



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

What You're Missing at the Annual Meeting

Did you know every cooperative is required to conduct an annual meeting of the membership? This year we will discuss Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative's financial standing, upcoming projects, hold board of directors elections, and of course — hand out great door prizes!

Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative's Annual Meeting is a community gathering where neighbors can meet new neighbors — or catch up with old acquaintances. As our lives become busier with the “errands of life” and more of our interactions with others are online (via social media), we must renew the value of face-to-face connections. Very few organizations are uniquely positioned like Sedgwick County Electric Co-op to bring together the members of our local communities.

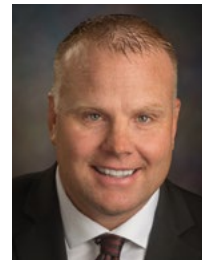
While rural Americans probably do a better job of staying connected to our neighbors (in part because we need too), it is not something we should take for granted. The simple act of smiling, saying

hello and shaking someone's hand truly lifts both parties.

The annual meeting gives our members the chance to come together and take care of the important business of the co-op and the equally important business of building a real sense of community. All cooperatives serve both an economic and social purpose. Our mission is committed to providing safe, reliable, innovative energy solutions to you, our member-owners.

If you have not attended the annual meeting in the past or if it has been a few years, we encourage you to take the time to gather with your fellow co-op members.

Sedgwick County Electric Co-op is connected to you by more than just power lines. We are your neighbors, and we look forward to seeing you at your annual meeting on April 9, 2024, at The Cotillion, 11120 W. Kellogg, Wichita, KS 67209.



Scott Ayres

ANNUAL MEETING IS APRIL 9

The Annual Membership Meeting of Sedgwick County Electric Co-op will be held on Tuesday, April 9, 2024, at The Cotillion, 11120 W. Kellogg in Wichita.

- ▶ Doors will open at 6:15 p.m., and dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m.
- ▶ Youth Tour Winners Announced.
- ▶ Employee Service Awards and Introductions.
- ▶ Door Prizes.

APRIL 2024

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

Report Suspicious Activity Near Electrical Equipment

Substations are part of the electrical generation, transmission and distribution system. Transformers are contained inside many of them, and their job is to transform voltage from high to low or vice versa, depending on their location within the distribution path.

Besides transformers, substations usually house switches, protective devices, and control equipment. In large substations, circuit breakers are used to interrupt any short circuits or overloads that may occur. Do not approach a substation, touch the fence, or enter the gate unless authorized to do so.

Observing activity around substations and other utility equipment helps keep everyone safe. Look for:

- ▶ Individuals in street clothes working near or on utility equipment; if you see this, please report it immediately.
- ▶ Notice whether individuals are dressed in proper personal protective equipment.
- ▶ Utility branded vehicles or work trucks in the area.
- ▶ Suspicious behavior including non-utility employees tampering with utility poles, meters, pad-mounted transformers, or other equipment.
- ▶ If you notice any of the following, please report it to the co-op:
 - ▶ An open or unlocked gate.
 - ▶ A damaged fence or equipment.
 - ▶ Smoke or fire.

- ▶ Non-utility workers inside the substation fence.

Please report any suspicious activity or damage to the police or to Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative.

FIRST RESPONDER SAFETY

First responders should always wait for the go-ahead from the electric utility before addressing a fire or vandalism at a substation, power plant or solar farm. First responders should also communicate with and wait for the utility before approaching a downed power line or damaged pad-mounted transformer.

GENERAL SUBSTATION SAFETY

Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative reminds you to:

- ▶ Never go near a substation.
 - ▶ Teach children to never go near a substation or climb its fence to retrieve a ball or pet. Remind them to stay away and tell a parent or adult, who can report the incident to 911 or call Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative at 316-542-3131.
 - ▶ Never try to extinguish a transformer fire since water and electricity do not mix. Call 911 to report the fire.
- If you notice something unusual about a substation, transformer or power lines, contact your electric co-op. Never try to address a problem yourself.

PROCESS AND QUALIFICATIONS

BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION NOTIFICATION

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

POSITIONS UP FOR ELECTION

The following territories will be voted on during the annual membership meeting currently scheduled for April 9, 2024.

- ▶ **TERRITORY 4** – West of 167th St. W., East of 295th St. W., South of US-54.
- ▶ **TERRITORY 5** – West of 407th St. W (170th Ave.), West side of Cheney Lake.
- ▶ **TERRITORY 6** – East of 407th St. W (170th Ave.), South of 29th St. N. (Smoots Creek Road), West of 167th St. W., North of US-54.

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.

Attention High School Sophomores & Juniors

Sedgwick County Electric is sending two students on a **FREE SUMMER TRIP PLUS A \$500 SCHOLARSHIP TO ANY COLLEGE OR TRADE SCHOOL!** We will also be awarding **TWO ADDITIONAL STUDENTS WITH \$500 SCHOLARSHIPS.** To be eligible, a parent or legal guardian must be an active residential member of Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative. Here's how to **APPLY BY FEB. 9, 2024:**

ONLINE

www.sedgwickcountyelectric.coop

MAIL

P.O. Box 220, Cheney, KS 67025.

EMAIL

jluehrs@sedgwickcountyelectric.coop



APPLY FOR A TRIP OF A LIFETIME

JUNE 14-20, 2024
AN ALL-EXPENSES-PAID TRIP
TO WASHINGTON, D.C.



An all-expenses-paid trip to Washington, D.C., sponsored by your local electric co-op.

A week of visiting historic monuments, touring world-class museums and meeting elected officials.

An opportunity to develop lifelong friendships with delegates from across the country!

FIND OUT MORE





JULY 12-18, 2024

★★★ COOPERATIVE YOUTH LEADERSHIP CAMP ★★★

LEADERSHIP
Learn about the co-op business model and develop leadership skills.

COMMUNITY
Students from Colorado, Kansas, Oklahoma and Wyoming create a candy co-op, run camp activities and make meaningful connections.

MEMORIES
From rafting on the Colorado River to exploring downtown Steamboat Springs — you'll be sure to capture memories to remember for a lifetime.



LEARN MORE



Name of Applicant: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State/Zip: _____

2023-2024 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: _____

Parent or Guardian Phone Number: _____

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 ►

Attention High School Sophomores & Juniors 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?

What moment in American history do you wish you had been a part of and what would you have contributed?

SEDGWICK COUNTY ELECTRIC CO-OP DIRECTOR ACHIEVES CREDENTIALS IN TODAY'S ELECTRIC UTILITY COMPETENCIES



Joe Baalmann

JOE BAALMANN, a director for Sedgwick County Electric Co-op, received the Credentialed Cooperative Director (CCD) and Board Leadership (BLC) certificates from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA).

An ever-changing business environment has imposed new demands on electric cooperative directors, requiring increased knowledge of changes in the electric utility business, new governance skills and a solid knowledge of the cooperative principles and business model. Sedgwick County Electric Co-op has a commitment to work through

NRECA to sharpen this body of knowledge for the benefit of their electric cooperative member-owners.

The NRECA CCD program requires attendance and demonstrated understanding of the basic competencies contained in five core courses:

- ▶ Director duties and liabilities.
- ▶ Understanding the electric business.
- ▶ Board roles and relationships.
- ▶ Strategic planning.
- ▶ Financial decision making.

The BLC recognizes individuals who continue their professional development after becoming CCD by completing 10 credits in advanced, issues-oriented courses.