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Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative

SEDGWICK COUNTY
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

currentnews

Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative

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FROM THE MANAGER

Make Your Voice Heard



Scott Ayres

There's an old political saying, "if you're not at the table, you're on the menu."

This adage is the perfect answer to the question, "why vote?" It's a blunt descrip-

tion of what happens when you don't engage in the political process.

If you don't vote, you're not only missing the opportunity to support a candidate that shares your views and concerns, you're allowing others to chart a course that impacts your future. That's why we're encouraging all Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative members to recognize National Voter Registration Day on Sept. 22, 2020. Whether you're registering yourself or others to vote or helping members of

our community get organized, there are many ways to get involved.

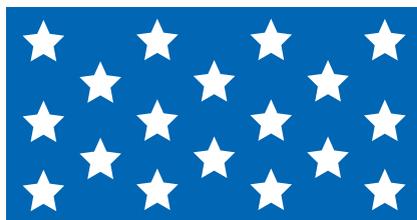
Your Vision, Your Vote

While local elections may not be as exciting as the high-profile presidential election, they are just as critical. Local elections have a direct impact on your community and on your quality of life.

Like the national level, local elections represent who we are as a community, and more importantly, where we want to go. Whether it's an election for a mayor, sheriff, state representative, school board, or an electric co-op board member, your vision for the community is tied to your vote.

Voting keeps elected officials accountable. Elections are a direct and tangible source of feedback. For example, Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative Board of Directors provides

Continued on page 16B ▶



**NATIONAL
VOTER
REGISTRATION
DAY**

SEPT. 22, 2020

Make Your Voice Heard

Continued from page 16A ▶

strategic guidance on the direction of the co-op and how it serves the community. Local board members embody the voice and identity of the community.

Staying in Sync with the Community

Ultimately, the role of the co-op board is governance. While day-to-day decisions are made by our employees, bigger decisions are made by the board, whose mission is to look out for the vitality of the co-op and the members we serve. Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative Board of Directors provide their perspective on community priorities, thereby enabling us to make more informed decisions on long-term investments.

However, boards are not perfect, and we need you, the members of the co-op, to help keep the system in check. We depend on you and your neighbors to vote so that we can stay on course and ensure we are in sync with the community we serve.

A strong voter turnout shows investment in the community and ensures diverse views are represented. The whole community benefits when more people participate in the process because greater numbers reflect a consensus on the direction of the future and the will of the people.

By voting in national, state and local elections, you are serving as a role model for your family, friends, and colleagues. The act of voting demonstrates your support for the community and helps officials chart a course for the future. Democracy is not a spectator sport. Research candidates, learn about issues on the ballot, and get out and vote!

To learn more about National Voter Registration Day or to get involved, visit www.nationalvoterregistrationday.org.

Control Your Controlled Burn

Don't let your controlled burn get away from you

It's called a controlled burn for a reason. If you don't plan your controlled burn in advance and keep it under check, it can quickly spread putting life in danger and utility and other equipment at risk.

If you are considering implementing a controlled burn (also known as a prescribed fire) to address vegetation or weed management, be sure to follow several precautions to stay safe:

- ▶ Don't start one without advance planning.
 - ▶ Certain groups should be notified: check with your town office, notify your local fire department, and let your neighbors know your plans.
 - ▶ Obtain all necessary permits.
 - ▶ Check the forecast for weather conditions, such as wind direction and speed and humidity. As a general rule, relative humidity should be 40% or higher.
 - ▶ If there are power poles in the planned burning area, clear all vegetation and weeds at least 4 feet around the base of the pole.
 - ▶ Wet the base of the pole with water before beginning your burn.
- Even with the best-laid plans, a utility pole could catch on fire during a



Before burning, check the property for electrical equipment and power poles to avoid damage and potential outages.

burn; however, planning in advance can decrease the chances. Fire damage to a power pole is usually evident by blackening and scorch marks, but even slight discoloration can cause serious problems. Sometimes the poles burn from the inside out, and the damage is not immediately apparent.

