

The CIRCUIT

Ark Valley Electric Cooperative



*** Proudly Serving Rural Kansas for Over 82 Years

January 2022

Happy New Year 2022

Wishing you and your family a bright and Happy New Year! May this new year bring you success and sound health.

Drawing Winner

DENITA GOERING is the winner of our \$25.00 readership drawing.

Denita, to claim your prize, please contact Ark Valley by January 31, 2022 & give us the account number from your electric bill.

Ark Valley Welcomes New Employees



Cameron

On December 1st, Cameron Horesky joined the Ark Valley staff as a journeyman lineman.

Cameron previously worked at United Power in Brighton, Colorado. He is originally from Hoisington, so this position allowed him to move closer to his hometown.

Cameron and his wife, Courtney, have two boys, Elliott, age 4, and Emmett, 5 months old.

Cade Wilkey began his employment with Ark Valley on December 20th as an apprentice lineman. He recently completed his education at Pratt Community College.



Cade

Cade is from Sterling, and previously worked for Sunflower Electric Power Cooperative in Great Bend.

Welcome to Ark Valley, Cameron and Cade!

Nominations Committee

The By-Laws of your Cooperative provide that the Board of Trustees shall appoint a Committee on Nominations.

In keeping with this provision, the Board has appointed the following members to the 2022 Committee:

Doug Barr
15105 W 56th Ave
Nickerson, KS 67561

Jason Brannan
1394 NW 20 St
Kingman, KS 67068

Rodney Hurst
1319 N Jordan Springs Rd
Plevna, KS 67568

Derek Zongker
2104 S Langdon Rd
Plevna, KS 67568

Doug Bigler
22401 S Avery Rd
Langdon, KS 67514

Randy Goering
22806 S Mohawk Rd
Pretty Prairie, KS 67570

Russ Willems
74 9th Ave
Inman, KS 67546

Tim Bergkamp will be up for re-election and has reached his term limit as of the date of the next Annual Meeting of Members on April 12, 2022. The Committee on Nominations will meet on Saturday, January 15, 2022, for the purpose of making nominations for Trustees to fill these vacancies. The Committee will post a list of such nominations in the office of your Cooperative. Additional information concerning each candidate will be published in the Annual Report, which each member will receive prior to the Annual Meeting.

Other nominations may be made by a signed petition of 15 or more members, not less than 15 days prior to the Annual Meeting. Such nominations shall also be posted in the Cooperative Office. Additional nominations may be made from the floor at the time of the Annual Meeting.

The Board of Trustees consists of seven members. The present board members are: Keith McNickle, Stafford: President; Dan Schnurr, Sterling: Vice-President; Judy Kinsler, Kingman: Secretary; Tim Bergkamp, Pretty Prairie: Treasurer; Budd Fountain, Langdon; Larry Froese, Inman; and Joe Seiwert, Pretty Prairie.

An Annual Meeting of Members shall be held each year in Hutchinson, Kansas, usually between March 15th and April 15th, unless the Board of Trustees shall designate by resolution some other city, place, date, and/or time.

The Board resolved to host the next Annual Meeting of Members on April 12 2022, at the North Sunflower Building on the State Fair Grounds in Hutchinson, Kansas.

The 2022 Annual Meeting April 12th

- Vote for Board Members
- Learn about your Cooperative
- Enjoy a night out with your neighbors
- Win prizes donated by Vendors



Ark Valley Electric Cooperative
10 E 10th Ave South Hutchinson, KS 67505

(620) 662-6661
www.arkvalley.com

Board Meeting *Highlights*

The Board of Trustees for the Ark Valley Electric Cooperative Association held its regular meeting for the month of November on November 29, 2021.

Trustees reviewed the Cooperative's emergency restoration plan. The plan encompasses the anticipated points of contact, in both the private sector and government, that staff may need to safely return power in the eventuality of various types of emergencies. It is reviewed annual to guarantee that it is kept up to date.

Preparation for the next Annual Meeting of Members is underway. The meeting is scheduled for April 12, 2022 at the Kansas State Fairgrounds. Trustees will appoint nominators at the regular Board meeting for the month of December to the 2022 Nominating Committee, which will meet twice in January to select candidates to run for the positions of Trustee. The Board also discussed what door prize make available at the meeting.

Jackie Holmberg, General Manager, reported to the Board that 5,041 capital credit retirement checks had been mailed out to former and current Cooperative members. The amount of capital credits being retired this year totals approximately \$1,116,000.

Power Restored After Windstorm

Unprecedented high winds with gusts up to 100 miles per hour in some areas of Kansas on December 15 led to multiple outages across the state. The windstorm broke 46 poles in Ark Valley's service territory and caused 2,232 outages, including the services affected by transmission outages.

After the Ark Valley linemen worked long hours to restore power for our members, Rolling Hills Electric Cooperative, which is located in north central Kansas, requested assistance to help restore power for their members. Four of our linemen were glad to help out our neighboring cooperative in need.

Providing mutual aid assistance is an essential part of the sixth and seventh Cooperative Principles: Cooperation Among Cooperatives and Concern for Community. Cooperatives around the nation operate according to the same set of core principles and values. These principles are a key reason that America's electric cooperatives operate differently from other electric utilities, putting the needs of their consumer-members first.

As we continue to clean-up and make lingering repairs caused by the windstorm, we would like to take a moment to say, Thank You! Thank you for all the messages of support, encouragement, and patience as we worked through the storm and the aftermath to repair damages.

Also, thank you to the Ark Valley employees that worked to restore power for our members, as well as assisting with the restoration efforts on Rolling Hills Electric Cooperative's system.



Line Clearance Maintenance Plan

Our mission as your electric utility is to provide reliable and safe electricity, and trees are the chief obstacle in our service territory. Several years ago, Ark Valley implemented an aggressive, proactive line clearance program to effectively reduce outages on our electric system.

We employ a ground-to-sky approach, clearing 15 feet on either side of the primary line. It's a planned, consistent and comprehensive approach that is executed in the most economic and practical manner possible and that provides for long-term results.

We understand that not everyone approves of our approach, but we must control the tree growth around power lines and energized equipment to better ensure that your lights come on with the flip of a switch and help to keep costs down for the future.

The maintenance plan is to clear the primary service line, but Ark Valley will cut your trees along the service line running from the transformer to your home when the trees are in contact with the power line and are causing service interruptions. We will not clear your trees that don't meet the criteria and are cost prohibitive, but we will drop the line for you so you can safely remove your trees.

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.