

P.O. Box 220, Cheney, KS 67025
316-542-3131 or 866-542-4732
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 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

Headquarters
P.O. Box 220
1355 S. 383rd St. West
Cheney, KS 67025
316-542-3131
Fax: 316-542-3943

FROM THE MANAGER

Working with Local Legislators

"All politics is local." This observation by the late Thomas P. "Tip" O'Neill, Jr., former Speaker of the House of Representatives, means that even national politics have a local impact, and people care most about issues that directly affect them. Indirectly, this famous adage underscores the importance and value of local politics.

At Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative, we think it's critical to develop and cultivate relationships with local legislators because they craft, introduce and vote on legislation that impacts the local business climate, the environment and quality of life for our community. That's why we work closely with our local elected officials. Afterall, our purpose is to provide safe, reliable, affordable energy, but our mission is to help our community thrive.

Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative is a local business that powers economic development and prosperity for our region. As a cooperative, we have deep roots here, and we listen closely to our members to better understand the needs of the community. Our leadership, board members and employees live and work right here in the community we serve.

We strive to be an advocate for our community, ensuring that local legislators know, understand and act on the issues that are important to our area.

Providing Industry Guidance and Expertise

As a practical matter, we recognize that most legislators are "generalists," yet they vote on a wide range of issues. Their expertise may not include the changing energy industry, which is why Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative provides guidance and expertise from subject matter experts who've been in the energy industry for many years.

One way we do so is through the Co-ops Vote program. Partnering with Kansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc. we bring together co-op trustees and key staff, local officials, and our legislators to discuss energy-industry topics and

Continued on page 12B ►



Scott Ayres



Leslie Kaufman, vice president of government relations and legal counsel for Kansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc. (far left) presents at a local Co-ops Vote, a non-partisan campaign focused on boosting voter turnout in areas served by co-ops and educating voters and policymakers on issues important to rural Kansans.

Board of Directors Election Notification

Do you live in one of the following territories and would like to be put on the ballot for the board of directors elections? Voting will take place at the annual membership meeting currently scheduled for April 5, 2022.

► **TERRITORY 7** — East of 407th Street W. (170th Avenue), West of 295th Street W., South of US 54

► **TERRITORY 8** — East of 279th Street W., South of 109th Street N., West of 167th Street W., North of 29th Street N.

► **TERRITORY 9** — South of 109th Street N. (Irish Creek Road), West of 279th Street W., North of 29th Street N. (Smoots Creek Road)

The following cooperative bylaws describe director territories, election, and application processes.

SECTION 4.02. ELECTION AND TENURE OF OFFICE. Members of the Board of Directors shall be elected by the members of the Cooperative from nine (9) Director Territories and shall serve for a term of three (3) years, or until their successors shall have been elected. The Cooperative shall stagger Director Terms by dividing the total number of authorized Directors into groups of three (3) and Members must annually elect three (3) Directors.

The Cooperative members shall elect Directors by a plurality of the votes cast, and Cooperative members may not vote for write-in candidates, by proxy, and there shall be no nominations from the floor at the Annual Meeting.

Members of the Board of Directors shall be elected by ballot and from the members of the Cooperative. The individual presiding at the annual meeting shall announce the results of the election.

All persons desiring to run for an open seat on the Board of Directors shall submit an Application for Director to the Cooperative at least 60 days before the Annual Meeting. The Cooperative shall then post a list of candidates running for Director on the Cooperative's website at least forty-five (45) days before the Annual Meeting of the Cooperative.

SECTION 4.03. QUALIFICATIONS TO BE A DIRECTOR CANDIDATE AND BE ELECTED AND REMAIN A DIRECTOR. Any natural

person shall be eligible to apply to be a director candidate, be elected and remain a Director of the Cooperative who:

- (a) Is a member and bona fide resident in the area served or to be served by the Cooperative for at least three years; and
- (b) Has not been employed by the Cooperative within the past thirty-six (36) months; and

- (c) Is not in any way employed by or financially interested in a competing enterprise or a business selling energy, energy services or energy supplies to the Cooperative, or a business primarily engaged in selling electrical or plumbing appliances, fixtures or supplies to the members of the Cooperative, and
- (d) Is not closely related to an incumbent Director or an employee of the Cooperative. The term "closely related" means the relationship of spouse, father, mother, brother, sister, son, daughter, grandparent and grandchild existing by reason of blood, marriage or adoption; and
- (e) Other reasonable qualifications, procedures or policies approved by the Board.

Upon establishment of the fact that a Director is holding office in violation of any of the foregoing provisions, the Board of Directors shall remove such Director from office. Nothing contained in this section shall affect in any manner whatsoever, the validity of any action taken at any meeting of the Board of Directors.

SECTION 4.04 DIRECTOR TERRITORIES –

Based upon geographic or other equitable considerations determined by the Board through a Board Resolution, the Board shall divide the general area in which the Cooperative provides electrical energy into nine (9) territories that equitably represent the Members. ("Director Territory") A Directory Territory may not be substantially unequal with another Director Territory and should provide equitable representation on the Board throughout the Cooperative Service Territory. ("Cooperative Service Territory")

As necessary, the Board may revise the Director Territories to ensure that the Territories equitably represents the Members and that no Territory is substantially unequal with another Territory. Within thirty days following a Directory Territory revision, and at least thirty days before the next annual Member Meeting, the Cooperative must notify in writing or electronically, Members affected by the Director Territory revision. Director Territory revisions are effective on the date the Cooperative releases written or electronic notice of the Director Territory revision.

Bylaws can be found on our website at SEDGWICKCOUNTYELECTRIC.COOP/BYLAWS. Territory Map can be found at SEDGWICKCOUNTYELECTRIC.COOP/CONTACT-US.

Candidates requesting a board of director application should contact Executive Assistant Jo Luehrs at 316-542-3131 or jluehrs@sedgwickcounty-electric.coop.

Working with Local Legislators

Continued from page 12A ►

their effects on the quality of life of our communities.

Today's energy landscape is an increasingly complex topic covering not only the traditional engineering and vegetation management aspects of the industry but also encompasses technology, cybersecurity, the electrification of the transportation sector and more.

Our experts provide briefings and backgrounders to legislators, committees, and staff, often at Co-ops Vote events, and we offer expert testimony for hearings and other legislative or regulatory meetings or gatherings. And because we're involved in economic development and we know local community leaders, we can provide insight on how issues and policies under discussion might impact our region.

Co-op as a Convener

In addition, we periodically invite legislators and their staff to the co-op for tours so they can see first-hand how we operate and can view our operations center, substations, and our solar field projects.

Representing Your Best Interests

We strive to be a trusted resource on energy issues. Because of our deep roots in the community, we have a firm understanding of local issues and needs. We will continue looking after the long-term interests of our consumer-members. This means we can cultivate and foster positive, productive relationships with legislators who know and trust us, because we're advocating on behalf of the community we serve.

We're proud to power your life and bring good things to the community. We hope you'll continue to advise Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative on matters of importance so we can continue to advocate on your behalf and improve the quality of life for all.



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 jluhrs@sedgwickcountyelectric.coop by **FEB. 4, 2022**. Please complete both sections on page 12C and 12D.

Name of Applicant: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State/Zip: _____

2021-2022 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 SCHOLARSHIP 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 12D ►

You Have a Voice at YOUR CO-OP

— attend annual meeting to use it.



ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

THE COTILLION BALLROOM, WICHITA

APRIL 5, 2022

Continued from page 12C ▶

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

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?
