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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 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

Prioritize Safety Year-Round

At Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative, we recognize Electrical Safety Month every May, but we also know the importance of practicing safety year-round. From our co-op crews to you, the member-owners we serve, we recognize that everyone has a part to play in prioritizing safety.

According to Electrical Safety Foundation International, thousands of people in the U.S. are critically injured or electrocuted as a result of electrical fires and accidents in their own homes. Many of these accidents are preventable. Electricity is a necessity, and it powers our daily lives. But we know firsthand how dangerous electricity can be because we work with it 365 days a year.

To me, safety is more than a catchphrase. As General Manager/CEO, it's my responsibility to keep co-op employees safe. Additionally, we want to help keep you and all member-owners of our community safe. That's why you'll see Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative hosting safety demonstrations at community events and in schools throughout the year, to demonstrate the dangers of electricity. We discuss emergency scenarios, such as what to do in a car accident involving a utility pole and downed power lines. We caution attendees on the dangers of pad-mounted transformers and overloading circuits with too many electronic devices.

Electricity is an integral part of modern life. Given the prevalence of electrical devices, tools, and appliances, I'd like to pass along a few practical electrical safety tips.

FRAYED WIRES POSE A SERIOUS SAFETY HAZARD.

Power cords can become damaged or frayed from age, heavy use, or excessive current flow through the wiring. If cords become frayed or cut, replace them, as they could cause a shock when handled.

AVOID OVERLOADING CIRCUITS.

Circuits can only cope with a limited amount of electricity. Overload happens when you draw more electricity than a circuit can safely handle — by having too many devices running on one circuit.

LABEL CIRCUIT BREAKERS TO UNDER- STAND THE CIRCUITS IN YOUR HOME.

Contact a qualified electrician if your home is more than 40 years old and you need to install multiple large appliances that consume large amounts of electricity.

USE EXTENSION CORDS PROPERLY.

Never plug an extension cord into another extension cord. If you "daisy chain" them together, it could lead to overheating, creating a potential fire hazard. Don't exceed the watt-



Scott Ayres

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84th Annual Meeting

TUESDAY, APRIL 5, 2022

Highlights

Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative held its 84th Annual Meeting on April 5, 2022. There were 232 members present, and a meal was served to just over 400 members and guest prior to the business meeting.

Board Vice President Cindy Foster called the meeting to order and thanked the member-owners who took time out of their busy schedules to attend the night's activities.

Board Election

After nominees for directors were announced and ballots were tallied, the following directors were re-elected:

- ▶ **JOE BAALMANN** – Cheney area
- ▶ **MARGIE CONYAC** – Andale/St. Marks area
- ▶ **STAN THEIS** – Mt. Hope/Haven area

General Manager Update

General Manager Scott Ayres provided members with information regarding the cooperative's new mission statement that reads "Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative is committed to providing safe, reliable, innovative energy solutions for you, our member-owners." Ayres also provided updates on the Cheney and Maize solar projects, diesel generation, and approved general retirement totaling nearly \$521,990. He also updated members on the approved work plan which provides funding for more than \$8 million in infrastructure upgrades over the next five years.



Members and guests enjoyed a meal before Sedgwick County Electric Co-op's 84th Annual Meeting.

Abraham Lincoln look-alike Steve Burns of Russell was part of the night's entertainment. Burns is the spitting image of the 16th president with his stovepipe hat and graying beard and sideburns. Burns loves keeping Lincoln's legacy alive and describing Lincoln's footsteps from Kentucky to Vandalia, Indiana, to Springfield, Illinois.

Youth Tour

The 2022 Youth Tour winners **AMELIA MENG**, of Cheney High School and **MICAH GOODMAN** of Bishop Carroll High School were announced.

Year-of-Service Recognition

Serviceman **ROBERT LACY** and Director **STAN THEIS** were recognized for 15 years of service.

The evening finished with drawings from prizes provided by Sedgwick County Electric Co-op, Boarder States, KEPCo and KSI a subsidiary of Kansas Electric Power Cooperative (KEPCo).

Thank you to all the members who attended this year's annual meeting. We look forward to seeing you again next year!

BOARD ELECTION RESULTS



Stan Theis
Mt. Hope/Haven area



Joe Baalmann
Cheney area



Margie Conyac
Andale/St. Marks area

Summer Line Crew Hours



Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative's line crew began working summer hours, 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., on May 1 and will continue through Sept. 30.

Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative's line crew began working summer hours, 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., on May 1 and will continue through Sept. 30. Each year during this period, the Line Department switches to summer hours in an effort to complete most of the day's work before the major heat of the day arrives.

The office will retain our normal business hours, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

If you have questions or need to report an outage during regular business hours, please call 316-542-3131 or 866-542-4732. To report an after hour's outage, please call 316-542-3131. Your call will be handled by our dispatch service, Cooperative Response Center (CRC).



From left: Board of Directors Vice President Cindy Foster, Former Governor of New Jersey Chris Christie, CEO Scott Ayres, Board of Directors Margie Conyac and Vice President of Management Consulting Services for Kansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc. Doug Shepherd.

Co-Bank Western Plains Meeting

CoBank hosted its 2022 Western Plains Customer meeting March 25. Former Governor of New Jersey **CHRIS CHRISTIE** and Communications Expert and Former White House Press Secretary **ROBERT GIBBS** discussed current world political issues and current events.

CoBank is one of the largest private providers of credit to the U.S. rural economy. The bank delivers loans, leases and other financial services to agribusiness, rural infrastructure, and Farm Credit customers in all 50 states.

Prioritize Safety Year-Round

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age of the cord. Doing so also creates a risk of overloading the cord and creating a fire hazard. Extension cords should not be used as permanent solutions. If you need additional outlets, contact a licensed electrician to help.

I encourage you to talk with your kids about playing it safe and smart around electricity. Help them be aware of overhead power lines near where they play outdoors.

Our top priority is providing an uninterrupted energy supply 24/7, 365 days per year. But equally important is keeping our community safe around electricity.

Contact Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative for additional electrical safety tips.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY Tip of the Month

Even in summer months, adding insulation to your attic can keep your home more comfortable and save energy used by your cooling system. If your attic insulation is level with or below your floor joists, you should add more. If you can't see any of the floor joists because the insulation is well above them, you likely have enough insulation. Attic insulation should be evenly distributed with no low spots. Make sure the areas along the eaves are adequately covered.

SOURCE: ENERGYSTAR.GOV

Happy Mother's Day



Today, and every day, we celebrate all the wonderful mothers. From our co-op family to yours, Happy Mother's Day.

Memorial Day Closing

Our office will be closed on Monday, May 30, in observance of Memorial Day. We would like to thank all who have served our country.



PLUG INTO ELECTRICAL SAFETY

May is Electrical Safety Month
Make Electrical Safety a priority this month and every month.

TIP Before planning those outdoor barbecues, make sure patios and pool areas are equipped with ground fault circuit interrupter outlets.

Selecting a Tree? Know Its Mature Height.

If you are considering planting a tree, carefully select its location before you begin digging. Also, call 811 before you break ground to get underground utilities marked. If trees are planted in the wrong location, they can be expensive to maintain and even dangerous. Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative and Safe Electricity offer tips on how to pick an optimal location.

A mature height of fewer than 15 feet is recommended if planting near lines. Some trees that are generally not tall enough to interfere with lines include crabapple, honeysuckle, juniper, flowering dogwood, and hawthorn.

Trees should never be planted directly under power lines, near poles or too close to electrical equipment.

Once you have a tree selected, contact Kansas 811 by simply calling 811, visiting 811kansas.com or downloading the Kansas 811 app to schedule a utility locate before putting a shovel to the ground. The "Call Before You Dig" number is a free service that lo-

cates and marks public underground utilities in your yard or on your land. Call several business days before you plan to dig. Locators will mark public underground utilities such as electric, gas, water, cable, and fiber. The service does not mark privately owned lines or pipes such as sprinkler systems and invisible fencing.

Other Tree Tips

- ▶ If your established trees are growing into power lines, contact us to ask about them. In some cases (depending on the tree's location), we will come out and trim the tree. If it is your responsibility, do not take on the task yourself. Only tree trimmers who are line-clearance certified are legally allowed to prune and trim trees within 10 feet of power lines.
- ▶ It is important to have trees trimmed. Limbs can fall on power lines during bad weather, resulting in power outages or blinking lights. Broken or drooping limbs could also cause a fire.
- ▶ Tall growing trees with a mature height greater than 45 feet should be planted at least 45 feet away from lines to avoid future pruning. Some of these trees include oak, white and blue spruce, most pines, and most maples.

Be sure no one climbs a tree near power lines. If branches are touching the wires, the tree could be energized. Even branches that do not touch power lines could become energized if a child's weight is added. In addition, a child could climb high into the tree and be able to reach the line.

