



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

Fax: 316-542-3943

FROM THE MANAGER

Our Pledge to Promote Culture of Inclusion

Over the years, you have heard me expound on why and how Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative is different — because we are a cooperative. Our business model sets us apart from other utilities because we adhere to seven guiding cooperative principles that reflect core values of honesty, transparency, equity, inclusiveness, and service to the greater good of the community.

Electric cooperatives, including Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative, have a unique and storied place in our country's history. We democratized the American dream by bringing electricity to rural areas when for-profit electric companies determined the effort too costly. Back then, cities were electrified, and rural areas were not, creating the original rural-urban divide. Newly established electric lines helped power economic opportunity in rural areas. Today, that spirit of equity and inclusion is a vital part of our co-op DNA.

Equal Access for All

When our electric co-op was founded, each member contributed an equal share to gain access to electricity that benefited individual families as well as the larger local community. Each member had an equal vote in co-op matters. That sense of equity and inclusion is still how we operate today. Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative was built by and belongs to the diverse commu-

nities and consumer-members we serve. Membership is open to everyone in our service territory, regardless of race, religion, age, disability, gender identity, language, political perspective, or socioeconomic status.

By virtue of paying your electric bill each month, you are a member-owner of the co-op, and every member has an equal voice and vote when it comes to co-op governance. This ties back to our guiding principles of equitable economic participation and democratic control of the co-op.

We encourage all members to vote in Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative's director elections every year, and we invite all members to participate in co-op meetings to weigh in on discussions that set co-op policies and priorities.

We know members of our community have different needs and perspectives, and we welcome diverse views on all issues under consideration by the co-op. The more viewpoints we hear, the better we are able to reflect the needs of all corners of our community.

Inclusion

While our top priority is providing safe, reliable, and affordable energy, we also want to be a catalyst for good in our

Continued on page 16C ►



Scott Ayres

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

April 27, 2021

Drive-thru from 3-7 p.m.

1355 S. 383rd St. W.

Cheney, KS 67025

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, PRESENT AND MARGIE
CONYAC, SECRETARY-TREASURER**

Nominating Committee Meets

The Nominating Committee of Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative is scheduled to **MEET THURSDAY, FEB. 25, AT 5:30P.M.**

to nominate member-owners who would like to be placed on the ballot. Voting will occur by the membership at a drive-thru annual meeting on April 27, 2021.

Please Move Over for Roadside Crews

It's polite, and it's the law.

Every year, workers along the sides of roads are injured or killed when a car crashes into the crew's site, even though it is marked with bright cones and warning signs.

There is an easy way to reduce those incidents that harm police officers and other first responders, road construction workers and utility crews. There is a slogan to help remind drivers. There is even a law.

The slogan is "slow down or move over." It's good advice and a decent thing to do to keep people safe. It's also a requirement in all 50 states.

Legislatures first started passing Move Over laws about 25 years ago to reduce the year-after-year statistics of harm to roadside emergency workers. In the past five years, states have started to specifically add electric and other utility projects to their Move Over or Slow Down laws.

It's an addition that's welcomed by your local electric cooperative because we were part of the effort to expand the law to help protect line crews.

Protecting line crews is a top priority for Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative, and it's a safety measure everyone can help with, says Line Superintendent Kyle Pipkin.

"Move Over is not only a good law, but it's also the courteous thing to do," says Pipkin. "Our crews already perform dangerous work to keep the lights on every day. They deserve a work environment that's as safe as possible."

There are slight differences in each state's Move Over laws, but not so much that you cannot figure out the right thing to do, even if you are traveling from state to state. Here are the basic requirements:

- ▶ Within 200 feet before and after a work zone, which will be marked with bright signs and marker cones, and often flashing lights, change lanes if there is more than one lane on your side of the road so there is an empty lane between your vehicle and the roadside crew.
- ▶ If it's not possible or safe to change lanes, slow down. Many states specify slowing down to 20 mph below the posted speed

limit if it's 25 mph or more. Yes, that means if the posted speed limit is 25 mph, slow down to 5 mph.

