



SEDGWICK COUNTY
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

currentnews

SEDGWICK COUNTY
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Clint DeVore
President

Cindy Foster
Vice President

Rex Smith
Secretary/Treasurer

Joe Baalman
Director

Joe Gassmann
Director

Eugene Scheer
Director

Stephanie Seiler
Director

Alan J. Smarsh
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

Optimize Your HVAC System

As November settles in and temperatures begin to drop, your HVAC system will soon become one of the hardest-working appliances in your home. Before your system undergoes extra work this winter, now is a great time to ensure it is optimized and ready to go.

Start with something simple. One of the easiest and most effective measures you can take is checking filters. A clogged or dirty filter makes it harder for air to move through your system, which can make it run longer and work harder than necessary. Check filters regularly and replace them according to the manufacturer's recommendations. Vents matter too.

Look around your home to make sure furniture, curtains, rugs and other household items aren't blocking any supply or return vents.

If you have a heat pump, your outdoor unit also deserves extra attention this time of year. Falling leaves, limbs and other debris can collect around the unit and restrict airflow. Clear any fallen vegetation near your unit and keep the area around your outdoor unit clear. Be sure to follow the manufacturer's cleaning recommendations. If you have a traditional central air conditioning system, your outdoor unit will likely



Scott Ayres

Continued on page 12D ►

IMPORTANT PAYMENT DATE FOR NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER BILLS



Due to the November and December holidays, members who have payments automatically withdrawn from their bank account or credit/debit cards on the last Friday of the month, will have their November statement amount deducted on **NOV. 30, 2026**, and December statement amount deducted on **DEC. 28, 2026**.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Jennifer at 316-542-3131 or jkrehbiel@sedgwickcountyelectric.coop.

Leave Your Mark. Lead Your Future.

Every generation leaves behind a legacy, footprints that shape the future. Through our summer youth programs, electric cooperatives provide high school students with opportunities to discover their potential, develop leadership skills, and create a lasting impact on their communities.

Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative offers both the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour to Washington, D.C., and the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp near Steamboat Springs, Colorado. These experiences are more than trips. They are opportunities for students to grow in confidence, build lifelong friendships, and gain real-world skills that will serve them in college, careers and beyond.

Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative selects one student for each of these trips each summer.

WHAT'S IN IT FOR STUDENTS?

STUDENTS SELECTED WILL:

- ▶ Develop leadership skills through hands-on activities, workshops and team experiences.
- ▶ Build confidence, communication and problem-solving abilities.
- ▶ Connect with outstanding students from across Kansas and the nation, forming friendships that last long after the programs end.
- ▶ Learn how electric cooperatives serve and strengthen local communities.
- ▶ Explore iconic landmarks and monuments in Washington, D.C., or experience outdoor adventures and leadership training in the Colorado Rockies.

- ▶ Enhance college, scholarship, and career applications through participation in nationally recognized leadership programs.

The best part? Students attend at no cost. Travel, lodging, meals and program expenses are covered through Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative. Each program is coordinated and chaperoned by Kansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc.

2027 TRAVEL DATES:

▶ ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE YOUTH TOUR:

Thursday, June 17-Wednesday, June 23, 2027,
Washington, D.C.

▶ COOPERATIVE YOUTH LEADERSHIP CAMP:

Friday, July 9-Thursday, July 15, 2027,
Steamboat Springs, Colorado.

If you know a high school sophomore or junior who is ready to grow as a leader, expand their horizons, and create memories that will last a lifetime, encourage them to apply. Additionally, each winner will receive a \$500 college or trade school scholarship!

These are more than trips. They are opportunities to discover who you are, what you're capable of, and the mark you can leave on the world.

Applications are now being accepted through **FRIDAY, FEB. 5, 2027**, by going to our website at www.sedgwickcountyelectric.coop and on the banner click "Apply for Youth Programs."

Please contact Jo Luehrs if you have any questions at 316-542-3131 or email jluehrs@sedgwickcountyelectric.coop.

SPONSORED BY SEDGWICK COUNTY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE



QUESTIONS? CONTACT JO LUEHRS AT 316-542-3131 OR [JLUEHRS@SEDGWICKCOUNTYELECTRIC.COOP](mailto:jluehrs@sedgwickcountyelectric.coop).

Board of Directors Election Notification

The following territories will be voted on during the annual membership meeting scheduled for April 6, 2027.

- ▶ **TERRITORY 4** — West of 167th Street W., East of 295th Street W., South of US 54
- ▶ **TERRITORY 5** — West of 407th Street W. (170th Ave.), West side of Cheney Lake
- ▶ **TERRITORY 6** — East of 407th Street W. (170th Ave.), South of 29th Street N. (Smoots Creek Road), West of 167th Street W., North 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.

ANNUAL MEETING IS APRIL 6

The 89th Annual Meeting of The Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative Association, Inc. will be held at The Cotillion, 11120 W. Kellogg, Wichita, Kansas, on **TUESDAY, APRIL 6, 2027**. Doors open at 6:15 p.m.; catered meal following registration. Business meeting will begin at 7 p.m.

