



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

**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

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## FROM THE MANAGER

# Co-op Moves Forward with Electronic Staking/Mapping



**Scott Ayres**

Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative is implementing a geographical information system (GIS) to better serve our members. GIS is a digital mapping system that will provide detailed information regarding our electrical network. Among other benefits, GIS will help us restore your power more efficiently during outages.

To create our GIS system, we must do

a field inventory. This calls for physically visiting and recording information about every pole and meter on our network.

Starting in February, you may notice extra crews in our St. Marks Substation service area carrying hand-held computers, cameras, and GPS devices. They will be looking at utility poles, street lights, transformers and other Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative equipment in your neighborhood.

"They are here to conduct an inventory of our electrical system and record the location, condition, and

*Continued on page 16B ▶*

## Mark Your Calendars for Annual Meeting

The 2020 Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative annual meeting will be held **TUESDAY, APRIL 7** at The Cotillion Hall and Ballroom, 11120 W. Kellogg, in Wichita. Doors will open at 6:15 p.m. and dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m. We hope to see you there!

Board territories, map and descriptions located at [www.sedgwickcountyelectric.coop](http://www.sedgwickcountyelectric.coop). Territories and directors up for re-election are:

▶ Territory 1, North of 109th St. N. (Irish Creek Road) —

**CINDY FOSTER**

▶ Territory 2, South of 109th St. N., North of US 54, East of 167th St. W. — **ALAN SMARSH**

▶ Territory 3, East of 167th

St. W., South of US 54 —

**REX SMITH**

Member-owners

attending the annual

membership meeting

will receive updates regarding the following:

- ▶ Cooperative Updates
- ▶ Elections are held for Board Members
- ▶ Youth Tours and Scholarships are awarded.
- ▶ Employee Service Awards and Introductions.
- ▶ Door Prizes

April 2020						
S	M	T	W	U	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

## Moving Forward with Electronic Staking/Mapping

Continued from page 16A ►

photograph each piece of equipment using special GPS tools,” said Kyle Pipkin, line superintendent for Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative.

These tools are very similar to GPS units you may be familiar with, but they are much more accurate. The information will be stored in an electronic GIS map. Having this type of data will greatly improve our response to outages and improve service to our members in many other ways.

Accurate maps are an important part of the co-op’s toolkit. With these maps, Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative can plot power lines, locate problems more quickly, and plan for future growth.

Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative has grown rapidly through the years, and the maps that have been developed over the last 75 years are not always accurate. While Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative has been using geographic information maps, this project will allow the GIS maps to be corrected and have the same accuracy as GPS.

The ultimate goal of the project is to replace the co-op’s old, inaccurate database with a new, accurate database.

The folks you will be seeing are experts with RMA Engineering, an industry leader in this field. Their pickups and four-wheelers will be branded with Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative logo for identification.

As they move through our service area, we will provide updates to keep you informed of their work locations. Should you have any questions please contact us at 316-542-3131 or toll-free at 866-542-4732 or visit our website at [www.sedgwickcountyelectric.coop](http://www.sedgwickcountyelectric.coop).

## Nominating Committee Meets

Thursday, Feb. 13 at 5:30 p.m.

February 2020						
S	M	T	W	U	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	

The nominating committee of Sedgwick County Electric Co-op is scheduled to meet **THURSDAY, FEB. 13, AT 5:30 P.M.** to nominate members to be placed on the ballot. Voting will occur by the membership at the annual meeting on April 7, 2020.

## Pole Inspection & Treatment Underway

As in the case with most electric utilities, Sedgwick County Electric Co-op is dependent on the use of wooden poles. Even though the poles we use are initially treated to resist decay, over time all wooden poles will deteriorate and ultimately need to be replaced. The decay rate varies depending upon soil type, moisture levels, temperatures and the type of wood the pole is derived from.

The pole inspection and treatment program helps determine if a pole is still useful and safe, and prolong its life. Sedgwick County Electric Co-op currently contracts with S&L Pole Testing Company to perform our pole inspections and treatment. While a visual inspection is valuable and essential in evaluating the overall condition of the pole, any internal decay below the ground line would go undetected if not for our pole inspection and treatment program. Our inspection process involves a visual inspection and treatment of each pole in which we look for woodpecker holes, significant cracks, signs of termite and carpenter ant activity, or other defect with the pole that

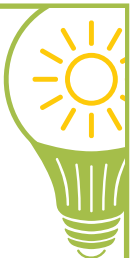
may result in pole failure and/or rejections. Inspectors then complete a sound and bore test of the pole, where they will expose the pole below the ground line, bore the pole at an angle in two different locations, determine the size of the decayed pocket below the ground line and sound the pole above the ground line with a hammer looking to see if the decayed pocket extends above the ground line. The majority of decay in a wood pole occurs in the first 18 inches below the ground line. Wood preservative is applied to the pole to treat against external rot. If the integrity and strength of a pole is compromised and considered dangerous, the pole is replaced immediately.

By continuing our pole inspection and treatment and pole replacement program, we have extended the useful life of our wooden poles, reduced maintenance costs and increased the reliability and safety of our electric system for all our members. S&L Pole Testing Company will be testing/treating poles from 29th Street north to 77th Street and 183rd west to 327th Street.

## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Are you using your fireplace efficiently? Remember to turn down the thermostat when burning a fire, and close the damper when a fire is not burning.

Source: [energy.gov](http://energy.gov)





## ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE YOUTH TOUR



WASHINGTON, D.C.