Take the time to plan ahead or your controlled burn could get expensive. The person who causes damage to a utility pole is responsible for the fees associated with replacing it.

There are many other safety considerations; check with local authorities and fully research all aspects of a controlled burn before setting fire to your land.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Clothes dryers make up a large portion of your appliance energy consumption. Clean the lint filter after each cycle and scrub the filter with a toothbrush once a month to remove film and increase air circulation. **Source: energy.gov**



Co-op Refunds Capital Credits to Members

Sedgwick to retire \$42,253 in capital credits to October 1996 members

Sedgwick County Electric Co-op is a member of Kansas Electric Power Cooperative (KEPCo) and receives capital credit allocations just like you are a member-owner of Sedgwick County Electric Co-op and receive capital credit allocations.

There are two different types of capital credits. Margins allocated to member-owners from the cooperative and margins allocated from KEPCo, the generation & transmission (G&T) cooperative, our power supplier. Per cooperative policy 302, G&T



capital credits will not be retired until retired to the cooperative. This means that the cooperative must receive retirement from KEPCo before the G&T capital credits allocated to member-owner accounts can be retired.

KEPCo processed a \$42,253 retirement for the year 1996 for Sedgwick County Electric Co-op. Members from 1996 will receive a credit on their October billing if they still hold an active account or a check if they no longer hold an active account.

Taking Care During COVID-19

In the early days of the coronavirus outbreak, it was clear that the pandemic would change our perception of normal. As concepts such as “social distancing” first circulated among health officials, electric cooperatives looked ahead to identify and confront the possible impacts of COVID-19.

Co-ops responded to local concerns and circumstances and worked to present a unified front to our political leaders in Washington. We urged them to address the specific needs of our community and their cooperative. Working alongside the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), electric co-ops’ national trade association, we informed policymakers about the challenges faced on the ground in Kansas.

One of the first things we looked at was the projected economic impact of COVID-19 on our co-op and consumer-members. NRECA has projected that lost electricity load and unpaid bills will total a staggering \$10 billion through 2022.

In response, electric cooperatives have worked to help their local communities by working with co-op members on extended payment plans, accelerating capital credit programs, and expanding broadband access. But the federal government has a role to play, as well.

Among the policy responses sought by co-ops is the ability to refinance loans from the Rural Utilities Service (RUS). Electric cooperatives deliver essential services in the most rural, and impoverished parts of the country. Many of them meet that challenge, in part, with low-cost financing from the RUS.

However, the RUS does not permit borrowers to adjust existing loans simply to take advantage of lower rates, and penalties are significant in the narrow circumstances that allow for refinancing.

NRECA and its members are pressing for legislation that would allow electric co-ops to adjust RUS debt to current market rates, providing greater cash-flow flexibility to meet the needs of rural consumers in these challenging economic times and allowing co-ops to be part of the long-term recovery.

Electric co-ops could realize \$10.1 billion in net present value savings from the repricing of \$42 billion in RUS loans.

One of the Seven Cooperative Principles — concern for community — is looming large right now in the minds of America’s electric co-ops. I

t has governed our response to the pandemic from the beginning and will continue serving as our primary focus as we seek additional ways to help our co-op members.

Hansen Promoted

MARK

HANSEN

began his career with Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative during the summer of 2005 working in the cooperative’s summer internship program. This allowed Hansen to gain knowledge of the cooperative’s policies and procedures.

In June 2008, he was hired full-time as a customer relations representative handling meter reading and collections before moving to equipment/groundsman in 2009. Hansen continued to gain cooperative experience working his way up from apprentice lineman to journeyman lineman before his recent promotion to line foreman effective July 1, 2020.

