



Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative

SEDGWICK COUNTY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

currentnews

Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative

Board of Directors

Clint DeVore
President

Cindy Foster
Vice President

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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

Empower Children to Stay Safe Outdoors



Scott Ayres

According to the National Institutes of Health, electricity causes approximately 1,000 deaths and 30,000 injuries in the United States each year, 20% of which occur

in children. Empower your family with electrical safety knowledge that can potentially save their lives. Always remember that electricity is everywhere, even when playing outdoors, away from screens and other plug-in devices.

► Electrical substations may spark a child's imagination with high towers and sprawling gates, but make sure your children know never to enter one for any reason. An adult should call the electrical utility for help if a

lost pet or toy finds its way into a substation.

- Always assume that power lines are energized and dangerous. Inform children to stay away from downed or low-hanging power lines, and if they see one, ask them to notify an adult. The utility company will send a professional to assist.
- Children should never play with, climb on or open pad-mounted transformers or outdoor electrical "green" boxes. They contain electrical equipment for underground service to homes and businesses and may be dangerous. If children see a box that is open or damaged, they should stay away from it and tell an adult to contact the utility.
- While it may look like fun, never play on a flooded street or in a water-

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Important Payment Dates – November and December Bills

Due to the November and December holidays, members who are signed up to have payments automatically withdrawn from their bank account or credit/debit cards will have the payment dates as listed below. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Rose at 316-542-3131 or rwight@sedgwickcountyelectric.coop.

November Statement
DEDUCTED ON NOV. 28, 2022

December Statement
DEDUCTED ON DEC. 30, 2022

OUTDOOR ELECTRICAL SAFETY TIPS for kids

Share these
**ELECTRICAL
SAFETY TIPS**
with children and
teens to help keep
them safe.



1 DO NOT climb or sit
on green boxes
or other
electrical
equipment.



2 STAY AWAY from
electrical
equipment marked
“keep out,” “high
voltage” or “danger.”



3 NEVER ENTER the
fenced area around
a substation
to retrieve an
item or pet.



4 FLY kites, remote-control
devices and drones **FAR AWAY**
from overhead power lines.



Empower Children to Stay Safe Outdoors

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filled ditch. The water may hide fallen power lines or damaged electrical equipment, which could cause serious injury or death.

- ▶ Do not plan outdoor activities if a thunderstorm is expected. Wait at least 30 minutes after the last observed clap of thunder or lightning bolt to play outside.
- ▶ If enjoying the outdoors near water,

such as a lake or pool, never use electronics with damp hands or while standing in water.

- ▶ Kites and other flying devices, such as toy airplanes or drones, should only be used in large, open areas far away from power lines and electrical equipment.

For more information on electrical safety, visit SafeElectricity.org.

Board of Directors Election Process and Qualifications

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.

Clouse Ties for 12th at National Pedal Pull

AVA CLOUSE tied for 12th place in the nine-year old bracket at the National Pedal Pull in Mitchell, South Dakota, on Sept. 24.

Ava qualified for the National Pedal Pull after placing first at the Kansas State Fair Championship on Sept. 11. She also placed first at the Sedgwick County Fair on July 23, hosted by Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative. Ava is the daughter of Greg and Whitney Clouse of Cheney.



After winning first place at the Sedgwick County Pedal Pull, Ava Clouse went on to compete at the National Pedal Pull in Mitchell, South Dakota, and tied for 12th.



Our offices will be closed on Thursday, Nov. 24, and Friday, Nov. 25, in observance of the holiday.

SAVE THE DATES

ELECTRIC
COOPERATIVE
YOUTH
TOUR
BUILDS

JUNE 15-22, 2023
WASHINGTON, D. C.

SPONSORED BY
YOUR LOCAL
ELECTRIC
COOPERATIVE



COOPERATIVE
YOUTH LEADERSHIP CAMP

BUILDS

JULY 14-20, 2023

STEAMBOAT SPRINGS, COLORADO



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 Sedgwick County Electric Payment Options

Sedgwick County Electric Co-op has convenient payment options for our members. All members receive a standard monthly bill for their electrical use. The following payment options are now available to our members:

Auto Payment/Bank Draft



Members have the option to have payments **AUTOMATICALLY WITHDRAWN** from their bank accounts or credit/debit cards. You may select the third Wednesday or last Friday of the month. Complete the Auto Bank Draft Form at www.sedgwickcountyelectric.coop and return with a voided check or contact Rose at rwright@sedgwickcountyelectric.coop



SmartHub/Online Bill Pay

SMARTHUB is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Go to www.sedgwickcountyelectric.coop to set up an account. Credit card, debit card, and check payments are accepted and recurring payment is available. You can also monitor usage, view billing history, and manage your account. Members can also download the "Smart Hub" app on any mobile device.

Mail*



Sedgwick County Electric's monthly bill comes complete with a return envelope that you can use to mail your check to us at **P.O. BOX 220, CHENEY KS 67025**. **Please allow additional time if using the postal service. Payment must be received in our office on or prior to due date. We DO NOT use the mailing post date for the payment date.*



Pay by Phone

CALL TOLL-FREE 1-833-890-9217 to pay by credit/debit card or check. You will need your account number or phone number listed on account to make payment. Members can also call 316.542.3131 select "1" for payments. Employees can no longer accept credit/debit card payments.

Drop Box



Our drop box is located near the flag pole at **1355 S. 383RD ST. W., CHENEY KS 67025**. Payments dropped off after 4:30 p.m., Monday-Friday, will be posted the next business day.



Online through Your Bank

PAYMENT IS SENT DIRECTLY FROM YOUR BANK TO OURS. Contact your bank for more information.

Sedgwick County Electric Co-op also has budget billing for those members who prefer to pay the same amount each month. Payments are set at your monthly average, making it easy to budget. An accurate 12-month history of your use at your current residence is helpful in determining payments. If you are interested, please call your local Sedgwick County office to see if you qualify.