JUNE 18-25, 2020



FREE TRIP & \$500 SCHOLARSHIP  
APPLY BY **FEB. 14**  
SEND APPLICATIONS TO

## COOPERATIVE YOUTH LEADERSHIP CAMP



COLORADO

JULY 10-16, 2020



JMATCHETT@SEDGWICKCOUNTYELECTRIC.COOP | P.O. BOX 220, CHENEY KS 67025

# ATTENTION HIGH SCHOOL SOPHOMORES & JUNIORS DEADLINE IS FAST APPROACHING

## Help Us Locate Beneficiaries of Previous Co-op Members

Each year, our power supplier (KEPCo) gives us an allocation that we pass on to our members in the form of generation and transmission (G&T) capital credits. Each member has co-op and G&T (KEPCo) capital credits allocated to their account. Per our previous policy, G&T capital credits were not paid to our members or estates until a cash retirement was received by the cooperative from our G&T.

On May 19, 2014, the Board of Directors approved the following change to Policy 302 – Capital Credits:

“Capital credits (including G&T capital credits allocated but not paid) will be refunded to estates of deceased members or to the beneficiaries of member trusts which are terminated by the death of the trust

owner at such time as the total amount of the capital allocation has been determined and the beneficiary or beneficiaries furnish the necessary documents which establish the party or parties legally entitled to receive the refund.”

We have gone through the process of refunding the G&T capital credits to the beneficiaries of those deceased members who have already been refunded the co-op portion if we were able to locate them. There are, however, several we could not locate. If you are the beneficiary or have contact information for beneficiaries of any of the below listed deceased members please contact the office for final capital credit payout.

- ▶ Donald Allen
- ▶ Richard Arrowsmith
- ▶ Edward Baker
- ▶ Earl Boyle
- ▶ Kathy Brown
- ▶ Kenneth Callaway
- ▶ Christel M Cooke
- ▶ Robert Copeland
- ▶ G.W. Davidson
- ▶ Alta Davis
- ▶ Alta Donell
- ▶ Roseann Eck
- ▶ Math J & Ethel M Eck
- ▶ John Elmer
- ▶ Francis Eubanks
- ▶ Douglas Fruits
- ▶ Eunice Gilchrist
- ▶ Christenea Harbison
- ▶ Betsy Humphrey
- ▶ James Kehl
- ▶ Herman Keiter
- ▶ Joseph Kraus
- ▶ James F Laughlin
- ▶ Floyd E Legg
- ▶ Francis Linnebur
- ▶ Pauline Linnebur
- ▶ Nicklas D & Mary E Lipps
- ▶ Charles Maddux
- ▶ Arnold A Mies
- ▶ Leo & Sandra Moreland
- ▶ Virginia Neises
- ▶ Elmer C Nelson
- ▶ Lloyd Parks
- ▶ Cecil A Peitz
- ▶ Mary Proctor
- ▶ Jennie Quiring
- ▶ Larry Richardson
- ▶ Dorothy Ring
- ▶ Hans Schmidt
- ▶ Max Shannon
- ▶ Harry Shultz
- ▶ Marcus J Simon
- ▶ Raymond E & Wilma V Smith
- ▶ Delphine & Alfred Thimmesch
- ▶ Lawrence Williams

## New Faces at Our Cooperative

**SCOTT LEIS**

joined the staff of Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative on Oct. 28, 2019, as the equipment operator/groundsman.



Scott Lies

Scott and his wife, Jody, are current cooperative members from Garden Plain. Scott and Jody have one daughter, Mallary. In Scott's spare time he enjoys camping with his family and friends and off-road sports.

**CHRIS FAIR**

accepted the journeyman lineman position on Nov. 4. Chris is originally from Wellington.



Chris Fair

Chris studied electrical power technology at Pratt Community College. After college Chris worked for ElectriComm, Inc. who helped build our Kingman Substation. Chris enjoys hunting and helping local farmers in his spare time.

## Requirements for Energy Efficiency Programs

Sedgwick County Electric Co-op offers energy efficiency rebates for water heaters and electric heat systems. To qualify for a rebate the unit(s) must be installed on the cooperative's line. Rebates and requirements are updated when Energy Star ratings change. The efficiency requirements and rebate amounts are listed below. If you have questions concerning this program please call the office at 316-542-3131 or 866-542-4732.

### Water Heaters

- ▶ Less than 60 gallons, must have a minimum Energy Factor (EF) of .93.
- ▶ 60 gallons or greater, must have a minimum EF of .91

**Rebate amounts:**

- ▶ \$100 for a non-lifetime water heater
- ▶ \$150 for a lifetime water heater

### Air Source Heat Pumps

- ▶ Must have the current Energy Star (SEER) and (HSPF) Rating.
- ▶ Rebate amounts increase on a graduated scale as the SEER and HSPF rating increase above the minimum Energy Star requirements.

**Rebate amounts:**

- ▶ \$50 per half-ton for a 14.5 SEER (minimum)\*
- ▶ \$75 per half-ton for a 16 SEER\*
- ▶ \$100 per half-ton for 17 SEER and above (*Heating contractor receives the first \$200 of the total rebate.*)

### Ground Source Heat Pumps

- ▶ Minimum unit size of 2 tons..
- ▶ Must have the minimum requirements set forth by Energy Star.
- ▶ Open loop – Must have a minimum Coefficient of Performance (COP) of 3.6 and a minimum Energy Efficiency Rating (EER) of 16.2.
- ▶ Closed loop – Must have a minimum COP of 3.3 and a minimum EER of 14.1.

**Rebate amount:**

- ▶ \$125 per one-half ton (*Heating contractor receives the first \$200 of the total rebate.*)

You Have a Voice at YOUR

**CO-OP**

— attend annual meeting to use it.



CONNECT  
ENGAGE  
ELECT



Brought to you by the electric cooperatives of Kansas.