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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

Lora Alloway
Office Manager

Kyle Pipkin
Line Superintendent

Contact Information

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FROM THE MANAGER

Report to the Member-Owners

Please accept our invitation to attend the 84th Annual Meeting of Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative. The meeting and meal are free for cooperative members and will be held Tuesday, April 5, 2022, at The Cotillion Hall and Ballroom. Registration will begin at 6:15 p.m. Dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m. Our formal meeting will be kept short, and there will be plenty of door prizes given away along with a \$10 bill credit for attending the meeting.

Your cooperative completed the year 2021 in good financial standing and looks forward to serving your energy needs for many years to come. This good financial position allowed the board of directors to approve the general retirement of 100% of the capital credits from the 2004 patronage, which total approximately \$522,000. These capital credits were applied to your March bill. We attribute this strong financial position to a supportive board of directors, committed and talented staff and loyal financial and business partners. We are blessed and privileged to serve the rural electric members in Kansas. As a member-owned cooperative, Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative is committed to providing safe, reliable, innovative energy solutions for you, our member-owners.

I had the privilege of leading the cooperative through one of the most challenging times in our history. Like so many other businesses, the COVID-19 pandemic

demand that everyone at Sedgwick County Electric find new and creative ways to continue to provide the service our members expected. As a company, we still had to pay our bills, handle designs for new housing developments, and support the ongoing needs of the many businesses we serve. Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative employees continued to provide support to our members, while also balancing many of the same difficulties so many families experienced.

Maintaining the infrastructure that brings you power remained an important part of the work we did last year. Line crews, office and warehouse personnel continued to report to work regularly, continuing their essential work to ensure every home had power to allow our members to do their jobs and educate their children from home. Keeping the power on for other essential businesses was also a priority — and we worked hard to keep the lights on for farms, fire stations, schools and hospitals during the pandemic and Winter Storm Uri. Our staff continuing to provide the level of support our members expect and deserve with all the challenges we faced, is a testimony to our employees' dedication and resilience.

I would also like to thank you, our



Scott Ayres

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2022 Board of Trustee Candidates

TERRITORY 7



JOE BAALMANN
INCUMBENT

Joe has been a director for 3 years and a member of Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative for 32 years. Joe attended and graduated from Goddard High School. He is a certified trainer from Oklahoma State University in occupational safety and health standards for general industry and HAZMAT. He also holds a certification in K-DOT anger management. Joe served on the cooperative's Nominating Committee for 18 years. He is

treasurer of Spring Creek Watershed District for the last 16 years and is a member of St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church in Garden Plain. Joe currently runs his own cow/calf heard. He would like to continue serving his community in an effort to keep energy rates manageable for all residential, agricultural and commercial users of the cooperative. Joe believes there have been many advancements in the technology of solar, wind and fossil fuel resources that are needed to maintain and operate the cooperative and provide all members power at affordable rates for years to come.

TERRITORY 7



ALAN REICHERT

Alan has been a Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative member for the last 43 years. Alan is a financial analyst at Spirit AeroSystems, Wichita. He received his BBA from Wichita State University. He is a veteran of the United States Army and a member of the Knights of Columbus. Alan also served on the KPTS Community Advisory Board and is currently a member of the Farmers Co-op Elevator

Company. Alan is a member of St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church in Garden Plain and St. Rose of Lima, Mt. Vernon. Alan is running for the director position because electricity is a fundamental necessity of our society, it must be provided at a reasonable cost for all members. Future usage will be increasing with demand for electric cars and other requirements. He is offering his time and effort to assist in the understanding and meeting of those needs.

TERRITORY 8



MARGIE CONYAC
INCUMBENT

Margie has been a director for Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative for 15 years. Margie graduated from Andale High School and Wichita Business College. She is a member of Farmers Co-op Elevator Company, Andale and Garden Plain. Margie is currently a school bus driver for Renwick School District, USD 267 and religion bus driver for St. Anthony Catholic Church, Garden Plain.

TERRITORY 9



STAN THEIS
INCUMBENT

Stan has been on the Board of Directors for Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative for 21 years. He graduated from Andale High School and is currently a cattle and grain farmer. He is a member of Farmers Co-op Elevator Company, Andale and Garden Plain, and Mt. Hope. Stan has been a trustee for Sumner Township for the last 21 years and is a member of St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Andale.

Report to the Member-Owners

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members, for your ongoing support this past year. Your support through letters, emails, calls and posts on social media were appreciated by the employees who worked hard to bring you the best service possible. Cooperative members — our member-owners — are the key to our success.

Sedgwick County Electric already has so much to be proud

of as an electric provider. The cooperative has a strong record for providing reliable power, is a consistent supporter of the communities we serve and exemplifies the cooperative principles in its daily operations. Our service territory is in one of the fastest-growing areas in Kansas and is attractive to families and new businesses — providing the perfect framework for a powerful future.

