

The CIRCUIT

Ark Valley Electric Cooperative



*** Proudly Serving Rural Kansas for Over 83 Years

December 2022

Office Holiday Hours

We wish you a very Merry Christmas and a joyous holiday season. We will be closed on December 23rd from 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. and all day on December 26th and January 2nd to allow our employees time with family.

If you have an outage or trouble on your line, please call 1-888-297-9212.



Ark Valley is Proud to Pay \$1.2 Million in Capital Credits to Members

As a member of Ark Valley Electric, you share in the margins in the form of capital credits. Unlike other electric utilities, electric cooperatives exist to make sure your needs are always met, not to make a profit.

As a not-for-profit cooperative, revenues from the sale of electricity are used to purchase wholesale power, pay operating expenses, make payment on outstanding loans, and provide a financial reserve as a condition of lenders. Any remaining funds are called margins and are allocated to members as capital credits.



Capital credits are retained as capital to operate the business of the cooperative and are refunded to the members as financial conditions allow and as the bylaw provisions are met.

After evaluating the financial strength of the cooperative this year, the Ark Valley Board of Trustees approved the retirement of \$1.2 million in capital credits. Members will receive a payment this month based on the electricity they purchased in 2002 and 2021.

The allocation and retirement of capital credits is one of the most unique and rewarding benefits of being a member of Ark Valley Electric. This is the 84th year that Ark Valley has been serving our community, and our decision to retire capital credits again this year aligns with the Cooperative objectives that have been upheld since 1939.

Congratulations!

To honor its members during Cooperative Appreciation Month, Ark Valley Electric held a drawing to give away an indoor Power XL Smokeless Electric Grill. The winner of the drawing was:

**MARC RAMSEY
OF ABBYVILLE**



Congratulations

Understanding Types of Generators and Safe Connections

- 1) A permanent standby generator should be installed by a professional and include an approved safety transfer switch to keep house circuits separate from the utility.
- 2) A portable generator requires use of a heavy-duty extension cord to connect appliances directly to the outlets on the generator.

READ AND FOLLOW ALL MANUFACTURER OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS.

- Set up a portable generator on a dry, stable surface in a well-ventilated area outside the home—away from your garage, doors, windows, and vents into your home. The carbon monoxide the generator produces is DEADLY.
- Never plug a portable generator into a wall outlet of your home! This can create “backfeed” or the feeding of electricity back onto the utility’s system and power lines. Backfeed can be deadly to line workers and others near downed power lines.

WHEN YOUR POWER GOES OUT, CALL: 888-297-9212



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Board Meeting Highlights

The Board of Trustees for the Ark Valley Electric Cooperative Association held its regular meeting for the month of October on October 31, 2022.

The Board addressed load control and distributed generation. Jackie Holmberg, General Manager, calculated the cost incurred and the estimated savings realized from running diesel generators at the Arlington and Medora substations, production at the Huntsville solar site, and utilizing irrigation load control for approximately 24 hours. The direct distributed generation, load control savings, and solar peak savings for September totaled \$31,963.07. Holmberg also explained Ark Valley realized an estimated \$231,287.01 in total net distributed diesel generation savings during the 2022 peak season, which was down from a total net savings of \$293,509.09 in 2021. Controlling irrigation load for the 2022 peak season was projected to have saved the Cooperative an approximate amount of \$563,720.03, which is down from a total net savings of \$619,134.34 in 2021. The peak savings resulting from the solar energy production at Huntsville, including the 70% ratchet for the winter months, should save an estimated \$145,477.08. The estimated net savings for the load control, distributed diesel generation, and solar energy production for 2022 totaled an estimated \$940,484.13.

The Federated Rural Electric Insurance Exchange ("Federated"), Ark Valley's insurance carrier, issued a letter regarding the Cooperative's Safety and Loss Prevention Assessment. The assessment revealed no shortcomings in the Cooperative's safety and loss prevention programs. Notwithstanding the favorable safety assessment, Federated will be raising the Cooperative's insurance premiums for 2023 a total of 6.62%, or \$5,473, compared to the 2022 premium cost. The increase is driven mainly by the increased valuation of building and contents coverage of 22.38% and a 9.8% in automobile liability coverage due to inflationary factors across the country.



Five Ways to Fight the Winter Chill and Save Energy

We all have our favorite season. Some people love crisp, cool weather and bundling up under a favorite blanket, while others prefer the warm temperatures summer brings.

No matter the season, there's one thing we can all agree on: it is always nice to find ways to manage home energy use to keep winter bills in check. That's why Ark Valley is providing these five tips to help increase your home's energy efficiency this winter:

1. Mind the thermostat. This is one of the easiest ways to manage your home energy use. We recommend setting your thermostat to 68 degrees (or lower) when you're home. When you're sleeping or away for an extended period of time, try setting it between 58 and 62 degrees; there's no need to heat your home when you're away or sleeping and less active.

2. Button up your home. The Department of Energy estimates that air leaks account for 24% to 40% of the energy used for heating and cooling a home. Caulking and weather stripping around windows and doors is another simple, cost-effective way to increase comfort and save energy. If you can feel drafts while standing near a window or door, it likely needs to be sealed.

3. Use window coverings wisely. Open blinds, drapes or other window coverings during the day to allow natural sunlight in to warm your home. Close them at night to keep the cold, drafty air out. If you feel cold air around windows, consider hanging curtains or drapes in a thicker material; heavier window coverings can make a significant difference in blocking cold outdoor air.

4. Consider your approach to appliance use. When combined, appliances and electronics account for a significant chunk of our home energy use, so assess how efficiently you're using them. For example, if you're running the dishwasher or clothes washer, only wash full loads. Look for electronic devices that consume energy even when they're not in use, like phone chargers or game consoles. Every little bit helps, so unplug them to save energy.

5. Think outside the box. If you're still feeling chilly at home, think of other ways to warm up—beyond dialing up the thermostat. Add layers of clothing, wear thick socks and bundle up under blankets. You can even add layers to your home! If you have hard-surface flooring, consider purchasing an area rug to block cold air that leaks in through the floor.

Winter months often bring some of the highest energy bills of the year. By being proactive about saving energy, you can increase the comfort of your home and reduce monthly bills.

Lineman Scholarship

Are you enrolling in a Kansas line school? AVEC is offering a \$1,000 SCHOLARSHIP to any graduating senior, high school graduate, who plans to enroll in a Kansas line school. Go to www.arkvalley.com for application.



**Application deadline
January 6, 2023.**

Drawing Winner

MIKE J. BEHNKE is the winner of our \$25.00 readership drawing.

Mike, to claim your prize, please contact Ark Valley by December 30, 2022 & give us the account number from your electric bill.



The Ark Valley Electric Cooperative Association, Inc. is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax (202) 690-7442 or email at program.intake@usda.gov.