

The CIRCUIT

Ark Valley Electric Cooperative



*** Proudly Serving Rural Kansas for over 84 Years

April 2023

Unclaimed Checks

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

RETURN TO SENDER

- MOVED LEFT NO ADDRESS
- NO SUCH NUMBER
- MOVED NOT FORWARDABLE
- ADDRESSEE UNKNOWN

McAsey, Gregg
Nordstrom, Steven K
Paradise Cove Inc
Parker, Dizaray
Peterson, James R (Escrow)
Petz, Dan
Rank, Brandon
Reed, Kelly
Richardson, Chuck
Ritcha, Michelle
Scheer, Dale N
Schierling, Ross
Seidel, Chad
Sidebottom, Sharolyn
Smith, Sally
Speakman, Bill
Spencer, Monica
Taylor, Victor J
Tucker, Mark
Valle, Lisa
Walz, Jinny
White, Virgil
Whittier, Tommia
Wilcox, Mary
Winters, Justin
Woodson, Mike

Drawing Winner

ERIC LEONARD is the winner of our \$25.00 readership drawing. Eric, to claim your prize, please contact Ark Valley by April 28, 2023 & give us the account number from your electric bill.



The POWER of Teamwork

Powering our communities is a team effort that takes employees across all departments at Ark Valley, but one of the more visible jobs is that of our linemen. While working in the communities we serve, they are often the face of our cooperative.

Our line crews go to work, night or day and in all kinds of weather, to make sure we're able to keep the power flowing using skills learned through specialized training and continued education. Lineworkers are trained at installing electrical infrastructure, climbing poles, operating bucket trucks and energizing and de-energizing electrical lines, all while keeping safety in mind. To accomplish their work, they are outfitted with protective clothing and equipment that help keep them safe.



#ThankALineworker

Our dedicated linemen are proud to represent Ark Valley, and they deserve the accolades that come their way as we recognize them on National Lineworker Appreciation Day. Together with all our departments, our lineworkers work hard to make sure we're consistently providing reliable power and outstanding service across our 9-county service territory.

On April 18th, or whenever you see them next, join us in thanking our linemen for their exceptional service. We hope you will also remember the dedicated team of professionals that work behind the scenes at the co-op whose commitment to service runs just as deep.

Use Caution Around Utility Roadway Work Zones

Electric utility vehicles and workers often share streets and roadways with motorists in order to access overhead power lines and other electrical equipment. This can be dangerous for workers and motorists. Ark Valley Electric urges you to go slowly and be especially careful when you see crews at work. Typically, hundreds of workers are killed on road work zones each year. Fatal work zone crashes occur most often in the summer and fall. More than twice as many work zone crashes happen on weekdays compared to weekends, so be extra cautious driving to and from work.

To help prevent fatalities and injuries this year, Safe Electricity recommends the following guidelines while driving:

- Keep a safe distance between your vehicle and traffic barriers, trucks, construction equipment and workers.
- Be patient: Traffic delays are sometimes unavoidable, so try to allow time for unexpected delays in your schedule.
- Obey all signs and road crew flag instructions.
- Merge early and be courteous to other drivers.
- Use your headlights at dusk and during inclement weather.
- Minimize distractions: Avoid changing the radio station, using a cell phone, or eating while driving.

The most common crash in a roadway work zone is the rear-end collision, so remember to leave at least four car lengths of braking distance between you and the car in front of you.



Ark Valley Electric Cooperative
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(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 February on February 27, 2023.

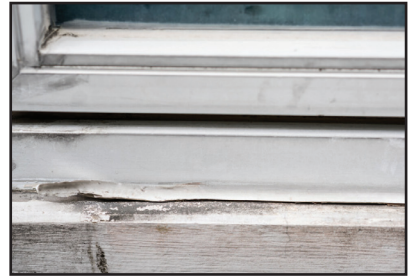
The Board heard the results of a cost-of-service (COS) study performed by Power System Engineering (PSE). The COS study analyzed the revenue collected through Ark Valley's various rate classes (single phase, three phase, large power, etc.) and the expenses incurred to provide electricity to members. PSE concluded that given the current financial situation of the Cooperative a rate increase was not necessary. After the COS presentation, PSE offered various revenue neutral changes that Ark Valley could make to its existing rate tariffs to collect revenue more fairly, including a possible time of use charge to help recoup costs associated with demand charges. No action was taken by the Board. Instead, Cooperative staff will work with PSE to develop more options. Should the Board want to make rate changes to the existing rate tariffs, it would have to hold a rate hearing and provide advance notice to its members in the monthly newsletter of that hearing.

A status update was given to the Board regarding the impact of the February 26th storm on Ark Valley's distribution line. It was pleased to hear that it resulted in no downed lines or electrical outages. Ark Valley was fortunate compared to its neighbor, Victory Electric Cooperative, who suffered 60 downed distribution poles from the same storm.

Kansas Weatherization Assistance Available for Qualified Applicants

The Weatherization Assistance Program is a residential energy efficiency program available to income eligible families. If you qualify for LIEAP (Utility Assistance Benefits) TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) or SSI (Supplemental Security Income), you are automatically considered for weatherization services (certain restrictions apply) that SCKEDD (South Central Kansas Economic Development District) provides.

Weatherization improves heating efficiency and fuel savings by ensuring your home holds in heat and air conditioning, while keeping hot and cold air out. At no charge, the clients will receive a comprehensive home assessment which may include repair or replacement of heating systems, insulation and caulking. You are welcome to contact the Ark Valley office for an application, or call the local area SCKEDD office directly at (620) 259-6544.



Efficiency Upgrades to Help You Save This Summer

Spring and summer are opportune times for home upgrades and DIY projects. If you're planning to make improvements to your home, consider upgrades that promote better efficiency.

Here are a few projects that can help you save energy and money—and increase the comfort of your home.

If you like incorporating smart devices into your home, installing a smart thermostat and smart LED bulbs can offer convenient and simple ways to manage home energy use and help boost energy savings. Smart thermostats are easy to install and allow you to control your heating and cooling system from your phone. With smart lighting, you can set a schedule for when and how your lights should be turned on or off.

While it's not as trendy as incorporating smart technologies, sealing air leaks around your home is a simple, effective way to save energy and lower your bills. Applying new (or replacing old) weather stripping around doors and windows can instantly make your home more comfortable and reduce energy waste. Applying caulk to fill gaps can also improve the seal of your home. Caulk can be applied to a variety of areas, including windows, doors, bathtubs and sinks.

If your home feels too warm during summer (and too chilly during winter) even after you've sealed with weather stripping and caulk, your home may need additional insulation. Insulation is considered a more expensive efficiency upgrade; however, if your home is under-insulated, additional insulation can make a big impact on reducing energy use and costs. The cost of new insulation depends on a variety of factors like materials, size of the home and whether you use a contractor. Typically, the project costs can be recouped in a few years and your home will immediately feel more comfortable.

Of course, there are additional efficiency upgrades that can make a big impact on energy use, like replacing old appliances with ENERGY-STAR® models or replacing old, leaky windows with new, energy efficient windows. But these upgrades can be a bit pricey.

Don't feel overwhelmed if you're wanting to make your home more energy efficient but not sure what to do first, because each energy efficiency project will benefit you.

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.