

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 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

### Capital Credit Questions and Answers

Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative's purpose is to provide safe, reliable and affordable electric service to our member-owners.

#### What are capital credits?

Sedgwick County Electric Co-op is a not-for-profit cooperative. All operating margins are allocated back to our member-owners as capital credits. Each year, the board of directors evaluates the financial conditions, operating expenses and revenue of the cooperative and determines if any capital credits can be retired and the amount of the retirements. This year, the board of directors approved just over \$380,790 for the 2021 general retirement. The 2021 retirement consists of the remaining 2003 patronage.

#### How are margins allocated?

Margins are allocated to member-owners as capital credits based on how much

electricity you used and how much you paid for it throughout the year.

#### Do I lose my capital credits in the years Sedgwick County Electric Co-op does not retire capital credits?

No. For every year a member-owner receives electric utilities from the co-op an allocation is made to their account and is retained until the board of directors approves retirement.

#### Do I have to report capital credits on my tax returns?

Capital credits are money returned for the purchase of electricity in a previous year. Member-owners should discuss capital credit taxable retirements with their tax advisors.

#### What if I have moved?

If you have moved or no longer have electric service with Sedgwick County Electric Co-op, it is important that you inform the cooperative of your current address, so any future retirements can be properly mailed to you. If you purchased electricity during the years being retired, then you are entitled to a capital credit retirement, even if you have moved out of the Sedgwick County Electric Co-op service area.



Scott Ayres



**REMEMBER TO TURN YOUR CLOCKS AHEAD  
ONE HOUR ON SUNDAY, MARCH 14.**

## 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.

**April 27, 2021**

Drive-thru from 3-7 p.m.

1355 S. 383rd St. W.

Cheney, KS 67025

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**

## Proper Tree Pruning Around Power Lines

Trees provide curb appeal, shade and a space for kids to play in the yard. However, when trees grow and interfere with power lines, they become safety hazards and are among the most common causes for utility outages.

With millions of miles of electric lines that give power to homes and businesses throughout the U.S., there are numerous trees growing near or into lines that require trimming and management. Usually, it's because a tall-growing tree was planted directly under or too close to the line. It might have grown taller than the person who planted it expected. Whatever the reason, it is crucial trees stay a safe distance from the lines and are properly pruned to preserve tree health.

Remember that only trained professionals should trim trees near power lines. Trees growing in utility right-of-ways are maintained by the electric utility, while trees growing into power lines on private property are usually the responsibility of the owner. If you need to hire someone to prune trees on your property, be aware that most tree care workers are not qualified to work around energized power lines. According to the Utility Arborist Association (UAA), utility line clearance professionals who meet Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) qualifications are the only ones legally permitted to work within 10 feet of lines or work on a tree that has branches that are within 10 feet of a power line.

Trees are cut at the growth points for tree health, and in many cases it's impossible to maintain the tree's original shape.



Having trees near power lines trimmed professionally prevents limbs from falling on power lines. Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative contracts with Ashley/Ingram & Sons to clear cooperatives right-of-way clearances.

Some trees require directional pruning to keep them from growing back into lines. Trees directly underneath power lines may be pruned in a "V" or "U" shape with lines passing through the opening in the middle, or trees growing alongside a power line may be pruned in an "L" shape or one side may need to be completely removed. While the shape of a tree may change, trees can be pruned to maintain the health and safety of the tree while also increasing the safety and reliability related to the power lines.

Often pruning a tree solves the safety and reliability concern, but in some cases the tree must be removed. Those include tall or fast growing species that are directly under power lines, large previously topped trees under the power lines, saplings with potential to grow in or around the lines, and hazardous trees that may be leaning, in decline or split.

Property owners may choose to replace a problem tree with a new one. There are many varieties of shorter-growing trees that provide beauty, shade and screening, and will never grow to interfere with power lines. Your local tree nursery can help with selection of trees and shrubs appropriate for landscaping around power lines and electrical equipment.

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

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



The Sedgwick County Electric  
Cooperative Association, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

# 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**



SEDGWICK COUNTY  
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

## Thies Receives Director Gold Certificate



Stan Thies

Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative board of directors

**STAN THIES** received his Director Gold certification.

To maintain their Director Gold Certificate,

directors must earn three credits from the approved list of continuing education programs within a two-year period. A maximum of one credit can be earned by attending a conference or non-National Rural Electric Cooperative Association program with the remaining two credits earned by taking NRECA's BLC courses.

Director certificate programs are specifically designed to help electric cooperative directors, at every stage of their service, understand their roles and responsibilities, stay up-to-date on key issues and trends in the industry and prepare them to meet the challenges facing electric cooperatives now and in the future. NRECA offers director education courses throughout the year in conjunction with a variety of NRECA educational conferences and events across the country, in partnership with statewide associations and onsite at individual cooperatives.

Help us congratulate Stan on this achievement and his continued service.

## Three Electrifying Kitchen Appliances to Save Time and Energy

Whether your oven and stove top are powered by gas or electricity, it's no secret that they consume more energy than smaller countertop appliances, like slow cookers and toaster ovens. In addition to efficiency, smaller kitchen appliances can provide faster cooking times and less hassle with cleanup.

If you're looking for convenient cooking methods with the added bonus of energy efficiency, here are three electrifying appliances for your kitchen:

► **AIR FRYERS** are becoming increasingly popular, and consumers have a lot of good things to say about these handy little appliances. Air fryers use convection to circulate hot air and cook the food — this means little to no oil is required, resulting in healthier meals than those from traditional fryers. Air fryers are fairly small, so they won't take up much of your counter space, and with everything cooked in the fryer, cleanup will be a breeze. Air fryers are available in a variety of sizes, and prices range from \$40 to \$200-plus.

► **ELECTRIC GRIDDLES** have certainly been around for a while, and they offer several benefits for any home chef (beyond bacon and eggs!).

Griddles are convenient because you can cook everything at once — like a “one-pan” meal, and the possibilities are endless. From fajitas to sandwiches to French toast, griddles can help satisfy any taste buds. They consume small amounts of energy and provide quick cooking times, so your energy bill will thank you. Prices and sizes for griddles vary, but you can typically find one for about \$30 at your local retail stores.

► Pizza brings people together, so why not consider a **PIZZA MAKER** for your kitchen? These compact, countertop machines are an inexpensive alternative to a costly brick oven, and they use less energy than your traditional oven. Choose your own fresh ingredients to whip up a faster, healthier pizza at home. Plus, most pizza makers are multifunctional and can be used to cook flatbreads, frittatas, quesadillas and more. You can purchase a pizza maker for about \$30 to \$150 online or at your local retailer. These are just a few electrifying appliance options for your kitchen. Remember, when you're cooking a smaller meal, countertop appliances can save time and energy.



☘ **Happy St. Patrick's Day** ☘



## ENERGY EFFICIENCY Tip of the Month

Don't keep your refrigerator too cold. The Department of Energy recommends a temperature setting of 35 to 38 degrees for the fresh food compartment and zero degrees for the freezer. Make sure the refrigerator doors are sealed airtight to maximize efficiency. **SOURCE: ENERGY.GOV**