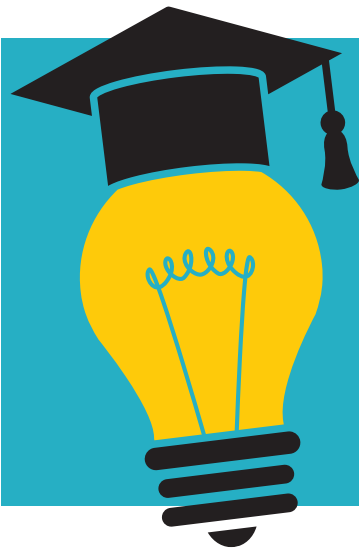
- ▶ Drivers must obey all traffic directions posted as part of the worksite.
- ▶ Keep control of your car — yes, that's a requirement in many Move Over laws. And yes, it is more of a general guidance than a rule for a specific speed. It means you need to pay attention and respond to weather conditions — heavy rain or a slick road might mean you're required to slow down even more than 20 mph. And no texting, fiddling with the radio or other distractions.
- ▶ Penalties for violating those requirements range from \$100 to \$2,000 or loss of your driver's license.

The AAA Digest of Motor Laws says that Kansas state law requires drivers approaching a stationary emergency vehicle displaying flashing lights, including towing and recovery vehicles, traveling in the same direction, to vacate the lane closest if safe and possible to do so, or slow to a speed safe for road, weather, and traffic conditions. The law also applies to waste collection vehicles.

Electric utility crews are special cases to watch out for. A study of utility worksite accidents found that the relatively temporary nature of power line repairs could surprise motorists. A roadside construction operation might close a lane for days or weeks, giving time for people familiar with the area to anticipate the changed traffic pattern. Utility work, however, can start and finish in a few hours, possibly raising risks with drivers who might think they know the road ahead.

Another risk to watch for is when worksites are being put up or taken down. Roadside accidents can happen as crews are setting up signs and traffic cones.

Don't drive distracted. Drive according to the conditions of the road. Be courteous to roadside work crews. Watch the signs and obey them. And certainly, follow laws like Move Over or Slow Down. It's good advice that could save a life.



SEDGWICK COUNTY ELECTRIC OFFERS TWO \$1,500 SCHOLARSHIPS IN LIEU OF 2021 YOUTH TRIPS

REMINDER – DEADLINE IS FAST APPROACHING

Attention High School Sophomores and Juniors
Visit our website, www.sedgwickcountyelectric.coop or contact jmatchett@sedgwickcountyelectric.coop for more information. Don't wait; deadline is **FEB. 5, 2021.**

Pole Inspection & Treatment Underway

As in the case with most electric utilities, Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative 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 defects 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 are 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 in the Andale area and west of the Valley Center/Ridge Road area.

Our Pledge to Promote Culture of Inclusion

Continued from page 16A ▶

community. Because we are your local electric cooperative, co-op revenues stay right here in our community. In turn, we invest in our diverse community base through scholarship programs, charitable giving, educational programs, and more. We strive to make long-term decisions that improve and enrich the communities we serve.

While today's world is radically different than it was when Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative was founded, our cooperative values have stood the test of time and remain just as relevant today. We recognize that today's co-op members expect more, and my pledge to you — the members we proudly serve — is to promote a cooperative culture of inclusion, diversity, and equity for all.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY Tip of the Month

Use wool or rubber dryer balls in the clothes dryer to reduce drying time and static. Wool dryer balls can also absorb extra moisture. These are an efficient alternative to dryer sheets, which can create buildup on the dryer's filter and reduce air circulation. If you prefer dryer sheets, scrub the filter once a month to remove buildup. **SOURCE:**

ENERGY.GOV



Help us Locate the Following Members

The names listed below have capital credit 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.

