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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 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

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FROM THE MANAGER

Using the Clock to Save Energy

Did you know the time of day you use energy can impact electricity rates? Think of times of high energy demand like rush hour traffic. These are times when a lot of people in our community are using electricity — whether getting ready for work, which involves showering and making breakfast, or coming home in the evening to cook dinner, wash clothes, bath the kids or wash dishes. During these times of high energy use, your electric cooperative strives to ensure there is enough electricity available to meet the needs of all member-owners. This often results in buying energy at higher costs (because of higher overall demand) as well as ensuring that grid infrastructure can deliver enough electricity when use is highest. This is especially true when extreme winter or summer weather pushes energy use even higher. There are several ways members can

help lower energy demand by thoughtfully timing energy-intensive activities at home. Peak energy hours are typically in the morning and in the evening after people return from work and school. Weekends and holidays are typically considered off-peak.

Here are few simple ways you can beat the energy peak:

- ▶ **ADJUST THE THERMOSTAT.** Move the temperature up to 78 degrees in summer and down to 68 degrees in winter. Bump it further up or down when you're away from home for extended periods of time.
- ▶ **POSTPONE THE USE OF MAJOR APPLIANCES.** Move laundry loads to later in the evening or weekends. Delay running the dishwasher until

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Scott Ayres

Spring Forward

REMEMBER TO TURN YOUR
CLOCKS AHEAD ONE HOUR ON
SUNDAY, MARCH 13.



7 Directors Receive Director Gold Certificates

The following Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative Directors received their Director Gold certificate: **DON METZEN, CINDY FOSTER, MARGIE CONYAC, CLINT DEVORE, EUGENE SCHEER, ALAN SMARSH AND REX SMITH.**

To maintain their Director Gold certificate, directors must earn three credits from the approved list of continuing education programs within a two-year period. A maximum of one credit can be earned by attending a conference or non-National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) program with the remaining two credits earned by taking NRECA's Board Leadership courses.

Director certificate programs are specifically designed to help electric cooperative directors, at every stage of their service, understand their roles and responsibilities, stay up-to-date on the key issues and trends in the industry and prepare them to meet the challenges facing electric cooperatives now and in the future. NRECA offers director education courses throughout the year in conjunction with a variety of NRECA educational conferences and events across the country, in partnership with statewide associations and onsite at individual cooperatives.

Help us congratulate our directors on this achievement and their continued service.



Don Metzen



Cindy Foster



Margie Conyac



Clint DeVore



Eugene Scheer



Alan Smarsh



Rex Smith

Capital Credit Questions and Answers

Sedgwick County Electric Cooperatives purpose is to provide safe, reliable and affordable electric service to our member-owners.

What are Capital Credits?

Sedgwick County Electric Co-op is a not-for-profit cooperative. All operating margins are allocated back to our member-owners as capital credits. Each year the board of directors evaluates the financial conditions, operating expenses, and revenue of the co-op and determines if any capital credits can be retired and the amount of the retirements. This year the board of directors approved to retire approximately \$522,000 of capital credits back to its members and former members who received service from the co-op in 2004.

How are margins allocated?

Margins are allocated to member-owners as capital credits based on how much electricity you used and how much you paid for it throughout the year.

Do I lose my capital credits in the years Sedgwick County Electric Co-op does not retire capital credits?

No. For every year a member-owner receives electricity from the co-op an allocation is made to their account and retained until the board of directors approves retirement.

Do I have to report capital credits on my tax returns?

Capital credits are money returned for the purchase of electricity in a previous year. Member-owners should discuss capital credit retirements with their tax advisers.

What if I have moved?

If you have moved or no longer have electric service with Sedgwick County Electric Co-op, it is important that you inform the cooperative of your current address, so any future retirements can be properly mailed to you. If you purchased electricity during the years being retired, then you are entitled to a capital credit retirement, even if you have moved out of the Sedgwick County Electric Co-op service area.

