



Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative

## SEDGWICK COUNTY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

# currentnews

### Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative

#### Board of Directors

**Clint DeVore**

President

**Cindy Foster**

Vice President

**Margie Conyack**

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

**Marcia Kampling**

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

## Winter Storm Uri Update

Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative is working hard to minimize any surprises in the electric bills due to the increased fuel costs associated with the extreme weather in mid-February, even though the impacts are not yet fully understood.

On Saturday, Feb. 13, 2021, we started receiving communications from various entities that gas and electric prices were going to be at unprecedented levels due to the extreme temperatures. In the co-op's 83-year history we have never experienced anything like this. On Monday morning, Feb. 15, 2021, the Southwest Power Pool (SPP), which balances electricity production and use for a 14-state region including Kansas, declared an Energy Emergency Alert (EEA) Level 2. Level 2 declaration requires that SPP direct its member companies to issue public conservation appeals. We started posting conservation requests on our website and Facebook. Level 3 (which issues rolling blackouts) was declared on Feb. 16, 2021, and we were very fortunate

that none of our territory was affected.

We purchase our power from Kansas Electric Power Cooperative, Inc. (KEPCo) who in turn purchases from other generation and transmission (G&T) companies. Due to the high demand, the SPP was handling shortages of power. There was also an inadequate supply of natural gas. The energy demand exceeded the SPP generation capacity; not just in Kansas but also in the other 13 states they serve.

KEPCo was formed by Kansas rural electric co-ops in 1975. It is a not-for-profit G&T co-op headquartered in Topeka. It is KEPCo's responsibility to procure an adequate and reliable power supply for its 16 rural electric distribution cooperative members at a reasonable cost

Each month, our members see a power

*Continued on page 16C* ▶



Scott Ayres

## 2021 Youth Tour Winners



Christian Custer



Briona Graf

Although the 2021 Electric Cooperative Youth Tour to Washington, D.C., and the 2021 Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp in Colorado have been canceled, the board of directors for the cooperative agreed to offer high school sophomores and juniors the chance to win one of two \$1,500 scholarships. Applicants submitted an application with questions regarding achievements, hobbies, talents and futures plans.

This year's winners are **BRIONA GRAF**, Bishop Carroll Catholic High School, and **CHRISTIAN CUSTER**, Garden Plain High School. Congratulations Briona and Christian.

# Nominating Committee Meeting

On Feb. 25, 2021, Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative held a nominating committee meeting.

The following committee members were present: Fred Foley, Fred Hommertzheimer, Teresa Robben, Beverly Rausch, Jeffrey Smarsh, Jerold Petersen, Greg Kalkwarf, Joseph Metzzen and Jim Scheer. General Manager/CEO Scott Ayres, Executive Assistant Jacque Matchett and Accounting Assistant Jo Luehrs were also in attendance.

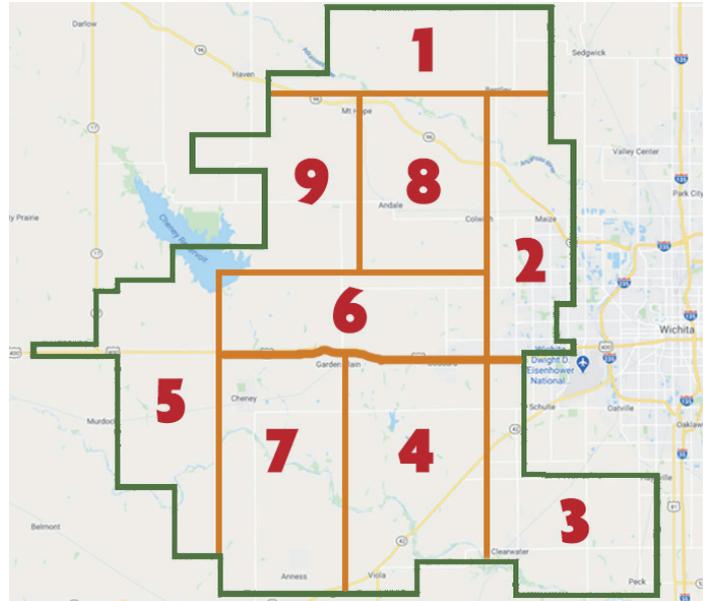
Ayres called the meeting to order, briefly explained the purpose of the nominating committee and read the “qualifications” section of the cooperative bylaws.

