



Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative

P.O. Box 220, Cheney, KS 67025  
316-542-3131 or 866-542-4732  
[www.sedgwickcountyelectric.coop](http://www.sedgwickcountyelectric.coop)

**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

### It's a Matter of (Co-op!) Principles, Part II



**Scott Ayres**

For me, this is a time of year for reflection, and topping my list of things I'm grateful for is our wonderful community. I know I speak for all the Sedgwick County

Electric Cooperative employees when I say we are thankful to be in such an incredible community. We are fortunate to live in the same place where we work, which makes our ties to this community that much stronger.

You may recall last month, my column touched on the first three Cooperative Principles, so this month, I'd like to tell you about the remaining four principles. The Cooperative Principles are essential to the co-op business model and benefit all members of the co-op.

#### Autonomy and Independence

The fourth principal, Autonomy, and Independence, means that the co-op operates in an autonomous way that is solely directed and guided by its members, reflecting the values and needs of our local community. This means the co-op is not being influenced by leaders or shareholders several states away. Instead, the co-op is led by the local members it serves.

#### Education and Training

The fifth principle, Education and Training, focuses on enhancing the knowledge of co-op employees and board members, which enables them to contribute to the development of the co-op.

By investing in continuous learning for our employees and board members, our co-op is making a commitment not just to individual professional and personal growth, but to the future of the

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## It's a Matter of (Co-op!) Principles, Part II Continued from page 16A ►

co-op and the high quality of service our members expect and deserve. It's a win-win situation.

We also strive to inform our members (that's you!) and the public about the mission and operations of the co-op. In fact, that's why you receive this magazine every month, so we can share the latest co-op news and updates, as well as energy efficiency and safety tips.

### Cooperation Among Cooperatives

Cooperation Among Cooperatives is the sixth principle and fosters the way co-ops work together to address bigger challenges. While this principle applies to all types of cooperatives, it is especially relevant in the energy industry. In our case, we put this principle in action after major storms and disasters that cause widespread power outages. When this happens, we call on nearby co-ops to come to our aid and assist with restoration efforts — and we of course extend the same help to them when they are in need. I can't think of a better example of cooperation among cooperatives.

In addition, because we are part of the national electric co-op network, we can connect and collaborate with other electric co-ops to tackle industry-related challenges, like cybersecurity and an everchanging energy landscape.

### Concern for Community

The seventh principle, Concern for Community, is essential to who we are as cooperatives. We serve our community not only by being an essential service, but also by helping to power our local economy. Whether through economic development, volunteerism, or donations to local causes, we invest in this community because it's our home too.

I think you'll find that most cooperatives bring good people together to make good things happen in the community. We hope you feel that way about us, your local electric co-op.

On behalf of everyone at Sedgwick County Electric Cooperative, we're thankful for your membership, and we hope you have a wonderful Thanksgiving.



Our office will be closed  
Thursday, Nov. 25 and  
Friday, Nov. 26 for Thanksgiving.

*We hope you have a safe  
and happy holiday.*

## 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](http://www.sedgwickcountyelectric.coop) and return with a voided check or contact Rose at [rwright@sedgwickcountyelectric.coop](mailto:rwright@sedgwickcountyelectric.coop)



### SmartHub/Online Bill Pay

**SMARTHUB** is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Go to [www.sedgwickcountyelectric.coop](http://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.

## Important Payment Dates — November and December Bills

Due to the November and December holidays, members who are signed up with Auto Payment/ Bank Draft option 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](mailto:rwight@sedgwickcountyelectric.coop).

**November Statement**  
**DEDUCTED ON NOV. 29, 2021**

**December Statement**  
**DEDUCTED ON DEC. 27, 2021**

## 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.

## BE SAFE DURING THE HOLIDAYS



### 10 TIPS TO HELP YOU STAY JOLLY

- 1 Do not toss light strands into the air when decorating outside. They could come into contact with a power line.
- 2 Before using a ladder, always look up and assess all power line locations.
- 3 Carry a ladder horizontally when transporting it.
- 4 Keep at least 10 feet between yourself (and any item you are holding) and a power line.
- 5 Do not use staples, nails or tacks to secure light strands, cords, wires or extension cords.
- 6 String together no more than the number of strands (or fewer) recommended by the manufacturer.
- 7 Plug all lights and extension cords into GFCI-protected outlets.
- 8 Use lights and extension cords rated for outdoor use.
- 9 Use only lights and products certified by a reputable testing lab.
- 10 Do not use frayed, cracked or otherwise damaged cords, plugs or lights.



SCAN TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT YOUTH TOUR



**ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE  
YOUTH TOUR**



**WASHINGTON, D.C.**

JUNE 16-23, 2022



**BROUGHT TO YOU BY YOUR  
LOCAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE**

SCAN TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT CAMP



**COOPERATIVE YOUTH  
LEADERSHIP  
CAMP**



**COLORADO**

JULY 15-21, 2022



## SAVE THE DATES

## 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 Co-

operative 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.

## ENERGY EFFICIENCY

### Tip of the Month

Fall is the perfect time to prep your home for the upcoming winter chill. One of the best ways you can save energy and stay comfortable is to caulk and weatherstrip areas that typically need sealing. Start by sealing around windows and doors. Seal plumbing, ducting, and areas where electrical wiring comes through walls, floors and ceilings for additional energy savings. **SOURCE: ENERGY.GOV**