How do I receive my capital credits?

In the past, capital credits checks were handed out at the annual membership meeting to those who attended. Checks not picked up were mailed the following day. In an effort to save our member-owners the cost of check printing and processing fees, administration handling, postage sorting and mailing fees, the board of directors opted to have general retirement applied to active member-owners March bill as a credit. A check will be mailed to former members with unretired patronage.

Co-op Recognized for Safety

Co-op employees earn a No Loss Time Accident Award for working 98,997 hours with no lost time off



Sedgwick County Electric Manager Scott Ayres (second from right) was presented a certificate on behalf of Kansas Electric Cooperatives Inc. Loss Control and Safety Department for 98,997 hours without a No Lost Time accident at the cooperative.

Every employee has the right to go home safe and healthy at the end every day. Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative is committed to the safety of their employees. Safety is practiced in our day-to-day activities from tailgate discussions and reviewing work procedures to monthly safety meetings.

Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative earned a No Lost Time Accident Award and was recognized at the Kansas Electric Cooperative, Inc. Annual Meeting in January for working 98,997 employee hours with no lost time off.

The co-op also earned a Safety Achievement Certificate for 2021 through the Rural Electric Safety Achievement Program (RESAP). RESAP was established to promote the highest standards of safety among electric cooperatives. Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative fully supports the RESAP program.

Anders Joins Co-op Staff

EAN ANDERS joined the staff of Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative on Oct. 4, 2021, as an equipment operator/groundman. Ean graduated from Pratt Community College with a technical certificate in electrical power technology. Lineman run in Ean's family — his dad is a lineman for Butler Electric Cooperative. In his spare time, he enjoys fishing and spending time outdoors. Welcome Ean!



Ean Anders

Happy St. Patrick's Day

Using the Clock to Save Energy

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well after dinner or use the delay cycle function if your dishwasher has one.

▶ **YOUR WATER HEATER USES A SIGNIFICANT AMOUNT OF ENERGY.**

You can reduce its energy burden by moving showering and bathing to an off-peak time or lowering the temperature on the tank. Some models include the ability to place the water heater on a timer to turn it off during hours it won't be in use.

▶ **DURING SUMMER, CONSIDER GRILLING** outdoors to keep the oven off during peak heat days.

▶ **UNPLUG CHARGING CABLES AND SMALL APPLIANCES** when they're not in use. For bigger items like TVs, try plugging them into a power strip that can be flipped on and off.

▶ **IF YOU HAVE AN ELECTRIC VEHICLE, CHARGE IT AT NIGHT** when electricity rates are typically lowest.

Check with your local electric co-op to see if they offer rates that are directly related to peak energy times and seasonality through special opt-in programs. These programs can include notification of peak hours, either through text or email. Even without these programs, lowering your energy use during peak times allows your co-op to save money on peak demand fuel costs, ultimately saving member-owners money by keeping rates lower.

Timing energy use to avoid "rush hour" is a great way to keep costs down and practice better efficiency habits. Check with your electric co-op for more information on time-of-use rates and programs.

Join Us for
Sedgwick County Electric Co-op's
Annual Meeting
Tuesday, April 5, 2022

*The Cotillion Hall
and
Ballroom*

11120 W. Kellogg, Wichita
Doors open at 6:15 p.m.
Dinner at 6:30 p.m.

Meeting Schedule

Co-op Updates
Director Elections
Door Prizes
Youth Tour Winners
Announced
Employee Awards and
Introductions

*Special
\$100
Cash Drawing*

Please bring the registration card
attached to the back of your annual
meeting notice you receive in the mail.

*Registration card is
needed for:*

*Cash
Drawing
Entry*

*Director
Elections*

Dinner

Director Candidates

TERRITORY 7

Joe Baalman, Incumbent
Alan Reichert, Cheney, KS

TERRITORY 8

Margie Conyac, Incumbent

TERRITORY 9

Stan Theis, Incumbent