years, or until their successors shall have been elected. The Cooperative shall stagger Director Terms by dividing the total number of authorized Directors into groups of three (3) and Members must annually elect three (3) Directors.

The Cooperative members shall elect Directors by a plurality of the votes cast, and Cooperative members may not vote for write-in candidates, by proxy, and there shall be no nominations from the floor at the Annual Meeting.

Members of the Board of Directors shall be elected by ballot and from the members of the Cooperative. The individual presiding at the annual meeting shall announce the results of the election.

All persons desiring to run for an open seat on the Board of Directors shall submit an Application for Director to the Cooperative at least 60 days before the Annual Meeting. The Cooperative shall then post a list of candidates running for Director on the Cooperative's website at least forty-five (45) days before the Annual Meeting of the Cooperative.

Candidates requesting a board of director application should contact Executive Assistant Jo Luehrs at 316-542-3131 or [jluehrs@sedgwickcountyelectric.coop](mailto:jluehrs@sedgwickcountyelectric.coop).

**SECTION 4.03. QUALIFICATIONS TO BE A DIRECTOR CANDIDATE AND BE ELECTED AND REMAIN A DIRECTOR.**

Any natural person shall be eligible to apply to be a director candidate, be elected and remain a Director of the Cooperative who:

(a) Is a member and bona fide resident in the area served or to be served by the Cooperative for at least three years; and

► (b) Has not been employed by the Cooperative within the past thirty-six (36) months; and

► (c) Is not in any way employed by or financially interested in a competing enterprise or a business selling energy, energy services or energy supplies to the Cooperative, or a business primarily engaged in selling electrical or plumbing appliances, fixtures or supplies to the members of the Cooperative, and

► (d) Is not closely related to an incumbent Director or an employee of the Cooperative. The term "closely related" means the relationship of spouse, father, mother, brother, sister, son, daughter, grandparent and grandchild existing by reason of blood, marriage or adoption; and

► (e) Other reasonable qualifications, procedures or policies approved by the Board.

► Upon establishment of the fact that a Director is holding office in violation of any of the foregoing provisions, the Board of Directors shall remove such Director from office. Nothing contained in this section shall affect in any manner whatsoever, the validity of any action taken at any meeting of the Board of Directors.

**SECTION 4.04 DIRECTOR TERRITORIES**

– Based upon geographic or other equitable considerations determined by the Board through a Board Resolution, the Board shall divide the general area in which the Cooperative provides electrical energy into nine (9) territories that equitably represent the Members. ("Director Territory") A Directory Territory may not be substantially unequal with another Director Territory and should provide equitable representation on the Board throughout the Cooperative Service Territory. ("Cooperative Service Territory")

As necessary, the Board may revise the Director Territories to ensure that the Territories equitably represent the Members and that no Territory is substantially unequal with another Territory. Within 30 days following a Directory Territory revision, and at least 30 days before the next annual Member Meeting, the Cooperative must notify in writing or electronically, Members affected by the Director Territory revision. Director Territory revisions are effective on the date the Cooperative releases written or electronic notice of the Director Territory revision.

Bylaws can be found on our website at [www.sedgwickcountyelectric.coop/membership-handbook-and-co-op-bylaws](http://www.sedgwickcountyelectric.coop/membership-handbook-and-co-op-bylaws). Territory Map can be found at [www.sedgwickcountyelectric.coop/contact-us](http://www.sedgwickcountyelectric.coop/contact-us).

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# How the Grid Keeps Reliable Power Flowing BY PAUL WESSLUND

## New report reveals grid reliability is increasing despite new challenges

The North American Electric Reliability Corporation, also known as NERC, recently graded the nation's grid on reliability. The report revealed the electric grid is highly reliable and continues to improve despite emerging challenges that may stress it in the coming years.

NERC's "2022 State of Reliability" reports that the network of power plants, transmission lines and associated equipment — often referred to as the bulk power system or BPS — repeatedly improved its performance over the last six years. That trend comes despite the challenges of adding more energy generated from renewable sources and facing increasingly extreme weather patterns.

The impact of widespread, extreme weather events has underscored the need to plan for extreme scenarios related to resource adequacy and energy supply. Spurred by federal policies and market conditions, a drastic decline in available power generation resources has made complex electric systems more difficult to balance. As the nation's energy mix evolves and flexible generation (from sources that are fuel-assured, weatherized and dispatchable) decreases, the risk of energy shortfalls is more likely.

Despite these challenges that lie ahead, when it comes to measuring grid reliability, the year 2021 saw improvement in both the year-over-year and five-year average.

To understand the NERC report, it helps to know the system that delivers your electricity is often described as the most complex machine in the world. The U.S. bulk power system is made up of more than 7,300 power plants and nearly 160,000 miles of high-voltage power lines. This system is responsible for delivering the majority of electricity to local utilities and their millions of miles of lower-voltage lines that ultimately connect homes, businesses and other energy consumers to the electric grid.

