

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 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

# Serving up Savings



**Scott Ayres**

The holiday season is just around the corner and soon, festive music will flood the airwaves, sparkling lights and decorations will adorn homes and businesses,

and good tidings will abound.

The holidays also bring a frenzy of decorating, cooking and family gatherings, and amid the hectic hustle and bustle, you may receive higher-than-usual energy bills.

Keeping this in mind, I thought this month would be a good time to remind Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative members of a few programs and efficiency tips to help lower your monthly energy use.

### Programs Designed to Help You Save

Winter months typically bring some of the highest energy bills of the year.

Making minor, low-cost improvements, like weatherstripping exterior doors and caulking around old, drafty windows, can positively impact energy bills.

### Be Festive Without Breaking the Bank

Each year, often as soon as we finish the Thanksgiving turkey, we begin preparing and placing our favorite Christmas decorations. With holiday lights adorning our home for well over a month, we switched to LEDs to save energy.

LED holiday lights use 88% less energy than incandescent holiday lights. To put that into perspective, the Department of Energy estimates that with standard holiday decorations, LED lights typically increase energy bills by about \$5 to \$7. But with incandescent lights, energy bills will typically increase by \$33 or more. For homes that go above and beyond with incandescent holiday lighting (think Clark Griswold), energy bills could increase by as much as \$350. Beyond energy savings, LEDs provide additional benefits, such as

*Continued on page 12C ▶*



## Help Us Locate the Following Members

The names listed below have capital credits refunds due to them, but we are unable to locate these former members. If you have information that would help us contact any individual or business listed below, please call the office at 316-542-3131 or 866-542-4732.

Ales, James K	Kessler, Christie
Bales, Thomas	Keune, Evelyn
Berkheimer, James or Heather M	Lawrence, Jeremy
Bosley, Milford H	Lewallen, Larry
Brand, Keith M or Kendra K	Mandevill, Cynthia
Brown, Stanley K	Martin, Sherry
Bushnell, David or Deidra	Maxey, Charles
Bybee, James	Newman, Barbara
Carmichael, Korey	O'Bar, Lance or Jennifer
Carr, Danelle	Paulino, Allan B or Valerie
Cawood, William or Pamela	Rowland, Linda
Century 21 Advantage	Schmidt, Jim or Darcy
Chisholm-Maronde	Shaffer, Carla
Courchaine, Cheryl	Sharp, Michael or Norma
Ekeland, Jason or Leah	Shoaf, Larry
Finney, Joni	Simmons, Ron
Flores, Calvin or Hollie	Southern Aircraft Engine
Gray, David or Lindsay N	Steffan, Rick or Abbie
Henderson, Jeffrey or Gabrielle	Strecker, Cathy M
Hinsdale, Landon or Jocelyn	Ward, Kim
	Wise, Michael
	Woods, Ryan

## Important Payment Dates – November and December Bills

Due to the November and December holidays, members who are signed up to have payments automatically withdrawn from their bank account or credit/debit cards will have the payment dates as listed below. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Rose at 316-542-3131 or rwright@sedgwickcountyelectric.coop.

**November Statement**  
DEDUCTED ON NOV. 27, 2023

**December Statement**  
DEDUCTED ON DEC. 29, 2023

## Board of Directors Election Process and Qualifications

**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.

# Serving up Savings Continued from page 12A ▶

being shock-resistant, shatterproof, and cool to the touch, making them safer for the home.

You can also lower energy use by conveniently managing holiday lighting. Smart light timers can help you save energy by connecting to a smartphone app or voice assistant to program lights to turn on and off at set times. If you don't use smart home technology, you can still save energy by using traditional timers.

Additional easy ways to save during the holiday season include turning off overhead lights and using your Christmas tree to illuminate your home. If you have a fireplace, remember to close the flue when you're not burning a fire to ensure heat doesn't escape through the chimney.

## Cook Up Energy Savings in the Kitchen

If you plan to have family and friends over this holiday season, cook up energy savings by using small countertop appliances like microwaves,

air fryers and slow cookers when possible, as they use much less energy than the stovetop or oven.

When using the oven, bake multiple dishes at once for maximum efficiency. After all, it takes as much energy to cook one dish as it does to cook several. Turn the oven off a few minutes before the recipe's end time and allow the residual heat to finish baking the dish. Once the food is done, leave the stove door ajar to allow the residual heat to warm the room. When using the stove top, match the pan size to the burner to maximize the stove top's efficiency.