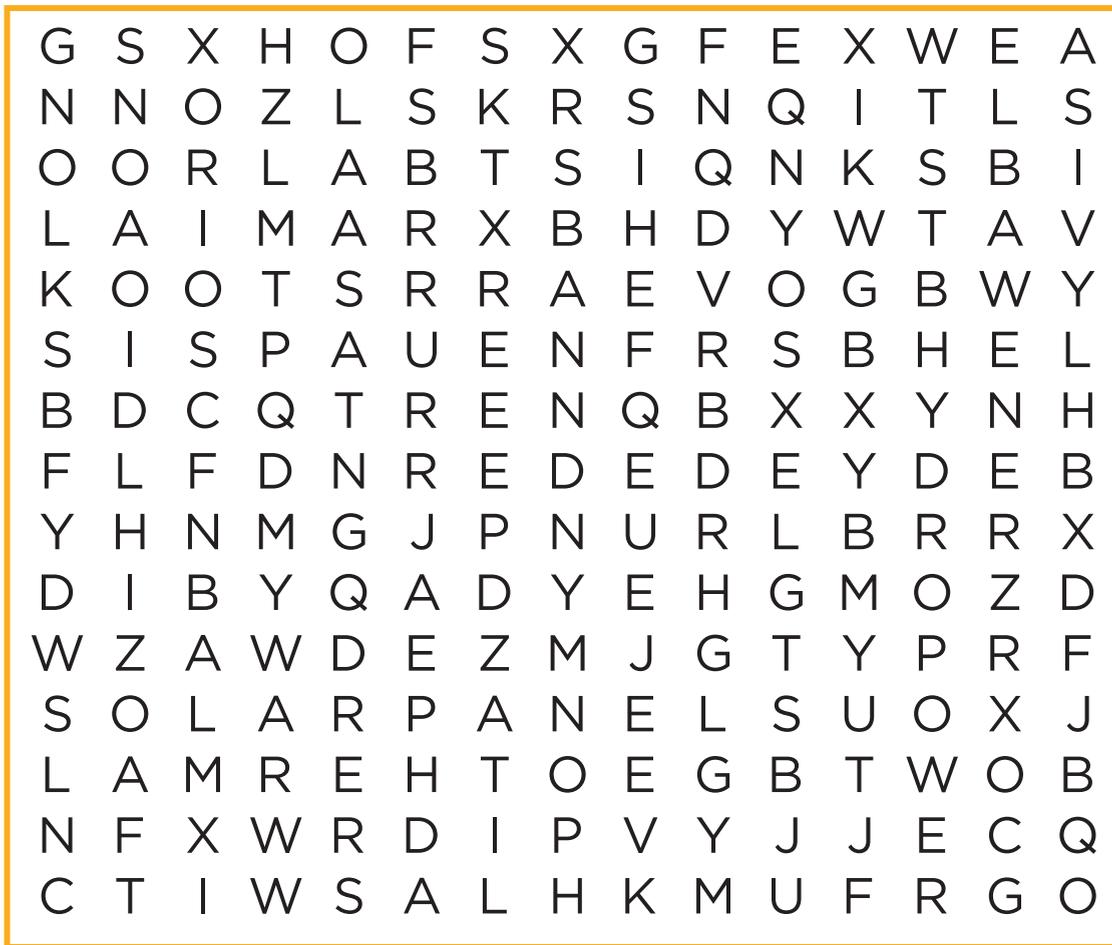
Congratulations Mark and thank you for all your hard work.



Mark Hansen

RENEWABLE ENERGY SOURCES WORD SEARCH

The electricity that powers our homes is generated by a variety of fuel sources, including renewables. Renewable energy comes from natural resources, like the wind and the sun. Can you find all the renewable energy-related words in the puzzle below?



WORD BANK:

- ▶ hydropower
- ▶ wind turbine
- ▶ renewable
- ▶ solar panels
- ▶ wind energy
- ▶ geothermal
- ▶ biomass
- ▶ generation
- ▶ solar energy