Now is the time to set and execute new direction for the co-op. We are on the edge of significant changes in our industry. The growing interest in electric vehicles, the

Thank a Lineworker on April 11 – The Power Behind Your Power

Lineworker Appreciation Day is April 11

You've likely noticed Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative's crews out and about, working on power lines and other electrical equipment in our community. It's no secret that a lineworker's job is tough — but it's a job that's essential and must be done, often in challenging conditions. This month, as we celebrate Lineworker Appreciation Day on April 11, we'd like to share some interesting facts about electric lineworkers with you.

The work can be heavy, in more ways than one. Did you know the equipment and tools that a lineworker carries while climbing a utility pole can weigh up to 50 pounds? That's the same as carrying 6 gallons of water. Speaking of utility poles, lineworkers are required to climb poles ranging anywhere from 30 to 120 feet tall. Needless to say, if you have a fear of heights, this likely isn't the career path for you.

Lineworkers must be committed to their career — because it's not just a job, it's a lifestyle. The long hours and ever-present danger can truly take a toll. In fact, being a lineworker is listed in the top 10 most dangerous jobs in the U.S.

Lineworkers often work non-traditional hours, outdoors in difficult conditions. While the job does not require a college degree, it does require technical skills, years of training and hands-on learning. Did you know that becoming a journeyman lineworker can take more than 7,000 hours of training (or about four years)? That's because working with high-voltage equipment requires specialized skills, experience and an ongoing mental toughness. Shortcuts are not an option, and there is no room for error in this line of work.

Despite the many challenges, Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative's lineworkers are committed to powering our local community. During severe weather events that bring major power outages, lineworkers are among the first ones called. They must be ready to leave the comfort of their home and families unexpectedly, and they don't return until the job is done, often days later. That's why the lineworker's family is also dedicated to service. They understand the importance of the job to the community.

Nationwide, there are approximately 120,000 electric

expanding use of smart household appliances, and the most recent impact of growing remote employment opportunities all hinge on the reliability and affordability of electric service. It is also critical that we continue to serve all members in our communities as this transition moves ahead.

At the same time, members want us to be better stewards of the environment and enterprising in our incorporation of new energy sources. Sedgwick Country Electric already has a strong record of innovation, deploying local renewable resources such as our two large-scale solar farms. This is only



Sedgwick County linemen (top row, from left) Scott Leis, Victor Ayala, Tommy Hill and Jake Lopez; (bottom row, from left) Chris Fair, Josh Wood, Andy Riggs, Tim Rosenhagen, Kyle Pipkin, Robert Lacy, Ean Anders and Mark Hansen.

lineworkers. Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative has 12 lineworkers that are responsible for keeping power flowing 24/7, 365 days a year. To do this, they maintain 1,182 miles of power lines across five counties (Harvey, Reno, Sedgwick, Kingman and Sumner). In addition to the highly visible tasks lineworkers perform, their job today goes far beyond climbing utility poles to repair a wire. Today's lineworkers are information experts who can pinpoint power outages from miles away. Line crews now use laptops, tablets, drones and other technologies to map outages, survey damage and troubleshoot problems.

Being a lineworker may not seem like a glamorous job, but it is absolutely essential to the life of our community. Without the exceptional dedication and commitment of these hardworking men and women, we simply would not have the reliable electricity that we need for everyday life.

So, the next time you see a lineworker, please thank them for the work they do to keep power flowing, regardless of the time of day or weather conditions. After all, lineworkers are the power behind your power. Please join us as we recognize them on Monday, April 11, and follow “#ThankALineworker” on social media to see how others are recognizing lineworkers.

the beginning. I believe we need to be visionary as we build a cooperative to serve the member of tomorrow. We need to make smart investments and develop robust programs that will serve our members into this changing future.

I am looking forward to working with the board of directors and staff to help lead this cooperative into this exciting future. Look for me in your community and reach out to share your questions and insights. Together, we will grow this cooperative to continue powering your future needs.

Join Us for
Sedgwick County Electric Co-op's
Annual Meeting
Tuesday, April 5, 2022

*The Cotillion Hall
and
Ballroom*

11120 W. Kellogg, Wichita
Doors open at 6:15 p.m.
Dinner at 6:30 p.m.

Meeting Schedule

Co-op Updates
Director Elections
Door Prizes
Youth Tour Winners
Announced
Employee Awards and
Introductions

*Special
\$100
Cash Drawing*

Please bring the registration card
attached to the back of your annual
meeting notice you receive in the mail.

*Registration card is
needed for:*

*Cash
Drawing
Entry*

*Director
Elections*

Dinner

Director Candidates

TERRITORY 7

Joe Baalman, Incumbent
Alan Reichert, Cheney, KS

TERRITORY 8

Margie Conyac, Incumbent

TERRITORY 9

Stan Theis, Incumbent