The electricity that the bulk power system carries to you must be generated at the exact

same time as you flip the switch to use it. If that sounds like a mind-boggling job of high-tech coordination, it is. And the national grid does it every second of every day.

Despite that complexity and the widely reported threats like severe weather and cyberattacks, NERC says the grid continues to perform in a highly reliable and resilient manner overall, with year-over-year improvement, demonstrating the success of actions taken by the energy industry.

Here are a few of the major challenges the electric sector is facing — and NERC's recommendations for facing these challenges head-on.

### Extreme Weather

Given the frequency and intensity of severe weather that affects electric operations, NERC recommends a shift in focus from just making sure there's ample energy supply to putting measures in place to withstand, adapt, protect against and recover from the impacts of extreme weather events.

Much of the NERC assessment focuses on the February 2021 event in Texas (Winter Storm Uri) when six days of below-freezing temperatures left some people without power for as many as four days. NERC advises steps to provide more transmission connections across the country so power can be more easily shared. NERC also sets plans to better prepare equipment for cold weather — as many generating units failed in the freezing temperatures.

### Beefing Up Cybersecurity

Electric utilities repelled threats from what NERC called "increasingly bold cyber criminals" and referred to a relatively new term for using the internet for political and social protest, "hactivism." NERC has established the Electricity Information Sharing and Analysis Center that gathers information about the latest cyber threats and advises utilities about safeguards to take that supplement existing cybersecurity programs.

Across the U.S., electric cooperatives are working with national and local partners to fight cyber threats and add resiliency to establish relationships, provide tools, share resources and training information to continuously improve cyber protection. In Kansas, Kansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc., of which your electric co-op is a member, provides support and resources for co-ops to combat cybersecurity threats.

### Increased Renewable Energy

Renewable fuels like wind and solar are clean energy choices, but they come with drawbacks for a smooth-running grid at any hour of the day. One major downside is they depend on whether the sun is shining, or the wind is blowing. NERC calls them "variable energy resources" and sees a long-term solution in large-scale batteries that can store renewable energy so it can be available whenever it's needed. Although battery technology is rapidly improving, NERC notes that utilities should continue to rely on natural gas-fired power plants to produce additional electricity when renewable options aren't available.

Today's energy landscape is wide-ranging and rapidly changing, yet the U.S. electric grid continues to keep power flowing. Kansas electric cooperatives are working closely with grid operators and power generators and suppliers like Kansas Electric Power Cooperative Inc. and Sunflower Electric Power Corporation to provide the dependable electricity you rely on every minute of every day.

**PAUL WESSLUND** writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the national trade association representing more than 900 local electric cooperatives.

**The North American Electric Reliability Corporation recently graded the nation's grid on reliability. The report revealed the electric grid is highly reliable and continues to improve despite unprecedented hurdles like increasingly severe weather patterns and a transition in how electricity is produced.**



## Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative Welcomes

### Ashton Ryder



Ashton Ryder

**ASHTON RYDER** accepted the accounting assistant position and began working at the cooperative on June 21, 2022. She and her family live in the Cheney area. She joins Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative after working as a CMA at Cheney Golden Age Home. Ryder and her husband, Cody, have three kids, Embry, 7; Knox, 4; and Rilynn, 2. She enjoys being outdoors, camping and spending time with family and friends. Welcome Ashton!

## Stay Safe During Severe Winter Weather

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attention. Inspect chimney flues for wood stoves or wood-burning fireplaces. Install smoke and carbon monoxide detectors on each floor of your home. Protect pipes from freezing.

### Prepare Your Vehicle with an Emergency Kit

According to Consumer Reports, it can be cheaper to buy a prepared emergency kit than to purchase items individually. A kit typically includes battery booster cables, an ice scraper, a portable shovel, flashlights, a signaling cone, backup batteries for the flashlight, roadside triangles, a reflective vest, a basic first-aid kit (add in what is needed for individual needs) and a cell phone charger.

In addition, your car or truck should also be stocked with gloves, a blanket, a rain poncho, wipes, rags, boots, and a hat. It cannot hurt to also have bottled water and nonperishable snacks in your vehicle in case you get stranded.

### Prepare Your Vehicle

Complete annual maintenance, test the car battery and cooling system, use winter tires, and replace them if the tread is less than 2/32nd of an inch, check tire pressure and wiper blades, add wiper fluid rated for less than minus 30 degrees and keep the gas tank at least half full.

Know that when the power goes out, we work hard to restore it safely and efficiently. For information about electrical safety or storm preparation, visit [www.SafeElectricity.org](http://www.SafeElectricity.org).



## SAVE THE DATES

TELL YOUR HIGH SCHOOLER IT'S TIME TO APPLY FOR THE TRIP OF A LIFETIME

ELECTRIC  
COOPERATIVE  
**YOUTH  
TOUR**  
**BUILDS**

JUNE 15-22, 2023  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

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