Adams, Frederick W
 Agoitia, Patricia & Eric G
 Alexander, James M & Sharon L
 Beaucham, Patsy
 Bell, Joshua H
 Biddle, Tonya
 Boone, Chris
 Bradford, Linda S
 Braun, Stanton
 Brenden, Penny
 C-S Industries
 Case, Barbara J
 Castle Realty & Investment
 Caviness, Gary
 Church, Nathan
 Clausen, Dennis O
 Cotton, Christopher J
 Crabil, Virgil R
 Dalton, Matthew & Kathleen
 De Geer, Richard
 Dejmal, Lee
 Dickerson, R L
 Doshier, Daryl & Tammy
 Dulany, Michael & Delori
 Ferris, Kimberly A
 Fields, Jim
 First Preston Management
 Gannaway, Amanda M
 GCI Construction & Roofing
 Gill, Michael & Maxine
 Glenn, Brian L & Misty D
 Harrelson, Glen M & Mary G
 Haskins, Terry & Nancy
 Henderson, Gene D
 Herrera, Palbo
 Hilgenberg, Kathryn
 Hill, Angel L
 Hobbie, Lisa A
 Inkelaar, Dianne
 Jacob, Wayne
 Jacobs, Gary D
 Jansen, Dolores E
 Johnson, Frederic D
 Kohler, Clifford E & Elaine M

Lehr, Melissa R
 Lien, Dwight H
 Lindamood, Dean J
 Marshall, Bryan K & Julie
 Martin, Dale J & Deborah A
 McCune, Crystal
 Meek, Bill & Judith
 Meyer, Gladys M
 Minto, Michael C & Dana J
 Modenta Jr, Bob J
 Moore, Randy A
 Morrison, Joshua N
 Myrick, C W
 Odle, Clinton R
 Ott, Patricia
 Pickett, Nathan
 Realty Executives/Wichita
 Reed Jr, Wiley R & Katie
 Reichenberger, Phil E
 Reinert, Kevin L
 Rocha-Velo, Maria
 Sanchez, Brenda
 Schaffer, Steve & Renee B
 Scott, Marion
 Scott, Nathan
 Shepherd, Chris
 Shocklie, David & Bonnie
 Simons, Priscilla
 Smith, Michelle D
 Smith, Raymond A
 Steven, Rod
 Stieben, Trevor & Sara J
 Taylor, Wade & Jennifer
 Tibbitts, Vicki L
 Tital Construction LLC
 Tschetter, Carolyn
 Vague, Margaret
 Vogel, Kurt M & Hope E
 Waterman, Mary
 Wellborn, Patricia A
 Wells, Mike
 Welsby, John
 West Jr, Kenneth L & Dana J
 Yaussi, Rick & Paula

Just in Case: Be Prepared for an Outage

Thankfully, lengthy electrical outages do not happen on a regular basis. That does not mean you should not prepare for them, however.

Safe Electricity and Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative Suggest You:

- ▶ Have a storm kit ready that includes flashlights, bottled water, non-perishable food, battery-operated radio, batteries, portable cell phone chargers that are fully charged, hand sanitizer and first-aid supplies.
- ▶ Have alternate plans for refrigerating or accessing medicines and using power-dependent medical devices.
- ▶ Find out where your local storm shelters are and have a plan for getting there if needed and it is safe to do so.

During a Power Outage:

- ▶ Call us at 316-542-3131 to report the power outage.
- ▶ Keep freezers and refrigerators closed to preserve food.
- ▶ Only use generators outdoors and away from windows and doors; do not use them in a garage.
- ▶ Do not use a gas stove to heat your home.
- ▶ Disconnect appliances and electronics to avoid damage from electrical surges.
- ▶ If safe, go to an alternate location for heat or cooling. If weather conditions allow, check on neighbors. This is especially important since cell phone and internet communications may be disrupted and they may be unable to call for help.