



**SEDGWICK COUNTY
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE**

currentnews

**SEDGWICK COUNTY
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE**

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Stan Theis
Director

STAFF
Scott Ayres
General Manager/CEO

Lora Alloway
Office Manager

Kyle Pipkin
Line Superintendent

CONTACT INFORMATION

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FROM THE MANAGER

Reflecting on Progress, Planning for the Future

As we close another year, I want to pause and express gratitude — for you, the members of Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative — for your continued trust and support. Our cooperative was built on the promise of people coming together to improve the quality of life in their communities, and that promise still guides everything we do today.

Each decision, whether it's about delivering reliable electricity, innovating for the future or advocating for smart energy policies that impact our local community, comes back to one simple question: How will this benefit the members we serve?

This past year has been marked

by meaningful progress, both in strengthening our local system and in working at the national level to influence energy policies that directly affect reliability,

affordability and resilience. While the details of federal regulations may seem distant, they significantly impact our daily operations here at home.

Over the past year, electric cooperatives across the country came together for advocacy efforts on the EPA's Power Plant Rule. As



Scott Ayres

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ANNUAL MEETING
IS APRIL 7

APRIL

7

The Annual Membership Meeting of Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative will be held on Tuesday, April 7, 2026, at The Cotillion, 11120 W. Kellogg in Wichita.

- ▶ Doors will open at 6:15 p.m., and dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m.
- ▶ Cooperative update.
- ▶ Door prizes.
- ▶ Youth Tour winners announced.
- ▶ Employee service awards and introductions.

Bright Lights,
Safe Nights

OUTDOOR HOLIDAY
LIGHTING SAFETY

- Use outdoor-rated lights with UL safety labels.
- Plug into GFCI outlets for shock protection.
- Stay at least 10 feet from power lines when hanging lights.
- Don't hang lights with tacks, nails or screws — use clips instead.
- Keep cords away from water and snow.
- Inspect for damage like broken sockets or frayed cords.
- Don't overload extension cords or outlets.
- Turn off lights before bed or when away; a timer makes it easy.

SOURCE: WWW.SAFEELECTRICITY.ORG

Reflecting on Progress, Planning for the Future

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originally written, the rule would have forced a rapid shift away from always-available power generation resources, threatening the accessibility of a diverse fuel supply that keeps electricity reliable. Renewable energy sources are an essential and growing part of our energy future. However, we also recognize that the demand for electricity is rising rapidly, and natural gas, coal, and nuclear power remain essential for ensuring power is available around the clock. As we collaborated and engaged with policymakers, we pressed for a more balanced approach to generating power — one that supports clean energy innovation while still recognizing the role of traditional resources. Our efforts are helping to shape a more workable path forward that better protects reliability and keeps costs in check for Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative members.

Another area of ongoing progress came through advocacy work on federal permitting reform. For too long, outdated rules and lengthy delays have stood in the way of building critical infrastructure, including new transmission lines and generation projects. Modernizing this process is essential if we are going to strengthen the electric grid and keep pace with growing demand. This year, electric co-ops helped move the needle on permitting reform, advocating for policies that make the process faster, more predictable and more efficient. Investments we make in infrastructure will reach communities sooner, improving reliability and preparing us for the future.

We're also seeing progress with bipartisan support for the FEMA Act of 2025, which would expedite the disaster recovery process for electric

cooperatives and the communities they serve. Severe storms are a fact of life and their impact on the electric system can be devastating.

FEMA is a crucial partner for electric co-ops in efforts to restore power after disaster strikes, but currently, the federal reimbursement process after a major storm is slow and full of red tape. If passed, the bill would make FEMA a stronger, more responsive agency to help strengthen rural resilience, protect taxpayer dollars and ensure essential services are restored as quickly as possible after a natural disaster.

Achievements like these are not just wins in Washington — they are wins for Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative members like you.

In addition to advocacy efforts, we are proactively addressing our communities' needs for the future by investing in new technologies and programs that improve service for our members. Through advanced monitoring systems and AI tools that improve daily operations, we are better equipped to identify power delivery issues or challenges before they occur.

As we look ahead to a new year, I see both challenges and opportunities on the horizon. The energy industry is undergoing significant change driven by the rising need for more electricity, new tools and technologies, and federal energy policies.

The path forward requires innovative thinking and member-focused solutions. I'm confident that with the dedication of Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative employees and the continued support of our members, we are well-positioned to adapt and meet challenges head-on. Through it all, our promise to you remains steadfast: reliable power for today — and tomorrow.

Board of Directors Election Notification

The following territories will be voted on during the annual membership meeting on April 7, 2026.

- ▶ **TERRITORY 1** — North of 109th St. N. (Irish Creek Road).
- ▶ **TERRITORY 2** — South of 109th St. N., North of US 54, East of 167th St. West.
- ▶ **TERRITORY 3** — East of 167th St. W., 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.

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.*

COLD WEATHER RULE IN EFFECT THROUGH 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 divided by eight equals \$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 or illegally divert utility service, receive service by tampering, or default 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.

National Pedal Pull RESULTS

This year, several local youth qualified for the National Pedal Pull. They first competed at the Sedgwick County Fair in July, then advanced to the Kansas State Fair Championship in September. Placing at the state fair qualified them to participate at the National Pedal Pull in Mitchell, South Dakota, on Sept. 27.



TOP: Oaklynn Lutz places 11th in the 10-year-old bracket.

BOTTOM RIGHT: Ava Clouse finished fifth place in the 12-year-old bracket.

BOTTOM FAR RIGHT: Elijah Youngers (left) takes third place in the 4-year-old division. Claire Youngers (right) wins first place in the 6-year-old bracket.



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MAKE YOUR MARK!

JUNE 13-19, 2026

COORDINATED BY
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KANSAS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES, INC.
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COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP MEMORIES

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COMMUNITY | LEADERSHIP | MEMORIES

COOPERATIVE YOUTH LEADERSHIP CAMP

MAKE YOUR OWN PATH

JULY 10-16, 2026

SAVE THE DATES!

QUESTIONS? CONTACT JO LUEHRS, 316-542-3131,
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