



Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative

**SEDGWICK COUNTY
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE**

currentnews

Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative

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Donald Metzen

Director

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Alan J. Smarsh

Director

Rex Smith

Director

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Staff

Scott Ayres

General Manager/CEO

Marcia Kampling

Office Manager

Kyle Pipkin

Line Superintendent

Contact Information

Headquarters

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Cheney, KS 67025

316-542-3131

Fax: 316-542-3943

FROM THE MANAGER

Your Co-op is a Catalyst for Good



Scott Ayres

Over the years, you have probably heard or read about Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative's concern for our community. This is one of the core principles

that sets cooperatives apart from other types of utilities and businesses. We have always taken this mission and responsibility to heart because it is who we are as a co-op.

Over the past few months, like so many of you, we have risen to meet new challenges and strengthen the safety net for our community, particularly for those who are most vulnerable. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, we have made numerous adjustments to programs and operations to maintain business continuity while staying focused on the bigger mission, helping our member-owners during this turbulent time.

Now, with the holidays fast approaching, these recent events have made me pause and think about the role we play in our community. While our purpose is to provide safe and reliable energy to you, the members we serve, we have a greater mission — to be a catalyst for good.

You're probably aware of our youth programs, including the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour where we take our community's brightest young people to Washington, D.C., for a weeklong immersion to experience democracy in action and Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp where youth learn about the cooperative business model and build leadership skills.

We also have a strong commitment to safety — not just for our employees, but for our community as well. We visit schools as we are able to teach children of all ages how to stay safe around electricity. We can provide safety demonstrations at community meetings and other gatherings. Although we have not been able to do many demonstrations this year due to the pandemic, we are hoping to continue this education as it is safe to do so. We have also invested in the economic development of the community through an active role in the local Chamber of Commerce.

You will also see our employees serving on local boards, coaching youth sports, volunteering at charitable events and educating youth through 4-H fair exhibits. Because when you work at a co-op, you understand how important a strong community is — after all, without our member-owners, the co-op would not exist.

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Board of Trustees Nomination Process

BYLAWS SECTION 4.04 — The Board shall appoint a nominations committee, not less than sixty (60) days nor more than one hundred eighty (180) days before the date of a meeting of the members at which Directors are to be elected. The Nominating Committee shall consist of not less than five nor more than thirteen members who shall be selected from different sections so as to ensure equitable representation. No member of the Board of Directors may serve on such committee.

The Nominating Committee, keeping in mind the principle of geographical representation, shall validate the qualifications of candidates nominated and shall prepare and post a list of nominations for Directors at the office of the Cooperative at least forty five (45) days before the meeting. Candidates may also be nominated by a petition signed by at least fifteen (15) members for Director Elections. The Secretary shall mail a statement to each member of the number of Directors to be elected, and the names and addresses of the candidates nominated at least ten days before the date of the meeting.

If the Directors determine that the election of Directors shall be by mail, only those nominees nominated by the nominating committee or by petition received at least sixty (60) days before the meeting, shall be on the ballot and there shall be no nominations from the floor. Minor or immaterial deviations from strict compliance with the provisions of this section shall not affect the validity of any elections of Directors. The bylaws can be found in its entirety on our website.

Cold Weather Rule in Effect Nov. 30 to March 1

Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative members who are unable to pay their electric service bill during the cold weather period, Nov. 30 to March 1 annually, may qualify for the Cold Weather Rule program, provided they fulfill the following good-faith requirements below:

- ▶ **MEMBERS MUST INFORM** the cooperative of their inability to pay their service bills in full.
- ▶ **MEMBERS MUST APPLY** to federal, state, local or other financial assistance programs for which they may be eligible to receive aid in paying utility bills.
- ▶ **MEMBERS MUST MAKE** an initial minimum payment equal to one-eighth of the total amount due the cooperative which includes any arrearage. Example: If a member owed an arrearage of \$240 and a current bill of \$80, they would owe the cooperative a total of \$320. The initial payment under the cold weather rule would be equal to \$40 ($\$320 \div 8 = \40 a month) in addition to your current monthly charges.
- ▶ **MEMBERS ARE REQUIRED TO ENTER A PAYMENT PLAN** agreement for past, current and future charges for electric service, with arrears paid in equal installments over the next seven

months. A member and the cooperative may negotiate other payment arrangements mutually agreeable, individualized to the member's situation, providing the most appropriate terms, after the member has been informed that he or she has at least seven months in which to pay under the Cold Weather Rule.

- ▶ **MEMBERS ARE REQUIRED** to provide sufficient financial information to enable the cooperative to determine an appropriate payment agreement. Please note, members may be ineligible for the benefits under the Cold Weather Rule if they fail to follow the mentioned requirements: illegally divert utility service, receive service by tampering or defaulting on a payment agreement.

During the cold weather period, Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative will inform members of agencies or organizations that may provide financial assistance in paying utility bills.

In no event will Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative disconnect service if the temperature is forecast to fall below 32 degrees F within 48 hours following the time of disconnection.

The Cold Weather Rule is to ensure that human health and safety are not unreasonably endangered during the cold weather months.

Your Co-op is a Catalyst for Good

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We know that our core job is to keep the lights on; but our passion is our community. Because we live and work here too, and we want to make it a better place for all.

If there's anything we can do to help you, whether providing energy-saving advice to help lower your monthly bill or discuss payment plan options during these difficult times, please reach out to us.

Concern for community is the heart and soul of who we are. And no matter what the future brings, you can count on your electric co-op to care about you.

Offices Closed for Thanksgiving

Our offices will be closed Thursday, Nov. 26, and Friday, Nov. 27, in observance of the holiday. From our co-op family to yours, Happy Thanksgiving!





**ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE
YOUTH
TOUR**



WASHINGTON, D.C.

JUNE 14-21, 2021



**COOPERATIVE YOUTH
LEADERSHIP
CAMP**



COLORADO

JULY 16-22, 2021



**FREE TRIP & \$500 SCHOLARSHIP
APPLY BY FEB. 5
SEND APPLICATIONS TO**

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

ATTENTION HIGH SCHOOL SOPHOMORES & JUNIORS

Please submit the application below to Sedgwick County Electric Co-op, P.O. Box 220, Cheney, KS 67025 or scan and email to jmatchett@sedgwickcountyelectric.coop by **FEB. 5, 2021**. Please complete both sections on page 16C and 16D.

Name of Applicant: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State/Zip: _____

2020-2021 Grade: _____ School: _____

Gender: M or F Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Student's Email: _____

I AGREE THAT ALL INFORMATION SUPPLIED IN THIS APPLICATION IS ACCURATE AND TRUE.

Applicant Signature: _____

I HEREBY GRANT PERMISSION TO THE ABOVE APPLICANT TO COMPETE IN THE YOUTH TOUR COMPETITION.

Parents Name: _____

Signature of Parent or Guardian: _____

List activities you have participated in at your school and any special honors you have received, such as class officer, plays, music, activities, etc.

Activities	Years	Remarks & Honors

Continued on page 16D ▶

Continued from page 16C ▶

List extra-curricular activities you have participated in, such as FFA, 4-H, church, community, etc.

Activities

Years

Remarks & Honors

Activities	Years	Remarks & Honors

List any hobbies, talents, special interests, etc. _____

What are your future plans? _____

Anything else you'd like to tell us about yourself? _____

If you had the opportunity to change one thing about your school or community, what would it be and why? How would you go about making the change?