I hope a few of these tips will be helpful as we approach the holiday season. Remember, we're here to answer any questions you have about managing energy use or your monthly bills. With a little planning up front, you can find efficient ways to save on everything from holiday décor to your favorite soup recipes.

From your friends at Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative, we hope you have a wonderful holiday season.

## Clouse Places 9th at National Pedal Pull

**AVA CLOUSE** claimed 9th place in the 10-year-old bracket at the National Pedal Pull in Mitchell, South Dakota, on Sept. 23.

Ava improved from last year's National Pedal Pull where she tied for 12th place. She qualified for the National Pedal Pull after placing first at the Kansas State Fair Championship on Sept. 10.

She also placed first at the Sedgwick County Fair Pedal Pull on July 15, hosted by Sedgwick County Electric Co-op.

Ava is the daughter of Greg and Whitney Clouse of Cheney, Kansas.



**Ava Clouse pedals into 9th place in the 10-year old bracket at the National Pedal Pull on Sept. 23.**

## Offices Closed for Thanksgiving

Our offices will be closed Thursday, Nov. 23, and Friday, Nov. 24, in observance of the holiday. From our co-op family to yours, Happy Thanksgiving!



APPLY FOR A  
**TRIP OF A LIFETIME**



**ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE YOUTH TOUR**

**JUNE 14-20, 2024**  
AN ALL-EXPENSES-PAID TRIP TO WASHINGTON, D.C.

### WHAT IS YOUTH TOUR?

An all-expenses-paid trip to Washington, D.C., sponsored by your local electric co-op.

A week of visiting historic monuments, touring world-class museums and meeting elected officials.

An opportunity to develop lifelong friendships with delegates from across the country!

FIND OUT MORE



## SAVE THE DATES!

**CYLC**  
JULY 12-18, 2024  
★ ★ ★ COOPERATIVE YOUTH LEADERSHIP CAMP ★ ★ ★



**COLORADO Camp**  
COMMUNITY | LEADERSHIP | MEMORIES  
FIND OUT MORE

SPEAKERS  
RIVER RAFTING



EXPLORE STEAMBOAT SPRINGS

COORDINATED BY **KEC** KANSAS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES, INC. A Touchstone Energy Cooperative

SPONSORED BY YOUR LOCAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

# 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 divided by 8 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: 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.

## YOUR SEDGWICK COUNTY ELECTRIC PAYMENT OPTIONS

Sedgwick County Electric Co-op has convenient payment options for our members. All members receive a standard monthly bill for their electrical use. The following payment options are now available to our members:

### Auto Payment/Bank Draft



Members have the option to have payments **AUTOMATICALLY WITHDRAWN** from their bank accounts or credit/debit cards. You may select the third Wednesday or last Friday of the month. Complete the Auto Bank Draft Form at [www.sedgwickcountyelectric.coop](http://www.sedgwickcountyelectric.coop) and return with a voided check or contact Rose at [rwright@sedgwickcountyelectric.coop](mailto:rwright@sedgwickcountyelectric.coop)

### SmartHub/Online Bill Pay



**SMARTHUB** is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Go to [www.sedgwickcountyelectric.coop](http://www.sedgwickcountyelectric.coop) to set up an account. Credit card, debit card, and check payments are accepted and recurring payment is available. You can also monitor usage, view billing history, and manage your account. Members can also download the "Smart Hub" app on any mobile device.

### Mail\*



Sedgwick County Electric's monthly bill comes complete with a return envelope that you can use to mail your check to us at **P.O. BOX 220, CHENEY KS 67025**. *\*Please allow additional time if using the postal service. Payment must be received in our office on or prior to due date. We DO NOT use the mailing post date for the payment date.*

### Pay By Phone



**CALL TOLL-FREE 1-833-890-9217** to pay by credit/debit card or check. You will need your account number or phone number listed on account to make payment. Members can also call 316-542-3131 select "1" for payments. Employees can no longer accept credit/debit card payments.

### Drop Box



Our drop box is located near the flag pole at **1355 S. 383RD ST. W., CHENEY KS 67025**. Payments dropped off after 4:30 p.m., Monday-Friday, will be posted the next business day.

### Online Through Your Bank



**PAYMENT IS SENT DIRECTLY FROM YOUR BANK TO OURS**. Contact your bank for more information.

Sedgwick County Electric Co-op also has budget billing for those members who prefer to pay the same amount each month. Payments are set at your monthly average, making it easy to budget. An accurate 12-month history of your usage at your current residence is required in determining payments. If you are interested, please call your local Sedgwick County office to see if you qualify.