The following candidates were nominated by the nominating committee for placement on the 2021 election ballot.

- ▶ **TERRITORY 4**  
**DON METZEN** – Incumbent  
**RICK WOLF**
- ▶ **TERRITORY 5**  
**CLINT DEVORE** – Incumbent  
**PAT ELPERS**
- ▶ **TERRITORY 6**  
**EUGENE SCHEER** – Incumbent

Director elections will be held at the drive-thru annual membership meeting on Tuesday April 27, 2021.

## Sedgwick County Electric Territory Map



# Notice of Combined 2020-2021 Annual Meetings

## of the Members of the Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative Association, Inc.

For the purpose of considering proposed changes to the Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative Association, Inc.'s bylaws, electing board members and other business of the cooperative.

I, Clint DeVore, president, pursuant to Article III, Section 3.03 of

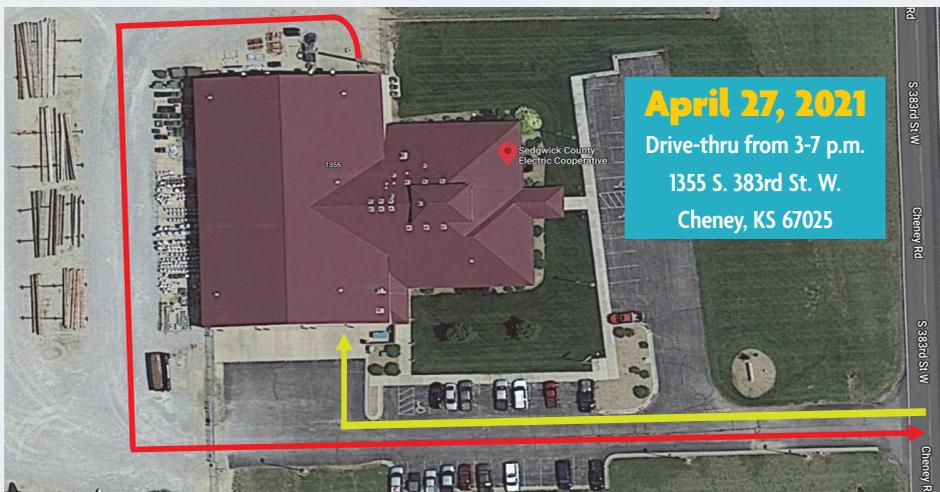
the bylaws, hereby call for combined 2020-2021 annual meetings of the members of the cooperative for the purpose of considering proposed changes to the cooperative bylaws, electing board members, passing on reports for the previous fiscal year, and

transacting such other business that may come before the meeting.

Notice is hereby given to members that the meeting of the members will be held via a drive-thru at the cooperative headquarters located at 1355 S. 383rd St. W., Cheney, KS 67025 on April 27, 2021, from 3-7 p.m.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation. If you have any questions regarding the meeting or the proposed bylaw changes, please contact Sedgwick County Electric Co-op General Manager/CEO, Scott Ayres at 316-542-3131.

Respectfully submitted,  
**CLINT DEVORE, PRESIDENT**  
**MARGIE CONYAC, SECRETARY-TREASURER**



Members will enter from 383rd Street W. and proceed to first bay to submit their registration card and receive a ballot. They will then continue through warehouse, drop off their ballot and pick up a registration gift. Members should then follow traffic cones through pole yard and exit back onto 383rd Street.

## Ensuring Reliability as Power Supply Tightens

You expect reliable and affordable electricity from your electric cooperative, so how does your co-op deliver on that promise? A complex network of electricity generators and tens of thousands of miles of electrical lines work together to ensure that enough electricity is available on the coldest winter morning and during the dog days of summer.

What happens when the demand for power overwhelms the ability to provide it? That's a particularly vexing question given the transition taking place in how electricity is produced and shared across this network.

The key to meeting energy needs is balancing electricity supply with demand. While that may sound simple, there is a complex web of facilities and organizations that work together to make it happen.

