

# The CIRCUIT

## Ark Valley Electric Cooperative



\*\*\* Proudly Serving Rural Kansas for Over 82 Years

March 2022

### Board Meeting Highlights

The Board of Trustees for the Ark Valley Electric Cooperative Association held its regular meeting for the month of January on January 31, 2022. The Board heard a report on the Nominating Committee, which was comprised of Ark Valley members Doug Bigler, Langdon; Rodney Hurst, Plevna; Randy Goering, Pretty Prairie; Derek Zongker, Plevna; Russ Willems, Inman; Jason Brannan, Kingman; and Doug Barr, Nickerson. The Nominating Committee met on Saturday, January 15, 2022 and selected four (4) candidates to run for two (2) trustee positions at the Annual Meeting of Members. Those selected include Tim Bergkamp, Pretty Prairie; Steve Schweizer, Plevna; Damon Stauffer, Kingman; and Jaime Howard, Alden. Bergkamp currently serves on the Board of Trustees and is running for re-election. Schweizer is a former Board member.



The Board also heard a report from the Audit Committee. The Audit Committee, consisting of McNickle, Bergkamp, and Froese, reported that the committee members met on Saturday, January 15, 2022 and reviewed the expense accounts and petty cash reimbursements. It found no discrepancies in the expense accounts or petty cash reimbursements.



The Board reviewed the Cooperative's margins for 2021.

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### All Members Are Welcome to Attend the Annual Meeting

It's that time of year again – annual meeting time. The meeting will be on Tuesday, April 12, 2022 at the North Sunflower Building (Kansas State Fairgrounds) in Hutchinson.

We look forward to gathering with you, our members. The meeting will begin with a dinner served at 6:30 p.m. There will be registration gifts for each registered member and some great door prize drawings will be given away after a brief business meeting.



This event is not only a chance to visit with other members of the cooperative, but a great opportunity to learn about the accomplishments of the previous year and the plans for our future. It is also an opportunity to exercise one of the greatest benefits of being a member of Ark Valley, voting for the upcoming Board of Trustees.

Ark Valley is run by a democratically elected Board of Trustees, a board given the privilege to serve because of your vote. Our trustees are members of your community, concerned with the same issues that you face.

Each member will receive an official notice of the meeting in the mail a few weeks before the meeting. Whether you attend regularly or if you have never attended an annual meeting, we hope you will make it a point to accept our personal invitation to join us at the Ark Valley Annual Meeting this year and exercise your right to vote.

### LIEAP Energy Assistance

Throughout the year Ark Valley Electric is asked by members where they can get assistance to help pay their electric bill. The Low-Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP) is a federally funded program that helps eligible households with a portion of their home energy costs once a year. For more information, go to <http://www.dcf.ks.gov/services/ees/Pages/EnergyAssistance.aspx> or call 800-432-0043.

**Deadline to apply 03/31/22.**

### Cold Weather Rule



The Cold Weather Rule ends on March 15th. Please have your bill caught up prior to that date.

Be aware that prior to March 15th, the Cooperative can disconnect service for non-payment if the local forecasted temperature will not drop *below* 32 degrees within the following 24-hour period (see the notice posted in the November 2021 newsletter for allowed circumstances, also available at [arkvalley.com](http://arkvalley.com)).



Ark Valley Electric Cooperative  
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(620) 662-6661  
[www.arkvalley.com](http://www.arkvalley.com)

# 2021 Unclaimed Capital Credit Checks

Below is a list of members whose checks were returned due to an improper address. If you know someone, *please have them contact us directly.*



|                        |                     |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| Abrahams, Laura        | Jordan, Don         |
| Allen, Deane           | Kaiser, Holly       |
| Bilson, Bill           | Kerschen, Keith     |
| Bosc, Michael          | Lantz, Courtney     |
| Brzowski, Kimberly     | Lawrence, Jerry     |
| Busby, Eldora          | Lawson, Bradley     |
| C & J Pumping Inc      | Lesley, Jon         |
| Collins, Brenn         | Levinson, Kim       |
| Combs, Marion A        | Lowrey, Reuben      |
| Cook, Thad             | Martin-Duwe, Wyalie |
| Courtney, Travis       | Meier, Ryon         |
| Cox, Dianne            | Mooney, Richard     |
| Cundith, Robert        | Ochs, Scott         |
| Dexter, Helen          | Riggin, Rusty       |
| Diener, Dale           | Rohlman, Russell    |
| Dishman, Casey         | Rolland, Steve      |
| Edmonds, Shirley       | Rush, Kermit        |
| Eisler, Sharon         | Scheele Farms       |
| Elder, Day             | Sheppard, Daniel    |
| Ensz, Clarence W       | Smith, Brad         |
| Freng, Traci           | Stucky, Jonas       |
| Funkeburgh Partnership | Swonger, Jodi       |
| Galyon, Terry          | Tiona, Jill         |
| Gilpin, Vicki          | Vester, Carl        |
| Glendenning, Crystal   | Wiard, Lynda        |
| Gordon, Alyson         | Wilhite, David      |
| Huff, Kenneth          | Wilson, Bryon       |
| Jaworski, John         | Wisdom, Anita       |
| Johnson Sr., Pat       | Wortman, Mike       |
| Johnson, Daniel M      | Wright, Skylar      |
| Johnson, Todd          | Yoder, Richard      |

# Call Us if Your Energy Needs Change

Ark Valley was founded to serve our members, so we don't want anyone to be surprised by the cost of moving electrical lines, adding a meter or upgrading electric service. If your energy needs change, please contact us early in your decision process, so you will know if there will be a cost associated with the change and if so, let you know what that is.

Please call us to discuss your needs if you are considering these in your future:

- Building a new house or an addition
- Adding a shop or outbuilding
- Installing equipment that will considerably increase electric load
- Switching from gas to electric heat
- Installing an electric vehicle charger
- Adding solar, wind or other renewable energy
- Adding a standby generator

## Safe Digging

Most of us never think about the electric, gas, water and other utility lines buried below the ground, but hitting one of these lines while digging is not the reminder you'll want—trust us! Ark Valley Electric reminds all members who are planning a digging project to call 811 at least three business days before you start. Or you can submit a request online by visiting [www.call811.com/811-In-Your-State](http://www.call811.com/811-In-Your-State). Here's how the process works:

After you call 811 or submit your request online, all affected utilities will be notified of your intent to dig. It may take the utilities a few days to get to your request, so please be patient. The affected utilities will send someone out to mark the buried lines with paint or flags. Before you break ground, confirm that all the utilities have responded to your request. By taking this important step before you break ground on your project, you can help protect not only yourself but our community. Disrupting an underground utility line can interrupt service, cause injuries and cost money to repair, so remember to call 811 first and know what's below.

## Drawing Winner

**DONALD KOEPPEN** is the winner of our \$25.00 readership drawing.

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



## Board Meeting *Highlights* ... cont. from page 1

Margins are all amounts received and receivable from the furnishing of electric energy in excess of operating costs and expenses. The General Manager, Jackie Holmberg, presented the margins available for allocation derived from Ark Valley and its energy provider, KEPCo, for 2021. These amounts totaled \$1,761,267.09. The Board passed a motion to allocate the margins furnished by each patron to their capital credit account. At the Board's discretion, the capital credits will be retired and paid out to each member accordingly. Ark Valley has a policy to retire patron capital credits on a 20-year rotation cycle.

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](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](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).