- ▶ Existence of a quorum
- ▶ Notice of the mailing and meeting report
- ▶ Minutes of the 2026 Annual Meeting of the members
- ▶ Election of directors
- ▶ CEO report
- ▶ Special guest speakers
- ▶ Youth Tour and scholarship recipients
- ▶ Unfinished business
- ▶ New business
- ▶ Adjournment

APRIL

6

SEDGWICK COUNTY ELECTRIC NAMED 5-STAR CO-OP

Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative is proud to be recognized as a 5-Star Co-op for our efforts through the Co-ops Vote initiative.

Five-star status marks the highest level of engagement in Co-ops Vote. The National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) has recognized Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative and member cooperatives nationwide for their efforts in promoting civic engagement among members.



OPTIMIZE YOUR HVAC SYSTEM

Continued from page 12A ▶

remain idle during winter months, but it's still good practice to keep it clear of debris.

Don't overlook what you can't see. With forced-air systems, ductwork plays an essential role in delivering heated air throughout your home. Leaks, gaps or disconnected sections can allow conditioned air to escape before it reaches the rooms where you need it. If you've noticed rooms that never seem to be comfortable or unusually high energy use, ask an HVAC professional to inspect your ductwork.

Fall is also an ideal time for a professional tune-up. A technician can inspect your heating system, identify potential problems, and make sure it is operating safely and efficiently before the coldest weather arrives. Regular professional maintenance can also help extend the life of your equipment.

Finally, take more control of your energy use by proactively managing your thermostat. There's no reason to heat an empty house. Lowering the temperature when you're away can help reduce energy use. And think about lowering the temperature while you sleep too! A programmable or smart thermostat can make those adjustments automatically, taking one more thing off your to-do list.

Your home heating system has an important job this winter. Give it a little extra attention this fall to help the system operate more efficiently, reduce unnecessary energy use and potentially prevent an inconvenient breakdown on a cold winter night.

A Recipe for Holiday Energy Savings

During the holiday season, you may spend more time cooking, baking and prepping for family and friends. A few small changes can help you save energy, lower utility costs and keep your kitchen running efficiently while still baking and cooking up a feast for family.

Saving energy in the kitchen starts with using the right appliance for the job, keeping equipment in good condition, and making simple changes to everyday cooking habits.

COOKING AND PREP

- ▶ Use small appliances when possible. Choose an air fryer, microwave, slow cooker, or toaster oven for small meals or side dishes. They often use less energy than a full-size oven.
- ▶ Keep the stovetop clean. Clean burners and surfaces help heat transfer evenly.
- ▶ Match the pan to the burner. Using a small pan on a large burner wastes heat. Choose a burner that closely matches the size of the pan.
- ▶ Cover pots and pans. Lids keep heat inside, help water boil faster, and allow food to cook evenly at lower settings.
- ▶ Keep the oven door closed. Use the oven light instead of opening the door to check on food. Opening the door lets heat escape and makes the oven work harder.
- ▶ Thaw frozen foods ahead of time. Move frozen foods to the refrigerator in advance to avoid microwave defrosting.
- ▶ Cook more at once. Bake multiple dishes together when possible and make larger portions to freeze for later.
- ▶ Cut food into small pieces. Small pieces of vegetables and meat cook faster and more evenly than large ones.

KITCHEN SAFETY TIPS

- ▶ Stay in the kitchen while baking; check food often and use a timer.
- ▶ Keep flammable items (towels, mitts, packaging) away from the stovetop.
- ▶ Check appliances for damaged cords or plugs.
- ▶ Plug high-wattage appliances directly into wall outlets.
- ▶ Keep kids at least 3 feet away from the stove.
- ▶ For oven fires, turn off heat and keep the door closed.

- ▶ Skip the self-cleaning cycle. Use it sparingly, since it requires very high heat and uses extra energy.
- ▶ Turn down the thermostat while cooking. Cooking and baking can warm your home quickly, especially when guests are gathered.

REFRIGERATION

- ▶ Let leftovers cool slightly. Allow hot foods to cool before refrigerating (but do not leave them out too long). This keeps your refrigerator from working harder to cool warm food.
- ▶ Check the door seal. Make sure the refrigerator door closes tightly. Test the seal by closing the door on a dollar bill. If it slides out easily, the gasket may need to be replaced.
- ▶ Prevent frost buildup. Too much frost can make the freezer work harder to maintain the right temperature.
- ▶ Keep it full but not crowded. Refrigerators work best when cold air can circulate.

DISHWASHING

- ▶ Run full loads. Wait until the dishwasher is full before running it to make the most of each cycle.
- ▶ Skip heated dry. Use the air-dry or eco-mode setting to dry dishes while reducing energy use.

Small changes in how you cook, cool and clean up can help save energy, no matter the season.