The **CIRCUIT** Ark Valley Electric Cooperative



*** Proudly Serving Rural Kansas for Over 83 Years

September 2022

Drawing Winner

ANNA SCHLICHTING

is the winner of our \$25.00 readership drawing. Anna, to claim your prize, please contact Ark Valley by September 30, 2022 & give us the account number from your electric bill.



Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Our faucets and appliances use a lot of hot water. You can lower your water heating costs by using less hot water in your home. Water heating accounts for a large portion of home energy bills. To save energy (and money!) used for water heating, repair any leaky faucets, install lowflow fixtures and insulate accessible hot water lines. When it's time to purchase a new washing

machine or dishwasher, look for models that are ENERGY STAR®certified.

Source: Dept. of Energy

The Power of Preparation

In honor of National Preparedness Month in September, we want to remind members of our community about the power of preparation. With severe weather events occurring more frequently, now more than ever, it makes sense to be prepared. During a prolonged power outage or other emergency, this means having enough food, water and supplies to last at least a few days.

There are several practical steps you can take to keep you and your family safe. Preparation can help reduce stress, anxiety and lessen the impact of an emergency event. We recommend starting with the basics.

Here are general guidelines recommended by the Federal Emergency Management Agency:

- Assemble a grab-and-go disaster kit. Include items like nonperishable food, water (one gallon per person, per day), diapers, batteries, flashlights, prescription medications, first-aid kit, battery-powered radio and phone chargers.
- Develop a plan for communicating with family and friends (i.e., via text, social media, third party, etc.).
- Have some extra cash available; during a power outage, electronic card readers and cash machines may not work.
- g a and where the second secon
- Store important documents (birth certificates, property deed, etc.) in safe place away from home (for example, a bank safe deposit box).
- · Keep neighbors and coworkers apprised of your emergency plans.
- Organize your supplies so they are together in an easily accessible location that family members know about.

Caring for vulnerable family members

If you have older family members or those with special needs, make sure they have enough medication and supplies for a few days. If they don't live with you, arrange for a neighbor to check in on them. If severe weather is expected, consider having your relative stay with you if feasible, otherwise call them daily. If you have an infant or young children, make certain that you have ample formula, diapers, medication and other supplies on hand to weather an outage lasting several days or more.

Keeping four-legged family members safe

For families with pets, having a plan in place in the event of a prolonged outage or an emergency will help reduce worry and stress especially if you need to make a decision during an emergency.

- Bring pets indoors at the first sign of a storm or other emergency. Pets can become disoriented and frightened during severe weather and may wander off during an emergency.
- Microchip your pet and ensure the contact information is up to date.
- Create an emergency kit for pets (include shelfsafe food, bottled water, medications and other supplies).



Ark Valley cares about your safety. Planning for an emergency situation today can give you more confidence to deal with severe weather and potential outages in the future.

Ark Valley Electric Cooperative 10 E 10th Ave, South Hutchinson, KS 67505 (620) 662-6661 www.arkvalley.com

Exercise Your Civic Duty

America's electric cooperatives, including Ark Valley, understand the value of building relationships with elected officials at all levels of government. There are many important policy issues that directly impact electric utilities and ultimately, you, the consumer-members we proudly serve. Strengthening our relationships with elected leaders positions

us to advocate for our local community.

While Ark Valley is a locallyowned cooperative, we're part of a larger network of electric co-ops. Through our non-partisan grassroots program known as "Co-ops Vote," we're working to enhance the political strength of electric co-ops and boost voter turnout. There's power in numbers, and when we all show up at the polls, we can voice the issues that matter most to our community.

National Voter Registration

Day is September 20, and midterm elections are right around the corner. Don't assume your voter registration status is up to date. Visit www.vote. coop, then click "Election Resources" to verify your status.

Get informed. In addition to ensuring your registration is up to date, learning about local policy issues and candidates is one of the best ways you can prepare to vote.

Vote! We encourage everyone to vote, stand up for our local community and make a collective impact. It's the easiest—and most important—way you can exercise your civic duty. It gives you the opportunity to voice your opinion on the issues that matter most to you.

2023 Youth Tour Applications Now Open

rk Valley Electric Cooperative has officially opened applications for the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour in 2023.

Ark Valley provides two scholarships for Junior and Senior students in Ark Valley's territory; a \$500 scholarship and a \$1,000 scholarship with an all-expense paid trip to

Washington, D.C.

To Apply:

- 1. Students must complete the Youth Tour application on Ark Valley's website.
- 2. Complete a quiz about Electric Cooperatives on Ark Valley's website.
- Submit a written copy of a 5-10 minute speech on the "Seven Cooperative Principles". Finalists will be asked to present to a panel of Board Members and Co-op Staff in December.

Essay, quiz and application must be received by Ark Valley Electric no later than 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, November 30th.

Applicants may direct their questions to dalexander@arkvalley.com.

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.



National Voter

Tuesday, September 20

Registration Day



The Board of Trustees for the Ark Valley Electric Cooperative Association held its regular meeting for the month of July on July 25, 2022.

The Board reviewed the June performance of the Cooperative's distributed generation units at the Arlington and Medora substations, the Cooperative's irrigation load control system, and Huntsville solar farm production. By utilizing a 1 megawatt diesel generator at the Arlington substation and another 1 mega-watt diesel generator at the Medora substation, the Cooperative saved nearly \$30,000.00 for June by using the generators to lower peak demand costs. However, once the fuel and other operating costs are considered, the net savings of the diesel generators amounted to approximately \$18,400. The diesel generator at Medora had been located at the Huntsville substation in previous years but was moved because of the construction of a solar farm at Huntsville.



With the new solar farm at Huntsville generating electricity but not fully tuned-in and functional, the company that owns and operates the solar farm infrastructure, Today's Power, Inc., did not charge Ark Valley for the electricity produced for the month of June. This amounted to a \$15,389.90 savings to members. The irrigation load control saved members an estimated \$28,018.17. The total savings from all sources of distributed generation and from the irrigation load control equaled \$61,820.61 for the month of June.