Regional transmission organizations coordinate, control and monitor the electric grid across several states in a region. For Kansas, that entity is the Southwest Power Pool (SPP). Think of them as energy traffic managers on an interstate highway system, regulating the number of cars — in this case, electricity — and their destination.

Even so, on some days there is an

imbalance in that system that leads to rolling power interruptions or blackouts — so-called “max-gen” events. In those cases, supply simply can't keep up. In the Midcontinent region comprised of 15 states, there were six max-gen events from 2006-2016. Since 2016, there have been 15.

Simply, that's because power plants that generate electricity are being closed faster than new generation can be created. In most cases, traditional large-scale power suppliers such as coal and nuclear plants are being closed and replaced by alternatives on a much smaller scale. And this gap is closing more quickly despite the development of new natural gas-fueled power plants.

As more electric utilities pursue zero or low-carbon initiatives by 2035 and beyond, this challenge will grow more complex. So, what's the answer?

Electric cooperatives and others in the energy sector will continue to develop renewable options and pursue new technologies. But absent new large-scale alternatives and advances in energy storage, the stalwarts of today's energy fleet — coal and nuclear energy facilities — must continue to operate in many regions.

## Winter Storm Uri Update *Continued from page 16B* ▶

cost adjustment (PCA) to their bill. This adjustment fluctuates based on the cost of fuel and purchased power; therefore, sometimes you may pay an additional charge and other times you may receive a credit. The price adjustments related to the extreme weather event will flow through the PCA mechanism. KEPCo determines this adjustment every month based on the actual cost of fuel and purchased power from its owned generation and other suppliers. To mitigate the price impacts to Sedgwick County Electric Co-op and its other members in the short term, KEPCo's board has established a cap on the PCA for the month of February, not to exceed \$0.033 per kilowatt-hour.

**NOTE** that our members will not see this cap until the April billing. At this time, there are too many unknown factors to determine exactly what the PCA amount will be and how many future months will be affected. More time is needed to determine the actual costs from this unprecedented weather event and we are planning to spread the costs over several months instead of billing all at once. We will continue to communicate with members on our website as we learn more.

If you need assistance with your bill from us, please call our office at 316-542-3131 (or toll-free 866-542-4732), 8 a.m. 5 p.m. (Monday-Friday). Thank you for your patience as we work through this extreme weather event.

## Thank a Lineworker on April 12



If you were asked to associate an image or a person with Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative you would probably picture a lineworker. One of the most visible employees of the co-op, lineworkers work tirelessly to ensure our community receives uninterrupted power 24/7.

“Lineworker” is listed as one of the top 10 most dangerous jobs in the U.S. This is understandable as they perform detailed tasks near high-voltage power lines. Regardless of the time of day, having to brave stormy weather and other challenging conditions, lineworkers must climb 40 feet in the air, often carrying heaving equipment to get the job done.

Being a lineworker is not a glamorous or easy profession. It takes years of specialized training, ongoing education, dedication, and equally important, a sense of service and commitment. This dedication and sense of service to the community is truly what sets them apart. That's why we set aside the second Monday in April to celebrate and recognize the men and women who work around the clock to keep the lights on.

While lineworkers may be the most visible employees at Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative, it's important to note that there is a team of highly skilled professionals working behind the scenes. Engineers provide ongoing expertise and guidance on the operations side of the co-op. Member service representatives are always standing by to take your calls and questions. Our information technology experts are continuously monitoring our system to help safeguard sensitive data. And these are just a few of the folks who work together to ensure we can deliver the service and reliability you expect and deserve. Without them, our lineworkers wouldn't be able to “bring the light” to our community.

Our dedicated and beloved lineworkers are proud to represent Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative, and they deserve all the appreciation and accolades that come their way.

On April 12, join us in thanking them for their exceptional service.

**APRIL 27, 2021 | 3-7 P.M.**

1355 S. 383RD ST. WEST, CHENEY, KS 67025



# DRIVE THRU

COMBINED 2020-2021

# ANNUAL MEETING

## SCHEDULE

2019 ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES APPROVAL | PROPOSED BYLAW CHANGES | 2020-2021 DIRECTOR ELECTIONS

**\$25 BILL CREDIT**  
ON MAY BILLS FOR MEMBERS WHO  
**ATTEND**  
**AND VOTE**

